

GRACE NOTES MAY 2020



**Grace Episcopal Church
Grace Church Lane
Casanova, Virginia 22728**

**Rector: The Rev. James H. Cirillo
Telephone: (540) 788-4419**

**gracechurchcasanova@gmail.com e-mail
www.gracechurchcasanova.org website**

Services every Sunday at Grace Church on Route 602 in Casanova at 9:00 AM, followed by coffee fellowship in the Family Center near the church.

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS FAREWELL: MY FINAL REFLECTION

Dear Ones,

Each time I read or even hear the following words, I can't help but hear the twanging guitar of Roger McGuinn and the Byrds. Maybe you do too.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Now, it is for me (and Dale), time for a new season in our lives: a time to retire. By default, it will also be a new season for Grace Church as you seek and search who will be the next priest at Grace. May God bless you all as you work and pray to discover the person of God's own choosing to next serve you in Christ.

What began as a very temporary "arrangement" has turned into a long and loving relationship, that though dramatically changed, will never end, at least in Dale's and my heart's. As I have said many times at annual meetings, who would have thought that a 3-month gig would have turned

into a 16 ½ year relationship? Now, as I/we retire, that relationship does not end, but changes dramatically, as it must for the sake of the next pastor at Grace.

In looking at this leave taking between us, I think it is important to note that the end of the relationship with the previous rector was under an uncomfortable strain due to reasons beyond the rector's control. No one was at fault, but the ending and separation was difficult and awkward. I left a parish also under difficult and painful circumstances where I had served faithfully but was very hurt, to say the least, by our separation and end of pastoral relationship.

I am pleased to have this pastoral separation end on good terms on both sides so as to set a good tone for whomever follows as the new priest. Nevertheless, such an end is still difficult and we all will grieve, which is a sign of a significant and caring relationship. As you can easily imagine, tears are flowing as I type.

What truly saddens me at this point, is the way we have had to end this time together. And by that, I mean that we have had to end our time together – apart! None of us could have imagined that March 8, the Second Sunday of Lent, would have been my last service here with you. Who could have imagined missing Palm Sunday and Easter and even Pentecost together? But we have, and we cannot change it and life will go on, or as many say these days, “It is what it is!” That said, I cannot express how grateful I am for our time together over these many years. I never dreamed that I would serve in one place so long since the average “stay” of a rector now in the Episcopal Church is around 7 years, the length of my last position.

I am not perfect, as you know by now, and I know that I have missed opportunities to minister to you at times, which I regret. I also know that I have been there at times when many clergy I know would not have been and for that, again, I am grateful.

In our time together, I have buried too many, baptized and married too few and walked with you through both heartbreaks and joys. Together, we weathered several years of severe financial strain in 2009 to 2011. Together we celebrated the 150th anniversary of Grace Church! In that 150 years, I have served as the pastor at Grace longer than anyone else, which makes me happy. Together, we put on a new roof! Together, we have lived as a caring community of Christian believers. Above all of this and though it all, I have loved you and you have loved me, and such love is always a gift! It is the “greatest” to which Paul refers in 1 Corinthians 13.

I could go on and on, but I am not a fan of long goodbyes, so I will end with the Blessing of Aaron from Number 6:24-26:

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.”

In the grace and love of Jesus Christ I remain a little longer,
Your sheepdog,

Jim+

May Announcements

Sad news at Grace:

Our beloved friend **Ralph Pearson** died on 4/21 in Brookside Care Center in Warrenton. It was not Covid 19 related. He was having heart issues for a while and his kidneys began to give in as well. He was in the room with his wife of 68 years, Doris when he passed through the gates of larger life. Ralph would have been 93 years old this June. Ralph has read the line of the Centurion, the last line of the Passion reading on Palm Sunday every year since I have been at Grace, except when none of us did so this year. Next year someone else will have to say, "Truly, this man was God's Son!" May Ralph forever rest in peace with God.

GRACE CHURCH WEBSITE: WWW.GRACECHURCHCASANOVA.ORG

Check out the website, there have been some updates! But we still have a little work to do, such as updated pictures from Grace Church events in 2019-2020. Pictures, questions or other items of interest that you wish to have posted can be sent to the website email address: website@gracechurchcasanova.org or you can contact Kevin Holmes.

AMAZON SMILE FOR GRACE CHURCH

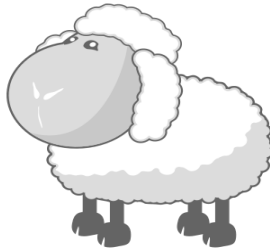
Don't forget to sign up with Amazon Smile to have 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items given to Grace Church at no cost to you! You can also go to the Grace Church website home page and click on the link there.

*******AmazonSmile Shopping App for Android Users Now Available*******

You can now support Grace in the Amazon shopping app on your Android device! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations to Grace from your Android device.

- * If you have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App, open the App on your Android device.
- * View Settings and select AmazonSmile.
- * Follow the in-App instructions to complete the process.

AmazonSmile is not currently available for IOS users – we'll let you know when it becomes available.



