

Regularly scheduled activities are currently suspended.
Details are provided in the letter below.



Grace Notes

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

Volume 2020 No. 4

April 2020

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



EDITOR'S NOTE: At the time April Grace Notes was written and assembled, all of us were in the dark about what the weeks and months ahead would hold. We have made our best effort to provide information but please be patient with the uncertainty and double check any activities that might change as we move forward. Thank you.....T.L

Dear Grace Church members,

Based on recent communication from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, we have been instructed to extend our time period of suspending services until after Easter. That takes us to the middle of April, and of course we don't know what will come after that.

It's important that we remember that even though we are not able to gather for worship, we are still a family. We will regularly communicate with everyone by email, Facebook, phone, and in person when desired. We're still in the process of determining what method(s) of communication work best for each parishioner.

At this time, we are planning to live stream some services via Facebook Live. These videos can be accessed without a Facebook account, and can be watched at any time after they are posted. We will keep you informed about these services.

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It's important that we provide spiritual resources for our congregation as well as physical resources. Messages from Bishop Curry, Bishop Ed, Father Bill, and Deacon Steve will be shared as they are available. Our desire is not to bombard you with messages, but to be sure you are updated and have tools you need.

The Book of Common Prayer is an amazing resource. If you don't have a copy at home, you can access it online at www.bcponline.org. Of course, there are many sources for the Bible online, in any translation you love. The familiar words of scripture and prayer are such a comfort in difficult times.

Please follow the health care guidelines as rolled out and updated periodically by the authorities. There are many in our congregation who should stay in, but also many who are able to help them with their daily needs. We're all in this together for as long as it takes. If you have any kind of need, please communicate with a fellow parishioner who will be able to either help or find someone who can. Another request - if you normally put your pledge payment in the offering plate, this might be a good time to put it in the mail! Thanks for being conscious of that.

Those in our congregation who would like to receive Holy Communion at home will be able to do that. Please don't hesitate to ask.

We have some good news to share. Father Caleb Roberts and his wife Julie have made a quick trip to Ponca, and have bought a house! We are so excited to welcome them mid-June. Please pray that their transition time will go smoothly. Thanks be to God!

In the meantime, Father Bill is advising us and contributing to our plan for the closure time. We are so grateful to have had the Martins during our interim period.

Find the joy in every day- it's there! This Lent is one we will never forget. Keep connected and pray, pray, pray! God is with us.

All for now, stay well.

Your Grace Church Leadership

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT GRACE

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

April 5 TBA

April 12 TBA

April 19 TBA

April 26 TBA

Plans are being made for the adult forum to be available online. Please watch for details via email.

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY

Suspended until further notice.

The Tuesday morning Bible Study continues a Lenten study and everyone is welcome to attend. We meet at 10:00 in the adult Sunday school room.

Contact Jane Simmons at 918-557-0553 or the church office if you have any questions. Thank you.

~Jane Simmons

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Youth Sunday School is under the direction of Judy Branch and Marsha Orr and 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.

NURSERY

We are pleased to now have a regular attendant in the nursery for the convenience of our parishioners and visitors at the 9:00 adult forum and the 10:00 worship service on Sunday mornings. We appreciate all those who have volunteered for this duty in recent months.

DOK

Greetings and Peace,

Your Daughters of the King are praying for our Parish Family, especially during this world-wide crisis. God's Blessings to you all.

Our Bingo Party at Golden Villa was so much fun! The patrons there always look forward to our visit and enjoy themselves very much.

Thank you all for the very generous donations of Polyfill Stuffing for Hospice Bears. They were very grateful for our generosity.

This month, we are collecting items for the Child Development Center. They have many needs! But we have decided to focus on some of their top items. We are collecting wipes, play dough, Goldfish (or other snacks - individually wrapped is best), and/or juice boxes.

Thank you all for your generosity and support. Please remember we are praying for you. Pray for us as well.

Go with God and be prayerful always,

*For His Sake
Cheryl Happ*

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STEWARDSHIP

Hello all. Tis the season for taxes! Remember to report the actual amount you donated to Grace in 2019 when you file your taxes. And if you are fortunate enough to receive a return, remember your stewardship pledge. This is a great way to take care of those pledges for 2020. May we all need to file for that means we actually made money!!! There is always a silver lining if we look hard enough, even when it comes to taxes! LOL.

