

Messenger

Grace Episcopal Church

First Quarter 2024

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Rector's Greeting

By Father Bill Nesbit

Well, the first quarter of the year has been busy, and a blast! The holidays were a wonderful time to gather with family and friends. It was great to welcome back some folks that I haven't seen in a while. In between Thanksgiving and Christmas we got to welcome our seminarian Jared Moore back from Virginia for a week. He was ordained a Deacon on his way

to his priestly ordination sometime in the spring. Here is a picture of some of the members of his discernment committee who showed up to hear the newly minted Deacon preach! [L to R Cory Combs, Jared Moore, Ken Luebbering, Ted Koenig]



This year I am both saddened and excited to announce the changes in our Children's Formation program. Due to the irregular attendance patterns of the children, we have adapted our children's program into take home packets that provide materials and guidance for parents to work with their children at a time that is convenient to their individual family situation. I know our Sunday School teachers are missing the time they got to spend with the children, but their faith formation is too important to just catch as catch can. Family calendars are so crazy in

this day and age, and we wanted to find a way to be a support, and not just another activity to have to squeeze into an already hectic schedule. It is our plan to schedule occasional special events where we can gather together for learning and fellowship, so watch your Grace Notes for more information.

At our Annual Meeting we voted to decrease the size of the Vestry from 12 to 9. I know that for some of you this was cause for some anxiety,

and I am sorry for that. The Vestry believes that this change is for the better, and I agree. They also believe that they can do better about making sure that the work of the Vestry is as transparent as possible, and they are dedicated to making that a reality. I agree with that as well. The only way that we can be sure that we are succeeding is from your feedback. I encourage you to contact your Vestry members regularly to keep us apprised of how we are doing.

As a newish grand-father I feel the need to insert a picture of our wonderful grand-daughter Ash. It is not easy training a new soprano, so Nate is starting early! I know it is gratuitous, but she is growing up fast, just hitting 6 months old, and she won't be little forever! Being a grandparent is so much more fun than being a parent. I can't recommend it enough!

It has been a tough quarter for deaths at Grace, and even though we know they go to a better place, it is hard to say good-bye.

We lost Ralph Kalberloh, Tom Clarke, T.D. Pawley, and Barb Van Ark over the course of these three months. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

There is a whole lot of good in the rest of the Messenger. We have articles about the Chili Cook off, Our new ministry at Jefferson City Room at the Inn, our undergoing organ expansion installation, our new Vestry members, and a lot of other stuff as well. Enjoy!



Grace and Peace.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Bill".

Deacon's Corner

By Paula Hartsfield

One of the ministries at Grace is Eucharistic Visitors. The ministry is defined in Title III., Canon 4. of the Episcopal Church as "a lay person authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration."

You may be more familiar with this ministry being called Lay Eucharistic Visitors. Rev. Dr. Marshall Crossnoe has brought it to our attention that at the 2003 General Convention the "Lay" was dropped so that since then the proper name has been Eucharist Visitors. Those of us involved in the ministry are trying to make this change. You may catch me using the former name at some point out of habit!

This ministry was started at Grace while Harv Sanders was the Grace rector. I was shocked and humbled when he invited and encouraged me to join the ministry. As your deacon, I now have a different role in the ministry as directed by the national canon which states "A Eucharistic Visitor should normally act under the direction of a Deacon." Thus, I provide leadership and facilitate the work of the ministry.

Grace's dedicated Eucharistic Visitors are Melinda Sanders, Mike McDonnell, Suzanne Richter, Beverly Nesbit, and Vicki Myers. In addition to me, Father Bill and Marshall are integral parts of the ministry. We strive to extend the community of Grace to ill and infirm parishioners monthly. One month the Eucharistic Visitor takes communion. The next month a member of our clergy takes communion with that pattern continuing as long as the person is impaired. In addition, the Eucharistic Visitors and clergy meet as a whole bi-monthly to check-in with each other regarding the parishioners with whom they are having communion and for continual learning.

