

Celebrating 118 Years of God's Grace!

GRACE NOTES – November 2019

The News from GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Vicar's Vision

Whichever way you turn, there is the face of God

She was invited to the party by very dear friends. She had worked for them for years and now their baby girl, the little girl she had helped to raise, was graduating from high school. It was time to celebrate.

She wouldn't have been noticed on the street. No one ever really noticed her but here, today she was sticking out like the naked Maple in the forest of evergreens.

Everyone around her was dressed in their finest. Speak the word celebration and every fine lady puts on her glamorous party dress to show off. For her, her best was old and worn and had been bought years ago at the local Goodwill store.

She could feel the stares. They were like tiny pins being stuck in her eyeballs. For one brief moment she thought about turning around and running in the opposite direction but this evening was not about her. It was about celebrating with a little girl she had rocked to sleep since birth. So she suffered the stares and haughty looks of the other women and she stepped into the ballroom with a smile and a prayer.

This could be a modern day widow's mite story. No one would have noticed the widow woman in the temple that day either. She was

a no thing, a no person in their culture. She might as well have been invisible. When she lost her husband, she lost everything. She lost her place in society, her name and any means of financial support.

In the Widow's mite story from scripture, Jesus had his eye on one particular widow who went to the treasury and put in 2 small copper coins. The woman drew his attention in such a way that he wanted others to notice her too. So he called over his disciples to point her out to them.

Jesus never praised the woman for giving away everything she had to live on. But he certainly recognized the disparity of giving a little out of a lot and giving everything you possess. He definitely wanted to point out the difference of giving and sacrificial giving.

As we so often see in scripture, Jesus could not have picked a more unlikely role model for us. If you, for one minute, were able to visualize the setting of this story in your mind and then ask yourself, which one of the characters would I have noticed and been inclined to watch? Would it have been her? There were so many important people to see. There was so much bling to catch your eye. There were so many people so ready to tell you how smart and motivated they were. And yet, they were not the ones Jesus was watching. The woman with nothing to her name, she is the one.

As I often do when I read Bible stories, I wished the story had a different ending. I wish Jesus had told her that he noticed her. I wish Jesus had paid tribute to her sacrificial giving. For just one moment (or longer!) I wanted her to know she was seen and loved and admired by Jesus.

She may not have known this but SHE WAS NOTICED, SHE WAS ACKNOWLEDGED. Jesus saw into the very heart of her gift and of her life. I find such comfort and hope in knowing that Jesus can see in a way we cannot.

I am heading to Asheville on Thursday for a much needed retreat. It is a wonderful opportunity to reset my spirit and my heart. When I went to this 'Awakening Soul' retreat 2 years ago, we sang a mantra throughout the weekend that I carried back home with me and have often used on my busiest, grumpiest days. The simple line of the mantra says this, "*whichever way you turn, there is the face of God.*"

As we enter the holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, it might do us all some gracious good to hum along.

Anne West



Harvest of Thanks

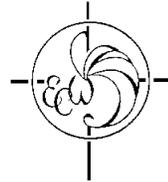
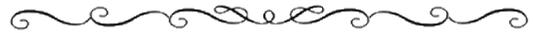
On Saturday, November 30, we will host a "Harvest of Thanks" as part of the Neighborhood Brunch. The Outreach Committee is abundantly thankful for each of the Grace Family who volunteer time, talents, food, and materials to provide a welcoming place for the community to enjoy a brunch every fifth Saturday in the year.

We plan to gather at 10 AM in the Parish Hall. Spirited harvest music will lead us out to the Unity Garden, weather permitting. Vicar Anne has organized an interactive time of blessings, thanksgivings and petitions.

More music will lead us back inside for the harvest of food and fellowship.

Watch for cards in the pews to sign up for one or more of these opportunities for service.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Nye



ECW News and Notes

The Woman's Club Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 2nd at the Ruckersville Elementary School.

We will have a table of baked goods and an area to sell coffee. What we need are baked goods, baked goods, and MORE BAKED GOODS!! We will set up Friday evening and will be at the school on Saturday from 7:30a.m. to 3 p.m. If you are able to volunteer working at the table on Saturday that would be very much appreciated. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. You can drop your baked goods at the church on Friday until 5 p.m. Or you can bring them to the school on Saturday. The money we make at the Bazaar will go toward local outreach and to our ECW objectives for the Diocese.

Mark your calendars for **Friday, December 6th**! Julie Winslow has once again graciously offered to host our Christmas party at her house. We will start at 5 p.m. This is a potluck dinner so bring your favorite food; either main dish, side, or dessert! Plates, utensils and drinks will be provided.

I spoke to the Jackson-Feild representative at the Fall Meeting and he suggested that **sweatshirts/hoodies** would be a wonderful gift for the girls and boys. If you would like to buy a sweatshirt (mostly size L & XL) we will collect them at our Christmas party.

