



Grace Notes

The mission of Grace Episcopal Church is:
To know Jesus Christ, proclaim His Word,
and live His teachings.

Volume 2019 No. 2

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HOPE FOR THE HARVEST



*by the Rev. Canon Susan Brown Snook
Canon for Church Growth and Development*

Small churches are beautiful! As I've traveled around the diocese visiting our smaller churches, I've seen many ways in which our small churches are transforming lives. Some of the life transformation happens because people in these churches love and take care of each other; some happens because small churches can do ministry in their communities in mighty ways.

Many of our small churches also ask me: How can we grow? How can we become more vital, reach more young people, and stabilize our situation so the church can survive for decades more?

That's what our **Hope for the Harvest: The Small Church at its Best event** is all about. Our diocese is co-sponsoring this event with the local ELCA Lutheran Synod in five regional locations in our diocese on February 26th and March 9th. The conference is about exploring your church's special gifts; considering the needs, hopes and dreams of your community; and discerning what kind of ministry God is calling you to pursue.

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For churches with ASA up to about 60 or so, this one-day workshop will enable clergy-lay teams to consider their own ministries, share ideas with each other, and worship together with other Episcopalians and Lutherans. We ask that you send a team from your church (we suggest at least 3 people, but more are welcome!), who are prepared to engage with the material. There is some advance preparation work to do: a Bible study that considers mission; putting together information about one ministry or event your church has done recently to share with others; and reviewing your church's demographics (which I will provide). Engaging in the advance preparation will enable you and the others who attend to benefit most fully from your participation.

You are welcome to register for whichever of the regional events is most convenient for your schedule. Our speaker, Carrie Boren Headington, will appear live at the event on February 26th, and this presentation will be recorded for video presentation at the other events on March 9th. There is a lot of interpersonal team work and discussion involved at the event, so it's way more than a presentation. It's an opportunity for your leadership team to consider how God is calling your church.

More information is available on the Oklahoma Diocese website.
www.epiok.org

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PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, one who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT GRACE

THE ADULT FORUM (Sundays at 9:00 a.m.)

Feb. 3 TBA..... Father Bill Martin/Deacon Steve Mallory

Feb. 10 TBA.....Father Bill Martin

Feb. 17 TBA..... Father Bill Martin/Deacon Steve Mallory

Feb. 24 TBA.....Deacon Steve Mallory

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WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday morning Bible Study will resume February 12th at 10:00. Our study will be on a book by Liz Curtis Higgs, called Embrace Grace. Everyone is welcome. Please contact me if you would like a book. Thank you.

For information on the Weekday Bible Study please contact Jane Simmons at 918-557-0553, simmokjh@yahoo.com, or call the church office.

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CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth Sunday School continues under the direction of Judy Branch and Marsha Orr. Youth Sunday School is held in the Education Building as follows:

*Youth Pre-K through 1st grade will be from 9:30-10:00 downstairs in the Education Building.

*All other youth will be from 9:00-9:30 upstairs in the Education Building.

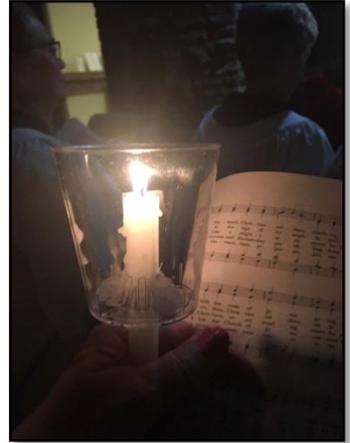
We are looking forward to exploring Christ's journey and the connections we can make together.

Hope to see you all each Sunday.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

2019 EPIPHANY PAGEANT

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the 74th Annual Epiphany Pageant such a success. It's a wonderful evening for the youth of our parish and we look forward to it every year.



Katie Hines crowned Judy Branch as the new Epiphany Queen.

More photos are available on the church website.
www.gracechurchponcacity.org

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

We've had a few facility issues in the past month but thankfully nothing major. The wire cord that attaches the pulleys together to ring the tower bell broke, and was fixed within a week by Jamie Wells and Richard Winterrowd. Some damaged ceiling tiles have been replaced in the Christian Ed building. A volunteer installed a new mailbox.

Our new sexton, Melissa King, is doing a great job for us. It's a big place to keep in order, so if you happen to notice something that needs attention, please mention it to me. Melissa is eager to do well and is easy to work with.

As always, thanks to all of you who step up with your time and ability to help keep our facility beautiful and functional.

