

GRACE NOTES JANUARY 2020



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

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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

Dear Ones,

As I reflect on the coming year, I am thinking about New Year's resolutions. With that in mind, I have been reading ahead in a book I read called *Grace Notes* by Phillip Yancey. It is a book of selected readings from his extensive writings arranged in a 366 day format so that one may read a selection a day for each day of the year. My January 2020 Reflection is from his January 2 reading, "Magnifying Glass of Faith". I think what Mr. Yancey, long time editor of *Christianity Today* magazine, has to say is a good resolution for anyone and everyone for the coming year. Mr. Yancey writes the next four paragraphs.

"I ... envision Jesus as the "magnifying glass" of my faith, a phrase that needs some explanation. I am the proud owner of *The Oxford English Dictionary*, which contains every word in the English language. By joining a book club, I obtained a special one-volume edition for only \$39.95. It contains the full text of the dictionary, with the one drawback of typesetting shrunk so small that no one on earth can read it unaided. Next, I purchased a splendid magnifying glass – the kind jewelers use, the size of a dinner plate, mounted on a swivel arm. With that and the occasional assistance of another, hand held magnifying glass, I can pore over the shades of meaning of any word in English."

I have learned about magnifying glasses, using my dictionary. When I train the glass on a word, the tiny print shows up crisp and clear in the center, or focal point, while around the edges it grows progressively distorted. In an exact parallel, Jesus has become the focal point of my faith, and increasingly I am learning to keep the magnifying glass of my faith focused on Jesus. In my spiritual journey as well as in my writing career I have long lingered in the margins, pondering unanswerable questions about the problem of pain, the conundrums of prayer, providence vs. free will, and other such matters. When I do so, everything becomes fuzzy. Looking at Jesus, however, restores clarity.

I admit that many standard Christian doctrines bother me. What about hell? What of those who die without ever hearing about Jesus? I fall back on the response of Bishop Ambrose, mentor of Augustine, who was asked on his deathbed whether he feared facing God at judgment. "We have a good Master," Ambrose replied with a smile. I learn to trust God with my doubts and struggles

by getting to know Jesus. If that sounds evasive, I suggest it accurately reflects the centrality of Jesus in the New Testament. We start with Him as the focal point and let our eyes wander with care to the margins.

By looking at Jesus, I gain insight into how God feels about what goes on down here. Jesus expresses the essence of God in a way that we cannot misconstrue.”

With this reading as our backdrop, let us resolve in at least one of our New Year’s resolutions that Jesus be the focal point of our lives in 2020 and to seek to stay away from the margins. Blessings in the new year.

Your sheep dog,
Jim+

January Announcements

Ruritan Dinner

We will be hosting the Ruritans for dinner on Thursday, January 9. Please let Penny know if would be able to help that night.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting will be held after the 9 a.m. service on Sunday January 19, 2019 in the Family Center. We will elect 2 new Vestry members who will serve for the 2020-2023 term and 1 person for a 1 year term. We will also receive written reports from our committees and ministries and anyone who may wish to can give their reports orally that day as well. Please submit written reports to the Register of the Vestry, Courtney Holmes, on or before January 19, 2019.

Vestry Meeting in January

Our January meeting will be moved back one week to January 22nd so that our newly elected members can attend. We will return to meeting on the third Wednesday in February on the 19th.

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.

GoFundMe Page

The GoFundMe page for the Roof Fund is up and running. The link for the page is: <https://www.gofundme.com/grace-episcopal-church-casanova> , but you can also go to the Grace Church website home page and click on the link there.

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.

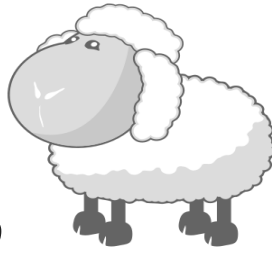
*******AmazonSmile Shopping App for Android Users Now Available*******

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



Many thanks for your continued support of this ministry that is so vital to so many. We are currently providing groceries for 60-70 families each week. Each family receives 1-3 bags of groceries each week and once a month a supply of staples. FMS is a ministry that provides a handup, not a handout. Midland Church of the Brethren has a vetting process that reaches our neighbors who fallen through the cracks of various gov't agencies. Some of our clients are long term and some just need short term assistance. All of our donations need to be non-perishable.

Here is a list of foods we can use...

Any canned fruits, juices, veggies, meats, dry cereals, poptarts condiments, puddings, jello.

Donations typically drop off in January and February so it's always good to have **extra** on hand.

