



Celebrating 116 Years of God's Grace!

GRACE NOTES – October 2017

The News from GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

An October Note from Grace

“Words, Words, Words!” So begins a song from “My Fair Lady” about wanting action instead of mere talk. Words, whether they are accompanied by action or not, do have power and need to be chosen with care. Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop, came to Charlottesville about 5 weeks ago to meet with the clergy of our region to hear their response to the rally held downtown on August 11th and 12th and to offer his support. He invited us to go around the room and say something about where we had been during those events and our reactions to that experience. Many of our clergy had been on the front lines, so to speak, on Saturday; some of us had been at the interfaith service at St. Paul’s on Friday night, where the church had to be locked down for our protection from the mob outside. After we had finished talking, Bishop Curry made the observation that nearly everyone had simply referred to “August 12th” with no other description needed. He likened it to the way the words “9/11” have come to be used. They stand alone, and everyone in the world knows what they refer to. So, he said, it was already coming to be with the word “Charlottesville,” or August 12th, even after only two weeks. It brought an event to mind, even without anything else being said.

And, as we know, that’s even truer now, seven weeks later. Just yesterday I was saddened to read in a national news release, a reference to “Ferguson, Charlottesville and the NFL.” At a conference I attended last weekend seven hours from here I heard several references to Charlottesville. They were made in another context, almost in passing, but the word alone meant something to everyone in the room. That got me thinking about other words and how the meanings we attach to them can change. One such word is the word “Christian.” On the face of it, the meaning is very simple: it means one who is a follower of Christ, one who tries to follow the example of Jesus. It should bring to mind love, compassion, the grace of God, and care for others without judging them. But in recent years the word has taken on a different meaning in some circles. It has been co-opted by people who think they know the exclusive meaning of it, and that meaning is very different from the one I have just described. We sometimes characterize this group by the words “the Christian Right,” and that term alone carries a very different image. It brings to mind prejudice, suspicion of neighbor, judgment, and the certainty that there is only one way to be a Christian, and it is their way. Some have said that Christianity has been hijacked by this group.



The question for us is how do we reflect Christianity—what does it mean to us to be a Christian? And what do others see in us? In the words of that old hymn “They’ll know we are Christians by our love,” the description of what it means to follow Jesus is pretty clear. People have often been put off or even wounded by the church and by those who claim to be Christian. Do we give them another way to view that? Do we at least try to love them and show unjudging compassion? Bishop Curry has said that instead of speaking of ourselves as members of this or that church, perhaps we should identify ourselves simply as followers of Jesus. We should think of Christianity as the Jesus Movement. After all, Jesus wasn’t about establishing a new church; his was a movement to bring people back to a fuller relationship with God. It was a dynamic, living journey that could not be finished in one lifetime. And we are pilgrims on that journey. He suggested that we consider ourselves “the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.”

What a difference that could make in the way people see this thing we call Christianity, this way of following Jesus, in the way they view us! Words do matter; they matter a great deal. And the way we live our lives has a great deal to do with how others see what it means to be Christian. It may also have a great deal to do with whether or not they want to follow along with us or turn away.

Blessings, Grace

HOPE Tutorial Program 2017-2018

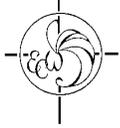
The HOPE (Help Offered for Primary Education) after-school tutoring project will begin meeting again on Tuesday, October 3 in the Grace Church parish hall. Elementary school students from Nathanael Greene will arrive by school bus at approximately 3:15pm; their program will include recreation, refreshment and tutoring. Our goal is to provide each student with a tutor/mentor for work on reading, writing, spelling and math skills.

Want to get involved in this outreach project?

We need:

- Tutors (we meet 1.5 hours on Tuesday afternoons)
- Donations –
juice drinks (like Capri Sun)
snacks (including fresh fruit)
napkins and small paper plates
paper towels
outdoor balls like nerf footballs or kickballs

Please contact Jenny Morris, 985-4332 with questions or come and observe what we do!



ECW NEWS AND NOTES October 2017

The ECW of Grace Episcopal Church met at the Peace Garden of Mount Vernon United Methodist Church on Saturday September 9th at 10:30 AM. The day was beautiful and so was the setting. We started with a short business meeting. Since we are not doing any fund-raising projects this year the **ECW is asking members to make a donation** to ensure that we will be able to continue giving to the various organizations that we support. Thank you to those of you who have contributed!