Jeannie Palin



ECW 129th Fall Meeting And 130th UTO Ingathering

The Fall meeting of the Episcopal Church Women was held at Pohick Church in Lorton on Saturday, October 19th. The meeting started at 9:30 with a prayer by The Rev. Dr. Lynn Ronaldi, Priest in Charge.

Connie Brady, UTO coordinator, reported that to date the Diocese of Virginia has received \$35,435.46. Every penny given to the Ingatherings is given away the following year to support innovative mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. Put gifts into the Blue Box with thanksgiving and prayer. Take blessings out of the box for grants to expand the church's faithfulness to God's Mission.

The Viva Voce Recipient is the Triangle of Hope. The Rev. Rock Higgins, from St. James the Less, had a power point of the youth pilgrimage to Ghana this summer. Rock summarized that the trip connects us to the "Christian hope for a future where all are saved, and all are free from slavery and from all oppression." The Diocese continues efforts to educate through the youth pilgrimages to Ghana, England, and Virginia.

The program for the morning was "Hope and Healing: The Church's Response to the Opioid Crisis". Barbara Ambrose, Karl Colder, and Amanda Kotval from the Diocesan Addiction and Recovery Team shared background about the opioid crisis and what our churches can do to help. Pray, open our doors, increase awareness, build community, rebuild and restore, connect and collaborate. Information is on the bulletin board.

We were in for a surprise when Suzanne Hicks, Executive Director of Hope for Humanity, Inc., arrived with Awut Agok, the School Administrator of Hope and Resurrection Secondary School in Atiaba, South Sudan. She was one of the first graduates of the school who went on with her education and who now works to educate and to bring hope in an area

where war and poverty have brought hopelessness. She said that in some communities, cows are valued more than women, and she is working to instill in the women at Hope and Resurrection the value of women. Hope for Humanity shared the Communion Alms of October 19, with the ECW Scholarship Fund.

After a lovely lunch we celebrated Holy Eucharist in the historic Pohick Church with The Rev. Ronaldi and The Very Rev. Kim Coleman, Rector Trinity Episcopal Church, Arlington and Dean of Arlington Region.



Vestry Notes

- Property maintenance is proceeding in several areas. The large field below the church has been bush hogged and we plan to remove the dead trees behind the church.
- The front door of the sanctuary will soon be professionally prepared and painted so that the bright red color doesn't fade.
- Our large, wooden sign is being restored and should be hung in front of the church before the end of the year.
- The gravel area of the parking lot will get some new gravel to repair the erosion and holes.
- A lot of work has been accomplished inside, with a complete makeover of the choir room including painting, new outlets and covers, and a thorough cleaning and reorganization.
- The choir has a new keyboard for rehearsal and loves their new robes.
- The Com-Unity Garden was a great success in its first year and is being prepared for next year. Work on the garden included education provided by the county's extension agents in gardening and in preparing the food produced by the garden.

**† Birthdays, Baptisms, &
Anniversaries †
November 2019**

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

Birthdays

- 04 James Koontz
- 06 Alexandra McElroy
- 07 Martha Morris
- 10 Mary Kates
- 17 Charlie Hatter
Judy Painter
- 19 Jean Byerly
- 20 Gwenn Erikson
- 21 Zachary Wright
- 25 Bobby McDaniel
- 26 Ryan Miller
- 27 Lou Hatter
- 30 Andrew 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



Lay Participation Schedule for October 2019

	11/3 21st Sunday after Pentecost	11/10 22nd Sunday after Pentecost	11/17 23rd Sunday after Pentecost	11/24 Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King
<u>1st Lesson</u>	Isaiah 1:10-18	Job 19:23-27a	Malachi 4:1-2a	Jeremiah 23:1-6
<u>Psalm</u>	32:1-8	17:1-9	98	46
<u>2nd Lesson</u>	2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Colossians 1:11-20
<u>Gospel</u>	Luke 19:1-10	Luke 20:27-38	Luke 21:5-19	Luke 23:33-43
Ministry	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM
<u>LEM</u>	Cathy Lagana	Ann Mingledorff	Linda Robbins	Larry Meslar
<u>Lector</u>	Phil Palin	Mary Hogge	Ann Mingledorff	Betty Moreland
<u>Intercessor</u>	Ann Mingledorff	Roy Dye	Pat Peck	Mary Hogge
<u>Usher</u>	Paul Newman	Lou Hatter	Mary Hogge	Roy Dye
<u>Jr. Usher</u>	Lucie Pattison	Lucie Pattison	Lucie Pattison	Lucie Pattison
<u>Coffee Hour</u>	The Morris'	Mary Hogge	Agnes Dalton	Byerly, Koontz, Peck
<u>Vestry Person</u>	Mary Hogge	Mary Hogge	Mary Hogge	Mary Hogge
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Julie Winslow	Julie Winslow	Julie Winslow	Julie Winslow

Coffee hour in the Parish Hall follows the service

Adult Forums and Formation will follow the service simultaneously with the coffee hour.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED