



## GRACE NOTES

April 26, 2018

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*“Grace Notes” is a weekly newsletter to inform people of upcoming events and activities for the week. For more information, please check the website or contact the office. Thank you.*

### *Love God. Love others. Change the World.*

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Diane and I deeply appreciate all the love and care, the gifts and the cards, the hugs and the sharing that has taken place over the last week. The music, the video and food were great! We are grateful for the outpouring and overwhelmed by your love and generosity! We always knew Grace Church knows how to share a party and you did it again! From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

So often, we don't know what difference we make in a person's life, but many of you have shared with us over the past few weeks. The Church is about making a difference in people's lives, and we are grateful to hear we have had an effect on the lives of so many of you. We will carry so many memories of all of you forward in our next phase of life's journey. You have affected our lives as well!

I met this past week with the Bishop and other retiring and retired clergy. We shared some thoughts that I will share with you. It's a big change for both of us as we retire. We no longer have the wonderful community that we have been lucky to be part of all these years. Diane and I will be looking around, but that is a big change. We have laughed and cried together, ate and drank together, and so much more! That is nothing that can be duplicated.

When we retire, we don't stop being a priest. One of the things we will most miss is celebrating the Holy Eucharist. We priests need an altar to be at! For that reason, I have agreed to make myself available for supply and part-time work in the Diocese (no, I can't come back here to celebrate!). The other thing we have to do is let go of pastoral ties. I have told the wardens that I will be available for special services until an interim or the new rector are at Grace Church. Beyond that, it will be difficult for me to come back.

This is hard for me as well as you! In the future, the interim or the Rector will have to give permission for me to officiate a service at Grace Church. Please don't badger the next priest about having me here! Give the new clergy the wonderful chance to be your priest. Give them the privilege of being part of you as you have for me!

Diane and I have purchased a home in Cherry Hill. The rest of this year is going to be filled with moving, settling into the new home, visiting our grandson Freddie, Jennifer and Ira as often as possible, helping Sean and Jessica with their wedding plans in August, and dealing with Diane's aging and ill parents (many of you know what that's like). We would be happy to hear from you (but no complaints about the new priest! Go directly to them!). Our new address is 15 South Forge Lane, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002. Our e-mails and cell phones remain the same. Keep us posted of the life events that unfold for you.

Many of you have asked about keeping up with Sean and his plays. We will let the office know and they may post information on them. Sean started previews of “Hope and Gravity” at Plays & Players in Philly and opening night

is next Wednesday. He has a number of shows coming up this season and into next! We will also let you know how Jen, Ira and Freddie are getting along! They have been part of Grace Church too.

Please know that you are not only a good congregation, we think you are a great one! We encourage you to look for where God is leading you next. You have been a leader in the Diocese of New Jersey and Camden Convocation. We expect you to do even more! You are one of the most welcoming and inclusive Churches around. We hope you never lose that way. You know who Jesus is, God is at the center of your life, and you are reaching out into the community more and more. We challenge you to keep up this wonderful way of living the Christian life. You are especially welcoming to children ... and that makes a difference for you and them!

Sigh. I know there is more we can say, but that's enough for now. Diane, the kids and I have loved being here. Grace Church is a special place ... and the loved you have shared for us is important for the next priest who comes here! Know we pray for you, we love you and you have made a difference in our lives. Thank you staff, Vestry, volunteers ... everyone. May God continue to bless you, may Jesus be the model you follow, and may the Holy Spirit empower you to even greater and bigger ways of living out our faith!