~Marsha Moore

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ADULT FORUM

Start the new year by coming to The Forum at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning in the church library. You will be amazed at how much you can learn! At the Forum on Sunday, December 3, Deacon Steve gave us a sheet with the following information. If all countries lived by this word, there would be peace on our earth. A great way to begin a new year:

AHIMSA: THE PRACTICE OF NON-HARMING

Practice living in such a way as to cause the least amount of harm and suffering in the world. Imagine a world in which Ahimsa was the global mantra and was practiced by all peoples. Practice Ahimsa on yourself first, and then with everyone and everything around you. Wherever you are, wherever you go, whatever you are thinking, whatever you are feeling, whatever you are doing: **PRACTISE AHIMSA.**

~Marcia Davis

HYMN OF THE MONTH

A review of the history of Anglican hymnody reveals the very important place that clergy have played as both authors and composers of hymn texts and tunes. Here we have a text and a tune by twentieth-century clergy of the Church of England, “God is Love, let heaven adore him”, or “Abbot’s Leigh”, hymn 379 in our hymnal. The words are by Timothy Rees, Bishop of Llandaff, Wales. This text was found following his death, and was sung at his funeral. The music “Abbots Leigh”, one of the most successful English tunes to appear since World War II, was composed on a Sunday morning in 1941 by Cyril Vincent Taylor. Canon Taylor, a priest of the Anglican Church, was then Assistant to the Head of Religious Broadcasting of the BBC in their wartime headquarters in Abbot’s Leigh. Dr. Taylor, in a letter dated March 21, 1984, writes “to my great joy it has been sung at several great services, the last being that in Canterbury Cathedral (May 1983) in which the Archbishop and the Pope shared.

God is Love, let heaven adore him; God is Love, let earth rejoice;
Let creation sing before him and exalt him with one voice.
God who laid the earth’s foundation, God who spread the heavens above,
God who breathes through all creation, God is Love, eternal Love.

God is Love; and love enfolds us, all the world in one embrace:
With unfailing grasp God holds us, every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking under sorrow’s iron rod,
Then we find that self-same aching deep within the heart of God.

God is Love; and though with blindness sin afflicts all human life,
God’s eternal loving kindness guides us through our earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never o’er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love forever o’er the universe must reign.

CHOIR NEWS

Thank you to both choirs for such wonderful singing at Christmas services! Thank you! Thanks also to Emma for her piano playing during the prelude and the youth group for their song at the 4:00 service. Thanks to Chad Keilman for his wonderful singing and to the handbell quartet and to Joshua Branch for the beautiful clarinet music at the 11:00 service.

We continue to appreciate the people who provide supper for the youth choirs. Sonja, thank you for seeing that it happens!

~ Jackie Saylor

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Valentine's Day is Thursday, February 14th, and we want you to be prepared to express your love and appreciation to some of the special people in your life. The gift shop will have Valentine cards and little gifts such as the white stone - resin keepsake box with the "picture-frame-in-lid" or a pendant with cross or a St. Christopher medal or even a little white Episcopal bear who just happens to still be looking for a permanent home. For the guys in your life, you might select a new cap or comfortable sweatshirt or something for his desk.

During February we like to feature the Irish claddagh door knocker with a \$5 discount available this month only. This is an ancient symbol of lasting love and eternal friendship and is made of solid polished bronze. It shows a crown above two hands clasping a heart in the middle. If you already have a door knocker on your outside door this could be used on the guest bathroom door.

The gift shop is always open after the Sunday and Wednesday morning services but you may phone Joan or Jane if you need to arrange a special time for your shopping. We are here to serve you. Let us know your needs.

~Joan Dick (762-2514) and Jane Worstell (762-3467)

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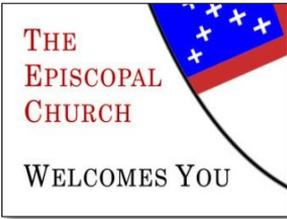
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Thank you to all in our Parish family. The food box is never empty, and those who come to our doors hungry can find something to eat. We appreciate your help with this effort.

We also thank you for your donations in January to help the children at the Child Development Center. I know they are happy to receive them.

February is our annual Bingo Party at Golden Villa. It's a true blessing to be able to let the people there know they are important and worth someone's time and effort. Perhaps there is someone you know who would really appreciate knowing you care. This month, take a little time and show them how much.

*God be with you each and every day.
~Cheryl Happ*



PERIPATETIC PARISHIONERS

Worship bulletins have been received from:

Joan Dick

St Vincent’s Cathedral - Bedford, Tx.

Steve & Judy McGuire

St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church - Nashville, Tn.

Phil & Marilyn Dotson

Christ Church Episcopal - Tyler, Tx.

***Remember to take your bulletins to the Parish Office.
(and write your name on the bulletin)***

***Thanks for sharing your travels with us.
Thanks for always coming home.***



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The Stewardship Canvass Committee is pleased to announce that we are making progress toward our goal for underwriting God's work at Grace Church in 2019.

As of January 5th:

- * 53 Pledge Units have been received
- * \$177,010 have been pledged for 2019
- * Our budget requires \$200,000+

January 5th, a second mailing was sent to those not participating. We pray more parishioners will join us in the celebration of God's gifts in our lives by bringing your pledge card to church next Sunday or mailing it today. If you need a pledge card, one is available at church services, the church office, or by contacting Jerry Orr, Stewardship Chairman, at 763-7038.

Faithfully,

The Grace Church Stewardship Canvass Committee

ECW NEWS

- ❖ ECW is planning our annual Game Day on Valentine's Day, Thursday, February 14, 2019 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Please talk with your friends about participating. This is always a fun event! Cost is \$5.00 per person with delicious cakes for dessert. Any remaining cakes will be for sale, along with individual slices. Bring your friends and your games, cards, Mahjongg, etc. and enjoy an afternoon of fun! Let's get a big group together this year! We also need volunteers to bake cakes for this fund raiser. Thanks!
- ❖ As usual, I am begging for fellowship hosts. You can bring store-bought or homemade. I will start the coffee. Just let me know. If you enjoy the food and visiting after the church service, please consider volunteering to bring food. I would REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP! The sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall.
- ❖ ECW works very hard, long hours, many days on our fund raising projects-- two rummage sales, book/collectible sale, game day and food fair. Come and see us in action sometime! In December we generously contributed to our church staff and outreach in the community and beyond-- this year totaling almost \$4000.00! We were happy to receive a thank you note from one of the staff members. As for community outreach, we donated to CASA, Northern Oklahoma Youth Services, The Mission, Camp New Hope, Living Hope Pregnancy Center, Child Development Center, Friendship Feast, Golden Villa, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion and Peachtree Landing. I realize everyone has been busy during the holidays and we hope to receive thank you notes very soon. So far, CASA, Northern Oklahoma Youth Services, Living Hope Pregnancy Center, Golden Villa and the Salvation Army Angel Tree have taken the time and effort to acknowledge our gifts. We are happy about that! One highlight for us was a beautiful thank you note from Fr. Bill Martin which was received three days after I gave it to him! We are always happy to receive thank you notes which affirm appreciation for the gift which was financed by much effort of your ECW.
- ❖ As usual, the men of our church are always there for us! Whether it's Glenn Cassity fixing the Christian Education Building ceiling (which had collapsed), Jamie Wells and Richard Winterrowd repairing the church bell, Doyle Worstell, who keeps our rummage in good order in the garage and helps with all our projects, or Steve Scott, who works on our sound system and many more men who help our church function, we THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!
- ❖ If you would like to see changes in ECW-- perhaps, ways to improve our projects or anything else, please let me know.
- ❖ Happy, healthy new year to all our parishioners!

~Marcia Davis

FEBRUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers will be given to the glory of God by:

- Feb. 3 **Andrea Schmauch** in loving memory of Edward Schmauch; and by **Judy Branch** in thanksgiving for the birthday of her grandson, Christian Branch
- Feb. 10 **The McNeese Family** in loving memory of Ruby McNeese; and by **Sonja VanHoesen** in loving memory of her husband Everette VanHoesen.
- Feb. 17 **Phillip Winslow** in loving memory of his parents, Josephine & David C. Winslow; and by **Judy Branch** in thanksgiving for the wedding anniversary of Kelly & Jim Foster.
- Feb. 24 **Michael Hutchinson** in thanksgiving for the birthdays of his wife, Janel and his son, Jim; and by **Linda & Glenn Cassity** in thanksgiving for the birthdays of G II, Marca, & Cait.
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FEBRUARY SANCTUARY LAMP CANDLE

The sanctuary lamp candle will be given to the glory of God by:

- Feb. 3 **Dorothy Buck** in thanksgiving for the birthday of her grandson, Fisher Gregory Holton.
- Feb. 10 **Marsha Moore** in loving memory of her mother, Phyllis Leslie.
- Feb. 17 **Vacant**
- Feb. 24 **Aunt Sue Winterrowd & Nicholas Winterrowd** in thanksgiving for the birthday of their godchild, John (Jack) William Duncan.
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Available dates for the altar flowers are as follows:

Before Lent: Mar. 3

There are many dates available after lent.

Available dates for the sanctuary lamp:

Feb. 17, April 14, Sep. 29, Nov. 17 & Dec. 22

To request an available date for 2019 for the flowers, or to make any changes in the current schedule, please contact Cynthia Winterrowd at: cynthia.winterrowd@gmail.com or 580-761-0415.

Dates to Remember

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Diane Beekman
- 5 Marcia Davis
- 6 Karen Howard
- 8 Daeton Seney
- 12 Hailey Engle
- 12 Zac Robertson
- 13 Janel Hutchinson
- 14 Ed Lindsay
- 18 Marsha Moore
- 24 Christian Branch
- 25 Phillip Winslow
- 25 Jamie Wohletz
- 27 Nick Winterrowd
- 28 Lawrence Green
- 29 Pam Belzer

ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 John & Cheryl Happ
- 10 Tom & Linda Yant

February 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

If you have items for Grace Notes, please email them to:
TL@standingbearpark.com.

The deadline for Grace Notes is the 15th of each month.

*If your name is missing from the birthday or anniversary list,
please call us at 765-7609 so we can update our records.
We do not want to leave anyone out!*