

TWAG

This Week At Grace
Grace Episcopal Church
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Office hours: Mon.-Thurs.
9 am – 1 pm

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
Jan. 19 – Jan. 25, 2025

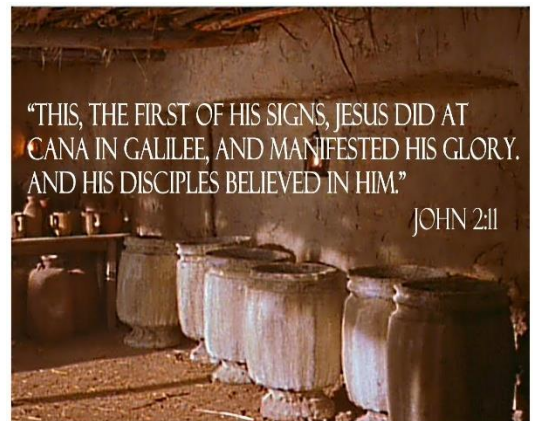
Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11; Psalm 36:5-10
<https://www.lectionarypage.net/>

This Sunday's Gospel:

Sunday: Birthdays: Nick Cheremsak
8:00 am **HOLY EUCHARIST**
9:15 am Graceway Café
9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am **HOLY EUCHARIST- livestreamed**
10:30 am Children's Sunday School

Tuesday:
12:00 pm BAM
12:00 pm 8:00 am Choir practice

Wednesday:
6:00 pm Prayer/Praise/Eucharist service



COLLECT for SUNDAY: Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Sunday's **Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of from the Roberts Family for Elijah's Baptism.

Sunday's **Ambry Candle** is given to the glory of God by Rev. Jonnette.

REMINDERS for this week:

ECW GENERAL MEETING on SAT. JAN. 18 at 10:00 am

OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING on SAT. JAN. 18 at 10:15 am



134th ANNUAL MEETING HELD LAST SUNDAY

We had a joyous 134th Annual Meeting. Thank you to everyone who attended and

brought so much wonderful food to share. The 2025 balanced budget was presented; the busy year in ministry was reviewed; we elected three new vestry members, and we gave thanks for our many blessings.

Fr. Gary began his remarks during his sermon with his gratitude, “ I am constantly amazed by the outpouring of your generosity with your Time, Talent, and Treasure. We are a ‘busy little church’ and there is always something going on.” He thanked us “for being the best Church in the Diocese. We are not big, but we are mighty, thanks to your generous hearts. Thank you for showing me what it means to be the church of open arms.”

He noted some of the joyful things we celebrated in 2024 – we have youth acolytes again at 10:30; we have made significant improvements to our sound system, thanks to the ECW and others. We have had more than a dozen new faces over the last few months and our average Sunday attendance has continued to go up from 151 to 157 for 2024. Our Sunday school class is growing, and we had a fantastic children's pageant on Christmas Eve. We have new Rose (not pink) vestments, and we had two priests, David and Stephanie Whitman ordained right here and we received our new deacon, Jonnette DeMarsico.

Treasurer, Gary Lincoln noted that the balanced budget presented for 2025 started with the work of the Budget Committee and was then reviewed and finalized by your Vestry. He thanked everyone for responding so positively to the Pledge Campaign, planned, and implemented by your Stewardship Committee. Grace has always been faithful with their Time, Talents, and Treasure.

Special thanks to your Vestry who worked all year to stay within our budget when there were so many distractions happening every day.



Your 2025 Vestry (from left) Mike DeLong, **Alan Titkemeier-Sr. Warden**, Dale Millar, Fr. Gary Jackson, Suellen Stenhouse, **Hal Read- Jr. Warden**, Ann Zerbach, Cathy Petersen, Pat Watson, not shown-Corrine Stebner.

2025 MINISTRY NEEDS MENTIONED at ANNUAL MEETING:



HUM PANTRY REALLY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Our current group of very hard working, dedicated Food Pantry volunteers all have lifting restrictions.

If you **DO NOT** have back problems and If you **DO NOT** have any physical limitations to lifting 15 to 20 lbs., this important outreach ministry would really appreciate your help. Contact Tinny Ryder or Debbie Fleming.

WE NEED A FEW MORE ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS!

Every service begins and ends with the work of the Altar Guild. This is one of the most important ministries in any church. Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time for this essential ministry. Contact Rosie Shaw or Sue Wright.

THE 8:00 AM CHOIR NEEDS A FEW MORE VOICES – Fr. Gary noted that the members of this

choir do a great job of enriching the worship experience for the whole congregation. For new church members, this is a great way to get involved and meet people. Contact Choir Director, Amy Crane.



SUNDAY, JAN. 26
STARTING IN-PERSON SIGN-UP FOR PHOTO SESSIONS
ON FEB. 25 & 26.

