**Grace Episcopal Church**



**Casanova, Virginia 20139**

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**Theology and Race**

Racism, Critical Race Theory, and controversy is in the news. So, the question for the Christian person is always : “What do we as Christians really believe?”

To answer that question, we should focus on two major theological affirmations. The first affirmation is from the Book of Genesis ***“So God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.”*** *Genesis 1:27.* Every person has the sublime identity which results from God’s decision to have each of us reflect God’s image. Every human being is a sacred icon of God.

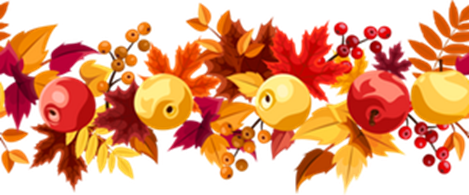
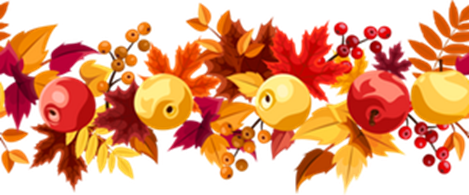
The second theological affirmation is articulated in John’s gospel: ***“The word was made flesh and dwelt among us full of Grace and truth, and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only son from the Father.”*** *John 1:14.* The affirmation that God took on human flesh in the incarnation gives a second ascribed identity to all humanity since human flesh is the medium of God’s visitation in Jesus.

Any use of power, prejudice, or exploitive purpose that robs or denies any person of this glorious birthright— this sublime costly identity does violence to God’s holy intention

in creation and in the incarnation. That is why racism is rightly called a sin.

To learn from our history of generations of exploitation is not anti-American but it is part of the ongoing perfecting of our nation to make our nation reflect more deeply the kingdom of God. This is the “Biblical Way.” Scripture records Israel’s history by including harsh and deeply troubling truths: a golden calf, David’s adultery and the murder of an innocent man, Jezebel, Kings who worshiped at the shrine of idols… the Bible does not sanitize history, it wants us to own history and learn from it to deepen our commitment to be God’s faithful people.

I hope these reflections are helpful as controversy swirls around us. ***Ted***

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**TREASURER’S REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Income for the month of September was $7,435.14 (budget $6,267.00); expenditures totaled $4,825.89 (budget $4,543.00), resulting in income for the month of $2,609.25**

**The book value of our endowment fund is $60,073.49; market value as of August 31,2021 is $71,705.36.**

**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)**



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*“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.*

*“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, "I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’*

*“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’*

*“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:31-40 (NIV)*

**This is just a friendly reminder not to forget our “Feed My Sheep” families this month! Thank you!**

**Gods Peace,** Carol Grove 😇



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**SENIOR WARDEN’S REPORT – OCTOBER 2021**

**Dear Grace Family,**

**Now that the sign on the Church has been painted to cover our former rector’s name (just about four weeks ago,) your Vestry received a recommendation from the Discernment Committee on October 20th to hire a Priest! The recommendation was approved! Read the Discernment Committee report below for the details!**

**Earlier in October, St. Patrick’s Orthodox Church in Bealeton requested assistance from most of the churches in the area to raise funds for a new sanctuary. They were holding a yard sale and requested that all donated goods be left at Grace Church for them to retrieve. Grace Church folks rallied, as they always do, and sent them away with a trailer and truck load of “stuff!” The donated goods included Grace Church’s old leftover yard sale items (stored in the Family Center basement.) We are bit less cluttered (thanks, Junior Warden!)**

**You may notice more activity at the Church Rectory (Redlands) in the next month or two because we will be updating the heating and air conditioning (A/C) which is currently electric baseboard heat and umpteen A/C window units. This is overdue and we are thankful that we have built some of the funding to begin the task. Of course, donations are always welcomed and sincerely appreciated.**

**Many of you provided your thoughts on holding outside “coffee (iced tea) hour” on the lawn during the upcoming cooler weather. Thank you! The result of your recommendations/thoughts/sug- gestions is that we will be suspending the practice for now. As COVID-19 percentages decrease in the area, we hope to eventually move inside and have a nice warm cup of coffee! Meanwhile, we will be holding services in the Church, masked, with no singing.**

