

A Grace Note from the Rector  
July 4, 2024

Dear Ones,

Happy Anniversary! Monday, July 1, marked the **Fourth Anniversary** of our life and ministry together here at Grace, Muncie. I give God great thanks for what the Holy Spirit has accomplished in and among us – especially given those long first months of me being Fr. Zoom!

**This Sunday**, Mary Mordue will be gathering names of those interested in making a group trip to the Indiana Historical Society to see the exhibit **RESIST!** During Coffee Hour we will be view a short video presentation on the history of the Ku Klux Klan here in Indiana.

#### **GROUNDS HELP SOUGHT**

Last Sunday, Connie Turner asked for volunteers to do outdoor watering at Grace. There is a schedule posted in the Parish Hall. Please help keep our plants well hydrated.

#### **NEW PHONE NUMBER**

Grace has a **NEW office telephone number (765) 744-5283**. *Please change your contact list!* As always, if you want to reach me, **call me directly** on my cell phone (765) 326-0353.

#### **GATHERING GRACE**

Last Sunday, Gathering Grace served **140 cheeseburger meals**. This might be a Sunday record! There's always room for more hands...if you don't mind laughing a lot!

#### **A BETTER WAY ~ JULY NEEDS**

At the present time, more than 17 children are in the care of A Better Way, so summer activity items are still needed – balls, sidewalk chalk, bubble wands, jump ropes, frisbees, nerf footballs, ankle skippers and flip flops. Thank You!

#### **CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ~ ONGOING NEEDS**

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

#### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**Susan Jeffery** (July 4)

**Katherine Mitchell** (July 7)

*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.*

#### **INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Most of us grew up at a time when the Episcopal Church was seen as the church of the establishment in the United States. You may remember the nickname, "The Republican

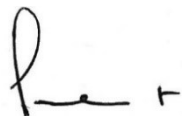
Party at Prayer.” As a result, it’s easy to imagine that we Episcopalians have always had a very close association with Independence Day. I served a church in Connecticut that had an annual July 4<sup>th</sup> liturgy using the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, with the idea that they would pray just as all the Anglicans (like George Washington) did on July 4, 1776. It was a lovely idea, but the reality was that by the start of the War of Independence, only two Anglican churches in Connecticut were still in operation – not including the one I was serving. Most Anglican clergy, being loyal to the Crown, had fled to Canada.

It is true that the Episcopal Church only came into existence with the founding of the United States, but tensions between the new church and the new nation took some time to get smoothed out. In 1785, the initial General Convention directed that a service be drawn up to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and “That the said form of prayer be used in this Church, on the fourth of July, for ever.” The resulting Proposed BCP of 1786 contained “A Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the inestimable Blessings of Religious and Civil Liberty” to be used on the Fourth of July.

The first (and fourth) presiding bishop, William White of Pennsylvania, was opposed to the service since many of the clergy had been Loyalists and were against the Revolution. The General Convention of 1789 supported White, and the service was withdrawn from the 1789 BCP. Propers (lessons and prayers) for this day were published in the 1928 BCP, but it was not classified as a major feast. The present Prayer Book lists Independence Day as one of the “Other Major Feasts,” a red-letter day. Here is the Collect:

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

God’s blessings for a happy and safe 4<sup>th</sup>!



The Rev. Dr. Paul Jacobson, *Rector*

765-326-0353

[rectorgracemuncie2@gmail.com](mailto:rectorgracemuncie2@gmail.com)