With warmest regards, we remain, faithfully yours in Christ ... Diane, Jennifer, Ira, Freddie, Sean, Jessica and Fr. Pat

*OUR MISSION STATEMENT: GRACE is God's gift of unconditional love made known to us in Jesus Christ. Our vision is to live with grace as an open, welcoming community. In the pew and at the altar, we invite you to be part of our faith journey. No matter where you are, we will meet you there.*

*(GPH) Grace Performance Hall; (C) Church; (PH) Parish Hall; (P) Parlor; (L) Library; (U) Undercroft and (R) Rector's Office.*

### **THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES:**

- **Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**
  - 10 am, Bible Study Group
  - 7:30 pm, Adult Choir
  - 8:30 pm, Grace Speakers, AA Meeting (GPH)
- **Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**
  - 10 am – 4 pm, Thrift Shop
- **Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**
  - 10 am – 4 pm, Thrift Shop
  - **5:30 pm, Healing & Holy Communion (Fr. Pat) Fr. Pat's Last Saturday Night Service**

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 29<sup>th</sup> – 5 EASTER – Fr. Pat's Last Sunday**

- 8 am & 9:30 am, Healing & Holy Communion (Fr. Pat)
- Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:24-30; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8
- 10:45 am, Church School – “Thomas Cranmer & Friends”
- 11:45 am, St. Michael's Choir
- 6:30 pm, AA (PH)
- **Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**
  - 10 am, Staff
  - 7 pm, Haddonfield Council of Churches
- **Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**
  - Grace Church in Haddonfield's New Journey
  - 3 pm, Bishop's Spring Forum - Clergy, Grace Church, Merchantville
  - 7 pm, Bishop's Spring Forum – Laity, Grace Church, Merchantville

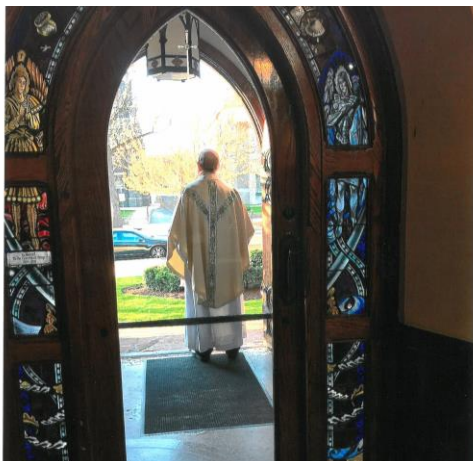
- 7 pm, Zumba
- Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - The Midweek Services will be discontinued until further notice

**COMING NEXT WEEK:**

- Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - 11 am – 7 pm, Rummage Sale (PH)
  - 8:30 am, National Day of Prayer Breakfast, 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church
  - 10 am, Bible Study Group (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)
  - 7:30 pm, Adult Choir
  - 8:30 pm, Grace Speakers, AA Meeting (GPH)
- Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>
  - 10 am – 4 pm, Thrift Shop
  - 12 – 5 pm, Flower Sale Pickup
- Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>
  - 7:30 am, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Breakfast Group
  - 9 am, Kids Alley Lunch Preparation
  - 9 am – 12 pm, Flower Sale Pickup
  - 10 am – 4 pm, Thrift Shop
  - 5:30 pm, Holy Communion (Fr. Bob)

**SUNDAY, MAY 6<sup>th</sup> – 6 EASTER**

- 8 am & 9:30 am, Holy Communion (Fr. Bob, Rev. Henrietta Lavengood)
- 9:30 am, Parish House Holy Communion (Fr. Bob)
- 8:45 & 10:45 am – Town Hall – “The Process & Where do we go from here?”
- 10:45 am, Church School – “Women Who Struggled for Freedom”
- 11:45 am, St. Michael’s Choir
- 6:30 pm, AA (PH)
- Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>
  - 10 am, Staff
  - 7:30 pm, Property Committee (L)
- Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>
  - 7 pm, Zumba
  - 7:30 pm, Adult Choir
- Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>
  - 8 pm, Running Club



(Photo by Jean Fischer)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please note that announcements will now appear in Grace Notes & the Newsletter. Announcements are only for events occurring this month. Future events may be listed in the newsletter. If you wish to include an announcement, please contact the Parish Office. Thanks!*



**ECW NEWS:** Start your spring cleaning now! St. Anne's/ECW will be holding their spring **Rummage Sale on Thursday, May 3 from 10 am to 7 pm.** We need lots of donations and volunteers! Whether you donate items, help sort the items as they come in, bake a cake or cookies, help out in the kitchen, and help with check-out of customers that day....you are important and needed! Men needed for security and for packing up at 7 pm for pick-up by Goodwill on Friday. Don't forget to pick-up your spring flower orders from noon -5 pm on May 4 and 9 am to noon on May 5. Any questions, please contact Gretchen Poliero, gretchensbaskets@ hotmail.com

**THRIFT SHOP INVITATION:** Grace Church Parishioners - Have you ever been down to Grace's Thrift Shop? I would like to invite any and all parishioners who have or have not donated to the Grace Thrift Shop to visit and see what is done with your donations . Even if you are not a "thrift shop" person, maybe your mother or your friend or neighbor is a fan of thrift and consignment shops, and you can bring them with you. If you would like to visit after the Sunday service, simply send me an email and I will be happy to give you a tour. Ellen Berntson – [ellenberntson@gmail.com](mailto:ellenberntson@gmail.com) or via phone – 609-405-3988 – either call or text.

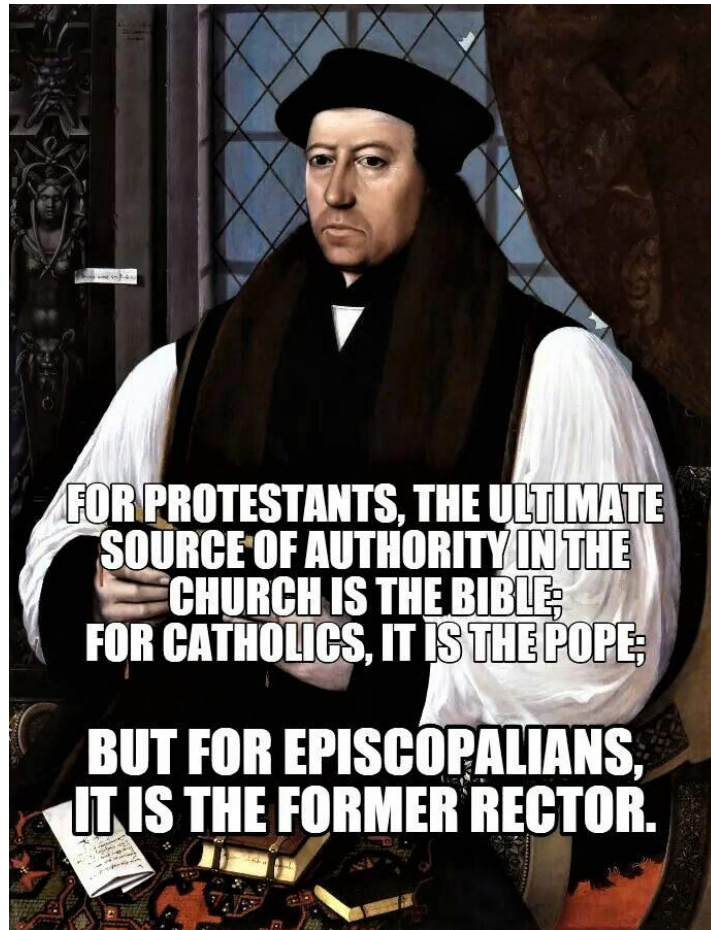


**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!** Register visit the "Christian Formation" page on the Grace Church website. Theme: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands!" Dates: July 9 – 13, 2018 Time: 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Cost: \$30.00 For ages 5 and up. There will be an adult Bible study available. Dinner will be served at from 5:30 pm – 6:15 pm every night!



**LOOKING AHEAD:** Please note these activities coming up later this month:

- April 28 – Healing Service & Fr. Pat's Last Saturday
- April 29 – Healing Service & Fr. Pat's Last Sunday
- May 3 – Rummage Sale
- May 6 – Transition Town Hall Meetings
- May 13 – Mothers' Day Brunch, UTO Deadline



**FOR PROTESTANTS, THE ULTIMATE  
SOURCE OF AUTHORITY IN THE  
CHURCH IS THE BIBLE;  
FOR CATHOLICS, IT IS THE POPE;  
BUT FOR EPISCOPALIANS,  
IT IS THE FORMER RECTOR.**

**A Bit of Humor From the Retiring Rector!**