We want to make it as easy as possible for everyone to sign up and get their photo taken for our new photo directory.

Volunteers will be available before and after services on Sun. Jan. 26 to schedule your photo session. We will also offer easy on-line scheduling.

We encourage all to participate so we can get to know each other better. Seeing faces and names helps build community and connections, especially for newcomers who are trying to get to know everyone.

When you can put a face to a name it is easier to reach out for help, offer assistance or share experiences.



FEB. 25 AND FEB. 26 –
PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS will be at GRACE
to TAKE PHOTOS for our NEW DIRECTORY.

1. There is no cost for you to get your photo in the directory and everyone receives a complimentary 8x10 photo.
2. Photo sessions will be scheduled by appointment. Scheduling starts Sun. Jan. 26
3. You may pay for additional photos.
4. Bring your kids, your grandkids and/ or your fur babies!
5. This is a great opportunity to update your family photos.
6. Universal is widely known for top quality directories and photography.
7. Their photographer will view your proofs with you at your session.



NEXT LUNCH BUNCH- THURSDAY, Jan. 30 at 12:00pm

We will meet at Rossi's Dinner on Ridgewood Ave. in South Daytona.

Please note that we are requesting to meet at 12 noon instead of our usual 12:30 pm.

Sign up in the narthex by Jan. 26 so we have enough seats for everyone. Their menu is here: <https://www.rossisdiner.com/>

Lunch Bunch meets on the LAST THURSDAY of each month at different local restaurants. All are most welcome.



MISSION SUNDAY, FEB. 2

São Paulo Mercy Mission -
Proclaiming God's mercy in the heart of São Paulo.

Special Guests Rev. Stephen and Mary Dass will join us at both services and share a presentation during Graceway Café.

Rev. Stephen and Mary Dass are missionaries who have represented the Diocese of Central in Sao Paulo, Brazil since 2013. Their mission focuses on street children and youth who often face homelessness, addiction, and other hardships. Rev. Stephen is originally from Singapore and served with Youth With A Mission in São Paulo. Mary was a kindergarten teacher in Maine when she received an invitation from a missionary to serve as a summer volunteer in Brazil. Stephen and Mary met in São Paulo and have been married since 1995.

spmercyministry.com

SHARE the LOVE



February 15, 2025
5:00 - 7:30 pm

Spaghetti & Meatballs by Chef Bob
Adults \$15 - Children \$10

Bring a photo of a loved one to "Share the Love".

Bring a chocolate dessert- get a chance to win a prize.

Fun Fellowship Activities!



MEET YOUR NEW VESTRY MEMBERS



Mike DeLong Mike is a life-long Episcopalian. He grew up in Key West, FL where he attended the Episcopal Church as a child. He graduated from Key West High School and spent 36 years in the fire protection industry as a pipe fitter.

He and his wife Pearl have been blessed with four children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Mike enjoys gardening, fishing, bible study and travel.



Cathy Petersen – Cathy grew up on Long Island, NY and spent 25 years living and working in Potsdam, NY.

She was baptized and confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church and has been an Episcopalian since 1983. She and her husband Bill joined Grace in 2006. Bill passed away in 2022.

Cathy graduated from NYSU at Oneonta, NY with a BA in education, followed by an MS in Reading education from NYSU at Albany. She taught school in upstate NY and taught Reading in Miami, FL. She was also the office manager for Bill's medical practice.

She has two children, Susan, and Matthew.

Her hobbies include people, Bible Study Fellowship, reading, golf, and fishing.



Pat Watson

Pat grew up in Buffalo NY on the shores of Lake Erie and moved to Florida in 1969.

She was confirmed at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in New Smyrna Beach. In 1988 she moved to Port Orange and transferred to Grace Church.

She has four children and eleven grandchildren. Two families live in NC and two in TN.

Pat is a retired nurse. Now she enjoys beach time, silver sneakers exercise, ECW, bingo, and volunteering for HUM. Sometimes she travels for fun, often she travels for family events.



CHAPEL NOW OPEN BEFORE 10:30 am SUNDAY SERVICES

For those seeking quiet, peaceful solitude for prayer before the 10:30 am Sunday services, the Chapel is open for your use.



Let's Be Healthy Together!

Lifeline Screening will be here at Grace Episcopal Church on **Wednesday, January 29, 2025**, offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family, and your community, please register for these health screenings today.

Three ways to register:

- Call toll-free: 1-888-814-0466 promo code HSCA001
- Online: <https://www.lisa.social/hsca>
- Text: the word **circle** to 216-279-1607

Northeast Deanery

Cursillo Ultreya

Friday February 21, 2025

Evening begins at 6:00 pm with potluck meal

EVERYONE WELCOME!!!!

