



## Celebrating 116 Years of God's Grace!

GRACE NOTES – May 2018

The News from GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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### A Note From Jeffrey

The sermon from Good Shepherd Sunday

One day a shepherd was herding his flock in a remote pasture when suddenly a car drives up, and an old guy leans out of the car window and says, hello there, "I'm from flock central; I've been trained in helping people like you to know about all the modern trends of shepherding. I've got a lot of tools at my disposal; mind if I offer you some advice; and by the way if I can tell you exactly how many sheep you have in your flock will you give me one?"

The shepherd somewhat skeptical nevertheless replied, sure. So the man gets out of the car, whips out a notebook, connects it to a cell phone that has a Google map application on it; he scans the area and opens a database with some 50 spread sheets with complex formulas. Finally he prints out some 35 spreadsheets on his portable printer and turns to the shepherd and says, "You have exactly 581 sheep. Amazed the shepherd replies "that's correct. So you can have one of the sheep.

So the old guy picked a sheep out and put it in the car; As he was about to leave, the Shepherd asked, " If I can tell you exactly what your business is will you give me my sheep back? "Why not," said man; "You are an interim" said shepherd. This time it was the old man who was amazed. "That's correct how did you guess?" "Easy," said the shepherd, "you turn up here out of the blue,

with all your supposed knowledge of how I should manage my flock which I have been doing faithfully for years. And you don't know anything about me or my flock because you just selected my dog!"

So much for experts -consultants or interim vicars who come into a situation with enough knowledge to be dangerous! Nevertheless with a dose of humility and hats off to those of you who have been here faithfully for a long time and know this parish much better than I do, let me make a few observations based this morning's Gospel reading.

Amid Jesus' discourse on being the "Good Shepard" what jumped out to me was Jesus' bold assertion that "I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."(John 10:16)

What this statements says to me and I hope to you is that quite simply Jesus isn't done yet. Despite his healing, despite his preaching, despite all that he had already done and planned to do, Jesus isn't done yet. He still has more sheep to reach, sheep that are not yet in this fold. And for us today, it means God isn't done yet for us either.

Why does this matter for Grace Church at this particular moment?

1. First, God continues to seek out and to bring into his fold people from all walks of life, from every nation, nationality, including all those new folks who are moving into Greene County now.. God's mission field is huge; In other words, God holds the future of

the Church- this parish. We do not have to worry that the future is up to us. This is not a Little Engine that could moment. Our primary role is to be a people of prayer-to give thanks for who we are now; to discern God's will for what this parish might look like in the future.

2. Second God is at work in our midst and through us and through this parish in Stanardsville to extend the invitation to abundant life offered by the Good Shepherd; furthermore, God is using our lives and words to invite people to faith; to come and see; and there is a lot to commend here-let me tell you; there is! Its too good to kept behind closed doors! Can we imagine that simply by praying for someone or inviting someone to Church we might be the vessel by which God continues to reach out and embrace the sheep-all those people out there- from beyond this fold that is Grace Church? Can we?

3. Third and finally; the possibilities of more sheep in the fold are beyond our imagining. Let's not circle the wagons, not a time to be down in the dumps, rather it is time to be in an Advent mode, expectant; open; positive. All we know is that God isn't done yet. . Jesus is still calling, God is still searching.

I know more and more people perhaps you are one of them, who are worried about friends and family who no longer go to Church, who don't necessarily identify as Christian anymore. Clearly the landscape of a Christian culture in America is changing. For some of you it is hard for you to digest that you will only be able to afford a part time vicar this time around. Yes old patterns of church are dying but new ones are emerging. The resurrection metaphor holds true for parishes as it does for individuals.

Once again the key is prayer. Right now our call is to pray that God would work in and through us to share rich life we've experienced. We need to pray that Grace Church can grow during this transitional time-remembering that there are lots of ways of growing;

This is a time to affirm that we can trust to God all those people out there; we can do that simply because of the faith God showed in us by sending the Good Shepherd, the one who lays down his life for us and all people :: and he does that out of nothing other than sheer, abiding, and eternal love. Amen.



## Vestry Update

The vestry has a number of things going on, so this report is really about work in progress. Our search committee will be filing the "Community Ministry Profile" (the document that allows potential candidates for our vicar to learn about our church, our style of worship, and our outreach programs) with the diocese in the next few days. This is an important milestone, because it initiates the search process proper. Also, Michael Friedman has told us that he has concluded that he is unable to continue to serve on the search committee. The vestry and the search committee members respect his decision, but we are sorry to see him go and we thank him for his service. The vestry has chosen Roy Dye to fill the resulting vacancy on the committee, and we appreciate his willingness to take this on in addition to all the other important work he does for the community.

We are also continuing to focus on outreach. As we do this, it is becoming more apparent that there are two overlapping strands to this effort: "community" outreach, which relates to our many efforts to help those who are less fortunate, and "growth" outreach, which relates to our efforts to tell people about Grace Church and to encourage them to worship with us. Both are important, and we will have updates on our progress.