**We would like to thank Bishop Ted Gulick for filling the position of Interim Rector while we searched for a new priest. It has been a pleasure to work with him and I think all will agree that he has brought the encouragement and enlightenment needed to keep us all excited about what God is doing in our lives.**

**Unfortunately, I will be away on the first and second Sunday of our new priest’s services. I know Grace will welcome him with open arms, as we have had the pleasure of his service leadership often over the past six months. But, since my role as Senior Warden is to ensure that he is informed on Grace practices and to help him learn his “way around the Parish,” I ask you to help him in my absence. I know you will, and I thank you!**

**Blessings and love on behalf of the Vestry,**

**Mary**

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AN UPDATE FROM YOUR DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

*(Just a reminder: “Discernment Committee” is the new name for what most of us remember as “Search Committee.”)*

***“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*** *Jeremiah 29:11*

Yes, indeed! The Lord has given Grace hope and a future! From the first Discernment Committee meeting on July 30, 2020 to October 20, 2021, hope has been in our hearts. We are happy to announce that we now have priest, and we ask you to join us at our regularly scheduled services on November 7, 2021 to welcome our new priest, Reverend Michael Guy!



Sincere love and blessings,

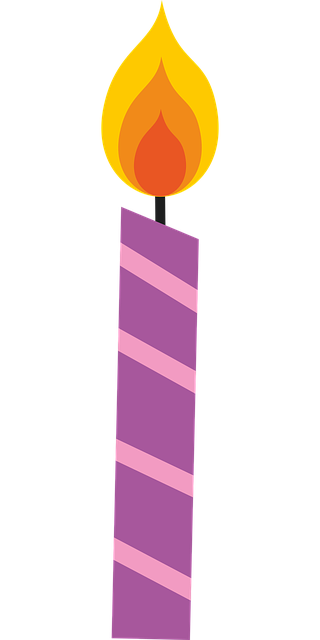
**Judy Ball**, Pat Williams, **Kathlene Bilger,** Linda Winslow**, Tom Bilger,** & **Mary Neal**

Your Discernment Committee (DC) aka Search Committee



**November BIRTHDAYS**

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Paul Dawson 5-Nov

Bryan Jacobs 7-Nov

Sue Payne 13-Nov

Maya Brumfield 15-Nov

Jim Cirillo 18-Nov

Rob Moline 21-Nov

Janice Richards 26-Nov

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Readings** | **Altar/ Flowers** | **Reader/ Acolyte** | **Ushers** | **Coffee Hosts** |
| **7**  **Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost** | **Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17**  **Psalm 127**  **Hebrews 9:24-28**  **Mark 12:38-44** | **Betsy Anderson /**  **Diane Gulick** | **Judy Ball** | **Barbara Eanes/**  **Betsy Anderson** | **Temporarily Suspended** |
| **14**  **Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost** | **1 Samuel 1:4-20**  **1 Samuel 2:1-10**  **Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25**  **Mark 13:1-8** | **Barbara Jacobs /**  **Mignonne Spellmeyer** | **Bryan Jacobs** | **Carol Cordell/ Judy Ball** | **“** |
| **21**  **Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost** | **2 Samuel 23:1-7**  **Psalm 132:1-13 (14-19)**  **Revelation 1:4b-8**  **John 18:33-37** | **Carol Cordell/ Sharon Sweeney** | **Mary Neal** | **The Jacobs** | **“** |
| **28**  **First Sunday of Advent** | **Jeremiah 33:14-16**  **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**  **Luke 21:25-36**  **Psalm 25:1-9** | **Mary Neal** | **Betsy Anderson** | **Marilyn Ottevaere/ Mary Neal** | **“** |

**NOVEMBER SERVING SCHEDULE**



**THE FIVE FINGER PRAYER**

**Thumb**: Those closest to you; your family.

**Pointer**: Those that point you in the right direction (teachers, doctors, priests); ask for wisdom & support.

**Index** (tallest finger): Those that lead us (Government); as for guidance & wisdom.

**Ring** (weakest finger): Those that are weak, in trouble, or in pain. We cannot pray too much for them.

**Pinkie** (smallest finger): Our prayers for ourselves & our own needs.



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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.