St. Barnabas Parish Hall

319 W. Wisconsin Ave., DeLand 32724



*An evening of Spiritual Renewal,
Fellowship,*

Praise music and Good eating!

Musicians bring your instruments!



For more information contact:

Nancy Tribble 386-453-3243, email: netribble@yahoo.com



**VITA TAX PREPARATION at GRACE CHURCH
STARTING FEB. 4**

Volunteers from VITA will once again be at Grace Church on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:00 pm to 5: 00 pm starting February 4 and ending April 10.

Appointments will be necessary. Stay tuned for further information about the appointment process.

HUM PANTRY CURRENT NEEDS:

This month HUM can use donations of MAC and CHEESE

GRACE CHURCH PET FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

Dry or Wet Cat & Dog Food Dog/Cat Treats

Gallon Ziploc Slider Style Bags

For monetary donations, make checks out to “Grace Episcopal Church” with “Pet Food Pantry” on the memo line.

QR CODE FOR ELECTRONIC GIVING



Many parishioners are finding it more convenient to donate to Grace electronically. This QR code will connect you to Donor Box which accepts Google Pay, PayPal, Venmo and credit and debit cards. It is also printed on your 2024 Pledge Card. Note: this QR code is on your bulletin each Sun.



ECW EMAIL -All Grace women are automatically members of the EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW), our very active service and fellowship ministry. We maintain a separate e-mailing list to send out requests and news for specific ECW events. If you would like to be included in the ECW e-mail list, please send your name and email address to ecwgrace@gmail.com.






Vision

Grace Church is a welcoming community of hope and healing, where all can experience and share God's transforming love.

Mission

We are the Church of Open Arms.

Guiding Principles

-  Through worship, we experience the presence of God through Word, Sacrament, Music, and Community.
-  Through outreach, we serve others by providing for their physical, spiritual, and social needs.
-  Through congregational care, we express our love for one another.

Sunday, January 19

Isaiah 43:14—44:5 *“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.”* (v.18 NRSV)

Samuel Johnson wisely observed that we don’t need to be instructed so much as we need to be reminded. How true.

As a Christian, do you really need to be taught what is right or wrong, virtue or vice, moral or immoral? Isn’t it rather a question of applying what we know and living what we believe? Who doesn’t identify with Paul’s lament that he knows what he ought to do, but he just doesn’t do it.

In other words, remembering can be good. A primary source of faith lies in remembering God’s blessings, mercies, and His mighty works of creation and salvation. It may also be helpful in learning from past sins (and to avoid judging others) by remembering them.

But what God is telling His children held captive in Babylon, and His children today in bondage and oppressed by sin, is that He is the God of Salvation. Just as He delivered His people from captivity as He had done before in Egypt, He has delivered us from the slavery of sin through the death of His Son on the cross. For every generation in the past 2000 years, the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus is God’s “new thing.” Nothing like it has ever happened, and that is worth remembering.

Psalms 148, 149, 150; Hebrews 6:17—7:10; John 4:27-42

Monday, January 20

Psalms 25 *Do not remember the sins of my youth...* (v.7)

If David, who by most standards had an exemplary boyhood in service to his family, his country, and God, can beg God to forgive the sins of his youth, then what about us? While most of us avoided the juvenile delinquent label, aren’t there sins of your youth which, if conjured up, can bring on an immediate sensation of nausea? When haunted by these memories, I’ve noticed that I most regret having hurt others by things I’ve done or failed to do. I then wonder if these people I’ve hurt still remember the pain they felt, or am I the only one who remembers?

Thinking on these matters, and considering the magnitude of my sins, can either lead to a morose self-loathing or a reluctance to judge those who hurt me and a desire that God accord them the grace we all need. I know which response is the better, but it’s only through the aid and comfort of the Holy Spirit that I can pray for grace and mercy for others as fervently as I beg it for myself. May God let your cup runneth over.

Isaiah 44:6-8, 21-23; Ephesians 4:1-16; Mark 3:7-19a

Tuesday, January 21

Mark 3:19b-35 *“And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.”* (v.25)

In the anxious days before the even darker days of our Civil War, Abraham Lincoln quoted this verse as support for maintaining the Union in its confrontation with States Rights. The divided house image was likened to our nation but it is also effective in describing the marital estate. Truly, a marriage divided on issues of money, sex, and children will probably fail.

And yet a marriage built, not on the sands of self-interest, but on the rock of Jesus Christ, can withstand the loss of physical or emotional attraction, financial ruin, and troublesome

children—to name just three of the many reasons couples divorce. That’s not to say that Christian marriages do not fail—they do, and in approximately the same percentages as non-Christians. And in some cases of abuse and neglect, divorce may be the only choice.

But most failing marriages can be saved when the grace of God is received and allowed to grow. To those whom God has joined together, or who let God work after the fact, let no one put asunder.

Isaiah 44:9-20; Psalms 26, 28; Ephesians 4:17-32

Wednesday, January 22

Ephesians 5:1-14 *Entirely out of place is obscene, silly and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving.* (v.4)

It seems that with each passing year words, acts, pictures, etc., that were once not tolerated in public have become commonplace and even accepted in the theater, on television, and in public discourse in general. As Christians, the challenge to keep our hearts and minds focused on Christ has never been greater.

And yet, to speak of these concerns draws immediate accusations of “censorship,” “prudery,” the inevitable question: “whose values?” and, in Christian circles, the term “legalism” arises. It would seem that intolerance of another’s pursuit of freedom, no matter how obscene, is our only remaining taboo.

Not surprisingly, as C. S. Lewis observed in *The Screwtape Letters*, what Satan attempts to accomplish in every age is to make us least concerned about our greatest dangers, and vice versa. Are we threatened more by those who believe in the inerrancy of the Scriptures, or by those who don’t read the Bible at all? Paul’s admonition to the Ephesians reminds me of the prophetic words of Hilaire Belloc: “We sit by and watch the Barbarian, we tolerate him; in the long stretches of peace we are not afraid. We are tickled by his irreverence, his comic inversions of our old certitudes and our fixed creeds refreshes us: we laugh. But as we laugh we are watched by large and awful faces from beyond; and on these faces there is no smile.”

Isaiah 44:24—45:7; Psalm 38; Mark 4:1-20

Thursday, January 23

Ephesians 5:15-33 *And the two will become one flesh. This is a great mystery.* (vv.31b-32a)

Can we all agree that mysteries abound in the marital state? Anyone who fears that getting married will take the “mystery” out of their relationship has some surprises awaiting them. For me, marriage was the beginning of my discovering just how little I know about the opposite sex in general, and specifically about my beloved.

But isn’t that the way it’s supposed to be? Isn’t what makes life worth living those things we cannot explain, e.g., the birth of a child, the beauty of God’s creation, our hearts’ longing for God? How dull and tiresome life would be if we had God all figured out, or if love could be fully explained by science.

As Agatha Christie might have observed, it’s life mysteries—not the puzzles we may one day solve— but the mysteries which (by definition) are unsolvable that make life interesting. When was the last time you thanked God for His mysteries?

Isaiah 45:5-17; Psalm 37:1-18; Mark 4:21-34

Friday, January 24

Mark 4:35-41 *And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"* (v.41)

The disciples had known great fear. Even the experienced fisherman among them, who had undoubtedly endured storms on the Sea of Galilee before, had been terrified for their lives while Jesus slept peacefully in the stern. And then in a moment, all was calm and stillness prevailed. The Word by which all creation had sprung into existence had asserted His divine authority over the natural elements.

Peace was everywhere, except in the hearts of the disciples. They were "filled with great awe", and they questioned each other as to who and what Jesus was. This man whom they knew intimately as their master and friend, now seemed alien and other-worldly. I believe the disciples were in greater fear of Jesus at this moment than they had previously been of the storm. Anyone who has been in the presence of Divine Holiness would understand why. In such moments one encounters, too clearly for comfort, the holiness of God as contrasted with one's own unholiness. It can be a fearful, life-altering experience, as demonstrated in today's reading and in the lives of Jacob, Moses, Isaiah, Paul, etc. Terrifying, and yet somehow reassuring, that the divine power that controls the savage elements can love each of us beyond our understanding.

Isaiah 45:18-25; Psalm 31; Ephesians 6:1-9

Saturday, January 25

Ephesians 6:10-24 *Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.* (v.24)

Paul loved to begin and end his letters on the subject of grace, which is entirely fitting, considering that it is God's grace that saves us, sustains us, and in the end, brings us with all the saints into the joy of God's eternal kingdom.

As needful as we all are of grace, we can never deserve it. God in His mercy bestows grace according to need, not merit. Getting what one deserves is called "payment," and as a wise man once observed, if we all got what we deserved, then who would escape a whipping?

Even so, the temptation for many Christians is to ask for (or expect) mercy for themselves, while hoping others get justice. When we do this, we imitate, not Christ (who begged forgiveness for those who killed him), but the Prodigal Son's elder brother and the grumbling workers in the vineyard. It's hard, in this world of law and order, to pray for God's grace to fall on those who have hurt us. But is their need for grace any less than our own, or greater? The question is not whether the Holy Spirit will help you pray for those who persecute you. Rather, will you accept his help?

Isaiah 46:1-13; Psalms 30, 32; Mark 5:1-20

by John Jacobs

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