

Grace Notes



February 2025

Grace Episcopal Church

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A Special Word from Our Bishop

"And Jesus said, 'Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"

~ Matthew 25:37-40

January 20, 2025

My Dear Siblings in Christ in the Diocese of Virginia:

I sit at my desk at the end of a momentous day; a day in which The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was remembered and celebrated across this nation and around the world, and a day in which this nation once again transferred authority from one democratically elected president to another.

Like many of you, I have watched and listened to speech after speech today, and public prayer after public prayer. I have been listening not just with the ears of an American citizen, but also with those of a disciple of Jesus, the Son of God. And while I am thankful for the safe and clear practices of democracy, I must say that I am troubled by much of what I heard in respect to how I am called to live as a follower of the One who defined power as love for others, and love as sacrifice of self-interest.

As Bishop and chief pastor of the Diocese of Virginia, I feel led to be direct about a couple of things in the days before us: First, every human being will be respected in our churches, regardless of race, creed, gender expression, nationality, or in any other category or classification of humanity. Every human being will be respected from our pulpits, in our pews, and through our ministries. Rhetoric in the public square that dehumanizes any person or group of people, or is designed to strike fear in people's hearts, is contrary to the gospel and is to be called out as such.

Further, we are to remember that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were themselves refugees (see Matthew 2:13ff), fleeing for their lives for a season. And, as Jesus points out without equivocation in Matthew 25, how we treat the stranger and those in need has a direct bearing on our relationship with God in heaven. Given these things, we must provide safety to the fearful and stand boldly against tyranny of speech or action.

And, I must say that the use of Christian language, or of any scriptural language, to advance a case that God values one nation in this day and time more than another is contrary to the gospel. For God so loved the world, not one people, that he sent Jesus to bring salvation.

My friends, Jesus is Lord – no one else. The Holy Spirit is the source of wisdom and comfort – not any political affiliation. Our Father in heaven is love and life – not any earthly ruler. We are the beloved of this God. All of us. And while none of us is worthy of that love, my prayer is that we do our best to honor it by our very lives.

Love Jesus. Embody justice. Be disciples. For we are the Diocese of Virginia.

Yours in Christ,



The Right Reverend E. Mark Stevenson, Bishop of Virginia

Treasurer's Report: December 2024 Data

Income in the month of December was \$9,706.86 (budget \$9,429.75); expenditures totaled \$11,118.47 (budget \$9,429.75), resulting in a loss for the month of \$1,411.61.

Book value of the Endowment Fund at the end of December was \$73,059.87; market value as of December 31 was \$80,242.40, a loss of \$1,312.46 for the month.

Please continue to pray for Grace Church that it will grow spiritually, financially and numerically. If you have any questions about this report or any financial matter, please contact me.

Judy Ball, Treasurer

A Word from Our Priest

My sisters and brothers,

I bring you greetings in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and ✠ of the Holy Spirit.

February 2nd is widely known as Ground Hog Day. By tradition if the ground hog sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter weather. If he does not see his shadow, an early spring is predicted. This observance is conducted with huge fanfare including people dressed in formal wear of tuxedos and top hats and the media reporting on the 6 and 11 o'clock news.

Within the church, however, February 2nd is the Presentation of Our Lord. It is forty days after Christmas, the birth of Jesus. Levitical law requires the presentation of the first-born male to God. It is a redemption ritual as God required all first born males to be redeemed through him. This requirement is the result of the first-born males that were lost during the Exodus. Remember this was the tenth plague. Jesus' parents are orthodox and they keep all the laws.

The Presentation of Our Lord occurs during the Epiphany season. Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as the Son of God, the Light of the World. It is because of this proclamation of Jesus as the light of the world that the church in the fourth century instituted *Candlemas*. All the candles to be used in the church during the year were blessed as a symbol of light. The church also gave a candle to the congregation to use at home during their daily prayers.

This year The Presentation of Our Lord happens to fall on a Sunday. We will have the blessing of candles at Sunday service and a candle will be given to each one to take home. On a personal note, The Presentation of Our Lord was my first Mass as a priest. **

The peace of the Lord is always with us,



Fr. Michael B. Guy Sr., S.T.S. ✠



** Fr Michael's celebrated his first Mass in 1999 at St. Mark's in Baltimore, MD

February Calendar

- Feb 2 Sunday Service, 9am Grace
- Feb 4 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
- Feb 5 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
- Feb 7 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
- Feb 8 Sew What at 9:30am, the Parish Hall
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- Feb 9 Sunday Service, 9am Grace
- Feb 11 Soup Kitchen at 10am, the Parish Hall  
Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's  
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
- Feb 12 Center Lunch at 12pm, the Parish Hall
- Feb 14 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall  
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- Feb 16 Sunday Service, 9am at Grace
- Feb 18 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
- Feb 19 Center Lunch 12 noon, Parish Hall
Vestry Meeting at 3pm, Family Center
- Feb 21 Yoga at 10am, the Parish Hall
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- Feb 23 Sunday Service, 10am at Grace
- Feb 25 Bible Study at 1pm, Betsy Anderson's  
Yoga at 4pm, the Parish Hall
- Feb 26 Center Lunch at 12pm, Parish Hall
- Feb 28 Yoga at 10am, Parish Hall  
Casanova Book Club, 12 noon, TBD  
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*Just around the corner: Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Dinner at IHOP Warrenton
March 4th - Stay Tuned*

Grace Church Casanova is pleased
to announce its vestry for 2025:
Bryan Jacobs ~ Sharon Sweeney
Sue Ballantine ~ Marilyn Ottevaere

Valentine's Day Soup Kitchen

It's time for our Valentine's Day Soup Kitchen!
Volunteers are needed to make soup,
cornbread, a Valentine cookie or a celebratory
dessert.

*In addition, packers, assemblers, and deliverers
are especially needed to complete the mission!*

We will meet on **Tuesday, February 11th, at
10am** at the Parish Hall. Please bring your pot
of soup at 10am so that we can assemble, label,
and prepare the trays for those in our
community who would appreciate some
homemade soup for lunch or dinner. At our last
two soup kitchens, thanks to our wonderful
volunteers, we were able to get everything done
and ready for delivery by 11:30am!

Your participation makes it all run smoothly,
and it is a great way to touch base with those in
our community who don't get out that much and
who would appreciate a personal visit in
addition to a homemade tasty meal.

Please let me know if you can help.
Mignonne 540 272-0014
Thank you!



The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

~ Mahatma Gandhi

Time to Make Pinwheels?!

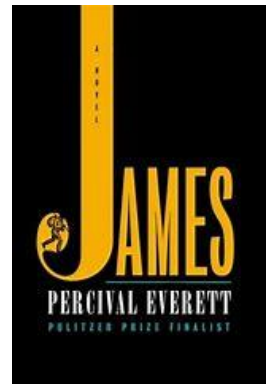


Making lap blankets for Alzheimer research patients has been an ongoing mission for the "Sew What" group. This month, however, they are going to switch it up and make pinwheel decorations on Saturday, February 8th at the Parish Hall. Tap into your creative side (everyone has one) and join in this interesting and enjoyable activity. For a list of supplies, please contact Barbara Jacobs: 540 222-5385 or email easternviewdesigns@gmail.com

Casanova Book Club's February Selection

The highly touted and relatively new novel (2024) entitled "James" by Percival Everett is the club's 'pick' for February. It is best described as "a reimagining of Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn but told from the perspective of Jim, an escaped slave. The novel is both harrowing and darkly humorous, and it has won the 2024 National Book Award for Fiction". (Source: Wikipedia)

If you like to read, enjoy lively discussions and meeting new people, then this delightfully gregarious book club group is for you! Book Club meets on the 4th Friday of each month. If you would like more information, please contact Mignonne 540 272-0014 or email mignonnepell@gmail.com



February Birthdays and Anniversaries



Louie and Pat Warren	Feb 02
Rick and Betsy Anderson	Feb 14
Chase Perreault	Feb 15
Brandon Payne	Feb 21
Emily and TJ Johnson	Feb 23
Jessica Warren Rhoads	Feb 23
Paige Payne	Feb 26

February Serving Schedule

NOTE: If you are unable to serve as listed above, please contact someone else on your team to substitute for you.

Day	Readings	Altar	Assistant	Offertory	Coffee Host
<i>The Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany Feb 2, 2025</i>	Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 84 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40	Barbara Jacobs/Diane Gulick	Judy Ball	Sue Ballantine	Sue Ballentine
<i>The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Feb 9, 2024</i>	Isaiah 6:1-13 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	Joy Goodenough/ Sharon Sweeney	Judy Ball	Joy Goodenough	Barbara Eanes
<i>The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany Feb 16, 2024</i>	Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	Barbara Jacobs/ Mignonne Spellmeyer	Bryan Jacobs	Judy Ball	Sharon Sweeney
<i>Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany Feb 23, 2024</i>	Genesis 45:3-11,15 Psalm 37:1-12,41-42 1 Corinthians 15:35-38 and 42-50 Luke 6:27-38	Joy Goodenough/ Mignonne S	Howard Charnock/ Michael Calhoun	Sue Payne	Marilyn Ottevaere