



Celebrating 115 Years of God's Grace!

GRACE NOTES – November 2017

The News from GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Note From Pastor Grace

The month of November holds a number of important dates for us as Christians and church members, all of them related in some way, though we may not recognize that relationship immediately.

November 1st is the Feast of All Saints, and because of its importance, it is one of only two feast days that can be moved to the first Sunday in November, if the 1st falls on a weekday. It is a day on which we celebrate that “great cloud of witnesses” that St. Paul speaks of—those men and women who have passed from here into the nearer presence of God in what we call Eternal Life. It is also a day on which we may give special remembrance to those we know personally who have died. Within our worship services, we may name them aloud or light a candle in their memory.

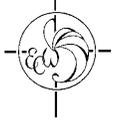
When Paul used the term “saint” in his letters, he was speaking of those who were followers of Jesus—those who came to be called Christians. There were no halos or golden crowns in those days, and the members of those small churches didn't consider themselves to be better than anyone else in the way we sometimes think of saints. They were ordinary folks who were trying to follow the teachings and example of Jesus. And that pretty much describes us, as well. We are called to be holy, as God is holy, meaning we are called to wholeness, to show in the way

we live that we are created in the image of God. There's a wonderful line in the hymn we just sang: “The saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one, too.”

This is also a time when we can remember those people who have been examples of sainthood in our own lives—parents, perhaps, or teachers, or neighbors. People who showed us by example what it means to follow Jesus and to show forth the love of God, whether or not they would consider themselves Christians.

November is also a month that brings with it two other events that do connect, in a way, with the celebration of All Saints. The first is Thanksgiving and the other is Stewardship Sunday. I know what you're thinking...there's no way to connect those things! But I think there is. Thanksgiving, of course, is when we give thanks in general for all of our blessings. And we will have remembered the saints in our lives and given thanks for them when we celebrated the Feast of All Saints. Stewardship, which is the way we care for what we have been given and how we use our time, talents and treasure, is an opportunity to give out of that sense of gratitude. We give because of all that we have received, and we prayerfully consider what that gift should be. So I wish all of you a happy and blessed November full of thanksgivings!

Grace



ECW NEWS AND NOTES September 2017

The Episcopal Church Women will have a short business meeting on Saturday, November 11th at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We will discuss and vote on what organizations and ECW objectives we would like to send our donations. As you recall, we are asking for individuals to donate to the ECW in lieu of our money making activities; i.e. bake sales, Bazaar, and all events which include our time and material costs. Please consider what you would have spent this year and make a donation so that we will be able to help organizations thru our generosity. Thank you to all who have made a donation! If at all possible, please give your donation to Ann McDaniel (our treasurer) before the 11th. Thank You!

We will also have time to share our joys and concerns with each other. The meeting will adjourn around 11:30. All are welcome!

Looking further ahead, we will have our annual Christmas Party on Friday evening, December 8th. Julie Winslow has once again offered to host our event. Please plan to come and enjoy the fellowship of each other. We will be collecting items for the Boys Home and for Jackson-Feild Home. More details to follow.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN 2017 FALL MEETING

On Thursday, October 12th, Christ Church Episcopal hosted the women of the Diocese of Virginia for its 127th Fall Meeting and 129th UTO Ingathering. Jodie Pulley, our President, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Here are a few highlights from the meeting.

90 attendees from 10 regions attended. There were 5 past presidents, 6 clergy and Bishop Shannon.

Reports were given. UTO reported that historic St. Peter's Church in Richmond received a grant to install an elevator, accessible bathroom and a walkway between the worship space and the parish hall.

Money from the Viva Voce fund will be given to the Central Virginia Justice Initiative. CVJI was founded in the fall of 2013 to fight against all forms of human trafficking in Fredericksburg and the surrounding counties. Michele Trampe, Executive Director of CVJI talked about the on-going need to educate, promote, and be an advocate. Donations will help with the cost of print materials, administration costs, rental space, prevention curriculum for local schools and church youth groups. CVJI will use donations to cover the costs of hiring a professional facilitator for the survivor support group.

Communion Alms collected at the meeting will help Hope for Humanity, Inc. (www.hopeforhumanityinc.org) and Gifts & Scholarship Fund.

Kay Holmes, gave a report about Free the Girls! She thanked everyone for their "Support!" The bras that were collected will be delivered to New Creation in Harrisonburg where they will be sorted and sent on to various destinations. The gift of these bras will help victims of human trafficking get back on their feet by selling these bras in thrift shops. If you want to know more visit www.Freethegirls.org.

Bishop Shannon announced the retirement of Bishop Gulick and let us know that a 3rd Bishop will be elected in 2018. Then Bishop Shannon made the exciting announcement letting us all know that Cindy Helton will be the new ECW President for the Diocese.

The Rev. Melanie Mullen, Director of Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care, from the Presiding Bishop's office, gave a wonderful program entitled "Evangelism Today". She encouraged us to share our "Holy Stories" like we would share a description of the most amazing thing we have eaten.

After the program we enjoyed a lovely buffet lunch. The Rev. Shirley Smith Graham from Christ Church gave the homily and The Rev. Melanie Mullen was the celebrant.

Jeannie Palin



Choir News

We are trying something new with our adult choir this season. The choir will be joining you all in the congregation; my hope is that this will help all members of our congregation, regardless of their musical ability, feel more comfortable singing hymns during our services.

In addition, the choir will be robing and singing in three special services throughout this church year: Advent Lessons and Carols (December 17th), Palm Sunday and Pentecost. Instrumentalists will accompany our Christmas Eve and Easter Services.

We will continue to rehearse Wednesday nights at 7:30pm. My other hope is that this new arrangement will encourage more congregants to join our choir – if you cannot attend all of our rehearsals; you will still be prepared to sing in any of our regular or special services.

Please feel free to speak with me about any questions you may have.

Suzanne Pattison

Vestry Update

The vestry is pleased to report that the search committee has been elected and has met for the first time. The committee comprises –

Jean Byerly,
Heidi Ladd,
Marilee Newman, and
Brian Pattison.

Linda Robbins will serve as an ad hoc member.

Jean has agreed to serve as chairperson. The committee has met for the first time and will be meeting with the Rev. Dr. Mary Thorpe, the director of the diocesan transition ministry, in the near future. We all owe our thanks to each of these people for agreeing to take on this important service.

As most of you know, we are also in the midst of our annual stewardship process. For the next few Sundays, some of us will share our experiences at Grace Church and what it means to us. The vestry urges each of you to prayerfully consider your pledge at this important time in the history of our parish.

As always, please get in touch with me or any member of the vestry with any questions, or if there are any issues you would like to discuss.

Bill Schmidt

For the Election of a Minister

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a vicar for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

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

Birthdays

- 05 Berowne Paradis
- 06 Alexandra Ladd
- 07 Martha Morris
- 10 Mary Kates
- 17 Charlie Hatter
- 18 Bob Cary
- 19 Jean Byerly
- 20 Gwenn Erikson
- 21 Zachary Wright
- 25 Bobby McDaniel
- 26 Ryan Miller
- 27 Lou Hatter
- 30 Andy Byerly



Anniversaries

- 17 Joel & Gwen Atwood
- 25 Andy & Jean Byerly
Don & Minna Doyle
- 29 Bert & Barbara Nye



Baptisms

- 03 Henry Morris
- 05 Phoebe Morris
- 09 Bobby Winslow
- 11 Ron Morris
- 17 Judy Painter



Lay Participation Schedule for November 2017

	11/05 The Feast of All Saints' Day	11/12 23rd Sunday after Pentecost	11/19 24th Sunday after Pentecost	11/26 Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King
<u>1st Lesson</u>	Revelation 7:9-17	Amos 5:18-24	Zephaniah 1:7,12-18	Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24
<u>Psalm</u>	34:1-10,22	70	90:1-12	95:1-7a
<u>Epistle</u>	1 John 3:1-3	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Ephesians 1:15-23
<u>Gospel</u>	Matthew 5:1-12	Matthew 25:1-13	Matthew 25:14-30	Matthew 25:31-46
Ministry	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM
<u>LEM</u>	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly
<u>Lector</u>	Betty Moreland	Betty Moreland	Betty Moreland	Betty Moreland
<u>Intercessor</u>	Pat Peck	Pat Peck	Pat Peck	Pat Peck
<u>Usher</u>	Andy Byerly	Andy Byerly	Andy Byerly	Andy Byerly
Ministry	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
<u>LEM</u>	Gwen Atwood	Cathy Lagana	Mary Hogge	Minna Doyle
<u>Lector</u>	Mary Hogge	Ann Mingledorff	Jeannie Palin	Joel Atwood
<u>Intercessor</u>	Roy Dye	Bill Schmidt	Mary Hogge	Jenny Morris
<u>Usher</u>	Lou Hatter	Scott Mingledorff	Angelo Lagana	Mary Hogge
<u>Coffee Hour</u>	Lagana	Palin	Doyle	Dalton
<u>Vestry Person</u>	Pat Peck	Pat Peck	Pat Peck	Pat Peck
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Julie Winslow Linda Robbins	Julie Winslow Linda Robbins	Julie Winslow Linda Robbins	Julie Winslow Linda Robbins

Note: Adult Forum: It's on the Apostle Paul and his writings, taught by Prof. Luke Timothy Johnson, who is an engaging lecturer. Begins at 9:15 on Sundays in the parish hall. You are invited to come and enjoy the coffee hour which follows the 8:00 service.



Grace Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 112
Stanardsville, VA 22973

Phone: 434-985-7716
GraceStanardsville@embarqmail.com

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