



## Celebrating 116 Years of God's Grace!

GRACE NOTES – April 2018

The News from GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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### A Note From Jeffrey

One of the major influences in my ministry has been a man named Frederick Buechner. A Presbyterian minister, who was a great preacher but also brought to the table a literary imagination, having been a popular novel writer before he entered the ministry. Because of that gift he was able to explain dense theological issues with a sense of humor and a wonderful turn of the phrase. The result was fresh language and insights that moved away from the often dry, lugubrious theological language that preachers often use! Take for instance his piece on Easter from one of his books. Maybe it will help you approach the resurrection in a fresh way this year!

In Christ,  
Jeffrey

### Easter

Christmas has a large and colorful cast of characters including not only the three principals themselves, but the angel Gabriel, the innkeeper, the shepherds, the heavenly host, the three Wise Men, Herod, the star of Bethlehem, and even the animals kneeling in the straw. In one form or another we have seen them represented so often that we would recognize them anywhere. We know about the birth in all its detail as well as we know about

the births of ourselves or our children, maybe more so. The manger is as familiar as home.

We have made a major production of it, and as minor attractions we have added the carols, the tree, the presents, the cards. Santa Claus, Ebenezer Scrooge, and so on. With Easter it is entirely different.

The Gospels are far from clear as to just what happened. It began in the dark. The stone had been rolled aside. Matthew alone speaks of an earthquake. In the tomb there were two white-clad figures or possibly just one. Mary Magdalen seems to have gotten there before anybody else. There was a man she thought at first was the gardener. Perhaps Mary the mother of James was with her and another woman named Joanna. One account says Peter came too with one of the other disciples. Elsewhere the suggestion is that there were only the women and that the disciples, who were somewhere else, didn't believe the women's story when they heard it. There was the sound of people running, of voices. Matthew speaks of "fear and great joy." Confusion was everywhere. There is no agreement even as to the role of Jesus himself. Did he appear at the tomb or only later? Where? To whom did he appear? What did he say? What did he do?

It is not a major production at all, and the minor attractions we have created around it — the bunnies and baskets and bonnets, the dyed eggs — have so little to do with what it's all about that they neither add much nor subtract much. It's not really even much of a story when you come right down to it, and that is of course the power of it. It doesn't have the ring of great drama. It has the ring of truth. If the Gospel writers had wanted to tell it in a way to convince the world that Jesus indeed rose from the dead, they would presumably have done it with all the skill and fanfare they could muster. Here there is no skill, no fanfare. They seem to be telling it simply the way it was. The narrative is as fragmented, shadowy, incomplete as life itself. When it comes to just what happened, there can be no certainty. That something unimaginable happened, there can be no doubt.

The symbol of Easter is the empty tomb. You can't depict or domesticate emptiness. You can't make it into pageants and string it with lights. It doesn't move people to give presents to each other or sing old songs. It ebbs and flows all around us, the Eastertide. Even the great choruses of Handel's Messiah sound a little like a handful of crickets chirping under the moon.

He rose. A few saw him briefly and talked to him. If it is true, there is nothing left to say. If it is not true, there is nothing left to say. For believers and unbelievers both, life has never been the same again. For some, neither has death. What is left now is the emptiness. There are those who, like Magdalen, will never stop searching it till they find his face.

~originally published in *Whistling in the Dark* and later in *Beyond Words*

<http://www.frederickbuechner.com/quote-of-the-day/2016/10/22/easter>

## Vestry Update

As promised last time, here is a list of the vestry liaisons for our various ministries:

**Worship** - Mary Hogge & Julie Winslow

**Christian Formation** - Julie Winslow

**Physical Plant, Buildings and Grounds** -

Larry Meslar

**Parish Life** - Gwen Atwood & Bill Schmidt

**Outreach** - Barbara Nye & Gwen Atwood

**Stewardship** - Pat Peck & Linda Robbins

As a small church, we have relatively little in the way of formal committees. This list, though, should give you an idea of the appropriate vestry members to approach with ideas, concerns, or – last but not least – offers of assistance.

Our search process is picking up steam. A couple of weeks ago, Jean and I reported that the Search Committee has completed and distributed a parish survey, which the Committee will use (together with input from small group meetings) to complete our Parish Profile. This will be used by potential candidates to inform themselves about our history, priorities and our aspirations. This is your chance to participate actively in the search process and to help the Search Committee describe who we are as a church and the kind of vicar who will best be able help us with our ministries. Please complete the survey if at all possible, but even partially completed forms are welcome. The surveys should be returned by **Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup>** to the boxes at the front and rear of the sanctuary.