We then had our quiet time with prayer.

Talking, and listening to God.

During our share time, Barbara spoke about the Youth Development Council and the work she and Bert have been doing with them. In addition to buying supplies for next year's camp and planning activities, they have also been visiting other churches and organizations to spread the word about the YDC camp. The camp is held for 15 days in June and 15 days in July. There is also an after-school program which is held two days a week at Ruckersville Elementary and two days a week at Nathaniel Greene from 3 to 6 PM. Churches have been asked to help with snacks. Grace Church ECW will provide a snack once a month and hopefully expand to twice a month. Thursday October 26th we will be providing a healthy snack. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and an information flyer.

Afterwards we enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch in the pavilion. Kendall Tata came at the end of our lunch and took a picture of us enjoying the Peace Garden.



SAVE THE DATE

On Thursday October 12th the Diocesan ECW will have its Fall Meeting and UTO Ingathering at Christ Church Glen Allen. The Guest speaker is The Reverend Melanie Mullen, Director of Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care. The registration fee is \$25 and includes a buffet lunch. If you would like to attend please see Jeannie Palin. The registration deadline is October 2nd. A flyer is on the bulletin board.

**† Birthdays, Baptisms,
& Anniversaries †
October 2017**

*Let us give thanks and praise to God
for these special days in the life of
our parish family*

Birthdays



- 03 George Haney
- 05 Laura Palin
Kathy Hatter
- 16 Ann Marie Fickes
- 17 Marilee Newman
- 27 Roy Dye
- 30 Betty Gaylord

Anniversaries



- 05 Carlyle & Lisa Hystad
- 10 Phil & Jeannie Palin
- 17 Ron & Jenny Morris

Baptisms



- 01 Charlie Hatter
- 10 Phil Palin
- 22 Amy Jo Sacra
Joe Winslow

Lay Participation Schedule for October 2017

	10/1 17th Sunday after Pentecost	10/8 18th Sunday after Pentecost	10/15 19th Sunday after Pentecost	10/22 20th Sunday after Pentecost	10/29 21st Sunday after Pentecost
<u>1st Lesson</u>	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	Isaiah 5:1-7	Isaiah 25:1-9	Isaiah 45:1-7	Jeremiah 31:31-34
<u>Psalm</u>	25:1-8	80:7-15	23	96:1-13	46
<u>Epistle</u>	Philippians 2:1-13	Philippians 3:4b-14	Philippians 4:1-9	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Romans 3:19-28
<u>Gospel</u>	Matthew 21:23-32	Matthew 21:33-46	Matthew 22:1-14	Matthew 22:15-22	John 8:31-36
Ministry	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
<u>Acolyte</u>	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly
<u>LEM</u>	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly
<u>Lector</u>	Betty Moreland	Betty Moreland	Betty Moreland	Pat Peck	Betty Moreland
<u>Intercessor</u>	Pat Peck	Pat Peck	Pat Peck	Pat Peck	Pat Peck
<u>Usher</u>	Andy Byerly	Andy Byerly	Jim Koontz	Jim Koontz	Jim Koontz
Ministry	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
<u>Acolytes</u>					
Crucifer					
Server					
<u>LEM</u>	Gwen Atwood	Ron Morris	Cathy Lagana	Mary Hogge	Larry Meslar
<u>Lector</u>	Joel Atwood	Ron Morris	Roy Dye	Bill Schmidt	Scott Mingledorff
<u>Intercessor</u>	Mary Hogge	Jenny Morris	Jeannie Palin	Betty Moreland	Ann Mingledorff
<u>Usher</u>	Paul Newman	Bill Schmidt	Angelo Lagana	Joel Atwood	Roy Dye
<u>Coffee Hour</u>	Hatter	Newman	Dye	Wabnitz	Winslow
<u>Vestry Person</u>	Agnes Dalton	Agnes Dalton	Agnes Dalton	Agnes Dalton	Agnes Dalton
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Palin	Palin	Palin	Palin	Palin



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED