

July 2023

GraceNotes

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE From the Pastor



Pastor's Page

This past June 8-11, something occurred during the Virginia Synod Assembly that has never happened before in the history of

the Synod: there was a TIE on what should have been the final ballot for Bishop of the Virginia Synod!

After four previous ballots in which 43 candidates for bishop were whittled down to six candidates, then three candidates, and then to two, there was a fifth ballot for Bishop, in which a simple majority of votes would decide the election. The election process is designed to go a maximum of five ballots. And 170 people voted for Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick, and 170 for Rev. Phyllis Milton! It was an unprecedented moment.

I have thought about the process of electing a Bishop. It can be messy and very human. There can

be weeks, even months of speculation beforehand: *what do you think is going to happen; are we going to have a Bishop quickly, or will we go to the fifth ballot? Who do you think are the front runners?* There is chatter between the elections: *who did you vote for? I'm surprised thus and so was nominated...what did you think about the candidates' speeches? Well you know thus and so was the "heir apparent..."* But in the midst of this, we prayed for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and I believe the Holy Spirit took the opportunity to slow us down and help us to pay attention.

Our lives are often messy and very human. We are encouraged to move quickly on to the next thing; our current culture and society encourages us to declare what we think and feel on *everything*. I have mentioned before, a wise Grace member observed even before Covid that we are a society and community *on edge*. The temptation is to "step it up:" what we will do next, how to plan, how to counter what we don't like, how to support what we do...

Continued

What happened at the Synod Assembly is a powerful reminder: even when we pray for God to be present, to bless, and to guide our lives, you and I need to slow down enough to pay attention - to look for and acknowledge the work God is up to, and to wait for what God has in mind for us, out of God's great love for this world. Notice clearly: each person is still a participant, still votes, still must think and act. But as we do so we are moved beyond ourselves to come before the One who has created, redeemed and made us who we are. And then helps us to see the world in a new way.

Either of the final candidates for Bishop are gifted people who deeply love and care for Christ's Church. But I think it is worth our time to think and reflect on who has become our Bishop; the first woman, and first person of color in the history of the Virginia Synod. We prayed for God to guide, to bless our way, and after slowing down, on an unprecedented sixth ballot, Bishop-elect Phyllis Milton was elected our next bishop.

It is worth saying and confessing, two things again: (1) in the midst of our messy and very human world, God is active and present.

(2) In the breakneck pace of our lives, all those times we find ourselves slowed down – be it

crisis, or something surprising, a time of celebration, or even (or especially) a time of loss – are a call from our Gracious God to look around, to pay attention. There may be an opportunity to repent – “change direction” is literally what repentance means. Or, there may be an opportunity to see something we may not have noticed before: a loving God, a risen Jesus, an active Spirit catching us out of the corner of our eye, to see what God is up to. Then we can then live and be the Body of Christ God wants us to be in a messy and very human world.



HIKER MINISTRY 2023

98 hikers in the four (4) weeks our Appalachian Trail Thru-Hiker Ministry was open! True, not as many as in past years but, also true, we did have some difficulties with the City of Waynesboro this time around, not to mention that the building department decreased the number we could admit each night to 10. Applicable to our numbers this year might be the Parable of the Lost Sheep and the joy of the shepherd when he finds the one (1) sheep missing among the 100. (Luke 15:1-7 or Matthew 10-14) – Thanks, Pastor Pingel for the reference!

Here are some messages written in our Hiker Book this year:

- *5/27/23 – Wild Coyote had a wonderful 2 days resupplying and mail. Lots of walking on days off. Super wonderful showers, best on trail and very nice people here. Much love and support. Had a great dinner Thursday!*
- *5/30/23 – Goffer Miles and Smurfette spent a most wonderful and dry night here. The showers were nice, too. The support and advice given by the staff here was wonderful and helpful. Happy trails and share the love and kindness when you get the chance to give back.*
- *5/31/23 – Thank you so much for the lovely stay and wonderful conversation. Offering any service to hikers is helpful but providing it at no cost is incredible. I have thoroughly enjoyed my stay here! Love, Delaney*
- *6/2/23 – Ending up here truly was an act of God. So welcoming and the kindness is contagious. The blessings are abundant. Peace and Love, xoxo Pinto*
- *6/5/23 – Giggles and 2 Shoes stopping in for the night. Everyone here is extremely welcoming and we couldn't be more grateful for their generosity.*

HIKER MINISTRY 2023 Continued

- *6/6/23 – Thank you so much for everything the past two nights. One of, if not the best hostel stay I have had so far on trail. Ending up here was truly a blessing that I needed! Squeez NOBO #1125*
- *6/9/23 – What a beautiful, peaceful place to stay! Was unsure whether I planned to stop in town but am so glad that I did! Thank you for all of your kindness and thank you to your congregation for all the generosity: snacks, coffee, drinks, dinner, etc. This has been one of my favorite stays on the trail so far! BIRDDOG*
- *6/9/23 – Thank you so much for your kindness in taking us all in tonight. It is experiences such as this that give us the morale boost to keep pursuing that next mile in life! God bless, Sonic*
- *6/10/23 – Great little town! Downtown is amazing, the art gallery, museum, etc. Thank you for your hospitality. It does not go unnoticed. God Bless. Just Kory #1944*

Watch for more messages from the trail as we receive post cards from our hikers in the next few weeks and months as they continue on their journey.

THANKS TO ALL CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORTERS, HELPERS, COOKS, AND BUILDERS WHO MAKE THIS MINISTRY POSSIBLE!

And also to the “hiker alumni” overnighiter supervisors (Jill Byrd, Mark Trail and Marit Anderson) without whom we would be unable to keep this going for four weeks!

Linda Meyer, Jean Morgan, and Irma Graf

NICARAGUA MISSION TRIP 2024

Grace's Congregational Council has approved sponsoring a second mission trip to CICRIN, the Nicaraguan Christian Children's Center and School. The dates are February 2-10, 2024 and the tentative price is the same as this year: \$1,995 per person. Those who think they might be interested can speak with Grace members who were part of this year's team: Chuck and Judy Goodrich, Linda Myer, Pastor Pingel, and trip leaders Mark and Tami Radecke. Anyone wanting to have a FAQ sheet emailed to them can contact Mark Radecke at radecke@susqu.edu.





Grace Members help with Renewing Homes Project



Seven Grace members helped to construct an access ramp to a home in our area that will allow an elderly mother and her son to travel safely out of the house to get to doctor and other appointments.

We worked with Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta, a local organization that helps families in need of ramps, as well as home repairs, to allow them to remain safely in their homes.





Thanks to Rick Bump, Fred Biggers, Glen Gray, Eric Hilker,
Jerry Kite, Rew Walck, and Pastor Paul
for their help and expertise!



“Homework Toolboxes” - It might be hard to imagine, but school will open for the coming year on August 9. As in the past, the Salvation Army is requesting aid in filling preschool and kindergarten “Homework Toolboxes”. The items needed for these boxes are:

- Pencil Boxes/Pouches
- Colored Pencils
- Blunt Tipped Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- Erasers
- Individual Pencil Sharpeners
- Pencils
- Slim Colored Markers
- Crayons

Please return your donated items to the box located in the hallway outside the church office by **Thursday, July 27**, so that they can be delivered to the Salvation Army in time for the opening of school on August 9.

In lieu of buying supplies, checks may be sent to the Salvation Army, P. O. Box 1065, Waynesboro, VA 22980. Write “Homework Toolboxes” on the memo line. Thank you!
Amy Warren



Many Thanks to Donna Marshall!! For almost five (5) years, Donna Marshall has served as Grace’s Assistant Treasurer. We give thanks her for her faithful service, working with Treasurer Ron Almarode, and writing a majority of checks for Grace, caring for bills, payroll, and other payments Blessed to be a blessing! Thanks, Donna!



The “First Sunday Fellowships” are in full swing! Each “first Sunday” of the month, one of our volunteer groups at Grace will hold a gathering in the Fellowship Hall after worship. There will be the opportunity for the groups to explain what their group does, who is involved, answer questions, and have fellowship and a few light refreshments. Please sign up in the Nave for your group so the congregation can learn more about what goes on in the life of our church! A sign-up sheet has been placed in the back of the church with enough dates for at least 19 counted groups, which are listed! Please see Sylvia Almarode if you have any questions.

Schedule for 2023 First Sunday Fellowships Hosts:

July 2 Church Council

August 6 Altar Guild



Grace Council Elects President and Vice-President –

At its June 20th meeting, Grace Council re-elected Robin Crowder to serve as President of Grace Council for an additional one (1)-year term; and elected Allison Fink as Vice-President of Grace Council for a one (1)-year term. Ron Almarode continues as Treasurer of Grace congregation. Nancy Dowdy, our Grace Administrative Secretary, served as Secretary of Grace Council by providing minutes for each of our meetings. Robin, Allison and Ron will be installed for their new term on Sunday, July 9th.



Grace’s Congregational Council has approved sponsoring a second mission trip to **CICRIN**, the Nicaraguan Christian Children’s Center and School. The dates are February 2-10, 2024 and the tentative price is the same as this year: \$1,995 per person. Those who think they might be interested can speak with Grace members who were part of this year’s team: Chuck and Judy Goodrich, Linda Meyer, Pastor Pingel, and trip leaders Mark and Tami Radecke. Anyone wanting to have a FAQ sheet emailed to them can contact Mark Radecke at radecke@susqu.edu.



Grace on the "ground floor" - Grace has been working with other local congregations to establish an Assistance Ministry that helps all Waynesboro congregations to pool their resources to:

- Better help local people and families in crisis with rent and other assistance
- Have one place where people in need can go, rather than "shop" all the churches
- Establish a database so as many people as possible are helped, with no duplication of services
- Offer casework services to families so they can receive the help they need to move from living in crisis to functional living, more able to focus on children and the more routine challenges of daily life.

Grace Council on May 16th approved our congregation as a "charter member" of this Assistance Ministry. We will be a part of putting together the policies on how the fund is used. Currently approximately 10 other congregations have expressed interest, with the hope that we continue to grow the number of participating churches. Please pray for this Ministry, and getting it up and running as soon as possible, as the need is great!



Food Pantries - Thanks, and Continuing Need—Many thanks to those who have donated Peanut Butter, Mac 'n Cheese, Personal Hygiene items, and Dried Rice and Beans to our local food pantries. We have made ***thirty-four*** *deliveries* thus far, fifteen to Main Street United Methodist, and nineteen to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. **Overall, we have given well over 3,654 pounds of food!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



Project Esperanza Fund Drive—Last year, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ worked together to donate \$5520 to Project Esperanza. This year, our goal is to raise \$6000, enough money to support ten deserving students for a full year. We are already halfway to that goal, thanks to a \$2000 pledge from the Grace Endowment Fund and a \$1000 pledge from an anonymous donor. The Grace/COGIC Christian Coalition for Equity and Justice and the Grace All God’s Children groups are sponsoring this fund drive but invite all members and friends of the two congregations to contribute.

Grace members can contribute directly to the Church, noting the money is contributed in support of Project Esperanza as a memo. We will collect funds throughout June and July, with the fund drive ending on August 3, 2023. The mission of Project Esperanza is to form a global community focused on creating positive change and a sustainable future for Haitian refugee and immigrant youths in the Dominican Republic through education and empowerment. For the past 16 years, Project Esperanza has served the Haitian refugee and immigrant population of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic in the areas of education, social aid, and community development. The project runs two schools serving 275 Haitian immigrant children in the Dominican Republic. It also provides housing, food, and family structure for a group of vulnerable youth and young adults. In collaboration with two universities, the project provides small business grants and loans to promote artistic training and a pathway to sales for the population it serves. More information is available at the project’s web site:
<https://esperanzameanshope.org/>

Thank
You



6-10-23











Mommy, thanks for
the delicious meals,
visits and flowers as
I travel this speed
bump in the journey
of life.







We are blessed to
have a congregation who
cares and shares.


Blessings
Linda Joney



JULY 2022

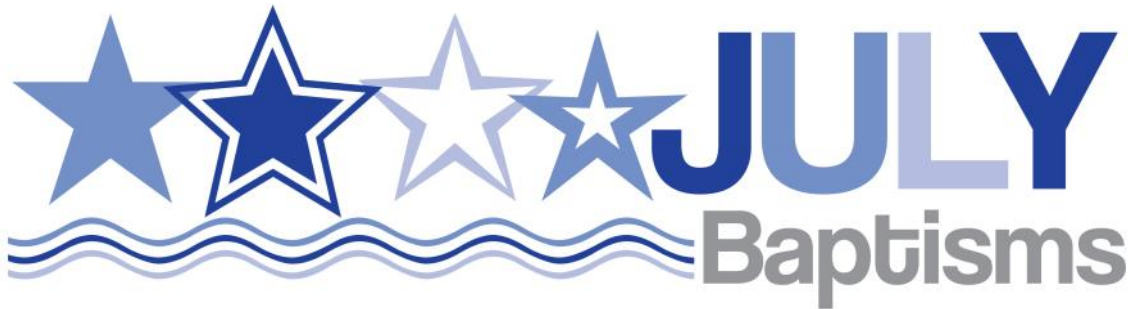
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>Fifth Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Pingel</p> <p>First Sunday Fellowship - Church Council</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Pastor— Vespers at Summit Square</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Nancy Dowdy Off—Carolyn Hite in Church Office</p>	<p>4</p>  	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. CCE&J Group Meeting at Grace</p>	<p>7</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Sixth Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Pingel</p> <p>Church Council Installation</p>	<p>10</p> 	<p>11</p> 	<p>12</p>  <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Virginia Organizing (Conference Room)</p>	<p>14</p>  	<p>15</p>  <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconcil. (North Park)</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>16</p> <p><i>The Pastor Will Be Away...</i> </p> <p>Seventh Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Karen Van Stee</p>	<p>17</p> <p><i>The Pastor Will Be Away...</i> </p>	<p>18</p> <p></p> <p>7:00 p.m. Council (Conference Room and Zoom)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p>10:00—3:30 Encircle Regional Managers' Meeting (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>21</p> <p></p>	<p>22</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Eighth Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Pingel</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>28</p> <p></p>	<p>29</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Ninth Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Pingel</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. CCE&J Group at Christ Tabernacle</p>	<p>4</p> <p></p>	<p>5</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)</p>



JULY Birthdays

07/01	Everett Stratton	07/02	Ginny Dolan	07/04	Phiston Shabani Riziki
07/06	Joan Ranzini	07/07	Zander Bandy	07/09	Maribeth Faivre
07/09	Zoey Mahoney	07/11	Cindy Glenn	07/11	Malachi Dolan
07/14	Carolyn Shields	07/16	Zanny Bandy	07/17	Sandra Brady
07/19	Ethan Lynch	07/21	Bill Lucas	07/22	Kelly Rankin
07/22	Al McKechnie	07/23	Bobby Hite	07/23	Diane Lundstrom
07/24	Cynthia Trauscht	07/27	Sloane Franklin	07/30	Gail Johnson



JULY Baptisms

07/01	Jim Nelson	07/18	Sandra Brady	07/28	Rew Walck
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Worship Assistants

July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Fifth Sunday After Pentecost	Sixth Sunday After Pentecost	Seventh Sunday After Pentecost	Eighth Sunday After Pentecost	Ninth Sunday After Pentecost
Preaching and Presiding	Preaching and Presiding	Preaching and Presiding	Preaching and Presiding	Preaching and Presiding
<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>	<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>	<i>Pastor Karen Van Stee</i>	<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>	<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>
Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers
<i>Jim & Gloria Nelson</i>	<i>Jean Morgan</i>	<i>Gail Johnson</i>	<i>Rew & Karen Walck</i>	Open
Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
<i>Jean Morgan</i>	<i>Jane Stein</i>	<i>Kathy Meicke</i>		<i>Gloria Nelson</i>
Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister
<i>Marsha Howard</i>	<i>Linda Meyer</i>	<i>Cathy Crowder</i>	<i>Gloria Nelson</i>	<i>Tami Radecke</i>
Communion Assistants	Communion Assistants	Communion Assistants	Communion Assistants	Communion Assistants
<i>Kathy Bump Tami Radecke</i>	<i>Allison Fink Donna Gum</i>	<i>Robin Crowder Linda Meyer</i>	<i>Andrew Sell Karen Walck</i>	<i>Linda Meyer Gloria Nelson</i>
Council Person of the Week	Council Person of the Week	Council Person of the Week	Council Person of the Week	Council Person of the Week
<i>Linda Meyer</i>	<i>Jean Morgan</i>	<i>Susan Myers</i>	<i>Stephen Van Stee</i>	<i>Karen Walck</i>
Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards
<i>Pat Brady Jean Morgan</i>	<i>Pat Brady Robin Crowder</i>	<i>Pat Brady David Proctor</i>	<i>Pat Brady</i>	<i>Pat Brady Vivian Proctor</i>
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
<i>Pat Brady Jean Morgan</i>	<i>Karen Walck Rew Walck</i>	<i>Ron Almarode Lee Lynch</i>	<i>Fred Biggers David Proctor</i>	<i>Jack Eckstrom Esme Hilker Jim Nelson</i>



Budget Barometer

May 2023

For the year, actual receipts are below budget and actual disbursements are below budget, resulting in a deficit of \$12,314.

Comparison to Prior Year: Financial Barometer	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Difference
Total Budget Receipts YTD	\$121,270	\$121,836	\$566
Total Budget Disbursed YTD	\$123,197	\$134,150	\$10,953
	(\$1,927)	(\$12,314)	(\$10,387)



**Remember
Our Homebound Members**

*Nursing Home,
Assisted Living and
Homebound Members*

Genevieve Arneson 220 Adventure Trail Waynesboro, VA 22980	LizAnn Binns The Legacy 1410a North Augusta Street Apartment 3027 Staunton, VA 24401
Maribeth Faivre Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Apt. 130 Waynesboro, VA 22980	Sandra Hoy River Edge Rehabilitation and Nursing, Room 210 1221 Rosser Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980
Imogene Hull Regency Senior Living 43 Pinnacle Drive, Room 101 Fishersville, VA 22939	Phyllis Kite Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Room 9 Waynesboro, VA 22980
Bob Knemoller Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Apt. AL-13 Waynesboro, VA 22980	Glenn Myers 144 Patton Farm Road, Apt. E107 Stuarts Draft, VA 24477
Ingrid Sevigny 713 Governor's Way Waynesboro, VA 22980	Carolyn Shields Brightview 21 Woodlee Road, Apt. 331 Staunton, VA 24401
Tom and Carol Varner Birch Gardens 12 Royal Drive Staunton, VA 24401	

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

500 South Wayne Avenue
Waynesboro, VA 22980

LABEL



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

"A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus."

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[GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro](https://www.GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro.org)

www.gracewaynesboro.org

Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net

Telephone: 540.949.6171

Church Office Hours

Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
(Lunch 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.)

Church Staff

Rev. Paul Pingel
Pastor

Email: pastorpingel@gmail.com

Mike Myers, Organist
Director of Music

Email: mickhdking@aol.com

Nancy Dowdy
Administrative Secretary

Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net