



Celebrating 119 Years of God's Grace!

GRACE NOTES – December 2020

The News from GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Note from Anne:

It is with real joy and excitement that I share with you some great news. After discerning with Piedmont Episcopal Parish in Madison through the fall and with the unanimous support of Grace Church's Vestry I have been issued a call to serve part time as Priest in Charge at Piedmont beginning on December 15th.

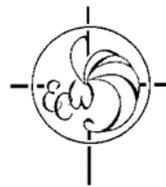
I am entering my third year as Part time Vicar at Grace and am thrilled that this new opportunity will afford me full time employment and allow me to stay on at Grace in my part time capacity.

There will, of course, be many details to work out as we enter a Partnership together. I hope that any changes that come our way over the next few months will be changes that promote community, growth, and new opportunities for all of us.

I am doubly blessed to know that I have a Deacon partner in Kathryn Thomas. Having a shared ministry with another ordained person in small Church ministry is a rare gift and one that I accept graciously.

There will be more information coming your way as I enter this call and we embark on what has the potential to be a great partnership and model of small church ministry for the Diocese.

Here is to new beginnings,
Anne



ECW MEDITATION

The Youth Choir sang an add-a-stanza-per-week hymn based on the four Advent themes: hope, peace, joy and love. I have written down the words so that you might say them as you light your Advent Candles during this season when we are preparing ourselves for a new birth!



HOPE is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.

PEACE is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth.

JOY is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Savior is born.

LOVE is a flame that burns in our heart. Jesus has come and will never depart.

Just a reminder about giving a gift to the boys and girls at Jackson-Feild. If you are able to purchase an item for a boy or girl at Jackson-Feild, please bring it to Linda Robbins home by December, 4th. Her address is: 153 Mistland Trail, Ruckersville. Her phone number is: 985-7202. Thank you Linda for being the point person! And thank you, ECW, for providing a gift to a boy or girl!
Below is the email I received from Jackson-Feild.

This year has been very challenging for the staff at Jackson-Field but we have been able to adjust and adapt to life in the midst of a pandemic.

It is ironic that 165 years ago Jackson-Feild was founded in response to a pandemic. The uncertainty, fear and stress of coping with mental illness while coping with the pandemic in which our boys and girls have been unable to meet with their parents.

I am emailing you on behalf of our children to request your help once again this year.

The children can use **sweatpants, underwear boys and girls, socks, slides, sweat shirts, and coats in assorted sizes ranging from medium to 2XL with the most being large.**

We always can use new or used puzzles, games, teen magazines and teen books.

We cannot thank you and your members enough for your wonderful support of our children over the years.

We hope that you will help us again this year.

Unfortunately, we will not be celebrating our annual Christmas Pot-Luck Party at Julie's. But when we do gather, it will be a joyous celebration!

Thank you!

Jeannie

Comm-UNITY GARDEN

What Does Unity Garden Tell Us Now?

“It’s been said that planting a garden demonstrates faith in the future.” Greg Kula

It is time to have faith in the future of the Unity Garden. What can we do now to demonstrate our faith in the future? The Unity Garden has turned from abundant green plants loaded with fruit to withered leaves on dead branches. Perhaps a better question is:

What is the Unity Garden doing to demonstrate provision for the future?

Zinnia and marigold flowers have died, but they overflow with seeds. Worms are still aerating the soil and their castings enriching the ground. Green bean plants were not pulled out but cut off and taken to the burn pile. This allows the roots to put nitrogen back into the dirt readying it to nourish next year’s crops.

Neighbors are helping us harvest and separate out the seeds of the marigold and zinnia deadheads. They are hoping to package some to sell. Other seeds will be used to grow starter plants, some to sell and some to plant around the perimeter of the Garden in the Spring.

It is God’s Unity Garden, named and purposed to cultivate relationships of cooperation between Grace Episcopal Church and its neighbors. For a successful 2021 Unity Garden some gardeners are needed for various tasks.



Please consider the following areas that interest you.

- Pray for the Unity Garden.
- Volunteer to serve on the Outreach Committee.
- Make constructive suggestions.
- Help prepare seeds.
- Start seeds at home.
- Contribute to a Garden Shed.
- Other _____

Contact Barbara Nye (434) 985-2402 to volunteer. For monetary contributions make out a check to Grace Episcopal Church with Unity Garden or Unity Garden Shed in the memo line.



