



# Grace Notes

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

Volume 2018 No. 8

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

*From Fr. Bright's Desk:*



## **“General Convention: My Reflections”**

As we are all aware, the Episcopal Church’s triennial General Convention just ended with many speculations as to the direction of the Church. Many feel that the landscape has changed considering the resolutions and debates as well as the decisions and actions emerging out of the convention. The issues concerning same sex marriage across the Episcopal Church and the issues of Prayer Book revision as well as debates on neutralizing the gender of God in liturgical texts were certainly matters of great concern and interest. While some of these issues are ongoing conversations, it seems to me that some of the most important accomplishments of the convention may have not made the biggest headlines. Among the accomplishments that deserve more celebration were the following. The parade by the *Bishops Against Gun Violence*. The elaborate parade of Episcopal Bishops was a powerful statement concerning the reckless loss of lives caused by gun violence daily. Their statement was not a political one since it was not against gun ownership but against gun violence. While it is not an attack on the second amendment, it is a moral and pastoral statement for respecting the dignity of all human lives.

Another strong witness that emerged out of the convention was the gathering of bishops, clergy and lay deputies at the jail. It was a time of reflection and prayer for immigrants detained behind bars. This action of solidarity spoke volumes in terms the words of Jesus: “*I was in prison and you visited me...*” (Matthew 25:34). This witness accords with our Baptism Covenant which requires us to honor Christ in all persons.

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There was also the forum on the “Me Too” Movement which allowed both houses of convention time of listening to those who are victims of sexual harassment and sexual abuse in society. It was a liturgy that provided a time lamentation over our part (as God’s Church), in the wounds of victims. Our own Bishop Ed was quite on point in his written response to the convention’s position on this subject. Bishop Ed asked our prayers for the Church to grow in awareness and understanding, continue to strive for equality and safety for all, and continue to embark upon a healthy process of true healing and reconciliation.

The final piece of witness that I consider a powerful testimony on the part of General Convention was the convention’s action to reinstate the Diocese of Cuba into the Episcopal Church as a member of the Episcopal Church and its convention. They had not been since 1959. This was a moving experience across the floor of convention as the Cuban bishop and his people expressed their gratitude for the welcome. Here again the convention’s witness accords with the words of our Lord Jesus when He said, “*I have other sheep that are not of this fold, I will bring them in so that there will be one Shepherd and one flock*”; (St. John 10:16)

So, amidst all of the issues of General Convention, I believe that even though we have much to still ponder, we certainly have much for which to be thankful. We can give thanks to God for the gift of the Church. We can also thank God for the ministry of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry who reminds us of being the *Jesus Movement*.

On the question, “where do we go from here as God’s Church?” the answer calls for trusting the Holy Spirit to continue to direct the Church’s mission in our time. As we find ways to live together as one Church under one Shepherd, may this be our consistent prayer:

*O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were being cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. (BCP 528)*

~Fr. Bright

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT GRACE

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

- Aug 5 Anthropomorphisms in the Bible - Cont'd.....Fr. Bright  
Aug 12 Liturgical Bible Study .....Fr. Bright  
Aug 19 Reflections on Current Events.....Deacon Steve  
Aug 26 Reflections on Current Events.....Deacon Steve
- .....

## WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

A new bible study by Karen Ehman is beginning on Tuesday mornings at 10:00. The name of the book is Keep It Shut - What to Say, How to Say it and When to Say Nothing at All. Come join us for this bible based study. Contact Jane Simmons if you have questions. [simmokjh@yahoo.com](mailto:simmokjh@yahoo.com); or text or call Jane at 918-557-0553. Thank you.

*~Jane Simmons*

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## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Following the summer break, the Children's Sunday school will resume in September. We ask parishioners to please consider signing up to teach during the fall season. Please contact the church office concerning curriculum and other details.

Your participation in this valuable ministry will be highly appreciated.

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## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

STUDENTS & TEACHERS - Bring your backpack (or whatever you use to manage your school supplies) to church at the 10:00 mass on August 12th so they can be blessed as you begin a new school year.

