

Grace Notes



December 2024

Grace Episcopal Church

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A Word from Our Priest

My brothers and sisters,

I bring you greetings in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

This year Sunday, December 1st is the First Sunday in Advent, the beginning of a new church year so **Happy New Year!!!** As you may already be aware, our lectionary is based on a three-year cycle. In year A the primary gospel is St. Matthew's. Year B, which we have just completed, is St. Mark's. Now, on December 1st we will begin year C, the year of St. Luke's renderings. The daily office, however, follows a two-year rather than a three-year cycle so beginning December 1st, we start the daily office using year one.

Also, on December 1st at 5:00 pm, we will mark the start of the Advent season with the blessing and lighting of the Christmas tree on Casanova Green (just across from the Parish Hall). Tree lighting is a centuries old tradition but this year we are blending the old with the new. The tree will be lit by solar powered lights!

Looking ahead, our Christmass Eve worship at Grace will be 4:30pm and at 7:00pm at St. Luke's. Worship on Christmass Day is 10:00am at St. Luke's. Note that "Christmass" is not misspelled! It was to initially used to designate Christ Mass which then evolved into the single word we all now use, "Christmas". We leave the solemn season of Advent behind and enter the festival season of Christmas, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Those carols we did not sing in Advent now ring out with loud enthusiastic proclamation.

Do not let Madison Avenue fool you. Christmass is not just one day but rather a twelve-day festival. Even beyond these twelve days, I encourage you to embrace the gift that God has given us, the greatest gift of all: the gift of life. Remember also that it is not just a one day's gift but **an everyday gift made by God's love for us**. Please join us for this great celebration of Jesus' birth and let us be sure to share this gift of love with each other.

A blessed Christmas and a blessed New Year to you!

The peace of the Lord is always with us,

Fr. Michael B. Guy Sr., S.T.S.✠

December Calendar of Events

- Dec 1 Sunday Service, 9am at Grace
Christmas Tree Lighting, 5pm Parish Hall
- Dec 3 Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
- Dec 4 Center Lunch 12 noon, the Parish Hall
- Dec 6 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
Book Club, 12 noon, Mignonne's house
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- Dec 8 Sunday Service 9am Grace  
Fr. Hughes, Celebrant/Preacher
- Dec 10 Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
- Dec 11 Center Lunch at 12pm, the Parish Hall
- Dec 13 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
- Dec 14 Sew What, 9:30am, St Luke's Parish Hall  
Wreaths Across America, 10am  
Remington Cemetery  
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- Dec 15 Sunday Service, 9am Grace
- Dec 17 Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
- Dec 18 Center Lunch 12 noon, the Parish Hall
Vestry Meeting at 3pm, Family Center
- Dec 20 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
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- Dec 22 Sunday Service at 9am, Grace
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service, 4:30pm, Grace  
Christmas Eve Service, 7:00pm St Luke's
- Dec 25 Christmas Day Service 10:00am St Luke's
- Dec 27 Yoga at 10:00am, the Parish Hall  
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- Dec 31 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Annual Xmas Tree Lighting
On Casanova Green

Refreshments and Caroling
Afterward at Parish Hall

Sunday, December 1st
at 5 pm

Meet at Grace Parish Hall
Casanova



CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

- DECEMBER 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE 4:30PM, GRACE
- DECEMBER 24TH CHRISTMAS EVE 7PM, ST LUKE'S
- DECEMBER 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY 10AM ST LUKE'S



Treasurer's Report - October Data

Income for the month of October was \$9,957.87 (budget \$9,429.75); expenditures totaled \$9,547.58 (budget \$9,429.75), resulting in income for the month of \$410.29.

On October 31 the Endowment Fund received its annual payout distribution of \$3,277.09, increasing the book value of the fund to \$73,059.87; market value as of October 31 was \$79,515.10, a loss of \$4,973.02 for the month.

Please continue to pray for Grace Church that it will grow spiritually, financially and numerically. If you have any questions about this report or any financial matter, please contact me

Judy Ball, Treasurer

Gift to Shrine Mont: Celebrating 100 years

Shrine Mont Retreat and Conference Center nestled in the Blue Ridge will celebrate its 100th year of operation in 2025. As one might expect, a venue of that vintage requires occasional updates, e.g. installation of air conditioning along with it's routine maintenance and upkeep. A highlighted project for this centennial year is the restoration of the "Art Hall". To help with these plans, Grace Church and St Luke's each presented a check for \$2,000 to an appreciative Kirk Gibson, Shrine Mont's Director of Development. This took place at a joint Sunday service on November 3rd at Grace.

By the way, it's not too early to start thinking about attending the annual Fredericksburg-Culpeper Region Retreat at Shrine Mont slated for July 11-13.

Fall Soup Kitchen Success!

Thank you one and all for your part in making our October soup kitchen a success. To all the ladies who arranged flowers the day before, to all those who made soup, brownies, muffins, and cornbread, a resounding "thank you". And to those of you who were there to assemble all the trays, and then deliver them to those in our community, another big thank you. I can't remember exactly how many trays we delivered, but at last count it was well over 20. Everyone was most appreciative. See you all in February for our next soup delivery! *Mignonne*



December Birthdays

Carolyn Martin	08 Dec
Jose Escorcia	10 Dec
Melba Hendrix	19 Dec
James Ottevaere	25 Dec
Carol Grove	26 Dec
Carol Cordell	28 Dec
Lora Moline	28 Dec
Jim Ruffner	30 Dec
Jennifer Coates	31 Dec

Keeping a Tradition: Adopting a Family for Christmas

If you would like to participate in our annual gift giving for a family at the Fauquier Family Shelter, please sign up at Church or let Mignonne 540 272-0014 know. This year we have a mom and her two teenaged daughters, ages 13 and 14.



A complete wish list is included below but please feel free to add some fun Santa stocking stuffers if you run across something you cannot resist! Note that all gifts should be wrapped and tagged and if a gift card, please put it in a box or medium sized gift bag so that it is not misplaced or lost. In the interest of privacy, we have designated recipients by initials to use on your gift tags. If buying clothing, please include a gift receipt to facilitate an exchange if necessary. **Please drop off gifts at the church no later than Tuesday December 10th.**

Thank you in advance for making this a very special Christmas for our adopted family. For any big-ticket items, feel free to cost share with another person.

Mom ("S") would like:

- New pots and pans (frying, sauce pans)
- Amazon gift card or food and gas gift cards
- Bath & Body Works set



Youth/Female, age 13 ("A")

Favorite color: Turquoise

Would like:

- Amazon gift card
- Ulta gift card
- Nike sweatpants (boot cut)

Tops size: Women's XL

Pants size: Women's size 18

Youth/Female, age 14 ("L")

Favorite color: Baby blue, aqua, turquoise

Would like:

- Ulta Gift card for makeup
- Amazon gift card for room décor
- Pandora Bracelet

Tops size: Women's 2X

Pants size: Women's 20 or 2XL



You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you." John Bunyan



Wreaths Across America: Honoring Our Veterans

Grace Church has been working with the Harold J. Davis American Legion Post 247 in having the Grace cemetery included in *Wreaths Across America*. If you are not familiar, Wreaths Across America is an organization that strives to place Christmas wreaths on all veterans' graves. We have provided the American Legion post with a listing of veterans in our cemetery. They have already been to Grace and placed veteran's markers on the graves. For Memorial Gardens, where ashes are interred, a single wreath, on a tripod, is placed to honor all the veterans whose ashes are buried there.

Wreaths for each location will be delivered 1-2 days prior to Dec 14th. There will be a service at the Remington Cemetery at 10 AM on Dec 14th and at the conclusion of the service, volunteers will go to their assigned cemeteries to place the wreaths.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help in placing the wreaths, you can contact David Sillaman via text at 540-272-3756 or via e-mail at David_Sillaman@msn.com or you can contact Bryan Jacobs and he will forward your information to David.

In addition to Grace Church, American Legion Post 247 also places wreaths at the following cemeteries:

- Cedar Grove Cemetery - Bealeton
- Clevers Oak Memorial Gardens - Goldvein
- Grove Baptist Cemetery - Goldvein
- Grove Presbyterian Cemetery - Goldvein
- Hollywood Cemetery - Remington
- Masons Cemetery - Culpeper
- Midland Cemetery - Midland
- Mount Carmel Baptist Church - Midland
- Mount Holly Baptist Church - Remington
- Remington Cemetery - Remington
- Silver Hill Cemetery - Sumerduck
- St James Baptist Church - Bealeton
- Sumerduck Baptist Church - Sumerduck



"Never was so much owed by so many to so few."

~ Winston Churchill

December Serving Schedule

Day	Readings	Altar	Assistant	Offertory	Coffee Host
First Sunday of Advent Dec 1, 2024	Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 24 Revelation 2:1-6 John 11:32-44	Carol Cordell/ Mignonne Spellmeyer	Bryan Jacobs	Susan Payne	Sharon Sweeney
Second Sunday of Advent Dec 8, 2024	Malachi 3:1-4 Canticle 4 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Joy Goodenough/ Diane Gulick	Judy Ball	Joy Goodenough	Marilyn Ottavaere
Third Sunday Of Advent Dec 15, 2024	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Canticle 9 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	Carol Cordell/ Sharon Sweeney	Howard Charnock/ Michael Calhoun	Sue Ballantine	Barbara Eanes
Fourth Sunday Of Advent Dec 22, 2024	Micah 5:2-5 Canticle 3 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45(46-55)	Joy Goodenough & Barbara Jacobs/ Mignonne	Bryan Jacobs	Sharon Sweeney	Sue Ballantine
Christmas Eve Dec 24, 2024	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20	Joy Goodenough & Barbara Jacobs/ Mignonne Spellmeyer	Bryan Jacobs	Joy Goodenough	N/A
Christmas Day Dec 25, 2024 (The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ)	Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4(5-12) John 1:1-14	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
The First Sunday after Christmas Day Dec 29, 2024	Isaiah 61;10-62:3 Psalm 147 Galatians 3:23-25;4:4-7 John 1:18-25	Carol Cordell/Sharon Sweeney	Judy Ball	Susan Payne	Mignonne Spellmeyer

Fr. Michael on Leave: 8 December; Fr. Hughes will be the celebrant/preacher.