Grace Church is moving forward with a new MISSION statement:

**Seeking, loving, and doing
God's work united in
scripture, tradition, and reason.**



Junior Warden's Report

This year has been a time of slow progress rather than large projects. We continue to work on making the Ford Avenue area tidier and more usable. When the temperatures warm up again, we will also replace the old plexiglass over our beautiful, stained-glass windows which are now much more visible from the street.



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Worship services in December

- 3rd** **8:00 p.m.** Zoom Compline service
- 6th** **10:00 a.m.** Zoom Advent Lessons and Carols
11:30 a.m. Outdoor service of Lessons and Carols (weather permitting)
- 10th** **8:00 p.m.** Zoom Compline service
- 13th** **8:00 a.m.** Outdoor Eucharist (weather permitting)
10:00 a.m. Zoom Third Sunday of Advent
- 17th** **8:00 p.m.** Zoom Compline service
- 20th** **8:00 a.m.** Outdoor Eucharist (weather permitting)
10:00 a.m. Zoom Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 24th** **Noon** Outdoor Christmas Eve (weather permitting)
Service on Zoom if inclement weather
- 27th** **10:00 a.m.** Zoom Christmas Lessons and Carols
11:30 a.m. Outdoor service of Lessons and Carols (weather permitting)

**† Birthdays, Baptisms, &
Anniversaries †
December 2020**

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

Birthdays



01 Garnett Mingledorff
Gretchen Ladd

02 Emily Ellis

06 Betty Moreland
Lisa Hystad

21 Robbi Savage

25 Farrell Milstein

28 Don Doyle
Greg Kula

Anniversaries



08 Paul & Marilee Newman

Baptisms

06 Betty Moreland

11 Whit Brinkley

22 Dottie Mitchell



Lay Participation Schedule for December

	12/06 2nd Sunday of Advent	12/13 3rd Sunday of Advent	12/20 4th Sunday of Advent	12/24 Christmas Eve	12/27 1st Sunday after Christmas
<u>1st Lesson</u>	Advent	Isaiah 61:1-4. 8-11	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Isaiah 9:2-7	Christmas
<u>Psalm</u>	Lessons	126	Canticle 15	96	Lessons
<u>2nd Lesson</u>	and	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Romans 16:25-27	Titus 2:11-14	and
<u>Gospel</u>	Carols	John 1:6-8, 19-28	Luke 1:26-38	Luke 2:1-20	Carols
Ministry	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	10:00 AM	12:00 Noon	10:00 AM
<u>LEM</u>	----	----	----	----	----
<u>Lector</u>	----	Scott Mingledorff	Ann Mingledorff	?	----
<u>Intercessor</u>	----	Mary Hogge	Linda Robbins	?	----
<u>Usher</u>	----	----	----	----	----
<u>Coffee Hour</u>	----	----	----	----	----
<u>Vestry Person</u>	Larry Meslar	Larry Meslar	Larry Meslar	Larry Meslar	Larry Meslar
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Ann Mingledorff	Ann Mingledorff	Ann Mingledorff	Ann Mingledorff	Ann Mingledorff

Everyone is welcome to join the 10:00 service via Zoom. You can launch Zoom at 9:30 to chat with other parishioners before the service starts. For security reasons, an invitation is required. Please email Linda Robbins at lindalrobbins@gmail.com to request your invitation.

For help in getting started or for technical assistance, please call or email Jean Byerly at (434) 985-7567 or jean_byerly@yahoo.com.

*If in your heart you make a manger for his birth, then
God will once again become a Child on earth.*

December 2020

Dear friends and family of Grace,



Pictured above are some of the many beautiful paintings of the Nativity from the National Gallery of Art. The paintings are full of symbols and imagery of the times during which they were painted. I am simply drawn to the beauty of the paintings and the variety of ways that the nativity has been interpreted on canvas through the years. The story never changes but how we see it surely does.

