

Grace Notes



February 2026

Grace Episcopal Church

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Midland, Virginia 22728

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A Word from Our Priest

My sisters and brothers,

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

On December 10, a joint vestry meeting was held between Grace and St. Luke. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the possibility of holding joint celebrations of the Mass, which would rotate monthly between the two congregations. The primary reason for considering joint services is a decline in attendance. Additionally, it was acknowledged that this arrangement would result in savings on utilities and, in some cases, increased purchasing power.

The joint vestry members voted unanimously to proceed with joint services. The plan is to begin on February 1 at 10:00 AM. The joint vestry also decided that this proposal would be presented to the congregation at their annual meeting. Both congregations, Grace and St. Luke, subsequently voted unanimously to move forward with the joint celebration of Mass.

Starting February 1 at 10:00 AM, the joint service will be held at Grace. On March 1, the location will rotate to St. Luke. All daytime services will begin at 10:00 AM, while all evening services will start at 7:00 PM.

Shrove Tuesday falls on February 17, and the congregation will observe this day at IHOP on Route 29 in Warrenton at 4:00PM.

Ash Wednesday is February 18. The imposition of ashes and the Holy Eucharist will be held at Grace, with two services scheduled at 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

Lent is traditionally associated with self-penitence, often leading individuals to consider what they might give up during this season, such as strong drinks or chocolate. However, I encourage you to reflect on what positive practices you might continue after Lent, rather than simply returning to old habits once the season ends. Perhaps this could be a time to establish a new discipline, such as regular morning and evening prayer, that endures beyond Lent.

I will undergo surgery on February 19 and will be away for two weeks. During my absence, Fr. Stuart Schadt will serve as the celebrant and preacher, covering services on February 22 and March 1. In case of any pastoral emergencies, Bishop Gulick will be available to provide support.

The peace of the Lord is always with us,



Fr. Michael B. Guy Sr., S.T.S.✠

Treasurer's Report: December 2025 Data

Income in the month of December was \$15,123.99 (budget \$9,709.92); expenditures totaled \$8,594.66 (budget \$9,709.92), resulting in a gain for the month of \$6,529.33.

In December the book value of the Endowment Fund was \$76,596.52. Market value as of December 31 was \$92,770.79, a gain of \$667.41 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

Annual Congregational Meeting Outcomes

Highlights from the annual congregational meeting on January 11th include a review of the 2025 budget results, the election of new vestry members and the vote whether to conduct joint services every Sunday with St. Luke's Remington on a rotational basis.

Thanks to member pledges and participation in fundraising events like the Annual Spring Dinner, Grace was in the black for the fiscal year 2025. Judy Ball and Joy Goodenough were elected to the vestry to fill openings from outgoing members Sharon Sweeney and Sue Ballantine. We want to especially thank Sue and Sharon for the great job they did on vestry in support of Grace this past year. Lastly, after some brief discussion, it was voted to go ahead with combining Sunday services with St Luke's. This will be done on a rotational basis with a change in venue each month, e.g. February at Grace and March at St. Luke's etc. This combined service format is on a one year's trial basis after which the arrangement will re-evaluated.

Services will be at 10:00am each Sunday with a coffee hour to follow.

February Calendar

- Feb 1 Sunday Service, 9am at Grace
- Feb 3 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Yoga at 2pm & 3:45pm, the Parish Hall
- Feb 4 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
- Feb 6 Yoga at 10am & 11:45am, Parish Hall
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- Feb 8 Sunday Service, 10am Grace
- Feb 10 Soup Kitchen at 10am, the Parish Hall  
Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's  
Yoga at 2pm & 3:45pm, the Parish Hall
- Feb 11 Center Lunch at 12pm, the Parish Hall  
Vestry Meeting at 3pm, Family Center
- Feb 13 Yoga at 10am & 11:45, the Parish Hall
- Feb 14 Sew What at 9am, the Family Center  
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- Feb 15 Sunday Service, 10am at Grace
- Feb 17 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Yoga at 2pm & 3:45pm, the Parish Hall
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
4pm at IHOP in Warrenton
- Feb 18 Ash Wednesday Service, 11am at Grace
Center Lunch at 12pm, the Parish Hall
Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm at Grace
- Feb 20 Yoga at 10am & 11:45, the Parish Hall
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- Feb 22 Sunday Service, 10am at Grace  
Fr. Stuart Schatt, Celebrant
- Feb 24 Yoga at 2pm & 3:45pm, the Parish Hall
- Feb 25 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
- Feb 27 Yoga at 10am & 11:45am, Parish Hall  
Casanova Book Club, 12 noon, TBD  
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Grace Church Casanova is pleased

to announce its vestry for 2026:

Bryan Jacobs ~ Judy Ball

Joy Goodenough ~ Marilyn Ottevaere

Valentine's Day Soup Kitchen

It's time for our Valentine's Day Soup Kitchen! Please join in to provide soup trays to our neighbors and church members who could use a little pick-me-up!

We will have a Valentine theme so if you volunteer for dessert, think hearts or red and pink sprinkles!! Volunteers are needed to prepare soup, cornbread, or dessert as well as help in assembling the trays and delivery.

If bringing soup, you can pick up containers ahead of time either from Mignonne or at Parish Hall.

We will assemble the trays at 10:00 am on Tuesday, February 10th.

Please let me know if you can help.

Mignonne 540 272-0014

Thank you!



Please join us

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 17th IHOP Warrenton at

4:00pm



February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Rick and Betsy Anderson	Feb 14
Chase Perreault	Feb 15
Brandon Payne	Feb 21
Emily and TJ Johnson	Feb 23
Jessica Warren Rhoads	Feb 23
Paige Payne	Feb 26

Let's Make Hearts!

In celebration of Valentine's Day, the "Sew What" group is going to switch it up and make heart-shaped decorations on Saturday, February 14th at the Family Center. Tap into your creative side (everyone has one) and join us! Questions? Please call or text Barbara Jacobs: 540 222-5385.



Shrove Tuesday: Origins and Traditions

Shrove Tuesday, also known as **Fat Tuesday** or **Pancake Day**, is the day before Ash Wednesday and the official countdown to Lent. It's the last day before the season of fasting and reflection begins, so traditionally, Christians have used it as a time to confess sins, seek absolution, and prepare their hearts for Lent. Some churches also burn the previous year's Palm Sunday branches to create the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

But let's be real, what most people associate with Shrove Tuesday is food, and for good reason! Historically, this was the last chance to use up rich ingredients like eggs, butter, and sugar before fasting, which is why pancakes became the star of the day.

The name comes from the old word 'shriving', which means to listen to someone's sins and forgive them. In Anglo-Saxon England, Christians would go to church on Shrove Tuesday to confess their sins and clean their soul. In other words, they would be 'shriven'.

In the UK in particular, pancake races are a fun part of Shrove Tuesday tradition. In this mad-cap activity, people race each other while tossing a pancake in a pan. Pancake races are often organized to raise money for charities or help those in need.



Now the big questions – where did this wacky tradition originate? The story goes that it originated way back in 1445 in the town of Olney in Buckinghamshire, England. A woman was so busy making pancakes that she lost track of time. When she heard the church bells ringing for the Shrove Tuesday mass, she ran as fast as she could to make it and arrived still carrying her pancake in the pan!

(This information compiled from Christianity.com and National Geographic for Kids)

February Serving Schedule

NOTE: If you are unable to serve as listed above, please contact someone else on your team to substitute for you.

Day	Readings	Altar	Assistant	Offertory	Coffee Host
The Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany Feb 1, 2025	Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12	Barbara Jacobs/Diane Gulick	Bryan Jacobs	Sue Ballantine	Sue Ballentine
The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Feb 8, 2026	Isaiah 58:1-9a(9b-12) Psalm 112:1-9(10) 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Matthew 5:13-20	Barbara Jacobs/ Mignonne Spellmeyer	Judy Ball	Susan Payne	Barbara Eanes
The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany Feb 15, 2026	Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9	Joy Goodenough/ Sharon Sweeney	Judy Ball	Sharon Sweeney	Marilyn Ottevaere
Ash Wednesday Feb 18, 2026	Joel 2:1-2,12-17 Psalm 103 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6,16-21	Barbara Jacobs/ Joy Goodenough	Judy Ball/ Bryan Jacobs	TBD	N/A
The First Sunday In Lent Feb 22, 2026	Genesis 2:15-17,3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11	Joy Goodenough/ No flowers	Bryan Jacobs	Joy Goodenough	Mignonne Spellmeyer