

A Grace Note from the Rector  
January 12, 2024

Dear Ones,

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

On **Sunday, January 28** we will gather for Grace's 142<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting. We will meet to elect new Vestry members and Lay Delegates to Diocesan Convention, to receive the 2024 Parish Budget, and to hear reports from the various ministries of the parish. Please plan to attend. The meeting will take place in the Parish Hall immediately after the morning service. Brunch will be served.

### **PARISH LEADERSHIP**

Are you interested in serving as a Lay Delegate to Convention, or a member of Grace's Vestry? Nomination forms will be available on Sunday. Please think about how you might be called to serve.

### **TOM AND BEA MERTENS ORGAN CONCERT SERIES**

Jeffrey Smith, organist  
Sunday, January 28 – 3:00 p.m.  
Sursa Performance Hall, Ball State University

Jeffrey Smith is Professor of Practice in Organ and Sacred Music at Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, Bloomington. He formerly was music director at St. Paul's Parish in Washington, D.C. and earlier was canon director of music at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. All are welcome to attend this concert – free and open to the public.

### **ROOD SCREEN CLEANING**

Did you know that when it was installed in 1930, the figures on Edward Maitlen's magnificent Rood Screen were painted? You can get a sense of that from the 1940 photograph that hangs in the hallway near the drinking fountain. Imagine how much dust has accumulated in the past 94 years. **An anonymous donor** has offered to fund the cleaning of the figures of Jesus, Mary, John, and the flowers that surround them. The work will begin next Tuesday (January 17) and should take less than a week. Thanks be to God for this generous gift to restore one of our loveliest features.

### **TRANSPORTATION NEEDS**

Some of you have already met Aron Babb, who has been attending Grace. He is asking for help in getting to church on Sunday mornings. He lives at 4800 North County Rd. 400 East, Muncie IN 47303. If you can help, even occasionally, please reach out to him at 765-717-2075, and thanks!

### **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, body lotion, men's disposable razors and men's deodorant.

## 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 BIRTHDAY!

**Judy Schell** (January 14)  
**Franklin Shobe** (January 16)

*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.*

This coming Monday is **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**, a federal holiday in the United States marking the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968). King's actual birthday is January 15, but the holiday is observed on the third Monday of January each year, similar to other holidays set under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act which went into effect in 1971.

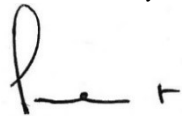
The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination in 1968. President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed on January 20, 1986. At first, some states resisted observing the holiday as such, giving it alternative names, or combining it with other holidays. It was officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000.

Deeply influenced by Howard Thurman, King was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the Civil Rights Movement, which protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. In one of his most famous sermons, *Loving Your Enemies*, Dr. King preached: "Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Dr. King was a prophetic voice in his time as well as our own. Here is the Episcopal Church's Collect for Monday.

Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, and made them free at last: Grant that your Church, following the example of your prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*(Holy Women, Holy Men, p. 307)*

God bless you in this New Year,



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