Sadly, Eucharistic Visitors have said good bye to some parishioners to whom they had been taking communion. Those who have moved or died include Rob Crouse, Tom Clarke, Minette Barley, Jim Markham, and Barbara Van Ark.

Currently, Eucharistic Visitors are taking communion to Rusty Rosenkoetter, Nanette Ellis, and Roberta Grey. If there is anyone else who should be served in this ministry, please talk to me or any of the Eucharistic Visitors.

I believe that our Eucharistic Visitors do this holy work to show the love of God. Please consider extending a word of appreciation to our faithful administrators of communion.

Senior Warden's Report

By Tom Nield

When Fr. Bill approached me about being the Senior Warden, I was caught off guard. Having just accepted the invitation to be on the 2024 slate for Vesty, I was not expecting a call to take on such an important role. Fr. Bill shared his thoughts on what Grace should focus on and he asked me to pray about it. One thing that instantly came to mind was an admonishment a former commander gave me when I was a 1st Lieutenant serving as the Support Platoon Leader for the 955th Engineer Co (Pipeline).

In 1998 I made the promotion list for Captain. I was immediately offered the command of the battalion headquarters by the battalion commander. I was, and still am, a die hard Engineer and was not excited about commanding a quartermaster unit. I was going to turn down the offer. My company commander took me to lunch and advised me that one, I should never turn down an offer to command, and two, with the experience I gained in my past service, he was confident that I would be successful.

He was right. I took command, was officially promoted to Captain, and did three rotations at a combat training center. 9/11 occurred shortly after I relinquished command. My former unit performed admirably when it was deployed to Uzbekistan later that fall.

I share this story because I wanted to let you all know that there was no question in my mind that I was going to accept the role of Senior Warden. Fr. Bill, like my former commanders, trusted that I could fill the role. I am not predicting that I will be successful, but as a good scout will say, I will do my best.

I want to share one more story. I served on Vestry for three years and then as the Treasurer for five. During that time, we had a number of search committees for Rector, Interim Rector, and Priest in Charge. I shared a martial arts metaphor with all of the candidates we brought in for an in-person interview: that as a parish, with all the support we give to various community outreach, we “punch above our weight.”

What do we do now to ensure that we as a parish stay relevant to the world outside of Grace’s building? What opportunities do we take to give Grace parishioners a chance to use their talents to spread the Word of God? In other words, what can we do as a church to continue “punching above our weight”?

The Lenten season is very similar to the rigors a martial artist must endure to prepare for a match. Eating properly (fasting), meditation (prayer), training (mortification of the flesh, self-denial) are done in a deliberate and intense manner. On the eve of the match, the martial artist steps on the scale. The next day, the martial artist goes into the ring, and the question is asked, will he or she “punch above his or her weight”? That is a question we all need to ask of ourselves during this Lenten season.

- * replaced lights in the chancel that were broken or not working;
- * reconditioned several classrooms into a choir room which was performed by numerous volunteers;
- * repaired or replaced several exterior lights with timer switches on the west and south sides of the church;
- * replaced chairs in the vestry room;
 - currently in the process to add new organ pipes and hardware on the west wall of sanctuary;
 - Added new or cleaned various thermostats on boiler registers;
 - Replaced bell controller with a new electronic one;
 - Repaired commercial dishwasher with a new pump;
- and
 - Worked with city government to have a trash can placed on the west side of church.

I am sure there are a few items I am missing, but I wanted to provide a list as best as I can recall. Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Junior Warden. I look forward to the many duties and tasks needed to keep this old church in beautiful and great shape.

Junior Warden’s Report

By Brent Hemphill

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your junior warden over the last year. I am appreciative of the responsibility you have entrusted me for another year. I am happy to report that the building is in good shape and hopefully is a place that provides you all a beautiful and safe place to come and worship. While there have not been any major renovations or modifications, this old building is in constant need of attention. I want to thank all of the parishioners who have and continue to assist with keeping our church in good shape.

The following modifications, repairs or upgrades have been made over the last year:

- * replaced a/c in the narthex, parlor and children’s nursery;
- * repaired the chairlift in the parlor. This is an antique lift and hard to find parts but we were able to have the appropriate technician who was successful in fixing. At some point, a replacement lift will need to be considered in the not-too-distant future;

Treasurer’s Report

By Harry Richter

As of this writing only the January report is complete. The good news is that on the income side pledge payments exceeded budget by \$14,061. However this was largely due to a small number of families pre-paying their entire year’s pledge. For this we are thankful. This typically happens in January and again in December, but what happens between the bookends will be extremely important this year. Investment and endowment income was considerably over budget as well, but here again 1st quarter results usually exceed each of the 3 remaining quarters. Of course results are dependent on market conditions. So, we’ll see. Of particular concern is the shortfall in plate offerings for each of the Sundays.

On the expense side, expenses were nearly \$8,000 under budget, largely due to the fact that we have a few rather large expenses that are paid quarterly and were not yet due.

Non-operating expenses include the organ project (Mitchell fund) and additional improvements to the choir rehearsal room and the restoration of the bell system funded by a collection of smaller, undesignated memorial funds. This was supplemented by the generous donation of the rehearsal piano and its humidifier by Dan & Beth Eckles. As we are operating this year with an expected deficit in the operating budget, your generous contributions, whether through additional pledges or plate offerings is greatly appreciated. Check Grace notes for monthly updates between issues of The Messenger.

New Vestry Members

Tom Nield

Cheryl and I started attending as faithful members on Christmas Eve, 1996. Since then, I got confirmed, I married Cheryl, and our sons, Thomas and Andrew, were baptized and confirmed. I have taught Sunday school and sang in the choir. I have served as a convention delegate, the treasurer, and am a past member of the vestry. I helped write Grace's emergency response plan, served on search committees, and took youth on a mission trip. I currently serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, I help run the livestream of our service, and I run Grace's scouting program which has grown to be the second largest scouting program in Jefferson City.

For my day job, I have worked at the Secretary of State's office since 1999. I worked as an Electronic Records Archivist in Records Management, the Missouri State Archives, and in Local Records. I was promoted to the Director of the Records Management Division in Feb 2017. I enlisted in the US Army Reserve in 1986 as a Private. I earned my commission through ROTC at Mo S&T in 1990 and have led platoons, commanded a battalion headquarters, and served as an information operations officer. I retired from the Missouri National Guard in Feb 2007 shortly after I returned from Afghanistan, where I was awarded the Combat Action Badge and the Bronze Star.

When I was approached to serve on the Vestry I agreed to do so without any hesitation. Grace Church is a wonderful community. On my two deployments, you all helped Cheryl and the boys a lot. The friendships we've made, the meals we've shared, the opportunities afforded to our sons' to grow spiritually, all point to

how our community really cares and looks out for each other. I look forward to serving on the vestry again.

Melissa Kane

I grew up Catholic and came to Grace about two years ago. I quickly felt at home at Grace. My husband and I served as ushers, and I served as lector and intercessor. I have served meals at the Salvation Army, JCRATI, provided food for Josie's Pantry and more. I look forward to serving you on the vestry.

Jacqueline Collier

I was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic Church in Freetown, Sierra Leone. My late husband Bernard and I came to Jefferson City in 1991 and attended several churches in the area. In 1994, we were invited to Grace Church and introduced to Rev. Harry Sanders, a former rector. I found a church with attributes that fully encompassed my Christian belief. Our present Rector, Rev. Bill Nesbit, has solidified and successfully carried the mantle. Over the years we baptized and raised our two sons Sequan and Dejan in a congregation that I have always found to be warm and inclusive. I am honored and excited to serve and help grow our church community with other members of the vestry.

Annual Meeting

By Carolyn Kerr

The Grace Episcopal Church 2023 Annual Meeting was held in person, following a single service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 28, 2024. Fr. Bill Nesbit called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m. with an opening prayer.

