



Grace Notes

October 2025

Grace Episcopal Church

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Midland, Virginia 22728

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A Word from Our Priest

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

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

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors Matthew 6:12(NRSV)

The operative word in the verse quoted above is FORGIVE. What comes to mind is an action that causes harm or a perceived harm. The harm could be mental, such as "she hurt my feelings," physical or both. Perhaps someone makes a statement about you that is not true. *Thou shall not bear false witness* comes to mind. This false witness may be the reason for you not receiving a promotion or placing you in an unwarranted conflict with another person. When this occurs, it creates a break in the relationship.

As time passes and the person who started this conflict realizes the error of his ways, he may offer you a sincere apology and ask you to forgive him. The person admits these actions have caused you harm and state what they have done to make the situation right. What is your reply?

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matthew 6:14-15 (NRSV)

God has not requested us to forgive; he commanded us to forgive. We must forgive as we have been forgiven. Consider the comments that I have heard over the years. "I am never going to forgive him." "What she did is just unforgiveable, so no, I am not going to forgive her." One must ask the question, "What if that was God's response to us?" Have we not committed and are committing harm to Him? Have we not created a broken relationship with Him?

God never said I will never forgive them. No, he sent his Son, Jesus who on the cross established a system of eternal forgiveness. Regardless of a sin we commit, God will always forgive us if we ask. He will never say the harm you have done to me is unforgiveable. This is the gift of grace that was given to us on Easter.

The peace of the Lord is always with us,

Fr. Michael B. Guy Sr., S.T.S.✠

Letter From House of Bishops: Response to Current Violence and Suffering Worldwide

Dear people of God,

The bishops of The Episcopal Church gathered in Juan Dolio, Dominican Republic, send greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord...

While gathered, we have been keenly aware of the pain, fear, and uncertainty experienced by many in this present moment across our various contexts. On the first day of our meeting, we received reports of yet another school shooting, followed by the news of yet another politically motivated killing. The disturbing increase in political violence; the ongoing atrocities associated with war and global conflict; the continued starvation of God's children; the intimidation and persecution of the vulnerable and those who have been marginalized; and the rise of authoritarianism across the globe all require a robust Christian response.

We believe this response must be grounded in the Good News of the Gospel that injustice, violence, suffering, and ultimately death itself, are not the last word. We commit ourselves and invite the whole church to boldly proclaim by word and example that the cross and empty tomb stand forever as signs of the decisive victory of God's love over the forces of evil. We are being called to embody the values and imperatives expressed in the teachings of Jesus, the One we proclaim as Lord, who always stands with the poor, the vulnerable, the grieving, and the oppressed.

In light of this, we are engaged in deep conversations concerning our voices as bishops in our respective dioceses as well as our collective voice as the bishops of The Episcopal Church. These conversations have been faithful and challenging and have revealed to us both the possibilities and limits that exist with regard to speaking with a shared voice as your bishops. And yet, in this moment, we are choosing possibilities over limitations. We believe we are called to bear witness with clarity and unity to the power of the Gospel, and to the healing and transformative work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, in our church, and in our world.

The challenges before us are myriad and varied according to our respective contexts. Our time in the Dominican Republic has underscored for us that The Episcopal Church is composed of many countries and cultures. Moreover, within our countries and cultures, we hold a diversity of views concerning the challenges we face. And yet, we are one in Jesus Christ, bound together by grace and our shared commitment to the fullness of our baptismal covenant.

We give thanks for the deep affection and friendships that exist among us as a community of bishops. Cultivating such communities of disciples is a critical component of our witness to the healing and reconciling power of God's love in this present moment. We wish to express to the whole church our profound gratitude for the countless ways in which this witness is already made manifest, and for the immense trust you have placed in us as your bishops.

In the hope of Jesus, the One who is making all things new.