Nga Wells - Stewardship Chair

ATTENTION USHERS & GREETERS – APRIL 26th - 2:30 pm

A meeting will be held Sunday, April 26th at 2:30 pm in the parish hall. This meeting is open for all ushers, greeters and anyone wishing to help in this ministry. We are in need of help especially at the 10:00 am service. Please attend we have some new material to discuss.

Thanks, Raymond Ham

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FRIENDSHIP FEAST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

The annual Friendship Feast Fundraiser that usually happens in April has been postponed. Please watch and listen for details which we will share as they become available.

Friendship Feast is an important part of our outreach program so we want to support this effort.

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PASTORAL CARE

As the Vestry Pastoral Care Chairman, Dorothy Buck makes frequent visits to homebound parishioners. She also sends numerous greeting cards each month.

If you would like to be part of this effort please contact Dorothy with your offer of help.

Additionally, I would just encourage parishioners to call anyone they think would like to hear a friendly voice. Now, we are all realizing how it feels to be homebound.

Marcia Davis
(Pastoral Care Committee member)

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Hymn 179, “Welcome Happy Morning” (or “Fortunatus”) is well known to us all. The words, translated from the poem by Venantius Fortunatus (circa 546-600), were written in honor of the baptism of the newly converted Saxons by Felix, Bishop of Nantes, at an Easter Vigil. They speak of the celebration of the awakening of nature in Spring, welcome to the Easter Day, and prayer to Christ. This text, paired with music by Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900), was the traditional Easter opening hymn for many Episcopal congregations until replaced by the setting by Vaughan Williams with a later translation (hymn 175, “Hail Thee Festival Day”).

(Interesting note: Arthur Sullivan, in collaboration with W. S. Gilbert, wrote many operettas, including “The Pirates of Penzance”).

“Welcome, happy morning!” age to age shall say;
hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!
Lo! the dead is living, God for evermore!
Him their true Creator, all his works adore!
“Welcome, happy morning!” age to age shall say.

Earth her joy confesses, clothing her for spring,
all fresh gifts returned with her returning King:
bloom in every meadow, leaves on every bough,
speak his sorrow ended, hail his triumph now.
“Welcome, happy morning!” age to age shall say.

Months in due succession, days of lengthening light,
hour and passing moments praise thee in their flight.
Brightness of the morning, sky and fields and sea,
Vanquisher of darkness, bring their praise to thee.
“Welcome, happy morning!” age to age shall say.

Maker and redeemer, life and health of all,
thou from heaven beholding human nature's fall,
of the Father's Godhead true and only Son,
mankind to deliver, manhood didst put on.
“Welcome, happy morning!” age to age shall say.

Thou, of life the author, death didst undergo,
tread the path of darkness, saving strength to show;;
come then, true and faithful, now fulfill thy word,
'tis thine own third morning! Rise, O buried Lord!
“Welcome, happy morning!” age to age shall say.

Loose the souls long prisoned, bound with Satan's chain;
all that now is fallen raise to life again;
show thy face in brightness, bid the nations see;
bring again our daylight: day returns with thee!
“Welcome, happy morning!” age to age shall say.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

During this quiet time in our building, we continue to do repairs and updates as needed. The church yard is starting to look like spring, which is a welcome pick-me-up right now!

We have some very old heat/air equipment that has long passed its expiration date. It is being replaced this week. We have patched it a number of times, and have heeded our HVAC professional's advice to go ahead and spring for new.

You may have noticed when the Bishop was here that the damaged panel in the reredos screen behind the altar has been repaired. With Jackie Saylor's help we were able to obtain one bolt of the matching fabric. Richard Winterrowd and Jamie and Charlie Wells fixed the worst of it. We have enough fabric to do another panel, and are ordering more so that we can replace the entire lower section. This fabric had deteriorated over time, and continued to split and shred. We were concerned that this might be a very expensive project if we needed to contract the labor out. A huge thanks to those who stepped up to do the repairs!

We have parishioners who lovingly care for our buildings as they see the need, often unknown to anyone but God. Many thanks!

Marsha Moore



We may not be able to be together to celebrate Easter but the promise of Christ's resurrection and our salvation through his sacrifice is real and should be celebrated.

In that way, we are bound together by the spirit.



PERIPATETIC PARISHIONERS

Worship bulletins have been received from:

Marcia Davis

Christ the King Episcopal Church
Humble, Tx.

