



Grace Notes

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

Volume 2019 No. 1

January 2019

Published monthly in the interest of Grace Episcopal Church, Ponca City, Ok.



A message from your wardens...

Happy New Year! Another new year has arrived. May we continue to be blessed as a parish in the year to come.

We had a wonderful year this past year at Grace. Although it brought a bit of uncertainty with the moving on of our former Rector and the passing of some wonderful parishioners, we have learned a great deal about ourselves as a parish. We have learned that we are a resilient and faithful group of Episcopalians sharing our witness in Ponca City. We have continued to support outreach to our community in so many ways. We have continued to have fellowship with one another. We have continued to volunteer our gifts, talents and treasure to the support of our parish and diocese. And most importantly we have continued to worship the Lord together each Sunday. It is amazing to see how we have reacted under pressure and I believe we have responded in a great and positive way! Thank you to all of you. Together with God, we will have an even better 2019!

In December we had wonderful Advent and Christmas services. Thank you to Father Bill and Deacon Steve and to all liturgical ministers in leading us in worship. The Altar Guild, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, Choirs, Ushers and Greeters all have an important role in our worship service which they perform faithfully and expertly each week.

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Thank you to Casey Orr and Ann Armstrong as Vestry members in charge of Outreach for doing the Angel Tree and so many other outreach missions during the Christmas season and the entire year. Also thank you to the ECW and all of the women of the church. It is amazing all of the things you do for the parish and the financial support that you give continue all that we do.

Thank you to all who have pledged financial support to the parish for the coming year. There is still time to turn in your pledge cards if you have not done so. Jerry Orr will give a more detailed report in this addition of Grace notes.

It has also been a great year for Everlasting Grace. There's an article about that in this issue too, along with a new total. It is an ongoing program that you may join at any time, and in many different ways.

The Youth had a very fun lock-in led by Riley Wells. There were 14 youth attending the all-night event. We went caroling to parishioners, played games, ate pizza and watched movies in to the wee hours. Thanks to the other adult chaperones, Nga Wells, Chuck Rector. The old folks stayed up all night. The kids, not so much. We look forward to having many fun events for the youth in the coming year.

Retiring from the vestry this year are Chad Keilman, Jackie Saylor and Lynda Clark as their 3 - year terms have expired. Thank you for your service and leadership to Grace! We will elect 3 new vestry members at our Annual Congregational Meeting on January 27, 2019. If the nomination committee approaches you please don't hesitate to agree to serve on the vestry. We need strong leadership in the coming year and if you are nominated it is because they believe you will be a great asset to our team.

As we start a new year together let us continue to pray for our Parish.

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Book of Common Prayer

Sincerely, Your Wardens

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT GRACE

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

Jan. 6 TBA..... Father Bill Martin/Deacon Steve Mallory

Jan. 13 TBA.....Father Bill Martin

Jan. 20 TBA..... Father Bill Martin/Deacon Steve Mallory

Jan. 27 TBA.....Deacon Steve Mallory

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WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

There will be no bible study for the month of January and a new study will begin in February, around the 12th. It has not been decided what we will study but notices will go out about it as soon as possible.

Thank you. Jane Simmons

simmokjh@yahoo.com or call me at 918-557-0553.

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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.

<p>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.</p>
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YOUTH ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

4:00 Mass - Christmas Eve



Several of our young people shared their musical talents prior to the 4:00 mass at which Father Martin gathered the children for the telling of the Christmas story.



A GIFT ANYONE CAN MAKE

Everyone, during their lifetime, accumulates “things.” Personal property such as vehicles, jewelry, real estate, and savings or other financial accounts all make up the “stuff” we gather during our lifetimes.

But what happens to those things at our deaths? Who decides where these things go? You can, if you act to create a will or other trust document. This allows you to distribute your assets to the people and causes you select; otherwise the legal system will determine the distribution – at a cost.

