**Grace Church Lane**

**Grace Episcopal Church**

**Casanova, Virginia 22728**

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

**Dear Grace Church:**

We are always the beloved community ... the community of those baptized into the very inner life of God . This identity defines us at all moments, in all time and into eternity. This identity defines us as we live through turbulent times in our nation. As disciples of Jesus we know ourselves citizens of and agents of his kingdom. So no matter our country, Christians praying in China or The Congo or England join us in the daily petition “Your kingdom come, your will be done” ... whatever our national identity, our Christian identity wants the nation we call home to look like God’s dream of justice, peace and love.

On January 6, The Epiphany, darkness not light was revealed at our Nation’s capital. Terror reigned not peace. Intemperate speech led to violence, violence led to people made in God’s image losing the precious gift of life and deep fear and anxiety defined the moment of a new administration’s beginning. A land suffering from a pandemic reeled from violence. God’s Kingdom seemed foreign or worse forgotten.

So, what do we Christians do? How do we pray? First, we look not only to the external symbols and symptoms of violence, but we also look to our internal symptoms. Why has violence nested in our own hearts? Who are we angry with, blaming or dismissing as unworthy, beyond mercy and redemption? Who is our Lord, our savior our hope? What walls have we built to defend our hearts from the alien other with whom we disagree, debate or at worst defame? I must examine my heart rigorously before I trust myself to pray for God’s reign to break in. Why? Because the highway of the reign of God is built on the surrendered human heart.

Pray as citizens of God’s kingdom for this nation. Let’s us examine all of our perspectives, opinions, and speech and ask ourselves a very demanding question: is what I think, say or believe worthy of God’s kingdom and does it glorify Jesus Christ? Only after answering that can we be sure that our prayer for God’s reign to define our common life in this country is authentic and reflective of our allegiance to the Lord Jesus.



***Bishop Ted***

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**AN UPDATE FROM YOUR DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE**

As explained in our monthly update, we’d like to keep you informed as we continue to work toward the goal of finding a new “sheepdog.” The normative process for transition is:

1. Vestry converse with Diocese Transition Ministry Office
2. All say goodbye to departing priest
3. Vestry call an interim priest (see Senior Warden’s Report)

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1. Vestry call a Search Committee (referred to by the Diocese as a Discernment Committee (DC))
2. DC perform self-study of the seeking church with input from all
3. Publish a Vestry- and Bishop-approved Community Ministry Portfolio (overview of Grace church) *[published for 8 weeks]*
4. Improve church website, where needed, and keep updated for the benefit of potential candidates
5. DC receive names and select a finalist, based on Office of Transition Ministry vetting *[posting will remain open for 8 weeks]*
6. Vestry vote on finalist and, if affirmed, Vestry extends a call
7. Vestry and candidate negotiate terms and set out in a letter of agreement
8. Senior Warden and Bishop sign letter of agreement
9. Vestry and new priest conduct Mutual Ministry Review after first year of service

The Diocese has been in touch with us and we have an exact closing date for our posting. It is set for February 14, 2021, which is ~ 8 weeks from the date it was posted. Hopefully, we will get some inquiries/responses. The Diocese stated that often, responses come in the week that the posting closes. If we receive no responses, the posting will be extended. Thank you for your patience and prayers.

Sincere love and blessings,

**Judy Ball**, Pat Williams, **Kathlene Bilger,** Linda Winslow**, Tom Bilger,** & **Mary Neal**

Your Discernment Committee (DC) aka Search Committee

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**A BIG THANK YOU!**

***[Apologies for the late posting of this! It was the Grace Notes writer/publisher/editor’s omission – not Santa’s Helper!]***

Thank you, Grace and friends, for your generosity in providing a grand Christmas for our adopted family.  From masks to Spider-Man, cars,  clothes, and gift cards, they [had] many surprises under the tree. So, thank you.

Sincerely, ***Mignonne Spellmeyer (Santa’s Helper)***

**TREASURER’S REPORT – DECEMBER 2020**

Income for the month of December was $7,000.96 (budget $10,423.75). Expenditures totaled $7,844.35 (budget $10,193.42), resulting a loss for the month of $843.39.

Interest earned on our Roof/Rectory Renovation Fund during the month of December was $0.11. The balance in the fund at the end of the month was $12,421.16

The book value of our endowment fund is $60,073.49.

The year-end report usually presented at our annual member meeting is available. If members wish to receive a copy of the report by email or regular mail, please contact me and I will be happy to get a copy to you.

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

**CORRECTION TO LAST MONTH’S SR. WARDEN’S REPORT**

Last month’s Sr. Warden’s report was in error. Please disregard.

My apologies,

**Mary Neal**



**FEED MY SHEEP (FMS)**

We are now into mid-winter and it is more imperative that we maintain our donations to FMS. We remain with the threat of COVID-19 and the quarantine is in effect indefinitely. Schools and churches remain closed. Although the county provides student lunches, the parent may be working, or the family may not have transportation to pick up the lunches. More people are out of work and we are seeing more multi-generational families needing to share. Just yesterday, Rick made an “emergency run” for 22 of our families in need. Remember, we are feeding local families.  Several within sight of Grace Church.   Please, either give your cash or make out checks to Grace Church and send to Judy Ball.   My “curly-haired” helper and I will be shopping for a full pickup load January 25th. Thank you for your continued support and trust me, it is so gratifying to see how thankful our recipients are!



Gods Peace,

***curly-haired helper***

Carol Grove 😇

**COVID-19 IN STATUS OF FAUQUIER**

The local status of COVID-19 is being shared here for informational purposes.

*Quoted & paraphrased from Fauquier Times news*

Positive COVID-19 cases in Virginia exploded with [January 16th’s] report of 6,757 new cases. That is just slightly fewer than 1,000 more cases than have ever been recorded in one day since the beginning of the pandemic. Case numbers hit a pandemic-high [prior to January 16] of 5,798 on January 9th and the daily case numbers have topped 5,000 nine times since New Year’s Eve.

There have been 429,391 total reported cases of COVID in Virginia. The seven-day average of new cases in the state is 5,097 per day.

**Fauquier’s** new daily case numbers set a new record January 9th, when the county added 63 new cases. The county added 44 new cases on January 16. Fauquier has logged a total of 3,000 cases. The average number of new daily cases in the last seven days is 32.

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**A SWEET STORY WITH A LESSON**

*On the eve of* ***Valentine’s day****, a young father watches his 3-year-old daughter do her best to meticulously wrap a present. And she feels old enough to do so, without any help from a parent. (Remember that phase?)  
Choosing a roll of expensive red foil wrapping paper, the girl cuts and re-cuts, using up much of the roll. The longer the father watches, the more frustrated he becomes, but says nothing, and watches as his daughter proudly places the present on the dining room table.  
Feeling embarrassed about his irritation, on* ***Valentine’s Day****, the father puts on a cheerful face. His daughter hands him the gift, the very present she worked so hard to cover with the expensive red foil.  
Unwrapping the gift, the father finds an ordinary cardboard box. And the box, is empty. His patience runs thin once again, his irritation rises, and he erupts at his daughter, in an angry tone, “Honey, don’t you know how rude this is? When you give someone a present, there is supposed to be something inside. You never give someone an empty box.”  
The little girl looks up at her father, with tears on her face, she says, “But Daddy, it wasn’t empty when I wrapped it. I promise. I filled it full of kisses. And they were all for you when you need them.”**This story stands alone… empty boxes are not always what they seem.*

*Story told by Terry Hershey in the Sabbath Moment - shortened and modified for Grace Notes.*

[*https://www.terryhershey.com/sabbath-moment*](https://www.terryhershey.com/sabbath-moment)

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.*

*Ephesians 4:2 NIV*

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.*

[*1 Corinthians 13:4-5*](https://dailyverses.net/1-corinthians/13/4-5) *NIV*

***And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.***

[***1 Corinthians 13:13***](https://dailyverses.net/1-corinthians/13/13) ***NIV***

**FEBRUARY READINGS**

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| [**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=64) **February 7, 2021** | [**Isaiah 40:21-31**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=64)  [**Psalm 147:1-11, 20c**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=64)  [**1 Corinthians 9:16-23**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=64)  [**Mark 1:29-39**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=64) |
| [**Transfiguration Sunday**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=69) **February 14, 2021 *(Last Sunday before Lent)*** | [**2 Kings 2:1-12**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=69)  [**Psalm 50:1-6**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=69)  [**2 Corinthians 4:3-6**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=69)  [**Mark 9:2-9**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=69) |
| [**Ash Wednesday**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=70) **February 17, 2021** | [**Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=70) **or** [**Isaiah 58:1-12**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=70)  [**Psalm 51:1-17**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=70)  [**2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=70)  [**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=70) |
| [**First Sunday in Lent**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=71) **February 21, 2021** | [**Genesis 9:8-17**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=71)  [**Psalm 25:1-10**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=71)  [**1 Peter 3:18-22**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=71)  [**Mark 1:9-15**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=71) |
| [**Second Sunday in Lent**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=72) **February 28, 2021** | [**Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=72)  [**Psalm 22:23-31**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=72)  [**Romans 4:13-25**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=72)  [**Mark 8:31-38**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=72) **or** [**Mark 9:2-9**](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=72) |

***https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=B&season=Lent***

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| --- | --- |
| **Louie and Pat Warren** | 2-Feb |
| **Rick and Betsy Anderson** | 14-Feb |
| **Chase Perreault** | 15-Feb |
| **Brandon Payne** | 21-Feb |
| **Emily and TJ Johnson** | 23-Feb |
| **Jessica Warren Rhoads** | 23-Feb |
| **Paige Payne** | 26-Feb |



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**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**



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**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.

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

[John 15:12](https://dailyverses.net/john/15/12) NIV