



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MESSENGER

From the Priest in Charge

So, here it is! Your first issue of the new Messenger format. (I know, looks pretty much the same so far!) With Grace Notes carrying the heavy load of regular updates about upcoming events in the life of the church, The Messenger is now free to explore larger topics, look back on events that happened, and celebrate all that make Grace the special community that it is.

We hope this newsletter will help to build energy and excitement about the ministry we share, while at the same time it helps us stay connected in these difficult times and find out more about the individuals that make up who we are.

This quarter there are some wonderful articles about the kind of things that Deacons do, and the kind of things that a Junior Warden does. It is kind of a behind the scenes look at ministry. Some of you may have wondered what exactly a Junior Warden is. I hope that after you read Harry Richter's article you will know a little more about what the Junior Warden does, and be thankful for the important ministry he feels called to do. Grace has been blessed with a history of Junior Wardens who have taken their ministry seriously, and have taken very good care of the building we have been given by the people of Grace who went before them. I hope you can also see that it is a collaborative ministry, and I hope you may see where God might be calling you to help out.

First Quarter 2021

In Dcn. Paula's article about the history and growth of Common Ground, a collaborative ministry with area churches, she tells us about the impact they have had on the surrounding community, and even more, on us! If you get your hands on the Annual Report of Common Ground, you will see that we take up the whole back page!! What also shines through in her article is the impact Common Ground, and the opportunity to help those in need, has had on her life as well. Her invitation to join her in this important ministry clearly comes from her experience of joy and God's love that lies at the heart of servant ministry. Are you feeling a nudge from the Holy Spirit to share in that joy?

So, there you have it. And that is only two of the many wonderful articles that pack this issue. There are many more. Be sure and take pictures of the ministry you do, and think about how you can share it in the next issue. Our deadline is just around the corner!

Grace and Peace,

Old Wine in New Skins!

I know Christmas seems forever ago (65 today!!), but last Christmas Eve we tried something new. Well, sort of new. The service of Lessons and Carols has been an old standard in the repertoire of Grace Church, but never before had we done it outside. Around a bonfire. In a park. Well, a pandemic demands the best out of us, and boy did we respond!

There were 40 hearty souls who braved the frigid temperature and gathered at Green Berry Park on Christmas Eve. The sun had just gone down when the service began, and with Jupiter and Venus sailing in the darkening sky, we snuggled up close to the fire and heard again the great stories of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. The cold air helped us forget the inconvenience of face masks, as they actually kept our faces warm. For the first time in months we actually got to sing hymns together. Though the arctic chill had robbed us of our planned musical accompaniment, being good Episcopalians, we soldiered on a cappella. It was a wonder filled evening! And we even made it on the front page of the News Tribune! Thanks to everyone who helped make it a magical evening, especially the Niels who provided the fire and the hot chocolate.



Grace families enjoy making meal for Salvation Army residents in February



The Spear and Hensley families were thrilled to be able to provide food for the Salvation Army in February. Our kids had a great time setting the menu (lasagna has become a popular dish) and making the meal. We were able to get together on a Sunday afternoon to make lasagna, Caesar salad, garlic bread, and brownies. The kids had a blast and look forward to making food each year (our third year participating) for the Salvation Army. We love this tradition, and outreach opportunity Grace provides.

Best,

Melissa Hensley

Generally speaking, it is the job of the Jr. Warden to see that the church property is properly maintained. Sometimes this can involve tasks as simple as changing a light bulb to something as perplexing as figuring out why the water at the faucets in the bathrooms near the offices smelled of rotten eggs. One might think that, in a year like this when the building gets very little use, there wouldn't be much to do. Think again. Some of the needs actually arise from disuse. Some of the problems/opportunities that arose in the past year are listed here:

Completed the installation of the new pews to improve handicapped accessibility and place the matching chairs in their appropriate places in the sanctuary and narthex. Thanks to Dan & Beth Eckles, Karel Lowery & David Heise for help with this. There were some small repairs made to other pews as well.

While the church survived the tornado of May 2019 with minimal damage to our slate roof, along came the hailstorm in March of 2020. Fortunately, we sustained no damage to the roofs or solar panels, even though others in the neighborhood had considerable damage.

At the suggestion of Bobette Tracy and with the cooperation of the city forester, a tree was placed in front of the church where one had been removed. Bobette has been very faithful in helping take care of our limited landscaped space.

Work is ongoing with respect to improving our technology in preparation for a hybrid worship model soon. Thanks to Fr. Bill, David Heise, Dan Eckles and perhaps others for working on this as I am a totally lacking in any ability in this regard.