*Remember to take your
bulletins to the Parish Office.*

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



NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are so excited to tell you we are going to put together a Pictorial Directory.

We are praying for a good participation in this project because we believe it will help our new Priest that will be coming in June.

The dates will be May 5th and 6th from 2pm till 9m for the pictures and we can start our sign up anytime. Also if you are not in town at that time, please furnish me with a picture to be included in the directory.

Since we will not be attending church until sometime in April, please call me with any questions or to get a time scheduled for your pictures. Pat's cell number is 580-716-0733 and her email is iphoward1952@yahoo.com

We are very excited about the new directory and look forward to hearing from everyone. Prayers and hugs to all.

Pat Howard, Pam Blezer & Ann Armstrong



CHOIR NEWS

I miss you all! Stay healthy!

Jackie Saylor

ECW NEWS

- ❖ A big thank you to all who helped earn the rummage sale total of almost \$2500.00. Although the total doesn't equal past sales, it is money we didn't have before. A good portion of that total was due to the sale of the John Deere riding lawn mower which sold for \$1000!! Clean-up on Saturday was completed in one half hour thanks to so many helping hands. Thanks!! Special thanks to Sonja Van Hoesen for loaning her truck and trailer and to Glenn Cassity for making the arrangements, driving it and to all the men who helped unload the trailer.
- ❖ ECW had planned to sponsor a Mother/Daughter Tea on April 4. Considering the directive from Bishop Ed, we have decided to postpone the Tea to a later date to be announced.
- ❖ I am delighted with the drawings submitted for our church coloring book. I am still awaiting some from the Hines family, Richard Winterrowd and myself. We will make a small coloring book for church visitors along with the complete coloring book for the Sunday School children. Each drawing will be accompanied by a written description. The children will color them and then find their location in our church - educational and fun! There have been requests for single copies to be framed. If anyone else would like to submit drawings of items in church, I would love to have them.

Stay well! Marcia Davis

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If you need an item from the gift shop, please contact the church office and Treva will contact someone to help you.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Easter Sunday is April 12th. You can shop for Easter cards and little surprise gifts to add to your Easter baskets. You might try out a new recipe from our cookbook before Easter so you can treat family and friends. The cookbooks are still on sale for 2 for \$ 25.00 . We will see you soon.

Carol, Pat & Jane

APRIL ALTAR FLOWERS

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

- Apr. 5 **PALM SUNDAY** - no flowers
- Apr. 9 **MAUNDY THURSDAY** - White Flowers given by members of St. Martha's Guild in loving memory of departed members.
- Apr. 12 **EASTER** - Lilies donated by the congregation.
- Apr. 19 **Marsha & Jerry Orr** in thanksgiving for the birthday of their granddaughter, Gracie Ann Orr; and by **Lynda & Guy Clark** in thanksgiving for the birthdays of their grand-daughters, Peyton & Kate.
- Apr. 26 **Ponca City Federated Music Club** in thanksgiving for use of the Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall as a practice facility.
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APRIL SANCTUARY LAMP CANDLE

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

- Apr. 5 **Vicki & Deacon Steve Mallory** in loving memory of his father, Ira Mallory and her mother, Helen Taylor.
- Apr. 12 **Linda & Glenn Cassity** in thanksgiving for their grandchildren.
- Apr. 19 open
- Apr. 26 **Ann Armstrong** in thanksgiving for the birthday of her daughter, Ashley Armstrong.
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Available dates for the altar flowers are as follows:

May 31, June 7, August 2, 9, 16 & 30

October 18 and November 15.

Available dates for the sanctuary lamp are as follows:

April 19, May 31 & November 29

To request an available date for 2019 for the flowers or lamp, 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

APRIL

BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Al Moore
- 6 Skyelin Longoria
- 7 Emmi Lockard
- 8 Pat Howard
- 9 Sharla Lambring
- 10 Marjorie Dew
- 17 Jackie Saylor
- 19 Kenny Hines
- 22 Jennifer Swords
- 23 Jaclyn Stevenson
- 26 Gracie Orr
- 27 Pacen Seney
- 28 Ashley Rumford
- 29 Raegan Bennett
- 29 Bien Wells
- 30 Linda Yant

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Mike & Paula Crisp
- 20 Justin & Jamie Wohletz
- 30 Jim & Kelly Foster

April 2020						
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		

*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!*

Corporation Board meeting will be
April 29, Wednesday, at 8:00 a.m.

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.