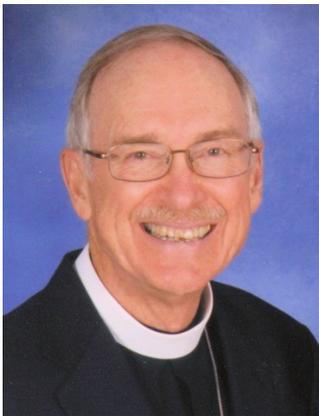


Our Vision: As a welcoming congregation, we share the transformational grace of God through worship and spiritual growth; we glorify God by building up each other and community through love, care, and outreach.



SHARING GRACE April 2018

A Christian Newsletter of
Community Caring of Grace
Episcopal Church



FROM OUR INTERIM RECTOR

Dear Friends-in-Christ,

We're about to be deep into the Easter Season. As I write this, we are about to celebrate the Easter Vigil in Vallejo, and then our wonderful celebration on Easter Sunday. But this is only the beginning. The Easter Season is 50 days, so we have lots of time to celebrate the resurrection.

Our Vestry is hard at work preparing for interviews with prospective Priests. I'm guessing that will be in May (but I'm sort of the last to know). The wheels are moving.

We don't know when changes will occur, so we have training time. I have a list of tasks that you need to prepare to take over. What usually happens is that there is a period of time, usually a month, when the Interim departs and before the new Priest arrives. You'll be fully involved during that time and until the new Priest gets their feet on the ground. I hope you'll volunteer to do some of the things.

An update on David+: David is doing very well. He hopes to make it to Easter Sunday services. That will be four months since he had his injury. He's planning for the future and his physical therapists says he's progressing. His biggest challenge in April is to pass the written drivers test to renew his driver's license.

Blessings,

Perry+

From the Senior Warden:

Happy Easter! Spring is here! There is a lot about to happen at Grace. The Office of the Bishop is preparing a list of candidates for the vestry to interview. The vestry has updated the parish profile, and we are preparing to interview the candidates.

We know our roof is in need of repair. We have tried to patch the leak for several years with no success. The vestry is looking at replacing the roof and possibly including solar panels. We hope this will take place late spring early summer.

When the roof is finished, we will focus on the appearance of our church. We feel the front of the church must be neat, attractive, and most importantly welcoming.

I have heard of some concerns of the cypress tree in the courtyard. It does look unhealthy and needs attention. I have asked Fr. Perry to contact an arborist to look at the tree. Then we will have an idea of what steps we need to take.

Jim Klopstock, Senior Warden

Campus Monitors

We need more to volunteer to be Campus Monitors. There are two shifts. The first person comes on duty around 7:45AM and stays till relieved by the second shift. The second shift arrives about 9:15AM and stays until the last person leaves the campus around Noon. You'll lock up, unless someone else plans to stay will lock up.

The task is simple. You monitor the flow of people coming through the gate the entire time you're on duty. If you see a stranger, you welcome them and assess whether they need directions to the services or need to move along somewhere else. The presence of a person approaching and speaking to a stranger usually scares the person off if they are up to no good. It welcomes a person who doesn't know our campus, and where our services are occurring.

We are particularly concerned about the time we are in services and our gate is open. We have people working in the kitchen, teaching Sunday School, in the Forum. These are vulnerable times for everyone. A Campus Monitor changes the equation as someone is one duty outside watching.

We currently have about eight volunteers, mostly from our Vestry. More people volunteering will mean that your shift will come around later than earlier. We'd like to have a list of about two months of volunteers, in other words, about 16 people. You don't have to be 6'6" and weigh 250 pounds like a body guard. You'll be a welcomer, not a cop.

Lynn Thomas is the Campus Monitor Coordinator.



FROM GEM Grace Episcopal Men Fellowship Agenda from March 2018.

- Meeting call to order.
- Opening Prayer.
- Reading of the Meeting Minutes from the February 3, 2018 Fellowship Breakfast. Add changes if needed and vote for approval.
- Treasurer's Report read and approved.

Follow-up items:

GEM fundraiser: Corned beef and cabbage dinner. Saturday May 19, 2018. At the church and the event starts at 5:30PM. Ticket cost is \$12.00 per person.

- Fundraiser support needed by all GEM's.
- Yountville BBQ. The only available Saturday date is August 18th. The date was approved by the Yountville Memory Center supervisor.
- Sacramento River Cats Faith and Family Night at Raley Field in Sacramento, CA; will be on Saturday August 11, 2018. As per last year, twenty tickets are reserved. Location of seating will be bleacher section along the third base line. Game time is 7:00PM. Ticket cost is \$20.00 per person.

New Business:

- 1.** Save the day/date of Saturday April 21st. City of Fairfield Earth Day Event coupled with the Kid's Day of Fishing at the Fairfield Community Center Ponds, just West of the City Hall Building. **This is of importance because the Grace Episcopal Church Health and Wellness Fair event will be incorporated into the Earth Day event. Yes, we hope to be surrounded by many people. Therefore the GEM will be asked to participate and assist as needed with this event.**

Next GEM Fellowship Breakfast Date: Our next GEM Fellowship Breakfast will be April 7, 2018. Location /time = Huckleberry's Restaurant at 7:30AM.

Thank You

Ron Cupid



FROM ECW

The next ECW meeting will be Tuesday, April 3rd, 11:30am in Room 6.

Hospitality Committee

Our Vestry is in the process of forming a Hospitality Committee. The primary roles will be to staff our coffee hour preparations and clean up before and after both services and to be available to organize and conduct special receptions, such as, for funerals and weddings.

The idea is to have a group of people to lighten the load on those who do these tasks now. More hands are needed and the more we have the lighter the load on everyone.

Some people have taken on these task simply because it needs to be done and no one is doing it. With more people engaged, the job goes quicker and the feeling of “duty” is lessened.

Linda Chandler is the coordinator for the Hospitality Committee.

Safety Corner

Staying Safe at Church:

Feeling safe in church comes when we are willing to think through that which we would rather take for granted. While we may not want to think this way, it is important for all of us to be prepared and actively participate in the safety of our congregation and ourselves.

Things to do to Help Ourselves, Our Families and Others Feel Secure at Church:

- Remain alert – be aware of the people and situations around you.
- Introduce yourself to those you have not met before.
- Keep an eye out for unattended children.
- If you see something odd or out of place, report it. Know to whom you should report to and do so.

Ron Cupid

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Operating:

February Income	March Income (unofficial)	YTD Income (unofficial)
\$9,529	\$9,795	\$27,809
February Expenses	March Expenses(unofficial)	YTD Expenses(unofficial)
\$10,974	\$10,502	\$35,403
Net Income/Loss	Net Income/LOSS(unofficial)	Net Income/LOSS(unofficial)
\$(1,445)	\$(707)	\$(7,594)

Coming Events



Friday, March 30th, Good Friday service at Noon Friday,
March 30th, Way of the Cross service at 7:00pm Friday,
March 31st, Holy Saturday service at Noon
Saturday, March 31st, Easter Vigil service at Ascension, Vallejo at 7pm
Sunday, April 1st, Easter Sunday 8 and 10am
Easter Egg Hunt after the 10am service
Tuesday, April 3rd, ECW Meeting, 11:30am, Room 6
Saturday, April 7th, GEM Meeting, 7:30am, Huckleberry's in Fairfield

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Roel Rafael 04/01	Ken Hogle 05/02
Carol Allen 04/04	Caroline Abughazaleh 05/09
Angelo Garcia 04/12	Melissa Gillett 05/10
Asleain Hodges 04/15	Benjamin Minkel 05/11
Wyatt Thomas 04/17	
Deni Hayslip 04/23	
David Cavanagh 04/26	
Frank Hull 04/29	
Linda Chandler 04/29	

Tasks to be Handed Off

The first set of things have to do with the setup for the Sunday services. I think this can best be done by the Eucharistic Minister since they are already going to be in place. It will require arriving about 20 minutes earlier than currently.

