**Grace Episcopal Church**

**Annual Congregational Meeting is 16 January after Church in the Family Center.**

**Casanova, Virginia 20139**

**e-mail: graceChurchcasanova@gmail.com website:** [**www.graceChurchcasanova.org**](http://www.gracechurchcasanova.org)

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My sisters and brothers,

I bring you greetings in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and ✠ of the Holy Spirit.

My official start date with your congregations was November 1, 2021. Forty-five days later, it feels like I have always been with Grace and St. Luke. I have received a warm and honest welcome to your communion. I am very excited to look forward to the work we have been called to do. Yes, this work is proclaiming the Gospel and administering the Sacraments. We must be the voice crying in the wilderness so that all people will know the love and mercy of God. Thank you for allowing me to lead you on this mission.

Congratulations to Grove Carol and Bryan Jacobs for putting a grant request for Feed My Sheep.

At the December Culpeper Region meeting our request was unanimously approved for $5,000.00. Thank you to Bill Fendley for decorating Casanova Green, ***Let Your Light Shine.*** What a great joy to see this kind of dedication for the glorification of the Church, the body of Christ.

The celebration of the **Nativity of Our Lord** will be December 24th at St. Luke Episcopal in Remington, VA. The Service of Holy Eucharist begins at 7:30pm. While we will have wonderful music, due to the high Covid metrics, we will not be able to sing. **On January 2, 2022, we will celebrate The Name of Jesus (*transferred from January 1st*). This service will be at Grace Episcopal starting at 10:00am.**

We have been given the greatest gift one could ever receive; it is the gift of life. This gift was made possible by God. He has given this gift to us because he loves us. This is not hard to understand because God is Love. Let us share this gift of love with each other.

A blessed Christmas and a blessed New Year to you!

The peace of the Lord is always with us,

Fr. Michael B. Guy Sr.,S.T.S.✠

**Many of you have expressed your delight at our having been blessed with Fr. Michael Guy as our new priest. You have asked to know more about him, so he has provided a bio for us, which you will read below:**

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**Fr. Michael B. Guy Sr., S.T.S. The S.T.S. represents the pan Lutheran order that Fr. Guy is a member. The order Societas Trinitatis Sanctae translates the Society of the Holy Trinity. He is the past dean for the Chesapeake/Potomac chapter. Fr. Guy was born, reared, and educated in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with his two younger sisters.**

**Fr. Guy has a son, Michael, and a daughter Chrisdiona. His son has two boys and three girls, and his daughter has one girl. Yes, he is a true grandparent. He loves to visit his children and grandchildren, spoiled them and then return home.**

**Fr. Guy served in the U.S. Navy for twenty-two years as a navy corpsman (NEC 8294/8404),**

**FMF-Air retiring as U.S. Navy Chief. His specialty was search and rescue, combat field evacuation, and down pilots. He has received decorations for some of these rescues. It was during this time that he became a physician assistant attending the George Washington School of Medicine and Allied Health Science in Washington, D.C. His main discipline is thoracic/vascular and trauma surgery.**

**In 1985 Fr. Guy was ordained a deacon and admitted to the Order of St. Stephen the Deacon and served as a past archdeacon. His call as a deacon was to St. Mark Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD. He finished the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in May 1998 and was ordained a priest in January 1999. Fr. Guy served congregations in New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia. Under the “Call to Common Mission”, Fr. Guy has also served the Episcopal Church.**

**He served on the alumni board of Philadelphia for sixteen years, the last six as vice president. He has completed the synod leadership academy and served as chaplain for the Maryland Transportation Authority Police where he was awarded the Chief’s Commendation. He has a strong interest in music and photography.**

**Resolutions?**

Are you making a New Year’s resolution? What is a resolution anyway?

Dictionary.com says: *“…a firm decision or determination to do something…”*

Maybe your resolution is to lose 5 pounds, to exercise more, to go to church every Sunday, or to live on a budget. Whatever your resolve for 2022, just ask for help; ask the one who helps us with all things, God Himself through our Lord Jesus Christ. And if that suggestion leads you to think something like:

**“…. how can I ask Him when I talk to Him so seldom …? or how can I ask Him when I have been so far from him…? or how can I ask Him after the things that I have done, the people I have lost, the disappointment I have suffered?”**

Just do it; ask Him to make this year one where you draw closer to Him. He has never left you; He’s right there. **Just ask** and marvel at the result. ***Deuteronomy 31:8; John 14:14***

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**Feed My Sheep**

**Many thanks for all of your generous contributions!**

“How can I contribute to “Feed My Sheep?” you ask?

 **Cash can be put in the collection plate in an envelope. Checks should be made out to Grace Church with a notation FMS and sent to Judy Ball or Grace Episcopal Church, PO Box 18, Casanova, VA 20139. Gods Peace,** Carol Grove 

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**Senior Warden’s Report – December 2021**

**Dear Grace Family,**

**As you read this, we will be in the midst of celebrating Jesus’ birth and preparing to ring in the New Year. Your Vestry managed to meet during this busy month, and I shall attempt to recap our meeting herewith.**

**Many, many repairs have been made to the Rectory (aka Redlands.) Our Jr. Warden has done a great job leading this huge project. The window air conditioners, extra refrigerator, and old dryer have been removed. We now have central heat and air; a new hot water heater, washer, dryer, and microwave; and freshly finished original hardwood floors throughout most of the building. In process now is the quest for internet and it seems everyone wants to be connected at the same time, so we continue to wait. Our Vestry meeting was held via ZOOM.**

**On January 2, 2022, we will celebrate The Name of Jesus (transferred from January 1st). This service will be at Grace Episcopal starting at 10:00am.**

**The year end is upon us, so that means it is time for our annual congregational meeting. We will hold the meeting on January 16, 2022, after church, in the Family Center. We will be voting in three new Vestry members, provided we have candidates, so please volunteer to be a part of this great team and be sure to attend the meeting!**

**Other happenings in the New Year: slight changes to the weekly bulletin; more detailed bulletins for funerals, baptisms, etc.; a Bible Study (be sure to let Betsy know if you are interested and what day/time works best); possible distribution of wine during Eucharist.**

**We are also looking for a volunteer to manage our advertising. Let one of your Vestry team know if you are interested in taking on that role.**

**A big thank you goes out to “Santa’s elves” (God’s angels!!!!) who are making things happen at Grace. Some examples:**

* **“Operation Soup” was a huge success with lots of helpers and fun!**
* **Wreath-making for decorating the Church yard consisted of only one elf this year – hats off to this angel for pressing forward without volunteers! (Sorry! We’ll be there next year!)**
* **Adoption of a Fauquier Shelter family at Christmas was an enormous blessing!**
* **Christmas Card project is in process now – sending cards to many!**
* **Culpeper Region’s unanimous approval of a $5,000 grant for Feed My Sheep!**
* **The Casanova Christmas tree was lit once again (and it is a BIG deal!)**
* **The Church and the Church yard have been beautifully decorated!**

**I’m sure that I have forgotten something or some elf who has done great things at Grace, because all of you do! Please know it is only because of my brain not being quite as large as it needs to be to remember all of the generous gifts that you have shared. Thanks be to God!**

Annual Congregational Meeting is January 16th after Church in the Family Center!

**May God bless your new year with much love,**

 **Mary**

**Treasurer’s Report – November 2021**

Income for the month of November was $10,763.97 (budget $6,267.00); expenditures totaled $16,367.89 (budget $4,543.00), resulting in a deficit for the month of $5,603.92.

The book value of our endowment fund is $62,847.24; market value as of October 31,2021 is $72,524.35.

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

**January Birthdays and Anniversaries**



**Richard & Carol Payne 3-Jan**



**Shannon Perreault 4-Jan**

**Brandon Dawson 11-Jan**

**Stacey Yacoub 11-Jan**

**Louie Warren 11-Jan**

**Richard Payne 12-Jan**

**Judy Ball 13-Jan**

**Will Shipe 21-Jan**

**Deborah O'Meara 30-Jan**

 **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.

**January Serving Schedule**

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| **Day**  | **Readings** | **Altar/ Flowers** | **Reader/ Acolyte** | **Ushers** |
| **2nd****Second Sunday after Christmas** | **Jeremiah 31:7-14****Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a****Matthew 2:13-15,19-23****or Luke 2:41-52****or Matthew 2:1-12****Psalm 84 or 84:1-8** | **Carol Cordell/ Sharon Sweeney** | **Bryan Jacobs** | **Judy Ball/** **Marilyn Ottevaere** |
| **9th****First Sunday after the Epiphany** | **Isaiah 43:1-7****Acts 8:14-17****Luke 3:15-17, 21-22****Psalm 29** | **Mary Neal** | **Judy Ball** | **Mary Neal/ Mignonne Spellmeyer** |
| **16th Second Sunday after the Epiphany** | [**Isaiah 62:1-5**](https://www.lectionarypage.net/YearC_RCL/Epiphany/CEpi2_RCL.html#Ot1)[**1 Corinthians 12:1-11**](https://www.lectionarypage.net/YearC_RCL/Epiphany/CEpi2_RCL.html#Nt1)[**John 2:1-11**](https://www.lectionarypage.net/YearC_RCL/Epiphany/CEpi2_RCL.html#Gsp1)[**Psalm 36:5-10**](https://www.lectionarypage.net/YearC_RCL/Epiphany/CEpi2_RCL.html#Ps1) | **Pam Ruffner** | **Mary Neal** | **Sharon Sweeney/ Sue Ballentine** |
| **23rd** **Third Sunday after the Epiphany** | **Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10****1 Corinthians 12:12-31a****Luke 4:14-21****Psalm 19** | **Sharon Sweeney** | **Betsy Anderson** | **Barbara Eanes/ Carol Cordell** |
| **30th Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany** | **Jeremiah 1:4-10****1 Corinthians 13:1-13****Luke 4:21-30****Psalm 71:1-6** | **Barbara Jacobs/ Diane Gulick** | **Bryan Jacobs** | **Betsy Anderson/ Judy Ball** |

*https://lectionarypage.net*

**Don’t forget the Annual Congregational Meeting, after Church on January 16th!**