If you shop at the big box stores we will be glad to break it down. Please no gallon size cans. If you would prefer to donate cash we will shop for you.

Grace is the one of the largest contributors. Let's keep up the good work.



Thank you
Carol Grove

2020

CALENDAR YEAR

JANUARY

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01	02	03	04
					Richard & Carol Payne ++	Shannon Perrault **
05 Worship 9 AM 2nd Sunday after Christmas Adult Ed 10 AM	06 Open Doors 4-6	07	08 Senior Center 12noon	09 Ruritan Club dinner	10	11 Sew What 9 AM Stacey Yacoub ** Brandon Dawson ** Louie Warren **
12 Worship 9 AM 1st Sunday after The Epiphany Richard Payne **	13 Open Doors 4-6 Judy Ball **	14	15 Senior Center 12 noon	16	17	18
19 Worship 9 AM 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany Annual Church Meeting	20 Open Doors 4-6	21 William Shipe **	22 Senior Center 12 noon Vestry 7 PM Joel Totten **	23	24 Kate Ferguson **	25
26 Worship 9 AM 3rd Sunday after The Epiphany	27 Open Doors 4-6	28 Becky Warren **	29 Senior Center 12 noon	30 Deborah O'Meara **	31	01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08

Birthday **

Anniversary ++

JANUARY SERVER SCHEDULE

DATE 2019	DAY	LESSONS	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	ALTAR	COFFEE HOUR
1/5	2 nd Sunday after Christmas	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 84 or 84:1-8 Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 or Luke 2:41-52 or Matthew 2:1-12	Betsy	Dale	Betsy	Mary & Penny
1/12	1 st Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	Mary	Judy	Mignonne	Mignonne & Dee
1/19	2 nd Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-12 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	Kevin	Dale	Tammy	Judy & Barbara
1/26	3 rd Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 5-13 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23	Judy	Bryan	Barbara & Diane	Sharon & Marilyn
2/2	Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple	Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 84 or 24:7-10 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40	Dale	Judy	Jan	Dale & Sue

Treasurer's Report – November 2019



Income for the month of November was \$9,568.52 (budget \$9,350.17). Expenditures totaled \$9,372.00 (budget \$9,350.17), resulting in income for the month of \$196.52.

There were no obligations due and unpaid at the end of November

Contributions to and interest earned on our Raise the Roof Fund during the month of November totaled \$150.25. Initial expenditures to the engineering firm and general contractor were \$24,370.90. The balance in the roof fund account at the end of the month was \$72,384.04.

The book value of our endowment fund as of October 31 was \$57,511.98.

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

Senior Warden's Vestry Report

Church Funds: The church's income now includes monies from St. Luke's as a result of the sharing arrangement between the two churches.

The "Raise the Roof" balance was incorrectly shown last month in the Roof Committee notes. It is actually at \$96,604.69.

The previously declined Home Depot credit card was investigated by the treasurer and resulted in the same being granted for Grace. Two cards will be held by the Junior Warden and the Rector.

Adoption of a Shelter Family for Christmas: Grace missed the deadline for this year for adopting a family, but it was reported that Mignonne was looking into seeing if there were still any families in need. If not, Grace will help out with donations of blankets, etc.

Special thanks to our faithful organist: Since there was to be no Thanksgiving Eve service at Grace this year, our organist, Michael, requested that he not be paid for this service. The Vestry moved to pay him anyway because of his faithful service.

Buildings & Grounds: The Roof contract has been signed and work has started. The large lilac near the church will be saved by either be transferring it temporarily to the edge of the woods or leaving it in place with some sort of protection.

Damage to the Parish Hall floor has already occurred due to the movement of the piano. A rug will be placed under the piano to prevent further damage and deter any movement.

Harvesting of the Black Walnut Trees on the church grounds has not been investigated further; however, the action item has been put forward to the champion of this endeavor. Reminder to look into harvesting the black walnut trees for additional Church funds.

Inclement Weather: The Vestry's call list for notifying parishioners of church status in the event of inclement weather will be updated. Vestry members were reminded not to call parishioners on the list who have not attended church for some time as it was seen as an annoyance in the past..

Events:

- ✠ Grace's Christmas Eve services will be held at the usual times of 5 and 10 pm.
- ✠ Fifth Sunday Café to be held jointly with St. Luke's in the Grace Parish Hall at 10AM. It will be the service of Lessons and Carols.
- ✠ Congregational Meeting will be held on January 19th in the Family Center, immediately following the service. The rector will be present and St. Luke's will be requested to obtain a supply priest.
- ✠ Mary Neal, Senior Warden