During a routine maintenance service visit an elevated level of carbon monoxide was discovered in the furnace room behind the parish offices caused by a defective heat exchanger in one of the furnaces. After consulting with two different companies it was found that there had been a recall on this defective

part and as a result the warranty had been extended; so replacement was made along with some corrections to bring the original installation up to code at minimal cost to us. A CO alarm has been placed in the office, as well.

Then the fire department came for its periodic safety inspection and listed several things needing attention. Fr. Bill and I took care of the minor issues, but all of our fire safety equipment (alarm system, fire suppressing range hood and all of the fire extinguishers) were due for servicing. The cost for this was a little over \$1200.

Over recent years we have collected a lot of what I will call "stuff" which we no longer need or use. As a first step, items were cleared out by being donated to the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store. Removal of some of the furniture exposed the need for painting in some places. I invite your help with that. Next step will be to involve the teachers and others in decluttering the classrooms.

And, just this week, tuckpointing was done on the flue and the adjacent cement block wall at the northeast corner of the building for \$1300.

When the church is open again, there will be projects to be adopted by individuals or small groups of people. I invite your help.

Taking care of the church, even though not being used right now, is much like taking care of a house, only bigger. There is always "something". All comes at a cost, another reason we need to keep up our pledge payments in these trying times. We want the church to be ready for our use, hopefully very soon.

Harry Richter

COMMUNITY MINISTRY FOOD DRIVE

Sally Reid

As I was working on *The Messenger* late last summer, I realized that since our last in-person worship in March the parish had not been collecting food for the Samaritan Center and the Salvation Army. So, I asked *The Messenger* contributors if they

As a result, the first “Drive-by Food Drive” was held on October 10 at Memorial Park prior to the “Welcoming” service for Father Bill. Members of the parish were quite generous with their donations for the Samaritan Center and the Salvation Army.

As people dropped off their donations, they



had any suggestions as to how we could collect food donations. Father Bill responded that he had heard of a parish holding a food drive in conjunction with the welcoming of a new priest to the parish. GREAT IDEA as the vestry was in the process of planning Father Bill and Bev’s welcome to Grace Church.

expressed how they had missed bringing their donations to the church on Sunday and so the idea of monthly “Drive-by Food Drives” in the parking lot behind the church was born. Food drives are held on the second Saturday of the month (weather permitting). Donations are distributed to the Samaritan Center on the odd months and to the

Salvation Army on the even months. Eunice and Chris Straub, Father Bill and Bev Nesbit, Vicki Myers, and Suzanne and Harry Richter have helped with these drives.

In February, along with the Food Drive, a “Baby Wipes Drive” was held as the local Diaper Bank, through Common Ground (a Grace Church ministry), had put out a plea for diaper wipes. Again, the parishioners were most generous with their donations. Thanks to all.

Grace Church parishioners continue to share their bounty with those less fortunate in our community through this ministry of the church.



DEACON'S CORNER
The Growth of Common Ground
By Paula Kindrick Hartsfield

I am so thankful that Grace Church has been involved with Common Ground from its beginning. I remember, more than a decade ago, Dr. Ken Luebbering sharing with the vestry that First Methodist Church personnel were talking with other local churches about a joint mission venture at the corner of Clark Avenue and Atchison Street. No one was quite sure what form this new mission was going to take in the old building, which previously housed Homer's Restaurant.

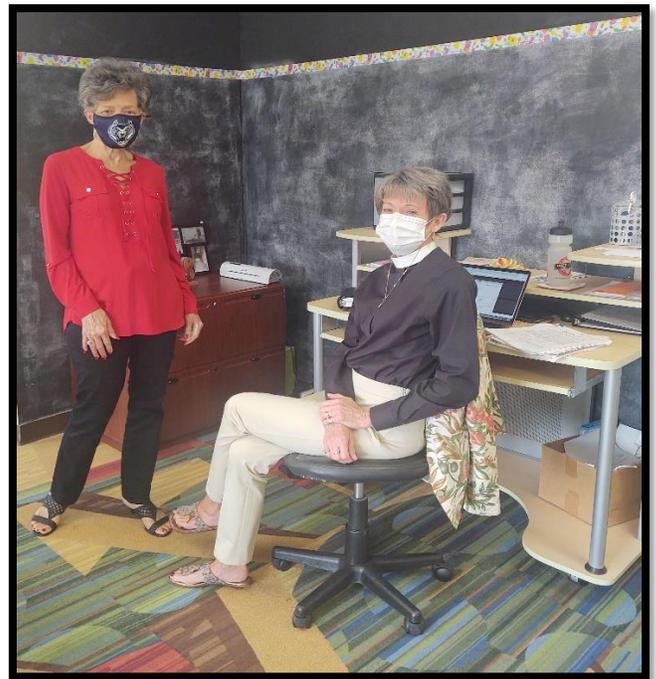
Gary Harbison was Grace Church's representative on an advisory group made up of representatives from several churches which had committed to establish a satellite location to better serve the homeless and single parents not able to make ends meet, and who were coming to the churches for assistance. In 2012, Deacon Chris Dumas, assisted by her husband the Rev. Mark Dumas, both from First United Methodist Church, was the first director of this new mission. Kristen Hilty, an experienced social worker, soon became the Director of Common Ground when the Dumas family moved from Jefferson City to another church. When Kristen's husband, the Rev. Daniel Hilty, moved to a new church assignment in Springfield, MO, she ended her tenure as director, and Tina Mollenkamp became Common Ground's new director.

Kristen has a Masters in Social Work from Washington University and used her education and experience to very ably and amazingly develop the entity which has now become a 501(c)3 not-for-profit. For six years, Kristen was a committed leader who was paid for working half-time. Like many part-time employees, she worked more than the contracted 20 hours per week.

When I completed my field experience with the Rev. Dr. Marshall Crossnoe at St. Mark's in Portland, Missouri, I proposed to Kristen ways that I could collaborate with her to do servant ministry at

Common Ground. I sold her on the idea; and, I have been there ever since. I started working across the hall from Kristen's office and learned a lot by listening to Kristen's telephone calls, which was intentional on our parts! Together, we developed relationships with some of the very needy in our community.

Kristen began to float the need to truly function as a director by not having most of her mornings at Common Ground consumed by assisting clients. So, a married couple at one church agreed to pay for a half-time social worker the first year to free up time for Kristen to do such important work as write grants and further develop the pilot Families Forward program. Thus, Common Ground gained another employee, Melody Boling, in addition to the array of volunteers, many of whom were Grace church parishioners, inside the building and on the grounds. About that time, Common Ground became a 501(c)3 with George Hartsfield as the first chair of the board. Connie Perch currently serves on the board.



Vicki Myers and Paula Hartsfield confer about a challenging concern a desperate person shared in a telephone call for assistance.

After Common Ground staff, board members, and other volunteers listened to heartbreaking stories from the May 2019 tornado victims and assisted them with \$97,000 of contributed funds and with the expansion of the Families Forward homeless program, Melody Boling, Common Ground's social worker, presented a convincing need for a half-time benevolence office coordinator to meet with those needing emergency assistance so that they would not become homeless. Again, another married couple from one of the partnering churches stepped forward to fund this new, third staff position at Common Ground.

Common Ground's growth from one to now three part-time employees is indicative of the success the organization is having building relationships as people experiencing poverty are connected with resources and may also receive monetary assistance for such things as rent, utilities, and gasoline. Director Tina Mollenkamp, along with the fund raising committee, provide important leadership to maintain staff which supports the important mission of Common Ground.

The parishioners of Grace should be thankful for our continued role in being the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. How can you ensure that you are a part of this important outreach? Contribute financially to Grace, plus consider being a volunteer at Common Ground in the benevolence office, as a Families Forward advocate, or in the welcoming gardens. When Common Ground started, Grace Church parishioners constructed the raised beds. Since then, Grace has been responsible for those beds by planting and maintaining vegetables and sharing the food grown with those in need, including those who come to the benevolence office for assistance. Because of pandemic (and the deer traffic), many flowers, which are deer resistant, were added this past year.

Please contact me if you would like more information about how to become involved or increase your support of or involvement in Grace's outreach work with Common Ground.

Grace choir adapts and keeps singing by Karel Lowery

The Chancel Choir renewed pandemic style rehearsals in January. We have rehearsed in alternating small ensembles to then record service music, hymns and occasional anthems. Our music offerings are video-taped and played during the Zoom and Facebook Live Sunday church service.

We sing with masks on and even have "singing frogs" to insert inside the masks that help with our breathing and diction. We rehearse and record with physical distance.

This month, we will work in a slightly larger group and will be distancing in a large circle. We are preparing a lot of music for the end of Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

Those participating seem to be very glad to be singing again if only in a small group. We have a chance to catch up and visit while limiting our time together. This all gives us something to look forward to each week.

We have heard from so many in our Zoom congregation who really appreciate the choral leadership for our hymns and service music. We are so thankful and blessed that we have returned to our ministry of providing music for our services.



SCOUTING FOR FOOD & PEANUT BUTTER- - ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

Jefferson City Scouts will be at local grocery stores collecting peanut butter and other food items donated by shoppers for the Samaritan Center, area food pantries, and the Buddy Pack Program on Friday, March 19 from 4-6:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 20 from 8:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Participating stores are Gerbes (Super Store and West), HyVee, Moser's, Sav-A-Lot, Schnucks, and Schultes. A food drop-off will also be open 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Capitol Plaza Hotel parking lot.

Emphasis is on peanut butter to support the Buddy Pack program operated by the Central Missouri food bank, although other food items are also needed.

Thank you for your support!

Questions can be addressed to: John A. Young, Scouting for Food Coordinator. Phone: 573-230-9491 / E-mail: Jyoungeagle66@gmail.com



Scouts active this winter

Our winter activities this year were warmer and wetter. Crew 10 didn't earn their Below Zero Hero award on its Okpik trek to Ely, MN back in January but still managed to have fun and learned how to sleep out in the open in below freezing weather, hung out with retired sled dogs, and tried their hand at ice fishing.

At the Klondike Derby in Macon our troop for girls ran the tomahawk range and the venture crew ran the air rifle range and the fire starting event. The troop for boys managed to take 2nd place in the great big sled race!

The cold weather we wanted on our Okpik trek delayed our annual Shrove Tuesday Ham and Pancake Supper by one week. Fr. Bill said our bishop wouldn't have a problem with us serving succulent ham and fluffy pancakes during Lent because it's for a good cause! Thank you all for supporting us and hopefully we will be back in the Parish Hall with live music next year. If anyone is

interested in some ham bones please let me know.

We had 10 new scouts join our program last month. They have already gone on one campout at Rock Bridge State Park working on land navigation skills and going on their first long hike. By the time you read this they will have camped at Binder Park and practiced more land navigation using GPS devices.

Looking ahead, we have Scouting for Food and Scout Day of Service. On the afternoon of March 19th and the morning of March 20th, we will be staffing the bucket at Gerbes West collecting much needed food for the Samaritan Center. Come on out and support our local food pantry. Scout Day of Service is in April at the Lake of the Ozarks State Park and we will be assisting Mo State Parks with much needed maintenance. Also in April is our first official train up weekend for the 2021 and 2022 Philmont Treks.

We are participating in the Great Rivers Council Camp Card fundraiser. If you are a regular patron of Coffee Zone, Bar Vino, and Theo's Midtown or shop at Westlake's and Carrie's Hallmark then you need to get a Camp Card. They are \$10 each and you will get your \$10 back and then some with the great deals that are offered. \$6.50 stays with our program!

Go to www.gracescouting.org to order one (or more). You can also see some pictures from recent events.

We do High Adventure, and Cool Stuff!

~Tom Nield

† ✕ † STANDING NOTICES † ✕ †

The Clergy may be called at any time for emergencies such as illness, accident, or death. Otherwise they may be contacted during the day at the church. Mary Jo Hitz, our Secretary, is in the office from 8:00 A.M. to Noon, Monday, Wednesday

and Friday. Voice mail messages may be left at other times. Fr. Bill's day off is Monday.

**PASTORAL CARE, COUNSELING and
SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:**

If you need counseling for personal issues, Father Bill is available to help. He has special training in these areas and is happy to meet with anyone who feels the need. We also maintain relationships with professionals to whom we can refer you as needed. We are here to help as you face the challenges of life – personal, economic, and spiritual. If you need us, call us.

HOSPITAL VISITS:

When you or anyone you know is going into the hospital, please let us know. When you are discharged, or are transferred to another health facility, please let us know, or have a member of your family inform us. It is not safe to assume that we will hear of these needs in any other way. We like to visit you, but with two hospitals in Jefferson City and two more in Columbia, we need to know where you are. We also like to lift you up in prayer, so keep us informed of your whereabouts and your needs. Fr. Bill especially likes to pray with you before surgery. Yes, even at the crack of dawn!

MONETARY SUPPORT:

Our Parish is supported by the generous offerings of the people. The standard of giving for the Episcopal Church is the tithe. All members are encouraged to pray and strive for this level of Christian giving. As

I am sure you remember, before the pandemic a collection was made at all services. Now that we are not meeting in person, we rely on you to get your donations to the church via the mail. We have offering envelopes available for regular givers, and methods of automated electronic giving are also available. If you desire, a pledge form is available through the Parish Office. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**The Clergy must be consulted before all
Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals**

BAPTISM:

Holy Baptism is administered on designated Sundays during the service. Holy Baptism is especially appropriate at the Easter Vigil, on the Day of Pentecost, on All Saints' Day (*or the Sunday after*), the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord (*the first Sunday after Epiphany*) and the Bishop's visitation. Godparents must be baptized Christians. It is recommended that they be either a confirmed member of this parish or active in their own parish. As you have seen, virtual baptisms require a little special care, but are certainly possible. Please call the Parish Office to arrange for the Baptism and to schedule pre-baptismal instruction.

MARRIAGE:

Holy Matrimony is solemnized only after instruction by the Clergy. It is recommended that six months notice be given. No marriage may be solemnized unless at least 30 days notice has been given. The seasons of Advent and Lent are generally not appropriate for marriages. A pamphlet on getting married at Grace Church is available in the Parish Office.

TIME OF DEATH AND FUNERALS:

Please notify the church immediately at the time of a person's death. We also have funeral planning forms if you are interested in making your final wishes known to the church and your family. It is appropriate that the Christian dead be buried from the church. Please contact the Clergy *before* arrangements are made with the funeral director.

PRAYERS:

Prayers are offered at all services at Grace Church for those who are sick and in need of God's guidance, for travelers, for those celebrating birthdays, wedding anniversaries or other needs which may exist. If you have a prayer request, please call the parish office (573-635-4405).

RECONCILIATION OF A PENITENT:

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (*Private Confession*) is available at all times by appointment with Father Bill. If you wish to make your confession or explore the possibility of doing so, he will be happy to answer any questions you might have. In considering the Reconciliation of a Penitent remember the dictum:

"All may. Some should. None must."

GRACE NOTES WEEKLY

eNEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Wednesday Evening is the deadline for inclusion of articles and announcements in the Friday Grace Notes except for the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and staff vacations. Earlier submissions are greatly appreciated!



March Birthdays

- 3 – Sally Reid
- 4 – Adam Armour
- 6 – Dan Eckles
- 8 – Todd Rodemeyer
- 9 – Harry Richter
- 12 – MiKayla Dominguez
- 13 – Holly Joyce
- 15 – Christen Ludewig
- 17 – Terry Allen
- 18 – Betsy McCune, Robyn Burnett
- 19 – D’Arcy Crane
- 22 – Courtney Crouse
- 24 – Nancy Belcher
- 25 – Jim Markham, Jerry Sill,
Lisha Vandersteen
- 27 – Sarah Harker
- 28 – Marcy Anderson



April Birthdays

- 4 – Roberta Grey, Katie Knight,
Blanche Nylander
- 6 – Jeff Richter, Craig Overfelt, Bobbett Tracy
- 8 – Bernard Collier
- 9 – Lorraine Phillips, Barbara Mealy
- 10 – Matt Dominguez
- 11 – Linda David, Scott Sanning
- 12 – Paula Hartsfield
- 13 – Mimi Cool, Peter Goldschmidt,
Brian Libey
- 15 – Laura Tyson Terrabonne
- 17 – Julie Cochell, John C. Kerr
- 18 – Eden Sanning
- 20 – Jeanne Sill
- 22 – Logan Nichols
- 23 – Tommy Greene, Colleen Perch Peluso,
Kevin Thompson, Jon Hensley
- 25 – Roger Weis
- 26 – Wendy Libey
- 28 – Stella Crane, Margaret Johnson
- 30 – Katie Spear

May Birthdays

- 3 – Marion Spicer
- 5 – Elayna Bonachea
- 6 – Andrew Nield, Warren Stier
- 7 – Robert Morris, Calli Loskill,
Hillary Anderson
- 10 – Daphne Hedges
- 11 – Janis Bleeke, Jordon Myers
- 12 – Dana Goldschmidt
- 13 – Laura Ludewig
- 14 – Bryce Dallmeyer
- 16 – Deanna Hemphill
- 17 – George Hartsfield
- 19 – Emily Lowry
- 20 – Sandra Hinde, Michelle Rodemeyer,
Josie Hall
- 21 – Evelyn Spear
- 23 – Kathryn Hajaved
- 24 – Beth Elliott
- 26 – Ruth Buell, Tracy Armour
- 28 – Eric Brunner, Carter Johnson
- 29 – Sandy Nolan

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DEADLINE

The deadline for the June Messenger is
Monday, May 3rd.

Submit articles for the Messenger
to the editors, Julie Harker auntjbh@yahoo.com
or Carolyn Kerr jckerrs@hotmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS

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VESTRY MEMBERS

Debra Greene, Senior Warden
Harry Richter, Junior Warden

Minette Barlay
Melissa Hensley
Rob Hunt
Ted Koenig
Susan Lissant
Jim Perch
Christy Pond
Sally Reid
David Rice
Sarah Schedler

Tom Nield, Treasurer
Caroline Kerr, Secretary

CONVENTION DELEGATES

D'Arcy Crane
Cheryle Nield
Dotty Sanning