

Education for Ministry (EfM)

We are in the process of planning the EfM class for the 2019-2020 academic year and find we need one more students in order to hold the class. Please consider joining us for what has proven to be a life changing experience for participants. The tentative start date is September 17th.

Every baptized person is called to ministry. The Education for Ministry (EfM) program offered by the University of the South provides people with the education to carry out that ministry. As the emphasis on lay ministry has grown, EfM has come to play an important role by providing a program that develops an informed and knowledgeable laity.

The EfM program does not evaluate or recommend individuals for ordination. Many people think that one must be ordained in order to be "a minister." The fact is that all baptized Christians are called to be active participants in the church's total ministry.

The seminar group is the nucleus of the EfM program and consists of six to twelve participants and a trained mentor who meet weekly over the course of a nine-month academic year. The group meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30PM – 9PM in the library on the 2nd floor of the parish house at Grace Episcopal Church.

Participants are given weekly assignments to study with the help of resource guides and can expect to spend between two to four hours in study and preparation each week. The focus of the weekly meeting is discussion of the readings and development of skills in theological reflection with a goal of learning to think theologically. The seminars are open of all Christian faiths and all materials are included in the annual cost of \$375. Participants sign up for one year at a time with some students taking a break between years while others complete the program in four years.

First Baptist Church

Celebrates the 152nd Church Anniversary Sunday, September 8 & 15, 2019, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, 9/8/19 - Guest preacher Rev. Dr. Elijah Brown, General Secretary, Baptist World Alliance, Falls Church, VA and guest choir.

Sunday 9/15/19 - Guests will be Dr. Jerome Washington and the Choirs and Congregation of the Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Durham, NC. Dinner served at 1:00 p.m.

Fall Revival Services at First Baptist Church, September 16-18 at 7:00 p.m., Guest Preacher, Dr. Michael Owens, Pastor New Hope Baptist Church, Guest Choirs serving each evening.

Grace Episcopal Church
123 W. Washington St.
Lexington, VA 24450
540-463-4981
office@graceepiscopallexington.org
www.graceepiscopallexington.org

Parish News for the week of August 25

Welcome to Grace Episcopal Church.

We are glad you are worshipping with us today!

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.**

- Psalm 103:1

Today is Rat Sunday, please welcome the students from VMI

**Christian Education begins Sunday, September 8 with
Christianity and Culture, a continuation of Confirmation,
Youth and the Children's program in the Atrium.
*Watch for more details!***

Grace Church Participating in Bell Ringing Today

We will join churches across the country at 3:00 p.m. today in a national bell-ringing to commemorate the landing in 1619 of the first enslaved Africans at Point Comfort, and to honor 400 years of African American history and culture. Members of our church will take turns ringing the bell in our church's steeple. Please join us at 2:45 p.m. in the Narthex if you would like to participate in the commemoration.

South Sudanese Diaspora Network for Reconciliation and Peace Conference

Labor Day weekend,

August 30 – September 1, 2019, Lexington, VA

As the conference nears we are in the final planning stages. We need on the ground help on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers are needed for greeting, luggage handlers, shuttle drivers, parking assistants, tour guides, guides around town, kitchen and general help.

If you'd like to assist us with this historic event please contact MJ Mayerchak (540.460.3138) or Sharon Massie (540.570.5408)

The conference currently has over 60 people registered and more are registering every day. Friday and Saturday of the conference are not open to the general public. This weekend will culminate with a joyous celebration of The Feast Day of Marc Nikkel on Sunday at the 10:30 AM worship hour here at Grace Church with a meal afterwards for everyone prepared by our Sudanese sisters from Roanoke.

Stewardship Committee

The members of the Stewardship Committee are looking forward to working with Father James, parishioners, and staff in the weeks ahead on this year's stewardship campaign for 2019. We believe strongly in the missions, worship, and thoughtful work of the committees of Grace Episcopal Church. We know that we can achieve what we desire and need to do only with a successful annual campaign. The current members of the Stewardship Committee are Larry Boetsch, Dennis Cross (chair), Carol Dent, Gail Dickerson, Don Ellis (Vestry liaison), Dave Hansen, Brant Hellwig, and John Milford.

If you would like to join the Stewardship Committee and join us in its work, please contact Dennis Cross at 540.460.1338 or dcross@wlu.edu.

Music Ministry

Adult Choir Weekly Rehearsals resume Thursday,
Sept. 5, 7-8:30. All are welcome!

Wednesday night Contemplative Prayer at Grace begins Wednesday,
Sept. 11, 9:15 in the Undercroft.

