



Grace Notes

March 2023

Grace Episcopal Church
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Midland, Virginia 22728

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A Word from Our Priest

My sisters and brothers in Christ,

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

Come and meet the Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, our new bishop, on March 19th at 9:00am.

Lent is forty days not including Sundays, as Sundays are a celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection. During these forty days a practice of prayer, fasting and alms giving is at the forefront. This is also a time for preparation for Baptism or re-affirming one's Baptism. In the early church Baptism only occurred once a year at the Easter Vigil. We refrain from festival activities like weddings until Lent and Holy Week are complete. There are acceptable exceptions to this practice like an unexpected deployment of someone in the military.

Holy week this year starts on April 2, the Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday). The end of Holy Week contains the three most sacred days in the church year: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. These three days are known as the *Triduum*. Triduum is Latin for three days. One cannot get to the celebration of the Resurrection without going through these three days.

Maundy Thursday is the start of the Triduum. Maundy comes from the Latin word *mandatum* which means "command". Two commands were given by Jesus on this day. One command is for us to love one another as He loves us. The other is to celebrate the Holy Eucharist in remembrance of Him. On this night Jesus would have three charges against him. They are blasphemy, sorcery, and sedition.

Good Friday is the second day of the Triduum. On this day Jesus is sentenced to death by crucifixion. Jesus is on the cross for three hours enduring pain and humiliation. He is taking all the sins of the world unto Himself. Is sin not pain and humiliation? It is important to note that Jesus is the one who decides when he will breathe his last.

The Easter Vigil is the third day of the Triduum. It is three services in one. There is the service of light, the service of the Word, and the first Mass of Easter. Baptism or the remembrance of Baptism is also celebrated at this time. It is also important to note that the Triduum has been observed since the fourth century. I implore all of us to participate in the Triduum. I can assure you the appreciation of the gift of the Resurrection will be enhanced.

The peace of the Lord is always with us,

Fr. Michael B. Guy Sr., S.T.S.✠

Senior Warden's Notes

Dear Grace Church Family,

We have much to be grateful for this month. Our dear organist, Michael Calhoun, is recovering from his fall. We miss him and wish him a complete healing.

Welcome to Mary June Petersen! She is filling in as our temporary replacement organist. She is indeed a God-send.

A big thank you to Bryan Jacobs for providing beautiful guitar music for our services. He stepped in during our time of need and we are most grateful. Father Michael and Bryan were instrumental (pun intended) in finding Mary June.

Mignonne Spellmeyer is developing an emergency call list. The information you provide will enable us to contact those you designate in case of an emergency. If you haven't provided your information to her, please do. Your church family cares for you in sickness and in health.

The season of Lent provides us with an opportunity to join Father Michael in a Bible Study. We are blessed to have a scholarly priest. The lessons will be well worth your time.

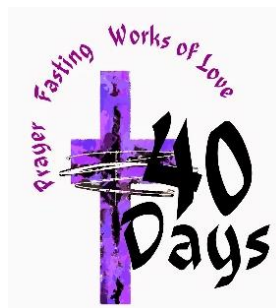
Mark your calendars for Easter Sunday, April 9th. We will have a 10:00 service that will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt (thank you, Mignonne). Now is the time to invite your friends, young and old, to join us.

A "shout-out" to Judy Ball for serving as president of the ECW (Episcopal Church Women) for many years. Thank you, Judy, for guiding us through church dinners and other events so vital to the life of our community. Congratulations also goes to the new slate of officers which now include Barbara Eanes as the new President.

God bless you all in this high holy season.

With much love,

Betsy Anderson



Highlights from January Culpeper Region Meeting

The Culpeper Region of the Diocese of Virginia met on January 26th at St. Stephen's – Culpeper. Fr. Michael & Bryan Jacobs attended to represent Grace.

This was the first “official” meeting for our new Dean, Rev. Elizabeth Keeler of Trinity – Little Washington. Cady Soukup continues in her term as President and Mary Frances LeMat also continues in her term as Treasurer, both from Trinity – Little Washington. Rev. Peter Gustin – St. Stephen's – Catlett starts his term as Secretary and Bryan Jacobs – Grace – Casanova was elected Vice-President. Rev. Anne West begins her term as Region delegate to the Executive Committee.