Through your will, you can designate a gift to Grace Church that will bless our Christian witness far beyond your lifetime. Including the church in your will **costs you nothing now** yet makes a **wonderful faith witness** for your family, friends and others. It is a gift anyone can make, and costs nothing during lifetime.

A will should always be crafted by a qualified professional familiar with your financial circumstances, family situation and your wishes for your estate. Advice from an attorney and other professionals should be sought when considering charitable giving.

The vehicle we use here at Grace Church to receive legacy giving is called Everlasting Grace. There are many ways to participate in Everlasting Grace; naming the church in your will is only one of those ways. Another way to do a deferred contribution is to name the church as a beneficiary of a retirement account or a life insurance policy. Of course, gifts of cash are always welcome, as those gifts will immediately begin to grow in value.

We are happy to share that our new total for the Everlasting Grace fund is \$174,818.68.

Please call the Parish Office at 580-765-7609 to receive more information about how you can become a part of Everlasting Grace.

HYMN OF THE MONTH

The words to Hymn 491, "Kit Smart", are by an English poet, Christopher Smart (1722-1771). Music is by Alec Wyton (1921-2007), an English born organist and composer who brought contemporary influence to American church music. He served as Organist & Choirmaster at St. John the Divine in New York for over 20 years and was coordinator of the commission that produced the 1982 hymnal.

Where is this stupendous stranger?
Prophets, shepherds, kings, advise.
Lead me to my Master's manger,
show me where my Savior lies.

O Most Mighty! O Most Holy!
Far beyond the seraph's thought;
art thou then so weak and lowly
as unheeded prophets taught?

O the magnitude of meekness!
Worth from worth immortal sprung;
O the strength of infant weakness,
if eternal is so young!

God all bounteous, all creative,
whom no ills from good dissuade,
is incarnate, and a native
of the very world he made.

CHOIR NEWS

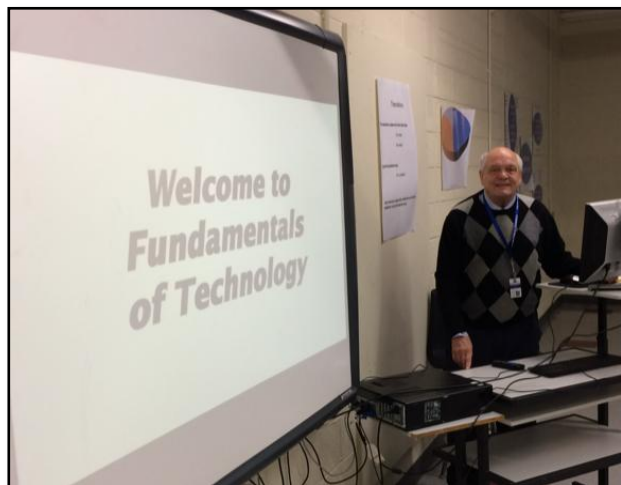
Thank you to the choirs who worked so hard for Lessons and Carols and for Christmas. We appreciate all you do!

On January 14 Brad Newcomb will present an organ recital after the 5:00 Evensong. Brad is a senior organ major at OSU. He has played at Grace several times and is well known to many of us.

~ Jackie Saylor



Fr. Bill and Carole Martin at the Drummond lodge.
We are so blessed to have them as part of our parish family.



Fr. Bill just completed his first term of full-time teaching at
Tulsa's McLain High School of Science & Technology.



PERIPATETIC PARISHIONERS

Worship bulletins have been received from:

Steve & Judy McGuire

Messiah Lutheran Church - Cincinnati, OH.

*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 December 19th:

- * 49 Pledge Units have been received
- * \$172,010 has been pledged for 2019
- * Our budget requires \$200,000
- * Presently we have a shortfall of about \$28,000

Please 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.

EPIPHANY PAGEANT

We are encouraging all of our members to please make special efforts to invite their families and friends to our annual Epiphany Pageant scheduled for Saturday, January 6th. As you are aware, this is one of the high points of the celebration of our Lord's Nativity for us at Grace Church. It has become a historic event for our parish. Let's commit to making it yet again another wonderful experience.

