

A Grace Note from the Rector
November 9, 2023

Dear Ones,

November 11th is **Veterans' Day**, the day set aside to remember those who are serving or have served our country who are living. On Veterans' Day, as a community, we express our gratitude for their service to our nation. Here's a prayer of thanksgiving for heroic service (BCP, 839).

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The approach of Thanksgiving brings with it the culmination of our annual **Stewardship Drive**. We've already been blessed to hear from two parishioners, who have written about why they contribute out of their time, talent, and treasure to our common life here at Grace. Today, we hear from Lis Mitchell. Next week, Lauren Henry will wrap up the series.

Early next week, you will receive a letter from Grace's Stewardship Co-Chairs, Mary Mordue and Kristi Koriath. Please consider the letter thoughtfully and prayerfully before filling out **both sides** of the pledge/commitment form. Then, bring the form along to church on November 19, when we will celebrate our various bounties with a **Thanksgiving Brunch** after the service.

This week's Stewardship Moment is from **Lis Mitchell**.

On a blustery day in 1974, we bundled our three daughters up and decided to investigate the downtown Episcopal church. My mother-in-law, a Pentecostal minister, suggested in a nice way that perhaps the children would benefit by going to Sunday school. We were greeted warmly and decided to return the following Sunday. We soon became involved in all the activities offered, choir, altar guild, vestry, St. Mary's, and Sunday Suppers. It was rewarding later to be part of the building committee, the stewardship drive and designing the church directories. Our daughters were baptized and confirmed at Grace, and one was married here. In the early seventies change was coming to the Episcopal Church. A revised prayer book and a new hymnal were subjects of controversy, later, the ordination of women became more common. Over the past fifty years we made many good friends and welcomed three new rectors, and two interim priests.

Time has changed our parish, but the heart of Grace Church remains. It is a place of peace, learning, holiness, and community. I am so glad we decided to investigate that Episcopal church on the corner!

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark will cover chapters 11-15 next Tuesday. A simple supper in the Parish Hall at 6:30 is followed by Bible Study at 7pm.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

This Friday and Saturday, the Diocese of Indianapolis will meet in its 186th Annual Convention. The gathering of lay folks and clergy to make decisions about the life of the church is one of the distinguishing characteristics of The Episcopal Church. Please keep the work of Convention, as well as your delegates **Kristi Koriath and Max Nottingham**, as well as me, in your prayers.

BAPTISM TALKS

If you are interested in some wonderful talks on the essential nature of Baptism, I invite you to listen to my friend The Rev. Dr. Lizette Larson-Miller's Sewanee lectures that I went to hear last month. <https://theology.sewanee.edu/events/the-rev-canon-dr-lizette-larson-miller-to-hold-the-2023-annual-lectures/>

GATHERING GRACE & A BETTER WAY – WINTER PROTECTION

For the month of November – new or gently used gloves, hats and scarves will be collected to help prepare Gathering Grace guests and A Better Way clients for winter. Thank you for your ongoing support of those in need.

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!

Sue Heady (November 12)
David Blakley (November 14)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

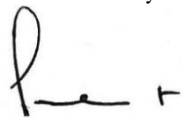
Becky & Dave Byrum (November 14, 1981)

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.

ADVENT ORGAN RECITAL

On Thursday, December 7 at 7pm, I will be offering a program of organ music for the Nativity Season. Reception to follow. Mark your calendars and invite your friends now.

God bless you in these days,



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