Coming Events:

- Rev. Trent Moore's Celebration of New Ministry will be held at 6 PM on Friday, April 21 at St Stephen's – Culpeper (Feast of St. Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury)
- Shrine Mont Regional Retreat weekend will be July 14 – 16. This is being planned as a Region weekend as many parishes in the region do not have enough participants to support having an individual parish retreat so this weekend is open to all the parishes in the region. Please contact Father Michael about your interest in attending and he will in turn pass your information on to Rev. Elizabeth Keeler at Trinity – Little Washington, who is organizing the weekend.
- Grace, St Luke's and St James will continue to do a combined Great Vigil of Easter service at St James and are planning on inviting other parishes in the region to participate this year.

Bryan Jacobs
Regional & Convention Delegate

Treasurer's Report ~ January 2023 Data

Income for the month of January was \$8,756.31 (budget \$9,450.00); expenditures totaled \$9,066.99 (budget \$9,450.00), resulting in a loss for the month of \$310.68.

Book value of the Endowment Fund is \$65,758.64; market value as of January 31 is \$64,531.43, a gain for the month of January of \$3,111.49.

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

Feed My Sheep (FMS)

***And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:16 (NIV)***



Welcome March! 'Tis the month of "green": St. Patrick's Day (think corned beef and cabbage); shamrocks and leprechauns; green beer; the ides of March 😊; March madness; and mad money. Speaking of money...while you are out spending your "mad money", share some with *Feed My Sheep*. You may not have anything tangible but you will have a warm feeling inside. It's easy! Just put it in an envelope and place in the collection plate or mail to:

Grace Episcopal Church
PO Box 15
Casanova, VA 20139

If your contribution is by check, please note FMS on the memo line.

God's Peace, 🙏

Carol Grove





Do it With Grace

March Calendar of Events

Mar 5 Sunday Service 9am at Grace
Mar 7 Yoga at 3pm, the Parish Hall
Mar 8 Center Lunch at 12pm, the Parish Hall
Mar 10 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
Mar 11 Sew What at 9:30am, St. Luke's
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Mar 12 Sunday Service, 9am at Grace  
Mar 14 Yoga at 3pm, the Parish Hall  
Mar 15 Center Lunch at 12pm, the Parish Hall  
Mar 17 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall  
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**Mar 19 Rt. Rev Stevenson Visit,
9am at Grace**
Mar 21 Yoga at 3pm, the Parish Hall
Mar 22 Center Lunch, 12pm, the Parish Hall
Mar 24 Yoga 10am, the Parish Hall
Casanova Book Club 12pm, TBD
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Mar 26 Sunday Service, 9am at Grace  
Mar 28 Yoga at 3pm, the Parish Hall  
Mar 29 Center Lunch, 12pm, the Parish Hall  
Mar 31 Yoga 10am, the Parish Hall

We invite you  
to meet our new Bishop  
*The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson*  
*Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am*  
*Holy Eucharist Service*  
*With Reception to follow*  
*in the Family Center*  
*Grace Episcopal Church*  
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Bishop Stevenson was consecrated in December 2022. As bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, he is the pastoral leader of 177 congregations, with more than 65,000 baptized members.



Birthdays & Anniversaries for March

Jeremy Jacobs	March 8
Andrea Wharton	March 10
Miranda Rhoads	March 12
Tammy Nofsinger	March 13
Harper Fields	March 14
Charlie Dawson Vaught	March 16
Ronnie Shipe	March 18
Carol Goshorn	March 24
Stephanie Butler	March 28

A Joyous Occasion!

Grace congregation celebrated the well-attended baptism of Mathilda Wren Johnson this past month. It truly was a family affair as grandfather Bryan Jacobs served as priest's assistant, grandmother Barbara Jacobs prepared the altar, and great aunt Bonnie Embrey played the organ. Pictured (above



right) with "Tilly" are her parents, Emily Jacobs Johnson and TJ Johnson along with godparents Courtney and Justin Willis as well as Bryan Jacobs and Father Michael.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) ~ Looking Ahead

The group's annual meeting was held Sunday, February 19 with an election of new officers for 2023 in tandem with a slate of events for the year. After many years of dedicated leadership, Judy Ball has passed the torch to Barbara Eanes as President. Marilyn Ottevaere is Vice President with Joy Goodenough to serve as Secretary.

This year promises to be busy with a schedule of events sure to be popular. The much loved Spring Dinner is back! Mark your calendars now for April 15th! Another event to look forward to is the traditional Christmas tree lighting in December. Add to this a Fall Event soon to be announced. In addition to these church and community participation events, ECW continues to work in tandem with the Calverton-Casanova Ruritan in hosting dinners.

Sneak Peek for April: It's an Easter Egg Hunt!

April 9th at 11:30am

Grace Church Grounds

Kids, please bring baskets

for your eggs.



Looking for Easter Bunny Helpers: If you would like to help, we would appreciate contributions of filled plastic Easter eggs. These may be dropped off at Grace Episcopal Church on **any** Sunday morning prior to April 9th or on Saturday morning, April 8th. Please contact Mignonne Spellmeyer: 540 272-0014 if more info needed.

Weekly and Monthly Events

Casanova Book Club meets every 4th Friday of the month for a lively discussion of the month's literary 'pick'. Meeting time is 12 noon at either a local restaurant or in a member's home. This is an excellent motivator to read more and enjoy other 'bookaholics' companionship. Being a member of Grace is **not** a requirement.

Some recent reads include:

- *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks
- *When Crickets Cry* by Charles Martin
- *The Magnolia Palace* by Fiona Davis



Next meeting is March 24th for *The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West* by David McCullough.

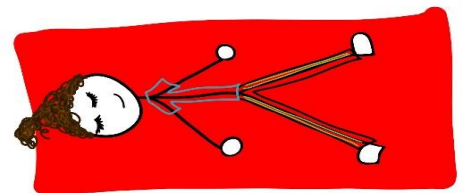
Contact: Mignonne Spellmeyer 540 272-0014 for further information as needed.



Sew What is a monthly gathering of persons who enjoy fellowship and the creativity of making handmade items. The current project is making brightly colored plaid lap quilts for persons in an Alzheimer's study.

Not much of a sewist? Interested persons are welcome to bring ANY personal project (sewing, knitting, crocheting, or other needlework) to this get-together. Need further info? Please contact Barbara Jacobs: 540 222-5385

Our Yoga Class gently bends, flexes and stretches us twice a week on Tuesday afternoons at 3pm and Friday mornings at 10am at Grace Parish Hall. The sessions are strictly an at your own pace and comfort event. No previous experience is required. For more information, please contact instructor Mary Ashton: 540 229-0114.



The Center Lunch every Wednesday at noon in the Parish Hall is a great way to celebrate the midweek mark of your busy lives. Being a member of Grace is **not** a requirement to share in the good company and conversation. Lunch is a potluck format and no reservation is needed. Need more info? Please contact Barbara Eanes at 540 788-1214.

March Serving Schedule

Day	Readings	Altar (No flowers during Lent)	Assistant	Offertory Presenter	Coffee Host
<i>The Second Sunday in Lent March 5, 2023</i>	Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9	Barbara Jacobs/ Sharon Sweeney	Judy Ball	Susan Payne	Marilyn Ottevaere
<i>The Third Sunday in Lent March 12, 2023</i>	Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42	Carol Cordell	Howard Charnock	Joy Goodenough	Sharon Sweeney
<i>The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 19 , 2023</i>	1 Samuel 6:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41	Barbara Jacobs	Bryan Jacobs	Mignonne Spellmeyer	Sue Ballentine
<i>The Fifth Sunday in Lent March 26, 2023</i>	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45	Mignonne Spellmeyer	Sharon Sweeney/ Judy Ball	Barbara Jacobs	Barbara Eanes