ECW NEWS

- ❖ The ECW Food Fair was a big success thanks to all who donated food and worked many hours. Thank you!
- ❖ At our December ECW meeting, we selected many organizations to receive our annual contributions: Angel Tree children, Golden Villa, The Mission, Camp New Hope, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion, Friendship Feast, Northern Oklahoma Youth Shelter, CASA, Peach Tree Landing, Child Development Center and Living Hope Pregnancy Center. In addition to that, we will send our church staff monetary gifts.
- ❖ I need volunteers to sign up for church fellowship after the 10 a.m. service. Please consider bringing treats for just one Sunday Everyone appreciates it so much and it is a great time for visiting with other parishioners.
- ❖ Start off the new year by purchasing one of our wonderful cook-books! You won't regret it. Make an effort to try new recipes using this unique cookbook.
- ❖ We have noticed that the amount contributed to Centsible Meals has declined in recent months. This money is used to purchase school supplies for our Sunday school program. The balance is very low! Circle the last Sunday of each month. That is when you will bring your donation for Centsible Meals. Our Sunday school program needs your help. Thanks!

~Marcia Davis

GIFT SHOP NEWS

In this first month of the new year we send our sincere thanks and appreciation for your patronage and support of the E.C.W. Gift Shop. Our New Year wish is for good health, happiness, and prosperity to all in 2019.

Remember we want to be a part of the celebrations of your life. This little gift shop might have just the perfect gift for the occasion. Help will be available after the Sunday and Wednesday morning services but you are welcome to contact us if you need a special time to shop.

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

JANUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

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

- Jan. 6 **Suzy & Stan Bivin** in loving memory of her father, Lowell Clifton; and by Joan Burrow Dick in memory of John Burrow.
- Jan. 13 **Jennifer G. & William Eckel** in loving memory of her parents, Patricia & Richard Gay: and by **Jannie & Jim Ross** in thanksgiving for their wedding anniversary..
- Jan. 20 **Marjorie Dew, Barbara Dew Rupert, Betsy Dew, Nancy Dew Hardeback & Robert Dew:** in loving memory of John Norman Dew & John Michael Dew; and by **Judy Branch** in thanksgiving for the birthday of her grandson, Joshua Branch.
- Jan. 27 open
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JANUARY SANCTUARY LAMP CANDLE

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

- Jan. 6 **Jacque & David O'Grady** in thanksgiving for the birthday of their daughter Lauren.
- Jan. 13 **Marsha & Al Moore** in thanksgiving for their grandsons, Andrew and Ethan and their granddaughter, Gracyn.
- Jan. 20 **Diane Beekman** in thanksgiving for her four granddaughters and their parents.
- Jan. 27 **Livi, Lola, & Bandy Rumford** in thanksgiving for their wonderful grandmother, MeMaw Vanhoesen, birthday.

Available dates for the altar flowers are as follows:

Before Lent: Jan. 27 & Mar. 3

There are many dates available after lent.

Available dates for the sanctuary lamp:

Feb. 17, April 14, June 30, 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

JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Lauren Boyd
- 8 Dwight Ham
- 8 Jamie Wells
- 8 Richard Winterrowd
- 12 Mai McCoy
- 13 Marsha Orr
- 14 Mary Beth Moore
- 16 Cheryl Smith
- 26 Keri Bartley
- 26 Marissa Belzer
- 26 Joshua Branch
- 26 Eli Wohletz
- 27 Sonja Van Hoesen
- 27 Lizz Fruits
- 30 Terry Huston
- 31 Charlie Wells

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Jim & Jannie Ross
- 13 Clyde & Nadine Frisby
- 25 Chuck & Kristin Webb

JANUARY 2019						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		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	29	30	31		

*Happy
New
Year*

**Epiphany
Pageant
January 6**

*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!*