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

**The deadline for Grace Notes is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES AT GRACE

**“All the news that’s fit to print...”** *submitted by Tinika Bright*

“All the news that’s fit to print,” it’s the motto for one of the most famous newspaper companies, The New York Times. For two weeks of my summer, I attended The School of The New York Times (SONYT), a summer academy for all aspiring journalists, writers, photographers, and filmmakers. At the academy, you learn from the best of the best. From Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, from Tony Award-winning Directors, even from modern newer media companies like BuzzFeed.

But my main focus of the study was in Theatre. What makes a good show? How does a show start from a notebook and end up on Broadway stage? Why do some shows fail? How did musicals come to be? What’s the difference between a review and a criticism?

For two weeks I learned the ins and outs of theatre. I got the opportunity to talk to people like Oscar Eustis, the owner of the most popular off-broadway theatre, The Public Theatre. I talked to Michael Paulson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and the current threat reviewer for The New York Times. Lastly, I spoke to Jesse Green, a New York Times Critic. From each person, I learned something new about theatre. Things that solidified my love for the art itself.

Then the big day came. My class got to see the Broadway hit, Hamilton. The most raved about musical of the decade. Yes, it is an extremely expensive show to see (my ticket was \$500), but it was truly worth it. From the diverse cast, all the way down to the extraordinary lighting, every detail sent chills down my spine. Words cannot describe the magnificent art that is Hamilton.

But despite all the amazing learning experiences, the fellow teens I met really made this trip worthwhile. Teens from all over the world attended this academy. Teens from all different walks of life came together. Teens who have a passion for creating art of all forms. They are what made The School of New York Times, unlike any other summer academy, quite exceptional. It was so refreshing to have educated, respectful, debates with people my age without having to worry about anyone being offended. I got to explore the city of New York with some of the most insightful and creative teens on the planet. I made hundreds of memories with people with whom I know I will stay in contact perhaps forever. And for those of you worry about “how these technology-addicted teens will turn out,” don’t worry, we’ll be just fine.

The School of The New York Times is truly a life-changing experience that every young writer, filmmaker, photographer, and journalist should experience. It is an experience I will never forget. Thanks to my family, my friends, Grace Church members and all who support me.

It was worth the cost!

## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Well, it's back to school this month. We all get buried under our busy lives, sometimes. It's so easy to let some things take higher priority than they should. I would be among the first to plead "guilty". So here's something we can all do in a few minutes. In church I heard a lovely reminder to take that prayer list home and help pray for those listed there. It's a small thing, but prayer is so powerful and grows even more powerful when more voices are added. If you pray for those who are ill, pray for their doctors, too. If you prefer, send a card and a prayer to a friend on the list. Knowing someone is praying for you is a powerful thing as well.

"I lift my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?  
My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth."  
Psalms 121:1-2

*~For His Sake, Cheryl Happ*

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## DO YOU LOVE GRACE CHURCH?

Do you leave worship services with your spirit uplifted? Are you inspired to do God's work in the world? Do you enjoy seeing your friends at Grace? Do you love the beautiful worship space?

Do you love it when your kids and grandkids visit? Are you one of the lucky ones to have your kids and grandkids live in Ponca and worship with you frequently? Are you proud of our young people and inspired by their dedication? Are you glad that we have educational opportunities for adults and children alike?

On a larger scale, does it make you feel good when you hear about the outreach projects that come from Grace Church to our community? Are you proud to be an Episcopalian?

Reflect on these questions- and here's another one: what can I do to join my fellow parishioners in strengthening Grace Church for future generations?

The answer to that question lies in our legacy program, Everlasting Grace. Whether it's a current gift, or a future one, there are many ways to join this effort. There's a way for EVERYONE to participate. Contact the Parish Office at 765-7609 to ask questions or set up a visit to discuss.

## HYMN OF THE MONTH

“As longs the deer for cooling streams”, hymn 658, is a paraphrase of Psalm 42:1-7. Words are from the “New Version of the Psalms of David” published in 1696. This tune was originally in duple time and composed by cobbler and sundial-maker Hugh Wilson. In 1824 it was put in the present form through Robert A. Smith's “Sacred Music Sung at St. George's Church, Edinburgh” with the name “Martyrdom”. It has the strong flavor of Scottish folk song, which gives it a general similarity to American folk hymns like “Amazing Grace”.

As longs the deer for cooling streams  
in parched and barren ways,  
so longs my soul, O God, for thee  
and thy refreshing grace.

For thee, my God, the living God,  
my thirsty soul doth pine:  
O when shall I behold thy face,  
thou Majesty divine?

Why restless, why cast down, my soul?  
Hope still, and thou shalt sing  
the praise of him who is thy God,  
thy health's eternal spring.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
the God whom we adore,  
be glory, as it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

## CHOIR NEWS

Thank you to T. L Walker for playing for me on July 22 while I attended my family reunion in Missouri. Thanks also to the choirs for all the good singing this summer!

*~Jackie Saylor*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Farewell to Amparo Arechiga, Our Sexton**

Following many years of service, Amparo Arechiga has ended her time with us as sexton. This decision is due to the relocation of her family from Ponca City. Over the years, we have treasured her dedication and dependability and so we will miss her immensely as she had become an integral part of our parish family. The entire parish is very thankful to Amparo for a job well done in keeping the house of God in decent conditions for the services of God over these years. Our blessings go with her.

### **Thanks to Vick Purdy**

We like to also express thanks to Vicky Purdy for her services as our parish treasurer. Vicky's services to Grace Church have been quite invaluable, first as parish secretary and then as the treasurer. She has provided us nothing short of very high quality services. Our thanks to her for being there whenever we have needed her services.

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## SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

At the July Vestry meeting we approved the election of parishioner John Kramer as our new treasurer. His company JFK has been hired to do the accounting for the parish as well. We would like to thank Vicky Purdy for the excellent job she did serving as our Treasurer and wish her happiness in her retirement! Also we are in the process of interviewing for a new parish Sexton. Amparo Arechiga has decided to retire and move out of state. She has served us so well and faithfully for so many years and will be greatly missed. In the meantime the sexton duties are being covered by volunteers from the parish. Thank you so much for those who have stepped up to help us out in this time of need. Lastly, we also approved the vestry election of Nga Wells to fill the vacancy of Charlie O'Rear. We are very excited to have the talents and enthusiasm of Nga on the vestry. Nga will fill the position until the next congregational meeting in late January or early February. Also we would like to thank Charlie for his outstanding service to the vestry and the parish. He will be greatly missed!

*~Richard Winterrowd*

## END OF MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT

On July 18, 2018, I announced to the vestry and to the Grace Church family that I had accepted a call to serve as rector of a parish in Florida. I therefore requested to end my ministry with Grace Church. The vestry did honor my request and so my ministry as rector of Grace Church will officially end on August 31, 2018. My closing services here will be on Sunday August 12, 2018. My family and I wish to thank all of you for the five years that God united us in ministry and we ask God's blessings on the continuing ministry of Grace Church.

*~Fr. Bright*

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## GIFT SHOP NEWS

DON'T PUT IT OFF !!!

This is the month to check out your red Grace Church official tee shirt. This will allow enough time to receive a new order if your size is sold out. You will be wanting to wear this shirt to the annual picnic and other activities coming up this fall.

E.C.W. appreciates your patronage as the purchase of gifts and cards and cookbooks helps us support our church's needs and community outreach. We strive to be a convenient source of your devotional gifts and various greeting cards.

Jane or Joan will be at the Gift Shop counter immediately following the Sunday and Wednesday services even though the cookies and drinks are now being served in the Parrish Hall. You may also phone us for a special appointment if a need arises. We are always anxious to help you with your shopping needs.

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

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## MASS ON THE GRASS

We are beginning to plan for our annual Mass on the Grass service and picnic. This year, it is scheduled for Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am. Please consider inviting your family, friends and neighbors to this unique time of worship and refreshments.



