

A Grace Note from the Rector
January 18, 2024

Dear Ones,

Next Thursday morning, January 25, I will go to Converse, IN to place the cremains of **Mozie Williams** next to those of her mother in the Converse Cemetery. We will hold a memorial service here at Grace in the near future. Please continue to keep Mozie and those who loved and cared for her in your prayers.

ANNUAL MEETING RESCHEDULED

The recent bitterly cold weather has prompted us to postpone the Annual Parish Meeting to **Sunday, February 4**. 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

This week, you received from Connie Turner, the Senior Warden, a letter encouraging you to consider serving as a Lay Delegate to Convention, or a member of Grace's Vestry. Attached to that email was the Nomination Form. Hard copies 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

We anticipate that the newly cleaned figures on the Maitlen Rood Screen will be back in place this coming Sunday. Thanks be to God for the generous anonymous gift allowing us 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!

YARN AND YARNS

The needleworkers will meet on Wednesday, January 24 from 10-noon in the Parish Library. All are welcome.

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.

CELEBRATIONS

There are no birthdays or anniversaries to celebrate this week, but please keep in your prayers anyone you know who is celebrating a milestone this week.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Today is the Feast of the **Confession of St. Peter the Apostle**, which commemorates the moment recorded in Matthew's gospel (16:16) when Peter tells Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." It is a major feast in the Prayer Book calendar; it also marks the beginning of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**.

This week-long observance has its roots on St. Peter's Day, June 29, 1900, when Spencer Jones, a Church of England priest, preached a sermon on closer relations with the Church of Rome. Jones urged that sermons be preached on St. Peter's Day emphasizing Rome as the center of unity. Paul James Wattson, an Episcopal priest, suggested that the Octave from the Feast of St. Peter's Chair (January 18) to the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (January 25) be a time of prayer for Christian unity on a papal basis. Church Unity Week was first observed in 1908, and later the name was changed to the Church Unity Octave by Wattson. In the 1930s, it was suggested by Abbé Paul Couturier, a Roman Catholic priest in France, that the basis for prayer be broadened to include all who desired unity in Jesus Christ, without reference to the Pope. Also in the 1930s, Wattson changed the name to the Chair of Unity Octave. Since 1966 the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches and the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity have worked together on common international texts for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Here is a prayer for the Unity of Christians as prayed by the Chemin Neuf Community, an international Catholic community with an ecumenical vocation. It was inspired by a prayer of Abbé Paul Couturier, Pioneer of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Lord Jesus, who prayed that we might all be one, we pray to you for the unity of Christians, according to your will, according to your means. May your Spirit enable us to experience the suffering caused by division, to see our sin, and to hope beyond all hope. Amen.

God bless you and keep you safe in this wintry weather,



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