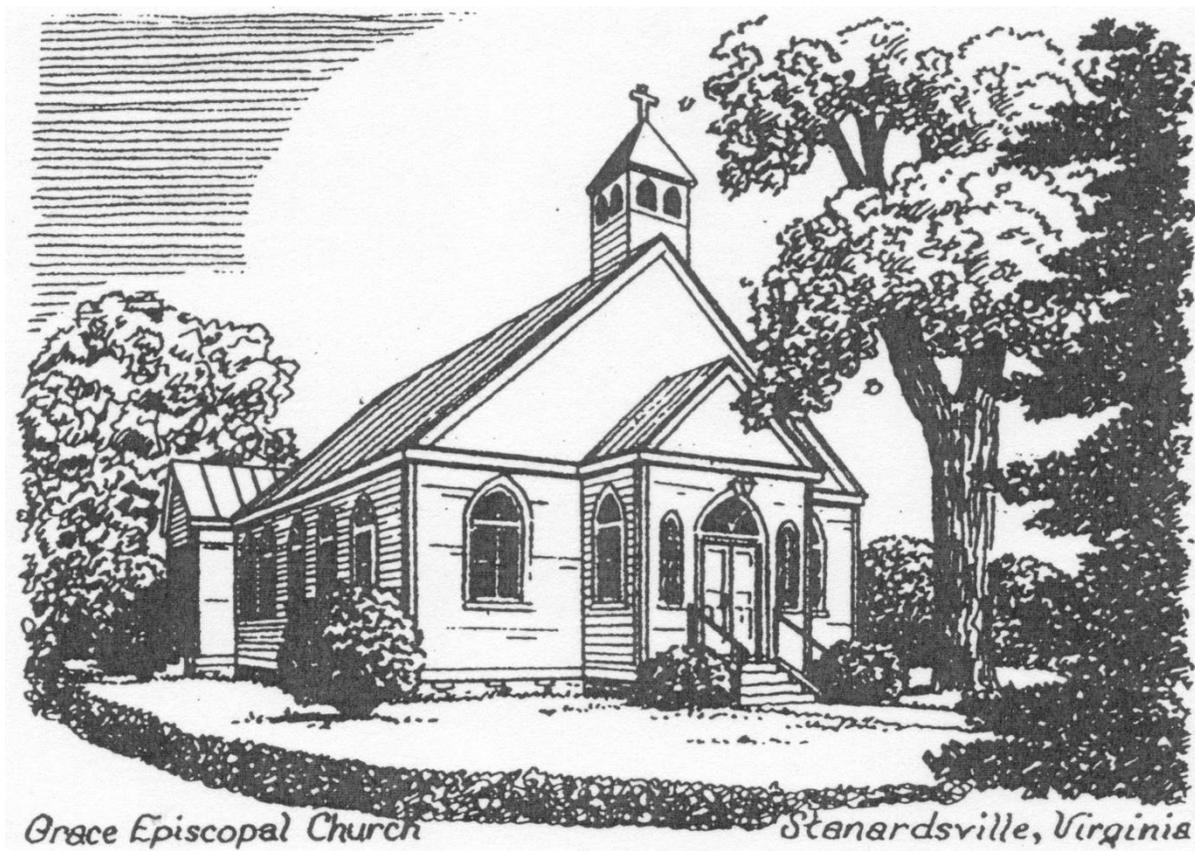
Many of us have had big changes in your lives this year, not the least of which has been adapting to pandemic life which has forced us to more isolation than we may have wanted and drawn out some hidden creativity to find ways to be together. Some of us have suffered the loss of family members. Some of us have dealt with the loss of a job and searching for a new one. Some have entered the joy of retirement. All of these changes may demand you to change the very way you celebrate Christmas this year. Some of you will put the tree up in the same place you always do and serve the same delicious Christmas meal that you have for years. **Whether your traditions of the season are old or new if your heart is open you just may find new joy in welcoming Christ this season.**

I truly believe that God's wisdom chose a lowly handmaiden and a carpenter to bring forth the Christ-child to remind each of us of the potential we have to make our smallness very big. This community of faith has set their sights on shining Christ's light into the world. Together we have already accomplished some wonderful things that have changed lives.

I pray that this holy season will be blessed for each and every one of you. I pray that the year ahead will be filled with many surprises as you seek to deepen your faith in our Lord.

With Christmas Blessings,

Anne



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED