

# Parish News for the week of April 22

Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church.

We are glad you are worshipping with us today!

## **SUNDAY MORNINGS AT GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

### **Sunday School for Children, 9:15, 3rd floor**

Join us as we continue our journey through the Bible/with *The Path*.  
Ages 3 to 5th grade

### **Youth @ Sweet Treats, 9:30**

*Called through Faith* with Holly Pickett and Susan Cross. Each session examines a call from God to people living in the world in the past and today. Each person answers the call in a different way, but not without struggles, difficulties, and conflict. We are also faced with struggle, difficulty, and conflict in an ever increasingly secular world. We are called as Christians in the world and to respond to God's call to live out the promises of our Baptismal Covenant.

### **Christianity and Culture, Parish Hall, 9:15**

#### **What is the Church? One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic in the Beginning, in the Middle, Now**

April 29-May 20, The nature of taking as its cue the four adjectives for the Church in the Nicene Creed. What has it meant for Christians through the ages to be one, to be holy, to be catholic, to be apostolic? Devoting one Sunday to each term, Alexandra Brown, as a New

Testament scholar, will lecture on the early Church, Ed Craun, as a medievalist, will lecture on the Church in the late Middle Ages, and the group will discuss the Church here and how. What does it mean for us as members of Grace Church, of the Episcopal Church, and of the Anglican Communion in 2018 to be one, holy, catholic, and apostolic?

All parishioners are invited to participate.

### **Lectio Divina, 9:15, Canterbury Room**

Lectio Divina has been used by Christians since the third century and helps us come to God with our whole body and whole mind. It involves a structured response to the reading of a passage of Scripture and we will be using the Gospel for each Sunday. We will be learning to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit, the teacher promised by Christ. You just need to bring yourself and a desire to grow in the light of Christ.

### **Become an Acolyte, Chalice, Greeter, Lay Reader, or Usher**

Grace Episcopal Church is looking for parishioners who would like to serve during weekly services (For Acolytes: especially adults who are willing to serve at the altar). If you are interested in learning more, there is a sign up sheet on the bridge. You can also call Lisa in the Parish Office or email [lisa@graceepiscopallexington.org](mailto:lisa@graceepiscopallexington.org) for information on how you can help!

We would love for you to join the team of dedicated people we have serving our Parish Family.

### **From Bishop Mark**

Throughout 2018 Bishop Mark and members of the Diocesan staff will be spending focused time in the Convocations of the Diocese in the form of two and three day mid-week residencies as a way to foster ministry, give support, and worship together. We will be in the **Augusta Convocation** from **April 24th to April 26th** meeting with clergy as well as some vestries and parish leaders. If your parish has a question or an issue you would like to share with your Diocesan staff please let Canon Jonathan Harris know.

### **Rhythms of Grace Sunday, April 29, 2:00 pm**

Grace Episcopal Church Parish Hall *Rhythms of Grace* is an alternative worship service for children and families with special needs. A *Rhythms of Grace* service combines storytelling, arts and crafts, therapeutic play and a celebration of Holy Communion. This service can provide a space for families to come to church and participate without being disruptive in a traditional worship service. Sharon Massie, Program Director at Grace Episcopal Church will lead this service. The Rev. Dr. James Hubbard will celebrate Holy Eucharist. If you would like to be a part of this service or for more information about Rhythms of Grace, please contact Sharon Massie [sharon@graceepiscopallexington.org](mailto:sharon@graceepiscopallexington.org) Please pass this information along.

### **Cantate Children's and Youth Choir Sunday, April 29, 2018 5:00 pm Grace Episcopal Church, Lexington**

Cantate Children's and Youth Choir will present a concert at Grace Episcopal Church on Sunday, April 29 at 5:00 PM. Cantate Children's and Youth Choir is an organization dedicated to bringing quality choral music to the children and youth of Lynchburg and the surrounding area. Peggy Haas Howell is the Music Director and Conductor of this community choir of thirty-two boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 18, and Elizabeth Wilkinson is the Assistant Director and Accompanist. Music of many styles and traditions is sung, from Renaissance madrigals, to folk music of many traditions, to newly composed works. Most music is sung in parts, and performed in the original languages. A generous grant from the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust funds scholarships. This is Cantate's 25<sup>th</sup> season! Cantate's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spring Concert will take place at St. John's Episcopal Church, Lynchburg, on May 6, at 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit [CantateChoir.net](http://CantateChoir.net). In many respects this will be a preview of that special concert. The Spring Concert will include the first song that Cantate singers rehearsed and performed 25 seasons ago: "Velvet Shoes" by Randall Thompson. Featured will be Gabriel Fauré's "Messe basse", conducted by former Cantate director, Gordon Betenbaugh. Other musical pieces to be performed are Paul Ayers' exciting "Music to Hear", settings of African-American Spirituals, songs on Edward Lear nonsense poems, folk songs about house work, and songs about love. Cantate alumni are invited to join the present ensemble of Cantate singers in singing several of the pieces. The concert will close with a Cantate favorite, Bob Chilcott's lovely "Irish Blessing"

### **Annual Spring Clean-up**

Come help spruce up the grounds of the church at our Annual Spring Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 5 at 9a.m. Everyone is welcome! We will pick up fallen sticks, rake, weed and sweep. Bring your own tools and gloves. Refreshments will be provided. Your Property Committee thanks you!

### **Pews Available**

There are several old pews that have been in storage for a long time. The vestry has decided these can be offered to the congregation in exchange for a \$100 donation. They will be in the Parish Hall for your inspection until Saturday, May 5. If you would like to have one, please call the church office to indicate your interest. (These are for your personal use, not for resale.) On May 5 at 12 PM, a drawing will be held to match a name with each pew. One of the pews is in significantly worse condition than the others and it will require greater repair, so will be last in the drawing. The pews will be delivered to successful participants after the drawing. Those who are successful should send their donation to the church office in a sealed envelope marked "pew donation".

### **ECW Coffee Morning at Kendal**

Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 8 at 10 a.m. for a coffee morning in the restaurant at Kendal to honor all Grace Episcopal Church women living there. All women of the church are invited for goodies, conversation, and a pleasant morning. Please bring finger food if you wish, savory or sweet, and join us for this annual tradition.

### **Grace and Reconciliation Weekend May 12 and 13, 2018**

A weekend of healing and reconciliation for our Parish Family will be held Saturday, May 12, 9 am to 4 pm and Sunday, May 13. Combined Service at 9:30 am. Saturday's session will be led by Father James, our interim rector, Brother Scott Borden and Brother John Forbis. The Brothers are members of the Anglican Benedictine Community of Holy Cross Monastery, located in West Park, New York. The monks will lead us in morning and afternoon prayers and they will conduct quiet and reflective meditations on healing and reconciliation. Lunch will be served. There is no charge to attend. Our Bishop, Mark Bourlakas, has urged us to take time to seek healing and peace in order to move forward. The events planned for this weekend are designed to assist us with that purpose. Brother John will preach at the combined Sunday Service. The service will be a Service of the Holy Eucharist, Healing, and Reconciliation. A reception will follow the Service in the Parish Hall. Please let us know you are coming so we can plan lunch. Sign up at the sign up table or contact the church office.

### United Thank Offering 2018 Spring Ingathering – May 13

Blessings to all you constant supporters of the United Thank Offering at biannual spring and fall ingatherings here at Grace Episcopal. Blessings and welcome also to newcomers or parishioners who have yet to participate in this long-cherished vital arm of mission in the Episcopal Church.

In no way does UTO compete with our parish's ECW fund raiser **Pocket Change 4 Change** to support community outreach. Certainly this initiative for local mission applies the essence of UTO's new tag line **"Our change changes lives"** and deserves our attention and response. Dropping coins into the collection box on the bridge is good reminder to match those added to your UTO Blue Box at home with a prayer of thanksgiving for the joyful opportunity to help others less fortunate than we. UTO, however, is not a fund raiser. It is simply an outward sign of the inward grace of thankfulness, a daily spiritual discipline to focus on God's boundless blessings in our lives. Every cent of UTO offerings at ingatherings, no matter how small or large, miraculously through God's grace combined with others in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia and then with those from all other dioceses, makes possible annual UTO grant awards for mission, domestic and foreign.

Our community and diocese over the past decade have been fortunate recipients of such awards; and, despite recent decreases in funds available, the UTO Board presses on with the challenge of deciding on grants. With that in mind, let us pray for God's blessings on Grace Episcopal's UTO grant application this year. This parish has been among our diocesan leaders in support of the United Thank Offering since records began in 1938. Thankful people are generous, and our day-by-day offerings and devotions of gratitude practiced in the comfort of our homes really do **"widen the circle of thankful people."** Even if you don't remember that former UTO tag line, remember your Blue Box and be ready for the Spring Ingathering on May 13.

You'll be happy you did.

In thanksgiving, Julia Littlefield, Parish UTO Coordinator

### The Abundant Life Garden Project Community VBS, June 4-8

VBS will be held at Lexington Presbyterian Church, 120 S. Main Street, Lexington 9 to noon. Ages 4 to rising 6th graders. Good Shepherd Lutheran, Grace Episcopal, Lexington Presbyterian, Manley Memorial Baptist and Trinity Methodist Churches are partnering this year to offer a community Vacation Bible School. Our Abundant Life Garden Project will engage children with Bible stories, crafts, music and activities focused on water, seeds, soil, and harvest. During our time together we will celebrate our call to care for the earth and each other as members of God's world-wide family. Helping us with hands-on projects will be staff from Boxerwood Nature Center. Special activities include mini-action trips to a local community garden, the Farmer's Market and Woods Creek. Teachers and teen volunteers are needed! Contact Sharon Massie (sharon@graceepiscopallexington.org) for more information Online Registration Form

<https://smassie.wufoo.com/forms/community-vbs-2018/>

### First Baptist Church Installation Services For The Reverend McKinley Anthony Williams, Pastor Elect Sunday, April 29, First Baptist Church, 103 North Main Street, Lexington

Guest Preachers: 11:00am Pastor Preston H. Drinks, Second Baptist Church of NYC and 4:30pm Dr. A. Lincoln James, Jr., Trinity Baptist Church of Richmond. Dinner served after morning worship. Theme: "A Shepherd with a Vision for God's People" Proverbs 29:18 and Jeremiah 3:15. All are welcome to attend!

### Meals for Shut-ins Urgently Needs Drivers

Meals for Shut-ins, a registered, non-governmental charity which was founded in this parish, delivers a hot noon meal to people in Lexington who can no longer cook for themselves. Each weekday five drivers carry 35-40 meals from the hospital to homes or apartments on separate routes, each concentrated in one area of town and involving 5-12 meals. Several volunteer drivers have recently become unable to continue driving each week for reasons of health or age. Please consider taking up a route on one weekday (11:15-12:00 or so), either by yourself or with another person; this is a good way to meet people from various social and economic backgrounds. If you have questions, ask one of the drivers from our church: Susan Cross, Ed and Marlys Craun, the Hotchkiss family, Julia Grossman, Frank Settle--a much smaller number than in the past. Please contact Tom Jones at [jonest@wlu.edu](mailto:jonest@wlu.edu) if you are willing to serve

### Fellowship

Coffee (Lemonade) Hour after the 10:30 am service is a tradition that everyone in the congregation enjoys each week! It's a time to relax after the service, enjoy some refreshment, and catch up with friends after a busy week. It's a vital part of our fellowship here at Grace Church. Helpers are needed to host and provide refreshments after services. The expense, time and effort are minimal, especially if you host with a friend or a group, or church committee! I hope you will consider making coffee hour part of your contribution to the life of the parish. It is a fun and greatly appreciated way to give back to the community! Contact Susan Lawrence at [bighilllex@gmail.com](mailto:bighilllex@gmail.com), H 464-5797, or Cell 461-6435 or sign up on the Bridge after the service!

This Week		
Mon	9:00 AM	Sudan Mission Group
Tues	7:00 AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast
	3:45 AM	Godly Play
	6:30 PM	EFM
	4:00 PM	Jr. Choir

### **Thank you**

The ECW would like to thank Jerry Nay for building the collection box for their fund raising initiative "Pocket Change for Change". Thanks also to those who have made a contribution! The box will be on the table on the bridge each Sunday and moved to the office during the week. Your continued support is appreciated.

### **Undercroft Construction Update**

The Undercroft demolition is completed. The requirements of the fire marshal call for sheet rock to be installed in all of the ceiling of the Undercroft. This can only be done after the existing HVAC duct work is removed. Only after the new drywall is installed can the new duct work be installed. This will mean several weeks of only partial heat in the Church. Our contractor, Pat Hennis has agreed to work one side at a time so there will be limited heat rather than no heat. The timing seems excellent since the work should be finished before we really need air conditioning. We believe that lack of some heat now is better than lack of A/C later. Extra support has been added in the new Sacristy and for the new handicap restroom in the red door room. We are meeting to discuss the finish schedule and to review a first draft of a plan for the Sacristy cabinets. A follow up meeting will be held to give options to the altar guild and flower guild once we know some construction parameters and some cost limitations.

**Kendal Bible Study and Holy Eucharist with Fr. James on Thursdays, at 10:00.**

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