Feed My Sheep

To the sheep at Grace: Since Carol Grove's tablet is "down" she sends me info by text so I will relay some of it to you. On April 18 she sent, "WOW! I picked up \$\$ today and people really dug in their pockets. Please let them know that I appreciate their generosity. ... I would like to keep the envelope in place (*in the back pew*)."

I think people would rather give \$\$ than actually shop *at this point.*" (*Italics are my words added*)

You saints at Grace are a generous group. Keep giving and serving others in His name.

As you know, the need continues through this time of Covid 19, and is probably even greater due to the loss for some of meals provided by the school system. If you wish to shop and drop food in the back pew, please do. If you prefer to give money and allow Carol to shop instead, the envelope remains in the back pew and she collects it every few days. Drop by at your leisure and give as you are able. Either way, remember to wipe down and disinfect the doorknobs inside and out when you leave.

From the sheepdog

Treasurer's Report – March 2020



Income for the month of March was \$10,932.65 (budget \$10,423.75). Expenditures totaled \$11,097.00 (budget \$10,193.42), resulting a deficit for the month of \$164.35.

There were no obligations due and unpaid at the end of March.

Interest earned on our Raise the Roof Fund during the month of March was \$2.13. There were no expenditures. The balance in the roof fund account at the end of the month was \$14,972.91.

The book value of our endowment fund as of February 29 was \$57,511.98; market value \$55,972.71.

During this time when we can no longer worship together, I urge you to please continue with your pledges if possible. You can either mail your check to Grace at PO Box 18, Casanova, VA 20139, or put it in my box at the Parish Hall. We have received waivers and grace periods for health insurance and pension plan payments; with these concessions and your continued giving I believe Grace will be able to meet all its other obligations in a timely manner throughout these troubling times.

Please continue to pray for Grace Church that it will grow spiritually, financially and numerically. If you have any questions about this report or any financial matter, please contact me.

Judy Ball, Treasurer

Birthdays and Anniversaries for May



Carter Brumfield 5/2 birthday
Donna Shipe 5/4 birthday
Cash Brumfield 5/7 birthday
David Coates 5/7 birthday
Emelia Warren 5/9 birthday
Sue Ballantine 5/10 birthday
Richard Anderson 5/12 birthday
Kevin Holmes 5/13 birthday
Carol Payne 5/14 birthday
Betsy Anderson 5/15 birthday
Bryan and Barbara Jacobs 5/15 anniversary
Bob and Julie Brewer 5/15 anniversary
Nellie Warren 5/19 birthday
Bobbie Gouldthorpe 5/21 birthday
Karen Warren 5/21 birthday
Debbie Meador 5/25 birthday
Ally Totten 5/26 birthday

New address: formal or informal

The Rev. and Mrs. James H. Cirillo
or
Jim and Dale Cirillo
325 Floral Drive
Red Lion, PA 17356



Due to our present circumstances, we're unable to gather together to thank Jim and Dale for their years of service at Grace before they depart for Pennsylvania. Hopefully, we'll be able to do that later in the summer.

A friend of Dale's wrote the following poem as an encouragement to God's people in times of trouble.

I Sent My People Into The Desert
By Melissa Espalin

I sent my people into the desert.
I sent my people into the dark.
I sent my people through storms they could not withstand.

My people groaned.
Their flesh broke.
Their lungs failed.
Their arms grew tired.

I sent my people into the desert.
I sent my people into the dark.
I sent my people through storms they could not withstand.

My people forgot.
They forgot what I had done.
They forgot what I said I would do.
They grasped for any kind of reassurance from my creation.

I sent my people into the desert.
I sent my people into the dark.
I sent my people through storms they could not withstand.

I sent them through storms, to show them that where they could not stand, I could.
I have said, "Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will
be opened to you."
One of my children asked me who I am.

So, I sent my children into the desert to show them who I AM.
I AM water in the desert,
I AM light in the dark.
I AM calm in the storm.

So, I let my children walk into the dark to show them who I AM.
I AM light where there is none.
I AM the King that does not fear what my people hide from.
I have conquered even death.

So, I let my children walk into storms, they cannot withstand, on their own,
So that my children will remember who I AM.
I AM the One who stands among waves as big as mountains.
I AM the One who brings my people back to shore.

My people found me in the midst of chaos.
My people found me in the midst of panic.
My people found me when they were face to face with death.
And I welcomed them with open arms.

My children, I AM with you.
My children, I never left.
My people, remember who I AM.
Call for me and I will come to you.

MAY READINGS

DATE 2019	DAY	LESSONS
5/3	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10
5/10	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Acts 7: 55-60 Psalm 31:1-5,15-16 1 Peter:2:2-10 John 114:1-14
5/17	Sixth Sunday of Easter (Rogation Sunday)	Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66: 7-18 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14: 15-21
5/24	Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday After The Ascension	Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 John 17: 1-11
5/31	Day of Pentecost	Genesis 11:1-9 or Exodus 19:1-9a,16-20a,20:18-20 or Ezekiel 37:1-14 or Joel 2:28-32 Psalm 33:12-22, Canticle 2, 3 or 130, or Psalm 104:25- 32 Acts 2:1-11 or Romans 8:14-17, 22-27 John 7:37-39a