1. Check the set up for the Altar before the two services. This involves checking the proper readings are at the Lectors stand, putting the EMs copy of the service in their chair, checking the Credence Table for proper supplies. Checking the Ambry to see if the hosts and wine needs to be used.
2. Reboot the Apple TV/ Air play and make sure the connection between the Air play system and the iPad for projection- done once before the 8AM service

3. Operate the iPad for projection during the service. Gary McEachnie has been doing this for the 8AM, but the EM needs to do it for the 10AM service. We have been using two iPads, but one belongs to me and will not be available when I leave. The church owns the other iPad. The church also owns an Apple laptop, which can be used too. I have found that a second iPad is easier to use, but that's because I am not a fan of Apple computers.

4. Facilitate the Pastor's Forum. The current group is quite capable of leading themselves, but someone needs to be the leader of the day.

The second set of things have to do with weekday actions.

1. Edit the bulletin. This is usually done on Thursday mornings. It's good to have a second set of eyes to check the bulletin.

2. Set up each set of slides. This is done using Microsoft PowerPoint. It takes about 30 minutes a week to update the slides. We have about 95% of the Year A, B and C slides done. The person needs to fully understand the options in the BCP and to format the slides properly. You must be an expert on Microsoft PowerPoint, but it is easily learned.

3. Update the church web page each Sunday afternoon for the next Sunday. In other words, we need a second web master. Gretchen Smith is the primary web master, but I have done most of the updating each week. It requires about 15 minutes per week. I do it on Sunday afternoon for the next week. We have capabilities in the web site that are not being exploited.

4. Select hymns and get the choices to Lynne for approval - usually one season ahead. This is something I have done mostly because I wanted to coordinate the hymns with the readings of the day, and I wanted to expand the congregation's repertory of hymns. It's something the new Priest might want to do, but in between times someone must do it.

5. Compile and/or edit the Sharing Grace. Kim, our office manager, drafts it. But I've been putting it in final form and adding features and articles I think are worthy. This requires some mastery of (the hated) Microsoft Word.

Finally, there are services we must maintain. Only licensed Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors can do them.

1. Preside at the Healing Eucharist using the Reserved Sacrament. This is every Tuesday at 10AM. The service is set. Only the readings change. Each EM could take a turn. Right now, only two EMs have experience doing the service.

2. Take turn at PVE/Laurel Creek. I feel very strongly that we need to continue this service. We've done it for 20 years through thick and thin. It is at 1PM in Laurel Creek

Health Center Family Room. Our normal schedule has been: David+ on the 1st Sunday, Perry+ on the 2nd, Matt on the 3rd, and James on the 4th, with Scotty batting clean up on the 5th Sunday. We need someone or a group of licensed EV to step in and take a turn. It doesn't have to be every month, but it needs to be done.

The bottom line in all this is that we need volunteers to step forward. Some of the tasks require technical expertise; some require a good knowledge of PowerPoint; some require a mastery of Word; all need to be done each-and-every Sunday or during the week as the case may be.

We have training time, but we need to start in April.

Perry+

THE WINGFIELD DEANERY SPRING CONVOCATION

*CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, VALLEJO-GRACE, FAIRFIELD-
ST. LUKE'S, CALISOTGA-ST.MARTIN'S, DAVIS-GRACE, ST. HELENA
ST. LUKE'S, WOODLAND-ST. MARY'S, NAPA-ST. PAUL'S, BENICIA
ST.BRIGID'S, RIO VISTA-CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, VACAVILLE*



APRIL 28TH, 2018

10:00AM-2:00PM

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1314 SPRING STREET, ST. HELENA, CA 94574

We will worship together...

We will share our successes...

We will imagine our future as a deanery...

& lunch will be provided!

RSVP BY APRIL 15TH TO OFFICE@GRACE-EPISCOPAL.ORG OR CALL 707.963.4157

**Weekly Words of Wellness
by Scott Stoner**

**The Living Compass Wellness Initiative
March 23, 2018**

The Importance of Rituals

We had the joy of staying with our grandkids recently for an overnight and probably the most important instructions we received before the parents left had to do with bedtime rituals. Every family with young children has them, and as with all rituals, their power comes from their familiarity, order, and repetition.

Rituals are essential for ordering our families, friendships, work, play, and personal lives. They help form our identities, both individually and communally. Rituals are how we pass on wisdom and beliefs across generations. All societies have their rituals, and of course, so do all religions.

During the next two weeks, both Jews and Christians will celebrate some of the most sacred rituals of their respective faith traditions. Holy Week begins this coming Sunday for Christians and culminates with the celebration of Easter the following Sunday. Passover starts next Friday and continues for the following eight days. Each sacred ritual will draw on ancient traditions. Stories will be told. Songs will be sung. Prayers will be offered. Faith will be renewed. Community bonds will be strengthened.

All families have rituals that make them unique. Family rituals are common around the sharing of meals, bedtime routines, celebrating holidays, enjoying vacations, recreating, and participating in spiritual/religious celebrations. Family rituals embody values and core beliefs that are important to each family and help ground and form the identities of the members of the family. What family rituals have been important in your life? Are there family rituals that have been passed on through the generations? What do they say about your values and those of your family?

For many years, when our children were young, I would make pancakes every Saturday morning. Blueberry pancakes were a favorite, as were pancakes shaped in the form of each child's initials. The family time around the breakfast table was every bit as important as the meal we shared as it provided a chance to hear about each others' week and to talk about plans for the upcoming weekend. This simple ritual, among many others, helped ground and bond our family together.

The important ingredient in participating in rituals, whether family or religious, is how we choose to participate. How we show up makes all the difference. Choosing to be mindful and fully present means that we will both receive the most from and give the most to the experience. If, however, we are distracted, merely going through the motions of a ritual, we will likely receive little and give little to the experience and to those who are participating with us.

As many of us prepare to celebrate the sacred rituals of our particular faiths, may it be a time for us to also remember the importance of the sacred rituals of our daily lives spent with family and friends. And whether we find ourselves making blueberry pancakes for our family, telling a favorite bedtime story, or attending religious services may we do so joyfully and mindfully, choosing to bring our full selves to these most important and defining experiences.

April 2018 Sunday Altar Schedule

Position	April 8 Easter 3	April 15 Easter 4	April 22 Easter 5	April 29 Easter 6
	8AM	8 AM	7 AM	8AM
EM	Charles Karnopp	Gretchen Smith	Evelyn Wickham	James Fulmer
Acolyte				
Lector	Ellie Kulseng	Gary McEachnie	Heidi Lindsay	Veronica Cupid
Usher/Greeter	Gary McEachnie			Ron Cupid
Campus Monitor	John Ryan	Linda Chandler	Jim Klopstock	
	10AM	10 AM	7 PM	10AM
EM	Carolyn Sheldon	Janet Heise	Matt Thomas	Scotty Hodges
Acolyte		Marissa Grimes	Wyatt Thomas	Jack Flynn
Lector	Shane Tyler	Pat Benaquista	Lynn Thomas	Tara Sutherland
Usher/Greeter	Peter Minkel	Nora Del Ross	Suzie Peterson	Tom and Mary Ann McKinney
Campus Monitor	Lynn Thomas	James Fulmer		Scotty Hodges
Altar Guild	Mar 31 – Apr 13	Apr 14 – Apr 27		Apr 28 - May
	Scotty Hodges	Anne Prather		Pat Minkel
	Sue Pokorny			Marajean Scarfe

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Interim Rector	The Rev. Perry W. Polk
Associate	The Rev. David Cavanagh
Organist	Lynne Secrist
Senior Warden	Jim Klopstock
Junior Warden-	James Fulmer
Treasurer-	Gretchen Smith
Vestry—	Linda Chandler , Janet Heise, Scotty Hodges, Ellie Kulseng, Suzie Peterson, Lynn Thomas, and Shane Tyler
Staff: Office Mgr./Bookkeeper:	Kim Worthen

Our Mission:

Welcome • Transform
Build Up • Reach Out • Glorify God

PLEASE NOTE :

Sharing Grace Articles are due by the **20TH OF EACH MONTH**. Please email submissions to gracechurchff@sbcglobal.net as the office staff is consolidating information for the rector.

