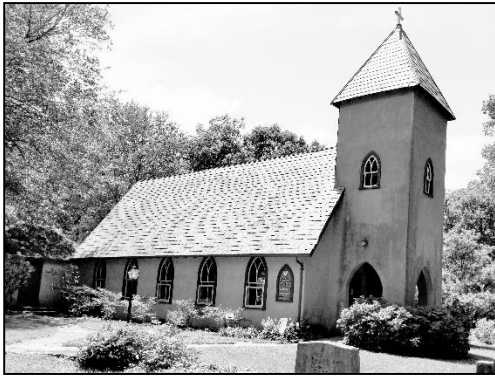


GRACE NOTES November 2019



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

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

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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 at Grace,

Recently I came across the following in an article I was reading and I thought it was a very unusual way of thinking. When I looked at it again a little later, I saw it quite differently. Upon second reading it struck me as a very usual way of thinking for many, at least some, of the people I know. Here's what I read: For the past forty years Eunice Pike has worked with the Mazatec Indians in Southwestern Mexico. During this time she has discovered some interesting things about these beautiful people. For instance, the people seldom wish someone well. Not only that, they are hesitant to teach one another or to share the gospel with each other. If asked, "Who taught you to bake bread?" the village baker answers, "I just know," meaning he has acquired the knowledge without anyone's help. Eunice says this odd behavior stems from the Indian's concept of "limited good." They believe there is only so much good, so much knowledge, so much love to go around. To teach another means you might drain yourself of knowledge. To love a second child means you have to love the first child less. To wish someone well—"Have a good day"—means you have just given away some of your own happiness, which cannot be reacquired.

Now that thinking does seem odd to me, that you would not even wish someone well because it means you just gave away some of your wellness away. But it is the same thinking that has some people saving, collecting even hoarding every thing that comes their way, including simple scraps of paper. Such thinking is based in a scarcity mentality which is based in fear. There is not enough so I must keep... And because there is not enough I must have more just in case... Call it consumerism, call it greed, call it what you want, it is the way many folks think. And it has been around for a long time. An excerpt from something else I read recently may help illustrate:

Martin Niemöller, the German pastor who heroically opposed Adolf Hitler, was a young man when, as part of a delegation of leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, he met with Hitler in 1933. Niemöller stood at the back of the room and looked and listened. He didn't say anything. When he went home, his wife asked him what he had learned that day. Niemöller replied, "I discovered that Herr Hitler is a terribly frightened man."

Because Pharaoh, like Hitler after him, is afraid that there aren't enough good things to go around, he must try to have them all. Because he is fearful, he is ruthless. Pharaoh hires Joseph to manage the monopoly. When the crops fail and the peasants run out of food, they come to Joseph. And on behalf of Pharaoh, Joseph says, "What's your collateral?" They give up their land for food, and then, the next year, they give up their cattle. By the third year of the famine they have no collateral but themselves. And that's how the children of Israel become slaves -- through an economic transaction.

The other side of this way of thinking has to do with a mentality of abundance. There is enough, perhaps even more than enough. More than enough is God's way of thinking. The Bible starts out with a liturgy of abundance. Genesis 1 is a song of praise for God's generosity. It tells how well the world is ordered. It keeps saying, "It is good, it is good, it is good, it is very good." It declares that God blesses -- that is, endows with vitality -- the plants and the animals and the fish and the birds and humankind. And it pictures the creator as saying, "Be fruitful and multiply." In an outpouring of fruitfulness, everything in its kind is to multiply the overflowing goodness that pours from God's creator spirit.

And Israel celebrates God's abundance. Psalm 104, the longest creation poem, is a commentary on Genesis 1. The psalmist surveys creation and names it all: the heavens and the earth, the waters and springs and streams and trees and birds and goats and wine and oil and bread and people and lions. This goes on for 23 verses and ends in the 24th with the psalmist's expression of awe and praise for God and God's creation. The psalm makes clear that we don't need to worry. God is utterly, utterly reliable. The fruitfulness of the world is guaranteed.

These two Scriptures proclaim that God's force of life is loose in the world. Genesis 1 affirms generosity and denies scarcity. Psalm 104 celebrates the buoyancy of creation and rejects anxiety.

Later in Genesis God blesses Abraham, Sarah and their family. God tells them to be a blessing, to bless the people of all nations. Blessing is the force of well-being active in the world, and faith is the awareness that creation is the gift that keeps on giving. That awareness dominates Genesis until its 47th chapter. In that chapter Pharaoh dreams that there will be a famine in the land. So, Pharaoh gets organized to administer, control and monopolize the food supply. Pharaoh introduces the principle of scarcity into the world economy. For the first time in the Bible, someone says, "There's not enough. Let's get everything."

Which way do you think and live -- out of scarcity or abundance? Which way do you want to live? God's way is clearly abundance. God has made us stewards of all creation, and stewardship is nothing more and nothing less than our caretaking of all that we have been given. To understand this, we must start from a position of humble gratitude -- all that we have has been given to us for overseeing and to use for God's work on this planet. One person defined it thus: ***Stewardship is everything that you do after you have said, "I believe."***

Whether Jesus was speaking of the faithful steward in Luke 12 or the unfaithful steward in Luke 16 or those to whom the rich man entrusted the talents in Matthew 25, he was clearly defining a steward as one to whom a superior person -- king or rich man or master -- has entrusted his significant resources.

Stewardship involves money, to be sure, but it also involves all that you possess -- your time, your talent, and your material possessions. We are stewards of this earth and all the creatures on it, including our fellow humans who suffer and struggle around the world, as well as in our own backyard. Stewardship is less about a way of giving than it is about a way of living. Let us be

grateful and give thanks to God in and for all things, especially in this month when we celebrate the Thanksgiving harvest. With that in mind, our annual Ingathering Sunday will be November 17, 2019. Let us begin thinking abundance instead of scarcity as we consider what we will give to God through Grace Church in the coming year.

Blessings,
Jim+

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. 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.

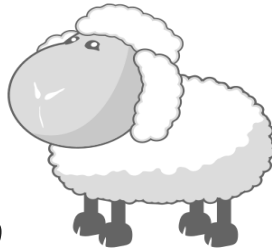
*******AmazonSmile Shopping App for Android Users Now Available*******

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, condiments, puddings, jello.

It's also time to start thinking about the **HOLIDAYS!** We would like:

Ready-to-use pie crusts

Fillings

Canned sweet and/or white potatoes

Soups

Canned fruits and vegetables

Stuffings, gravies and cranberry sauce

Small canned hams

Only nonperishable and easy prep!

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

2019 NOVEMBER

CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Worship 9 AM 21st Sunday after Pentecost Adult Ed 10 AM	Open Doors 4-6	Paul Dawson **		Bryan Jacobs **		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship 9 AM 22nd Sunday after Pentecost Adult Ed 10 am	Veterans Day Office closed		Sue Payne **		Maya Brumfield **	Sew What 9 AM
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship 9 AM 23rd Sunday after Pentecost Adult Ed 10 AM	Jim Cirillo ** Open Doors 4-6		Vestry 7 PM	Rob Moline **		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship 9 AM Last Sunday after Pentecost Adult Ed 10 AM Ralph & Doris Pearson ++		Janice Richards **		Thanksgiving		
01	02	03	04	05	06	07

Birthday **

Anniversary ++

NOVEMBER SERVER SCHEDULE

DATE 2019	DAY	LESSONS	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	ALTAR	COFFEE HOUR
11/3	Pent 21	Habakkuk 1:1-4,2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4,11-12 Luke 19:1-10	Dee	Judy	Tammy	Dale & Sue
11/10	Pent 22	Haggai 1:15b-2:9 Psalm 145:1-5,18-22 Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38	Judy	Dale	Mignonne	Mignonne & Dee
11/17	Pent 23	Isaiah 65:17-25 Canticle 9 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19	Dale	Judy	Jan	Mary & Penny
11/24	Last Pent	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Canticle 4 or 16 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43	Mary	Bryan	Barbara & Diane	Sharon & Marilyn
12/1	1 st Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	Betsy	Dale	Betsy	Judy & Barbara

Senior Warden's Vestry Report

There was no Vestry meeting in September.



Treasurer's Report – September 2019

Income for the month of September was \$10,650.51 (budget \$9,350.17). Expenditures totaled \$10,466.27 (budget \$9,350.17), resulting in income for the month of \$184.24.

There were obligations due and unpaid at the end of September in the amount of \$1,130.58 which were paid in October.

Contributions to and interest earned on our Raise the Roof Fund during the month of September totaled \$300.81. Total raised as of September 30 - \$97,447.11.

The book value of our endowment fund as of August 31 was \$55,607.22.

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

Update from the Roof Committee-October 2019

Last month it was reported that the church had received/raised \$96,292.28 for its roof fund which included a \$5,000.00 grant from the Peter James Lee Church Revitalization Fund (PJL.) The same as last month, funds are still being collected through the Church GoFundMe page and smile.amazon.com. Unfortunately, the grant Letter of Inquiry (LOI) to Oldham Little Church Foundation (OLCF) that was pending a decision has since been denied. However, OLCF stated that the decision in no way indicated a negative assessment of our church or proposal and that the denial merely spoke to the overwhelming need across the nation.

As explained in last month's report, as a result of no bids having been received, it was agreed that additional sources would be contacted for quotes as the roof committee had received additional leads from parishioners and friends of Grace. The roof committee members immediately went to work calling, meeting contractors, discussing options, and obtaining quotes. All roofing contractors were informed that slate material was preferred, but no material was off limits in their proposing.

As a result of the committee's efforts, four quotes were received with each providing up to four different material options (two contractors quoted slate material.) The contractor that bore the greatest strengths in its proposal briefed the committee and visited the church, performing an initial view into the rafters. At that time, an Engineering firm (that the company had used before) was also present.

As a result, the Engineering firm has been contracted to assess the roof structure, because of the age of the church, to ascertain what may or may not be needed in preparation for slate replacement.

The way forward: It appears that slate **may** be a viable option after all. Currently, the Engineering evaluation is expected to be completed by the end of October.

The roof committee would like to, again, thank all of those who have donated, worked to raise funds, offered suggestions, provided opinions, and performed research. Mostly, the committee would like to thank you for your patience and prayers. Blessings to all!

Prepared by:

Mary Neal, Roof Committee Chairperson