As always, we will try to keep you posted, but please let any of us know if you have questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Schmidt

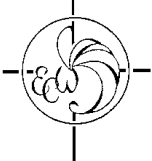
## Search Committee Cottage Meetings

The Search Committee is offering you a chance to discuss the search process and who we are as a congregation. There will be 3 cottage meetings where you can chat in a small group. If you have more to contribute following the survey, this is your opportunity to provide additional information. The first meeting will be at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, 4/11. The next meeting will be at church between the services on Sunday, 4/15. The final meeting will be at 2:00 PM on Monday, 4/16 at Linda Robbins' house.

Please sign up on the sheet in the church hallway or contact the church to be added to the list. You can also contact Jean Byerly, Bill Schmidt or the church office if you have any questions or concerns.

## ECW NEWS AND NOTES

April 2018



**LOL! (Laugh out Loud!)**

**LOL! (Lots of Laughs!)**

**LAL! (Laughing at Linda's!)**

However you want to say it, the ECW had a wonderful afternoon of laughter! Sharing the gift of laughter and fellowship makes the day brighter. Snacks and drinks helped too! Thank you to Linda for hosting our ECW get together.

On Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> the Diocesan ECW Spring Meeting will be at Church of the Epiphany, Richmond. The meeting is from 12:30-4:00 p.m. The theme for the day is "Faith in Action." Registration is \$25. A flyer is on the church bulletin board.

The next ECW meeting will be on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the Parish Hall starting at 10 a.m. Lori Gore will be the guest speaker at our ECW meeting on April 28th. Grace Alliance is hoping to start a Thrift Shop in Stanardsville. Lori would like to talk to us about what Grace Alliance is planning to do with the space where the Palette was. There will be time for questions. I hope you all will be able to attend. We will

also look at calendar events and discuss which activities we would like to focus on in the coming year. Please bring your ideas or suggestions for our year together.

## Charlottesville Region Meeting

On Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> the Charlottesville Region Meeting will be held at Buck Mountain Episcopal Church in Earlysville. Dinner will begin at 6:00 followed by the meeting with guest speaker, The Rt. Rev. Robert W. Ihloff, Bishop Associate. The meeting will be an update on the search for a new Bishop. Check the bulletin for more information.

## What is the United Thank Offering?

The United Thank Offering is an organization founded by the Episcopal Church Women for the purpose of spreading God's blessings to those in need.

Through the United Thank Offering, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in the United Thank Offering have discovered that thankfulness leads to generosity.

A short prayer of thanksgiving leads to an offering in the United Thank Offering box. All offerings are used to support grants for ministries at home and overseas as an outreach of the Episcopal Church. Prayers and offerings make it possible for the UTO mission to stretch in unexpected ways.

Please pick up your blue UTO box today! More information on UTO can be found in the old library area.

## GIVE THANKS!

Be sure to get a blue box so that you can offer your thanks and prayers by daily putting coins into your box.

UTO ingathering will be on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>!