After a quorum was established and the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting were accepted and voted approved, Fr. Bill began the meeting. Fr. Bill began with submitting the Rector's Report. He expressed his joy in leading the parish and said the generosity and faith of the parishioners humbles him. He first wanted to thank everyone who came and participated in the Chili Cook-Off the night before and give a shout out to the winner of the best chili – Melissa Kane! The "celebrity judges" were Judge Cotton Walker and Judge John Beetem. Next year, the Bishop has promised he'll be here to participate and judge the chili entries.

One of the new things that has been embraced by the Vestry this year is the Servant's Heart Award, which is an idea that was brought to the Vestry by Mike McDonnell. It is an award that will potentially be awarded to a parishioner annually for their work and dedication to the parish. This year, the award goes to Bobette Tracy for her tireless work with the upkeep of the grounds around the church. She's taking "a step back" and "retiring" from her duties, and although she's not an "official" member of the Grace Church, she has always been there to help out and has given so much to the Grace without ever seeking recognition. There is a plaque with her name on it as the first recipient of the award, and she received a letter of gratitude from the past Junior Wardens of Grace.

Sarah Schedler submitted her Senior Warden's report and thanked everyone at Grace for supporting her. She thanked the Vestry and told them they are doing a stellar job and that their hardworking and dedication made her job easier. Sarah asked for continued prayers and discerning hearts to address the issues that remain to be addressed, including the unhoused individuals living outside and to find common ground. She thanked everyone for allowing her to serve and to continue to serve Grace. Tom Nield will be the new Senior Warden.

Next, Harry Richter presented the 2023 Treasurer's Report and the proposed 2024 Budget, which had been approved by the Vestry. In arriving at the budget, the finance committee tried its best to estimate the bills for next year. They are working with a deficit, but there is a reserve that the vestry can draw upon. There is still pledge money coming in, as well, but if parishioners have not pledged or paid yet, please do so, as "it takes all of us." He also mentioned that the budget includes a COLA raise for employees. Harry mentioned that the organ work was paid for out of the Mitchell memorial fund, the columbarium was paid out of the Johnson memorial fund, and the bell project is being paid out of undesignated memorial funds. After summarizing the budget, answering some questions and following some discussion, the 2024 Budget was voted received. A copy of the budget is available to any parishioner upon request. Questions can be directed to Harry Richter as well.

Fr. Bill then presented a Motion to Reduce the Vestry Size from 12 members to 9 with three to be elected each year instead of four to replace the number of retiring vestry members and for a vote.

This involved an amendment to the Grace Episcopal Church Bylaws, specifically, Art.3, Vestry, Sec 1, Number of Members and Eligibility. Since the Vestry already approved the change, all that was needed at the Annual Meeting was an up or down vote whether or not to accept the change. After much discussion among the parishioners, a voice vote was called. The ayes had the vote, but a count was requested. The vote was called again, this time the votes were counted. There were 27 "yes" votes, and 13 "no" votes. The motion to amend the Bylaws passed.

After thanking the outgoing Vestry and Convention Delegate, the Nominating Committee, made up of Sarah Schedler, Lisa Fox, and Cheryl Nield, presented their slate of candidates for Vestry, to replace the outgoing members, Cheryl Nield, Debra Greene, Janie Johnson, and retiring Senior Warden Sarah Schedler, and Convention Delegate Mervyn John. The Vestry candidates, class of 2024-2026, were Jackie Collier, Melissa Kane, and Tom Nield. Jeff Terry was nominated as Diocesan Convention Delegate. He will serve as the Alternate Delegate for 2024 and full Delegate for 2025-2026. All candidates were elected by acclamation and commissioned by Fr. Bill. Congratulations and thank you for your service!

A few last-minute announcements included a reminder from Sally Reid about continuing Grace's support for and volunteer opportunities at JCRATI, a plug from Tom Nield reminding everyone to come to the Scout Troop 10 Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, and the need for coffee hour hosts. After a motion to adjourn and a Closing Prayer led by Fr. Bill, the meeting ended at approximately 1:05 p.m. See you all next year...





A big shout out to Josie Hall and Zack Azar for being recognized with Vigil Honors by the Nampa-Tsi Lodge of the Order of the Arrow. They were recognized at the Winterfest banquet in January. Josie helped out a lot at the Spring and Fall conclaves, and Zack worked summer camp staff the last few years. It's been many years since we have had a member of our program be recognized with Vigil honors, so it's pretty awesome. Since our last update, we held our Webelos recruiting event, the older scouts did a COPE event, and the ladies did a backpacking trip at Ha Ha Tonka State Park. We also participated in the Red Kettle Campaign and cooked dinner at the Salvation Army shelter, and took our newly crossed over scouts to the Klondike Derby. The older scouts went on a ski trip to Hidden Valley Ski Resort, and a wilderness survival campout was held when the ambient temps were around 20F. Looking ahead, we will be staffing Scouting for Food on 15-16 Mar in support of the Samaritan Center. Scout Day of Service is in April, where we help out Missouri State Parks. We will also be squeezing in one or two campout events in the next couple of months.

We have a large cohort of Life Scouts who are looking for Eagle Scout service projects. If you are affiliated with a non-profit that needs something done, please let me know!

We do High Adventure, and Cool Stuff!

Scouting Update

By Tom Nield

It's starting to feel like Spring is the air, and that means it's time to grab one or more Thrifty Tickets! Go to our web page at www.gracescouting.org, tap the link, and make your order. Thrifty Tickets give you a discount at 11 of our local retailers. Cost per card is \$10 and visiting one or two of the sponsors will get your \$10 back! Last day to order is April 15, 2024.

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Ham and Pancake supper is done and in the books. Thanks to everyone who came out and supported us. I relayed to the scouts the many wonderful comments that were made to me that night about them. It's nice to see how the Grace community appreciates the hard work the scouts do on Shrove Tuesday!



Scout Sunday



Coffee Hour



Ski Trip



Ham & Pancake Supper



Josie's Vigil

Pipe Organ Update



Grace Public House

Grace Public House a fun monthly event

"Join your fellow parishioners every Saturday evening of the month from 5-8 pm in the parish hall for games and live music. Bring a snack to share!"



Choir Room Update



Human Trafficking Awareness

By Mike McDonnell

On February 25, Nanette Ward presented to Grace Church a stark and disturbing picture of Human Trafficking in central Missouri, the state, the U.S., and around the world. She humanized human trafficking victims by telling their stories of being kidnapped, seduced, lied to, and manipulated because of the simple human need for a place to sleep, love, food, or a job. They were entangled in trafficking by predators seeking to benefit from the sale or bartering of victims for their monetary or personal gain. Nanette noted that labor and sex trafficking is the fastest-growing criminal enterprise in the world, producing \$150 billion in revenue annually. It is the world's second-largest criminal endeavor behind drug trafficking. It affects people and communities everywhere, regardless of education, economic status, or societal position.

Nanette has volunteered in the Stop Human Trafficking movement for over 15 years. I know no one more resolute or humble in her efforts. She is a founding member of the Stop Human Trafficking Coalition of Central Missouri, serving as a trustee on the Board of Directors.

In 2017, Nanette was appointed to the Missouri Attorney General's Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force. She also serves on the social service arm of the U.S. Attorney's Office Western District of Missouri Human Trafficking Rescue Project.



Room at the Inn

By Cathy Libey

As the holiday season was ushered in, the Room at the Inn (RATI) opened up in downtown Jefferson City. Room at the Inn is an effort supported by community volunteers to help give our unhoused community friends a place to lay their heads and enjoy a dinner and a breakfast. As most of us are racing from our car doors to our homes to avoid the cold temperatures, our unhoused friends are lining up to be one of the lucky 20 that will be admitted each evening. The line begins outside the door of the First Baptist Church at the corner of Monroe and Capitol Avenue.

Registration begins at 5:30 pm and lasts until they have met the maximum number that can be accommodated or 7:00 pm. When a guest is checked in, they must have their belongings searched and then secured in tubs labeled with their names. They then choose a cot and get themselves settled. Around 6:00 pm, community volunteers would arrive to provide a hot meal and conversation. Most meals are completed by 6:30 pm and the guests settle in for an evening of relaxation, games and conversation. The lights are turned out at 10:00pm. Morning begins at 6:00am as community volunteers bring in a hot meal for breakfast.

Grace Church parishioners have been an important part of providing the meals for RATI. Within the time the doors opened Grace provided 11 meals; 4 breakfasts and 7 dinners. Each meal planned began with a team leader and several additional volunteers. The volunteer team leaders were Ken Luebbering and Robyn Burnett, Sally Reid, Greg Powell, Debbie Crossnoe, Ginny Irvin, and Cathy

Libey. Each team leader created a menu and volunteers then signed up to provide the food. Our first meal was a full turkey dinner provided by Ken Luebbering and Robyn Burnett and team. It was a hit.

A big thank you to all members who volunteered to cook, deliver, and serve meals to the unhoused. Supportive volunteers were Janie Johnson, Ben Kane, Melissa Kane, Sandy Nolan, Suzanne Richter, Melinda Sanders, Beverly Nesbit, Fr. Bill, and the Rieke family. As you can see, it takes many, many hands to care for God's children.

The doors at RATI are scheduled to stay open until March 17th. It is the hope that the weather Cooperates and warms up.

We all know we have faith and care about our fellow children of God. But caring must be matched with action. Thank you Grace Church!

James 2:14-17 - What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.





January Birthdays

2 - Peter Alfred Goldschmidt, Louisa Nylander
3 - Paul Graham, Felicia John, Malaika Kamara
4 - Beth Eckles
8 - Bryan Tracy
10 - Martha Goodin, Bob Harker, Jim Rozier
11 - Solomon Rogers
12 - Carl Bone
14 - Lisa Fox, Alexis Seeney
17 - Lorenzo Greene, Linton Bartlett
19 - Tom Nield
22 - Chris Straub
23 - Thomas Nield, Justin Rodemeyer, Catherine Hensley
25 - Devon Kanga
27 - Mark Johnson, Liz Lehmann, Gary Harbison
29 - Sherry Russell, Kenneth Seeney, Jeredine Hughes
31 - Chris Johnson, Christine Overfelt, Rudi Dallmeyer

February Birthdays

9 - Gloria Sanning
10 - Lyric Seeney, Abigail Mpoy
19 - Claire Joyce Johnson
20 - Sequan Collier
21 - Susan Rozier, Marcel John
22 - Stacy Hartsfield
24 - Matt Krauss, Lee West
26 - Fr. Bill Nesbit

March Birthdays

3 - Sally Reid
4 - Adam Armour
5 - Melissa Kane
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

April Birthdays

4 - Roberta Grey, Katie Knight, Blanche Nylander
6 - Jeff Richter, Craig Overfelt, Bobette Tracy
9 - 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 Couch, John C. Kerr
18 - Eden Sanning
20 - Jeanne Sill
22 - Logan Nichols
23 - Tommy Greene, Colleen Perch Peluso, Kevin Thompson,
25 - Roger Weis
26 - Wendy Libey
28 - Stella Crane, Margaret Johnson



Standing Notices

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

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. Beth Prenger-Boeckmann, our Administrator, is in the office from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., Monday-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.

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).

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Call for Articles

Submit articles for the Messenger to the editors,
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Vestry Members

Tom Nield, Senior Warden
Brent Hemphill, Junior Warden

Jacqueline Collier, Dan Eckles,
Lisa Fox, Melissa Kane, Bob Knight,
Mike McDonnell, Julie Harker,
Joseph Nylander,
Turner Tyson

Harry Richter, Treasurer
Maureen McDonnell, Clerk

Convention Delgates

David Heise, Matt Krause