1st-3rd Sunday Eucharist, 5pm

4th Sunday Evensong, Sept. 22, 5pm

5th Sunday Evensong (*see below*)

St. Francis (Junior), Wednesdays (Sept. 25 start), 4:00-4:40 p.m.

Godly Play/Cherub Choir Wednesday (Sept. 18 start) 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Ukulele Choir, Wednesdays, 4:45-5:25 p.m.

5th Sunday Community Event: Evensong on the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels followed by Blackberry Reception in the Parish Hall,

5pm Sunday, Sept. 29. We will have a Solemn Choral Evensong sung by Grace's Choir and guest singers from SVU and Charlottesville. Beloved Daniel Brinson will preside at the organ and I will conduct. We will have a Blackberry Confections Reception after. Why blackberries? An old Irish proverb tells, "On Michaelmas Day the devil put his foot on blackberries." "Michaelmas, a wonderful celebration of harvest's end and the start of autumn's mists and mellow fruitfulness, as Keats wrote in his famous poem. Although Michaelmas is celebrated on the 29th September, when the calendar was reformed in 1752, 'Old Michaelmas Day' was moved to the 10th October. Old Michaelmas Day is also called 'Devil Spits Day'; it's the last day that blackberries should be picked, according to old British folklore. This is known as the day that the Devil came to earth; he fell from the skies, straight onto a blackberry bush, whereupon he cursed the fruit, scorched them with his fiery breath, stamped on them and then spat on them making them unfit to eat."(lavenderandlovage.com)

What can you do for this community building event?

~Invite people! Welcome people to the unique beauty and holiness of Evensong's worship

~Offer to friends the chance for delicious sharing at the blackberry reception after.

~Make a berry delectable to share at the reception. Please contact me at Martha@graceepiscopallexington.org or call the church office if you can contribute to the Feast. Rumor has it that there are already blackberries being stored and a berry tort has been promised.

The Choirs of Southern Virginia University will be holding a retreat in the Brooke Family Undercroft, Saturday, Sept. 7. Let's show them some Grace hospitality by providing yummy breakfast treats for the 36 people attending. If you'd be willing to bring a yummy breakfast goodie, please contact Martha at Martha@graceepiscopallexington.org.

Our Music Scholars, Class of 2022 students, Levi Lebsack, Caleb Peña, and Demmanuel Gonzalez, will be returning in a few weeks. When you see them, please ask them how their summers went!

Bagpiper Emily Liska, VMI Class of 2022 will be playing for us Sunday, September 8. Please give her a warm welcome and ask her about her summer!

Grace Episcopal Call Committee

Dear Parish Family,

While you have not heard news from the Call Committee since late May, we want to reassure you that we have not been on hiatus. Our Grace Ministry Portfolio was posted nationally beginning in early April, and this posting was extended through August 6 by Rev. Canon Jonathan Harris. We also listed the position of rector on the *Episcopal New Service* for four months.

The Call Committee started receiving Ministry Portfolios from potential candidates in mid-May. Our pool of possible candidates has included priests recommended by parishioners, priests responding to our Ministry Portfolio, and priests recommended by other priests. We have had national and international applicants; we have had female and male applicants. The Call Committee has been in communication with each of these individuals primarily by e-mail seeking additional information regarding comments in cover letters and probing more deeply candidate answers to questions in the Ministry Portfolio.

Skype conversations with candidates began in June and are continuing as we receive the Ministry Portfolios of final candidates from the diocese. Following Skype conversations, reference checks have been conducted and Oxford background checks are in process on our most promising candidates.

While the Call Committee has been engaged since late October in the daily and weekly work for the call of a new rector, all parishioners at Grace are a vital part of this discernment. We were asked recently whether we thought that the parish was praying enough for this on-going process. The Call Committee has been assured by our wardens that indeed parishioners are keeping our parish's collective discernment in their daily prayers. Grace parishioners have so much to offer to each other, to the Lexington community, and to the wider world through living out our Baptismal covenant of seeking and serving Christ in all persons. May each of us continue to listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the call of Grace's next rector.

*Jane Brooke, Alexandra Brown, Gail Dickerson, Keith Gibson,
Anne Hansen, Ryan Holston, Mo Littlefield*

Rockbridge Area Hospice

Rockbridge Area Hospice is now offering a 6-session accountability group where the participants support each other through the process of gathering important information such as health, property, finances, and final wishes to make things easier for those who must resolve our affairs. The group will meet on the second Thursday of every month for 6 months, beginning September 12 at Lexington Presbyterian Church.

Meetings will be held from 6:30 to 8:00. Cost: \$20.00 for materials. For more information or to register contact Kam Flynn at 540-463-1848 or kam.flynn@rahospice.org. Registration required.