## ECW NEWS

- ❖ We will probably have our fall rummage sale in September. The garage is bursting with stuff!! Date of sale will be announced.
- ❖ We are now having after church fellowship in the Parish Hall. With chairs available, we have more time to visit. Please consider bringing treats -- either homemade or store-bought. I would really appreciate your help!
- ❖ Our cookbooks are THE BEST!! Buy a few and keep them on hand for impromptu gifts. They will really be appreciated!
- ❖ We plan to have lunch at Click's in August. We look forward to having the men join us for this outing.

~*Marcia Davis*

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**THANK YOU** to Father Dee and Grace Episcopal Parish:

My heart is so full of gratitude for my church family. My whole world has been turned upside down but with all the love and friends in our church – I will find my way back.

Thank you for the outpouring of love put out from there on the day of Everette's funeral. I know how much work goes into a big funeral. All the workers in the kitchen, the bulletins – made by the secretary, the beautiful music, the choir, the altar guild, cleaning the building, mowing the yard, the wonderful little acolytes – We put on a beautiful tribute.

All I can say is Thank you, thank you, thank you. My family and I are so grateful to you all.

~*Sincerely, Sonja Van Hoesen*

Be sure to check the Grace Church web page to:  
Stay Informed - Find Calendars & Grace Notes  
and to make donations through PayPal.  
**[www.gracechurchponcacity.org](http://www.gracechurchponcacity.org)**

## AUGUST ALTAR FLOWERS

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

- Aug. 5 **Linda & Glenn Cassity** in thanksgiving for the birthdays of their granddaughter, Grace and their grandson Trey.
  - Aug. 12 **Anne & Edward Gay** in loving memory of his parents, Patricia J. and Richard Gay, and his grandfather, George M. Jacques.
  - Aug. 19 **Bruce Evans** in loving memory of his father, Jerry Evans and his son, Thomas Evans.
  - Aug. 26 **Pat Evans** in loving memory of her husband, Jerry Evans and her grandson Thomas Evans.
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## AUGUST SANCTUARY LAMP CANDLE

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

- Aug. 5 open
  - Aug. 12 **Judy & Steve McGuire** in thanksgiving on their wedding anniversary, for their children and grandchildren.
  - Aug. 19 open
  - Aug. 26 **Dorothy Buck** in thanksgiving for the birthday of her granddaughter, Paloma Sophia Buck.
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**Available dates for the altar flowers are as follows:**

August 5, 12 & 19, September 9 & 30,  
October 21, November 25, December 23 & 30.

**Available dates for the sanctuary lamp are as follows:**

August 19 and December 30.

To request an available date for 2018 for the flowers, or to make any changes in the current schedule, please contact Cynthia Winterrowd at: [cynthia.winterrowd@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.winterrowd@gmail.com) or 580-761-0415.

## Dates to Remember

## AUGUST

### BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dorothy Buck
- 3 John Happ
- 4 Nancy Mayfield
- 4 Alfred Smith
- 7 Karter Hines
- 7 Justin Rumford
- 7 Marissa (Schmauch) Womble
- 8 Laura Hines
- 10 Cheryl Happ
- 15 Tommy Chestnutt
- 16 Ann Bowman
- 20 Darryl Harris
- 21 Kim Taber
- 21 Elizabeth Webster
- 21 Nga Wells
- 24 Burton Roberts
- 26 Jannie Ross
- 28 T.J. Falls
- 28 Jane Luetke
- 28 Deacon Steve Mallory

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Paul & Marcia Davis
- 21 Casey & Amber Orr
- 24 Steve & Judy McGuire

August 2018						
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	29	30	31	

*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!*

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE YOUTH

The Youth Group will be going to a Toby Mac Concert and a fun day at Frontier City on August 18th. All youth interested in going need to contact Darelyn by August 8th.

There will be a pizza and movie night on Friday August 3rd at 6:30 pm.