Larry Meslar has agreed to help reconstitute our building and grounds committee. This will help us all focus on several ongoing initiatives to improve our sanctuary and parish hall.

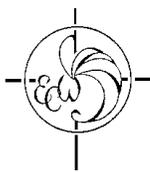
Finally, the vestry is planning for a half day retreat on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is intended to give us a chance to discuss issues that often get crowded out of our regular meetings. I think we all have some ideas about what should be on the agenda, but please let any of us know if there are items that you think we should include.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Schmidt



## ECW NEWS AND NOTES

April 2018



Mary Hogge and Jeannie Palin attended the ECW Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 12th at Church of the Epiphany, Richmond. The theme for the day was “Faith in Action.” The Rev. Carey Connors, Deacon at St. George’s Fredericksburg, along with four youth participants (16 to 18 yr. old) and two parents shared their experience from the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. They spoke of what they had learned and how it has changed their lives. They gave new meaning to the program focus, “Faith in Action.” In “The Privilege Walk,” the youth demonstrated how every woman, regardless of her status, race or creed, has her own story.

We heard an update from Ann Chaffins of Jackson-Feild Behavioral Health Services. They continue to do the Lord’s work in educating and empowering children and teens, young women and men, who are most in need of help in turning their lives around.

We also heard Bishop Curry’s statement on Human Trafficking, and Kay Holmes and Kathy Jimerson reminded us of our efforts to raise awareness and to take action by keeping the ECW posters in public spaces.

Connie Brady, UTO Coordinator, said that the Diocese of Virginia has submitted a grant request for Charis, an intentional community

for young adults in Charlottesville Region, to expand their facility to “welcome the stranger.” At Triennial, we will hear if the grant was funded.

The date for the Fall Meeting will be Thursday, October 11th. Church of the Epiphany, Herndon will host our gathering.

Thank you to all the women who helped with Betty Gaylord’s service and reception! It was lovely.

The meeting on Saturday, April 28th was very informative about the new Thrift Shop in Stanardsville. Lori Gore provided us with ways to become involved in this outreach ministry.

Heather Myers wanted to extend many thanks to everyone who helped with YDC snacks this year! She was very appreciative of all our support. If you weren’t able to help this school year you will have another opportunity to volunteer for the 2018-1019 school year.

## United Thank Offering

On Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Claire Hitchins from Charis Community will speak to the congregation about a UTO grant that was awarded them in 2015. She will share what “Intentional Community” means and how it has affected the lives of people who live in the Charis Community. They have applied for another UTO grant to expand their facility to “welcome the stranger.” Please plan to attend to hear how “**Change Changes Lives!**”



## 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. Our UTO ingathering has been moved to June 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

**Birthdays**



- 01 Heidi Ladd
- 03 Bert Nye
- 06 Suzanne Pattison
- 15 Mary Hogge
- 16 Paul Newman
- 19 Maeve Fickes
- 20 Julie Winslow
- 23 Dottie Mitchell  
Abraham Thomas
- 30 Annelise Wright

**Anniversaries**



- 02 Angelo & Cathy Lagana
- 16 Bob & Eleanor Cary
- 20 Lou & Kathy Hatter
- 24 Bobby & JoAnn McDaniel

**Baptisms**



- 03 Daniel Thomas
- 17 Jane Blum
- 22 Stephanie Stricker

## *Lay Participation Schedule for May 2018*

	<b>5/6 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>5/13 Sunday after Ascension Day</b>	<b>5/20 Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday</b>	<b>5/27 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost: Trinity Sunday</b>
<u>Lesson</u>	Acts 10:44-48	Acts 1:1-11	Acts 2:1-21	Isaiah 6:1-8
<u>Psalm</u>	98	47	104: 24-34,35b	A Song of Praise: Canticle 13
<u>Gospel</u>	John 15:9-17	Luke 24:44-53	John 15:26,27 16:4b-15	John 3:1-17
<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson</u>				
<b>Ministry</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
<u>Lector</u>	Betty Moreland	Betty Moreland	Betty Moreland	Betty Moreland
<u>Intercessor</u>	Pat Peck	Pat Peck	Pat Peck	Pat Peck
<b>Ministry</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
<u>LEM</u>	Larry Meslar	Gwen Atwood	Linda Robbins	Minna Doyle
<u>Lector</u>	Joel Atwood	Phil Palin	Scott Mingledorff	Gwen Atwood
<u>Intercessor</u>	Jeannie Palin	Julie Winslow	Linda Robbins	Roy Dye
<u>Usher</u>	Roy Dye	Mary Hogge	Lou Hatter	Angelo Lagana
<u>Coffee Hour</u>	Atwood	Meslar	Mingledorff	Nye
<u>Vestry Person</u>	Barbara Nye	Barbara Nye	Barbara Nye	Barbara Nye
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Ann McDaniel	Ann McDaniel	Ann McDaniel	Ann McDaniel

**Note:** The adult forum continues through May 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**