**† Birthdays, Baptisms, &  
Anniversaries †  
April 2018**

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

**Birthdays**



02 Julia Hatter

04 Ezmee Hutton (daughter)

07 Alexander Palin

08 Scott Mingledorff  
Joel Atwood

20 Jenny Morris

21 Barbara Nye

23 Elizabeth Young

30 Henry Morris  
Stephanie Stricker  
Joe Meslar

**Anniversaries**



26 Scott & Ann Mingledorff

**Baptisms**

03 Zachary Wright

05 Ezmee Hutton (mother)

11 Laura Palin  
Alexander Palin  
Julia Hatter



16 Eloise Virginia Pattison

18 Martha Morris

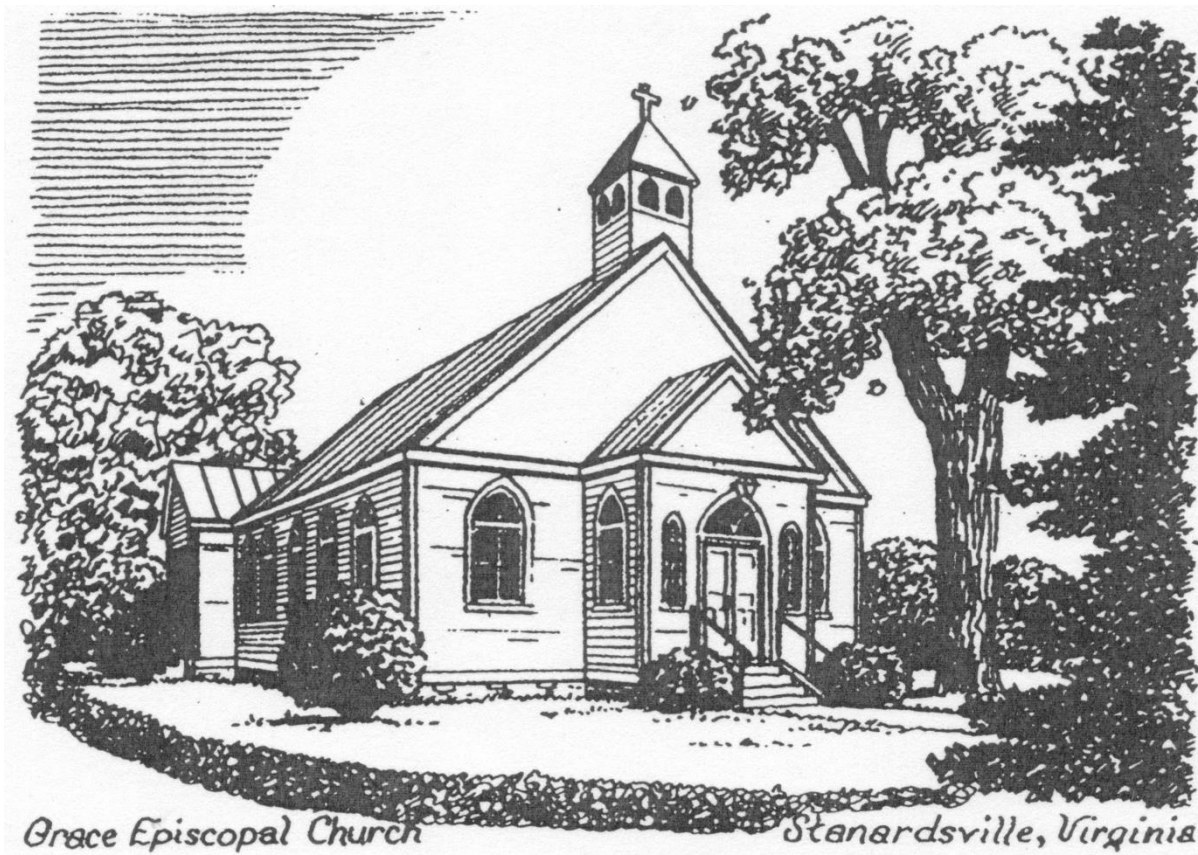
19 Lucie Mae Pattison  
Suzanne Pattison

27 Scott Mingledorff

## *Lay Participation Schedule for April 2018*

	<b>04/01 Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day</b>	<b>04/08 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>04/15 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>04/22 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>04/29 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>
<u>Lesson</u>	TBD	Acts 4:32-35	Acts 3:12-19	Acts 4:5-12	Acts 8:26-40
<u>Psalm</u>	118:1,2,14-24	133	4	23	22:25-31
<u>Gospel</u>	TBD	John 20:19-31	Luke 24:36b-48	John 10:11-18	John 15:1-8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson					
<b>Ministry</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
<u>LEM</u>	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly	Jean Byerly
<u>Lector</u>	Betty Moreland	Betty Moreland	Betty Moreland	Betty Moreland	Betty Moreland
<u>Intercessor</u>	Pat Peck	Pat Peck	Pat Peck	Pat Peck	Pat Peck
<u>Usher</u>	Andy Byerly	Andy Byerly	Andy Byerly	Andy Byerly	Andy Byerly
<b>Ministry</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
<u>LEM</u>	Minna Doyle	Gwen Atwood	Mary Hogge	Cathy Lagana	George Long
<u>Lector</u>	Ann Mingledorff	Roy Dye	Bill Schmidt	Linda Robbins	Jeannie Palin
<u>Intercessor</u>	Julie Winslow	Bill Schmidt	Roy Dye	Mary Hogge	Jenny Morris
<u>Usher</u>	Scott Mingledorff	Paul Newman	George Long	Linda Robbins	Bill Schmidt
<u>Coffee Hour</u>	EASTER	Doyle	Palin	Dalton	McDaniel
<u>Vestry Person</u>	Julie Winslow	Julie Winslow	Julie Winslow	Julie Winslow	Julie Winslow
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Eleanor Wabnitz Mary Lou Potter	Eleanor Wabnitz Mary Lou Potter	Eleanor Wabnitz Mary Lou Potter	Eleanor Wabnitz Mary Lou Potter	Eleanor Wabnitz Mary Lou Potter

**Note:** The adult forum has started a study of **C. S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*** beginning 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.



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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**