



Celebrating 116 Years of God's Grace!

GRACE NOTES – August 2018

The News from GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Note From Jeffrey

Glass half empty or half full? How would you answer that question? It might be fun to have a conversation about where each of us is on that dynamic? And what about our Christian faith-half full half empty? I would like to apply that thinking to the miracle of the loaves and fishes- but I urge you not to jump to conclusions because the answer might surprise you!

So, a brief recap: A crowd of people has followed Jesus to the lakeshore. Their attraction to him is so strong that in their excitement they forget the picnic lunch.

Jesus leans over to Philip and says, "Philip, how are we going to buy enough food to feed all these people?" It is a test. And Philip, responds the way God's people often reply to a crisis. "We're done for. Half a year's wages wouldn't be enough to feed all these people." And then, as Philip begins to mumble, his colleague Andrew informs Jesus that a boy in the crowd is carrying a couple of fish and a few loaves of bread. "But so little as that" Andrew says in effect, "is really quite irrelevant under the circumstances."

"Make the people sit down", replies Christ. The meal is blessed, served, then eaten and when all are satisfied, there is enough left over to fill 12 baskets. So much abundance!

Unfortunately much of the time we seem to forget this fact. Much of the time our faith seems to mirror that of Philip and Andrew,

who could not see past six months' wages or the meager 5 loaves and 2 fishes.

We tend to base our own living on our own scarcity-what we don't have, or even on our own fears of insufficiency. So we hoard and save and worry and end up living in small and safe measure. We pull back when we should push forward. We give in to our fear rather than exercising faith in God's abundance. Glass half empty. Circle the wagons. Expect the worst.

Feeding of the 5,000 says don't expect the worst, expect the best; expect the unexpected! Feeding of the 5,000 says Christians are constantly on call to go places where we have never been, to do things we have never attempted and to see things we have never envisioned before.

Here at Grace Church we can look at the contraction of two services to one in two ways; one way is to say it is necessary because after the exact same worship schedule for the last generation, and because Grace Church has experienced roughly 30% decline in Sunday attendance during the past five years; God is calling us to do something different.

However another way of looking at this, is that as we are followers of Christ the one who can make something out of very little we have faith that more in this circumstance has nothing to do with numbers but everything to do with a more hopeful, more unified congregation moving forward.

The feeding of the 5 thousand invites us to live into a grace filled inheritance, a timely

calling because most of us tend to live on the edges of what God is offering us. We are challenged, you and I, to take seriously God's generous offer of life of abundance so we can position ourselves for the adventure of faith that enriches and enlivens those who embrace its challenge.

However we look at life: glass half empty or half full, God can and does meet us where we are, whether we are optimists or pessimists-but know this, God is not satisfied with a half filled glass, God in Christ is in the business of filling the glass up; overflowing.

For instance, at the wedding in Cana Jesus instructs the servants as the wine was about to run out to fill jars with water which he turned into wine- good wine that lasted for a long time! At a community well in Samaria, Jesus tells a woman who has had a hard life about living water gushing up to eternal life. As a matter of fact, wherever we go in the Gospels we are confronted with this profuse and full measured flood of God's grace mediated through Christ. And that is certainly the message of the feeding of the multitudes in today's Gospel.

Jesus says to us today and every day, I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly. Let's fill the glass!

Faithfully,
Jeffrey



Kitchen Update



The new kitchen ceiling insulation has been installed and we are hoping that the sheetrock work will begin sometime this coming week. The kitchen is still **completely** off-limits. We can continue to use the Parish Hall, until I am told that they are ready to start work in there. Thanks for your patience.

Linda

Vestry Update

After careful (and prayerful) consideration, the vestry unanimously believes that the time has come to consolidate the two Sunday services, replacing the current 8 o'clock and 10 o'clock services with one Eucharistic service at 9:30.

Several considerations led to our conclusion. First, we believe it will be difficult to find a part time pastor who will be comfortable conducting two services each Sunday (Grace and Jeffrey have generously agreed to this, but they are very much the exceptions). Second, churches that have more than one Sunday service do so in order to meet the needs of substantial congregations; at this time, we are simply too small a church to support a second service. Third, having one service will permit all of us to participate in our music ministry, which is very much an important part of the Episcopal liturgy. Finally, we think that the two services tend to divide our already small congregation needlessly. Having one service will allow us all to worship together and enjoy one another's fellowship.

We are all very mindful that some of us are quite devoted to one or the other of our present two services. Some of us want to begin the day early on Sunday while others want to sleep in. We have tried to balance these needs by choosing a time for the new single service that is a bit earlier than the current main service and a bit later than our current 8 o'clock service. We know that this will not satisfy everyone, but we hope each of you will try to work with your fellow parishioners to make this change work.

Blessings,
Bill Schmidt
Senior Warden

Charis Community Receives UTO Grant

Charis Hospitality Expansion Project
receives \$30,000

Charis is an intentional community of young adults living at McIlhany Parish, seeking to follow Jesus through prayer and social action. This grant allows Charis to add three bedrooms and a bathroom and make their home more hospitable to welcoming the stranger. Congratulations!

2018 ANNUAL GRANTS

This year, the UTO Board received 68 grant applications and was able to fund 34 grants. Four grants support dioceses that receive block grants from General Convention (aided dioceses). Six grants fund projects outside of The Episcopal Church, either directly or through an Episcopal Church companion. Five grants are companion projects, which means that two dioceses that have a relationship with one another are working together on a grant project. This year's grant recipients represent eight of the nine Anglican Communion provinces and 28 dioceses of The Episcopal Church.

To see a list of all the United Thank Offering Grants please visit:

https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/documents/uto_2018_grants_brochure.pdf

YOUNG ADULT GRANT AWARDS

New Church Community at Good Shepherd
Episcopal Church

Grace Aheron

Diocese of Virginia, \$2,500

Coming out of a summer of tumult and resistance in Charlottesville, many people in separate corners of the community have begun longing for a worshiping community that gives strength for the journey as activists of faith. The Charis Community hopes to answer that longing by starting a weekly worship service at an underused chapel.

Annual Picnic

The 4th Annual Homecoming Picnic at The Blue Ridge School will be held on Sunday, August 5th. The day will begin with a service in the Gibson Chapel at 10:00 AM. Picnic immediately following on the school grounds. Grace Church will supply the fried chicken, all paper goods and beverages. All you need to bring is a chair or blanket and a dish to share with others. Please join us for a wonderful day of good food, fun games, and catching up with friends!

(Note: There will be no 8:00 AM service that day).



Search Committee Update

The search committee has reached a new phase in our process. After doing the survey of current and former members of our congregation, we created a profile for prospective clergy. The profile completed by the vestry and the search committee included information about our church, the compensation we offer, history of previous vicars and staff, narratives based on our survey, and references. This was posted on the diocesan website with their blessing on May 1st. We had 2 applicants respond by the July 15th deadline. The search committee is now proceeding with interviews and participating in worship with these candidates. Following interviews, the search committee will make a recommendation to the vestry.

The diocesan director of transition ministry, The Rev. Dr. Mary Thorpe, has met with the search committee before each phase of the process. She knows our candidates and thinks that either would serve us faithfully and well. The senior warden has also been involved with the search committee's meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Byerly

Search Committee Chair

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

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

Birthdays

04 JoAnn McDaniel
Ethan Miller
Gene Miller



06 Joe Estes

13 John Mitchell
Virginia Fitzhugh

14 Maxx Newman
Grace Cangialosi

15 Jane Blum

22 Bill Schmidt

24 Katie Miller

25 Judy Estes

26 Bill Hemenway

28 Swanee Bullard

29 Keith Erikson
Cathy Brinkley

Anniversaries

08 Buck & Gene Miller

14 Whit & Cathy Brinkley

17 Bill & Carole Schmidt

19 Daniel & Sara Thomas



Baptisms

16 Julie Winslow

23 Scott Winslow



Lay Participation Schedule for August 2018

	8/5 11th Sunday after Pentecost	8/12 12th Sunday after Pentecost	8/19 13th Sunday after Pentecost	8/26 14th Sunday after Pentecost
<u>Lesson</u>	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	1 Kings 19:4-8	Proverbs 9:1-6	Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
<u>Psalm</u>	78:23-29	34:1-8	34: 9-14	34:15-22
<u>Gospel</u>	John 6:24-35	John 6:35, 41-51	John 6:51-58	John 6:56-69
Ministry	10:00 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM
<u>LEM</u>	Larry Meslar	Gwen Atwood	Linda Robbins	Pat Peck
<u>Lector</u>	Pat Peck	Betty Moreland	Ron Morris	Adelaide Myers
<u>Intercessor</u>	Mary Hogge	Julie Winslow	Jenny Morris	Jeannie Palin
<u>Usher</u>	Linda Robbins	Angelo Lagana	George Long	Scott Mingledorff
<u>Jr. Usher</u>	Lucie Pattison	Lucie Pattison	Lucie Pattison	Lucie Pattison
<u>Coffee Hour</u>	ANNUAL PICNIC	Palin	Doyle	Robbins
<u>Vestry Person</u>	Mary Hogge	Mary Hogge	Mary Hogge	Mary Hogge
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Ann Mingledorff Cathy Lagana	Ann Mingledorff Cathy Lagana	Ann Mingledorff Cathy Lagana	Ann Mingledorff Cathy Lagana

Now that we have only one Sunday service, I have combined the Lay Ministry volunteers from the two previous services into one rotation list. We have also been blessed to have two new Lectors added. A warm welcome to Adelaide and Margaret Myers. Thank you so much for joining this ministry. If anyone else is interested in assisting in the Sunday worship as a LEM (Lay Eucharistic Minister), Reader or Usher, please see me. Everyone is welcome to participate and you may volunteer for as many positions as you feel you want to. I could not end this note without thanking every one of our Lay volunteers for their service. Your time, energy, and flexibility in covering positions at the shortest notice shows your dedication to making our worship service so meaningful. Grace Church is blessed to have you all!

Gratefully,
Linda