October Calendar of Events

- Oct 5 Sunday Service, 9am Grace
Oct 7 Chair Yoga at 3pm, the Parish Hall
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
Oct 8 Center Lunch at 12pm, the Parish Hall
Oct 10 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
Chair Yoga at 11:45am, the Parish Hall
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Oct 12 Sunday Service, 9am Grace  
Fr. David Crobsy, Celebrant  
Oct 14 Bible Study, 1pm Betsy Anderson's  
Chair Yoga at 3pm, the Parish Hall  
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall  
Oct 15 Center Lunch 12 noon, the Parish Hall  
Oct 17 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall  
Chair Yoga at 11:45am  
Oct 18 Sew What? 9:30am, Parish Hall  
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Oct 19 Sunday Service, 9am at Grace
Fr. David Crobsy, Celebrant
Oct 21 Chair Yoga at 3pm, the Parish Hall
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
Bible Study, 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Oct 22 Center Lunch 12 noon, the Parish Hall
Oct 24 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
Chair Yoga at 11:45am
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Oct 26 Sunday Service 9am Grace  
Fr. Stuart Schadt, Celebrant  
Oct 28 **Soup Kitchen at 10am, the Parish Hall**  
Chair Yoga at 3pm, the Parish Hall  
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall  
Oct 29 Center Lunch at 12pm, the Parish Hall  
Oct 31 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall  
Chair Yoga at 11:45am  
Casanova Book Club at 12pm TBD



### ***Around the Neighborhood...***

Remington Art Walk  
Main Street, Remington  
Saturday, October 4th, 5pm – 8pm

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Remington Fall Festival
Saturday, October 11th
9:00am – 3:00pm
Over 200 artists and vendors!

Sew What will meet on October 18th at Grace Parish Hall in Casanova from 9:30am until noonish. Bring your quilt or embroidery or knitting or any other project you may have.



We've started making small patriotic quilts for groups at Quantico and Dover Air Force Base.

Not too sure? You are welcome to come to just sit and chat!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Ashley O'Meara	October 5
TJ Johnson	October 12
Pam Ruffner	October 12
Jackie Shipe	October 17
Logan Shipe	October 17
Julie Brewer	October 27
Corey Butler	October 29

Treasurer's Report: June and July

Income in the month of August was \$7,445.75 (budget \$9,709.92); expenditures totaled \$8,186.59 (budget \$9,709.92), resulting in a loss for the month of \$740.84.

Book value of the Endowment Fund at the end of August was \$73,059.87; market value as of August 31 was \$88,371.77, a gain of \$1,988.99 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

Stir the Pot for Fall Soup Kitchen: October 28th



Time to light the stove and simmer those ingredients of your choice for our "Fall Soup Kitchen" or set the oven for corn bread or cookies. Anyone in the community is welcome to be part of the 'crew'. We will meet on **Tuesday, 10/28 at 10:00am at the Parish Hall to assemble the trays and then deliver.** If contributing soup, cornbread or cookies, please drop off at 10:00am so we can get the soup train moving on schedule. **Questions or ideas? Contact Mignonne at 540 272-0014**

Casanova Community Picnic ~ It Takes a Village!

Thanks to everyone who gathered at the Parish Hall for the Annual Casanova Community Picnic last month. It is your collective participation that contributes to its success! As far as we are concerned, it literally "*takes a village*".



A special shout out also goes to Bryan Jacob's family bluegrass band for their performance filled with great harmonies. We also want to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the organizing committee spearheaded by Sharon Sweeney with help from her hard-working team: Judy Ball, Sue Ballantine, Marilyn Ottevaere, Susan Payne, Barbara Jacobs and Mignonne Spellmeyer. From menu planning to flower arranging, cooking, venue set up and everyone's favorite task, the tear down and clean-up phase, they all deserve a huge round of applause.

Annual Casanova Community Picnic in September



And a Good Time Was Had by All!



October Serving Schedule

Day	Readings	Altar	Assistant	Offertory	Coffee Host
<i>The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost Oct 5, 2024</i>	Lamentations 1:1-6 Psalm 137 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10	Joy Goodenough/ Diane Gulick	Bryan Jacobs	Joy Goodenough	Sue Ballantine
<i>The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost Oct 12, 2024</i>	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 Psalm 66:1-11 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19	Barbara Jacobs/ Mignonne Spellmeyer	Judy Ball	Sue Ballantine	Barbara Eanes
<i>The Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost Oct 19, 2024</i>	Jeremiah 31:27-34 Psalm 119:97-104 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8	Barbara Jacobs/ Sharon Sweeney	Bryan Jacobs	Sharon Sweeney	Joy Goodenough
<i>The Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost Oct 26, 2024</i>	Joel 2:23-32 Psalm 65 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14	Joy Goodenough/ Mignonne Spellmeyer	Judy Ball	Joy Goodenough	Sharon Sweeney