

 **Grace Episcopal Church**

**Grace Church Lane**

 **Casanova, Virginia 22728**

 **e-mail: gracechurchcasanova@gmail.com**

**website: www.gracechurchcasanova.org**

🙠 **UPDATE UPDATE** 🙣 **• Services will be performed outdoors, in the Church yard
• All participants will be required to wear face masks/face coverings while on church property
• Everyone shall maintain separation of 6 ft. NOTE: members of the same household can be seated closer together.
• All participants shall provide their own chairs
• Hand sanitizer will be provided.
• Services will be either Morning Prayer or Holy Eucharist. If Holy Eucharist is performed, the Communion will be performed WITHOUT the distribution of the Elements
• No Hymns will be sung. Certain Service elements will be said rather than sung
• No food shall be served during or after the service (Coffee Hour)
• Gathering and conversing on Church grounds after the service IS allowed however, masks will still be required, social distancing will be maintained and physical contact is to be avoided (ie: hugging)**

As we embark on this journey of searching for a “New Shepherd” (a term from the Diocesan Guide 😊) we are invited to refer to this scriptural reference as a help:

*1 Samuel 16:1-13*

*1The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you feel sorry for Saul? I have rejected him as king of Israel. Fill your hornwith oil and go to Bethlehem. I am sending you to Jesse who lives in Bethlehem, because I have chosen one of his sons to be the new king.”*

*2But Samuel said, “If I go, Saul will hear the news and try to kill me.” The Lord said, “Go to Bethlehem. Take a young calf with you and tell them, ‘I have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord.’*

*3Invite Jesse to the sacrifice. Then I will show you what to do. You must anoint the person I show you.”*

*4Samuel did what the Lord told him to do and went to Bethlehem. The elders of Bethlehem shook with fear. They met Samuel and asked, “Do you come in peace?”*

*5Samuel answered, “Yes, I come in peace. I come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Prepare yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Samuel prepared Jesse and his sons. Then he invited them to come and share the sacrifice.*

*6When Jesse and his sons arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely this is the man who the Lord has chosen.”*

*7But the Lord said to Samuel, “Eliab is tall and handsome, but don’t judge by things like that. God doesn’t look at what people see. People judge by what is on the outside, but the Lord looks at the heart. Eliab is not the right man.”*

*8Then Jesse called his second son, Abinadab. Abinadab walked by Samuel. But Samuel said, “No, this is not the man who the Lord chose.”*

*9Then Jesse told Shammah to walk by Samuel. But Samuel said, “No, the Lord did not choose this man, either.”*

*10Jesse showed seven of his sons to Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these men.”*

*11Then he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” Jesse answered, “No, I have another son—my youngest, but he is out taking care of the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him. Bring him here. We won’t sit down to eat until he arrives.”*

*12Jesse sent someone to get his youngest son. This son was a good-looking, healthy young man. He was very handsome. The Lord said to Samuel, “Get up and anoint him. He is the one.”*

*13Samuel took the horn with the oil in it and poured the special oil on Jesse’s youngest son in front of his brothers. The Spirit of the Lord came on David with great power from that day on. Then Samuel went back home to Ramah.*

Clearly, Samuel was in the position of choosing the King of Israel. He went to great lengths to listen to the Lord. He wanted very much to please the Lord but was afraid of disgruntled ones harming him. The Lord comforted him by sending him help in Jesse. Jesse dutifully placed son after son in front of Samuel, but none of them were acceptable, whatever their obvious strengths. Samuel reminded Jesse that *“God doesn’t look at what people see. People judge by what is on the outside, but the Lord looks at the heart.”* Samuel knew, when he saw David, that he was the one chosen by God, even though he was the youngest and, as some translations state, *“ruddy, but with beautiful eyes.”* No matter. The point was that Samuel was in tune to God and God was looking at David’s heart.

That’s what we are called to do now. We must seek God’s will for us. In doing so, Grace will endeavor to apply prayer and discernment to its search and resultant recommendation for a “New Shepherd.”

That said, there is a plan for moving forward. Some steps have already been completed and we’d like to keep you informed. The normative process for transition is:

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

The arrow above represents the current status of our search. We want to know what everyone thinks, feels, and needs as we try to consider as much of it as we possibly can in completing the steps that follow, while sincerely asking God to give us His heart and His spiritual eyes. Please pray about the survey that you will be receiving and provide the most honest and helpful input you can. May God guide you as you respond.

Sincere love and blessings,

Judy Ball, Pat Williams, **Kathlene Bilger**, & Mary Neal

Your Discernment Committee (DC) aka Search Committee

**SR WARDEN’S NOTES**

Well August is half over and fall is not far away. Not sure how you feel, but I’m ready for some cooler weather.

Not a lot of news for August. We continue to have outdoor services on Sundays, in the lawn at Redlands. The shade at Redlands is nicer and lasts for the entire service.

Bishop Ted Gulick as agreed to be basically our interim priest while we are in the search mode. If you have any pastoral concerns you can reach out to Ted.

We now have a search committee, Mary Neal , Pat Williams and Judy Ball from Grace and Kathlene Bilger from St Luke’s. I will leave it to the committee to pass on any news from their meetings.

On a sad note, we had a grave side service recently for Gail Gouldthorpe Ramey Kendrick recently. Bishop Ted officiated the service.

And for now, be save, stay well and hopefully, see you on Sunday.

Thanks,

**Bryan**

**TREASURER’S REPORT –JULY 2020**

Income for the month of July was $4,740.51 (budget $10,423.75). Expenditures totaled $5,308.89 (budget $10,193.42), resulting in a deficit for the month of $568.38.

Interest earned on our Raise the Roof Fund during the month of April was $0.11. The balance in the roof fund account at the end of the month was $12,474.38.

The book value of our endowment fund as of July 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

**PLAN ON** **IT !!**

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Grace Church Casanova is continuing to hold Morning Prayer services, Sunday mornings at 10 AM in the rectory lawn (5094 Grace Church Lane, Midland, VA) weather permitting.  Bishop Ted Gulick will be leading the services.  Please bring your own chair and wear a face mask/covering.  For further info, contact Bryan Jacobs at 540-222-0355.

**FEED MY SHEEP**

Please don’t forget about the struggling families we support. Remember: We are providing for 70+ families that are local. Seventeen are families that have been displaced because of the COVID-19 pandemic.   We continue to need non- perishables. Reminder: “cash envelope” is no longer on back pew. We are more than happy to accept cash/checks and will do the shopping. Please send cash/ checks made out to me, Carol Grove, at 3227 Midland Rd., Midland, VA 22728.

Blessings to all and many thanks,
Carol Grove

**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.

**Birthdays and Anniversaries for September**

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Who? Who?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Shelly Shipe | 2-Sep  |
| Amy Fields | 5-Sep |
| Jimmy and Karen Walton | 11-Sep  |
| Diane Gulick Fahy | 13-Sep |
| Bennett Warren | 16-Sep |
| Nathan Moline | 17-Sep |
| Michael Calhoun | 19-Sep |
| Jimmy Walton | 20-Sep |
| Andy Butler | 26-Sep |

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Your terrible **job**

is the dream of the unemployed.

Your **house**

 is the dream of the homeless.

Your **smile**

is the dream of the depressed.

Your **health**

is the dream of those who are ill.

Don’t let difficult times make you forget your **blessings**.

**SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE READINGS**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  DATE 2020  |  DAY   |  LESSONS  | LAY READER |
|  9/6   |  Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost | Exodus 12:1-14Psalm 149 Ezekiel 33:7-11Psalm 119:33-40Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20 | Judy Ball |
|  9/13  |  Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost | Exodus 14:19-31Psalm 114 orExodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 Genesis 50:15-21Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13 Romans 14:1-12Matthew 18:21-35 | Dee Garrett |
| 9/20 | Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost | Exodus 16:2-15Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Jonah 3:10-4:11Psalm 145:1-8 Philippians 1:21-30Matthew 20:1-16 | Mary Neal |
|  9/27  | Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost | Exodus 17:1-7Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32Psalm 25:1-9 Philippians 2:1-13Matthew 21:23-32 | Judy Ball |