

A Grace Note from the Rector
December 28, 2023

Dear Ones,

Happy 4th Day of Christmas. This is the day our true love is supposed to give us four calling birds. But did you know that early versions of *The Twelve Days of Christmas* say “colly birds”? “Colly birds” commonly refers to blackbirds, but it can also be a catch-all term for any small songbirds. Songbirds, including blackbirds, would have been a common menu item at the time of the song’s origin. You may remember the nursery rhyme, “*Sing a song of sixpence, a pocketful of rye, four and 20 blackbirds baked in a pie.*”

I will be away on vacation in San Antonio, TX from January 2-10, and will have limited access to email. Please reach out to Connie Turner at 765-730-4256 if you have an urgent need. The next Grace Note will be on Friday, January 12.

The preliminary reports on this year’s **Pledge Drive** are very promising. If you have not had a chance to fill out your pledge form yet, ***it’s not too late***. Email Mary Mordue (mlmordue@gmail.com) and she’ll get you a form. Thank you!

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 31	9:30am	Holy Eucharist: 1 st Sunday after Christmas
Wednesday, January 3		No Noon Eucharist this day
Sunday, January 7	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word – Jim Jeffery, <i>presiding</i> Mike Ashley, <i>preaching</i>
Wednesday, January 10		No Noon Eucharist this day
Sunday, January 14	9:30am	Holy Eucharist, Fr. Paul, <i>presiding & preaching</i>

SAVE THE DATE

There will be a formal announcement from the Clerk of the Vestry next month, but please mark **Sunday, January 28** as the date for Grace’s **Annual Parish Meeting**.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. EWART!

On November 4, the Ball State University Department of Theatre and Dance, along with the Theatre and Dance Alumni Society honored Grace Parishioner **Dr. Phil Ewart** with its Outstanding Faculty Award *in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of Musical Theatre*.

The award included a poem by William Ward: “The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.”

A BETTER WAY ~ JANUARY NEEDS

January is a good time to talk about mental health and self-care. Fidget toys, journals and pens would be great items to help with those conversations. Additional items needed are hairbrushes, combs, and body lotion.

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ~ ONGOING NEEDS

Food Pantry: Canned fruit, meats, and soup, crackers, cereal, pasta & pasta sauce, mac & cheese.
Personal Care Items: Bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, lg/med diapers, towels, washcloths, blankets.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Barbara & Phill Wills (December 28, 1963)

Lynn & Adam Beach (December 30, 1995)

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

“THROUGH THE COMING YEAR”

by The Rev. Howard Thurman

Grant that I may pass through
the coming year with a faithful heart.
There will be much to test me and
make weak my strength before the year ends.
In my confusion I shall often say the word that is not true
and do the thing of which I am ashamed.
There will be errors in the mind
and great inaccuracies of judgment...
In seeking the light,
I shall again and again find myself
walking in the darkness.
I shall mistake my light for Your light
and I shall drink from the responsibility of the choice I make.
Nevertheless, grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.
May I never give the approval of my heart to error, to falseness, to vanity, to sin.
Though my days be marked
with failures, stumblings, fallings,
let my spirit be free
so that You may take it
and redeem my moments
in all the ways my needs reveal.
Give me the quiet assurance
of Your Love and Presence.
Grant that I may pass through
the coming year with a faithful heart.

Enjoy these Days of Christmas,



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