

# GRACE

## *notes*

SANT  
NICHOLES  
of  
MYRA

November 2017



# OUR TEAM

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## OFFICE

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Bay GreenHill

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Jenny Manning

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Jayme Amonsens

LAY MINISTRY ASSISTANT

Victoria Bossler

## YOUTH & CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL COORDINATOR

Travis Chaney

KITCHEN AND NURSERY COORDINATOR

Angie Chaney

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Laura Arft & Rochelle Franco

## MUSIC

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST

Dr. Jan Wubben

MUSIC INTERN

Adam Sloter

ASSISTANT ORGANIST

Paul Whitley

CHILDREN'S CHOIR SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Terri Wubben

## MINISTRIES

Altar Guild

Outreach

Little Free Pantry

Episcopal Peace Fellowship / G.A.P.P.

Meals on Wheels

Prayer Chain

## VESTRY

Matt Hostler, Jr. Warden

Jayme Amonsens

Chris Abbey

Patty Arnett

Jay Hughes

Nancy Efurd

Ryan Ladner

Shelley Simmons

Matt Orcutt

Mike Moss, Treasurer

Bay Greenhill, Clerk

## COMMITTEES

Building & Grounds

Christian Formation

Communications

Finance

Hospitality

Outreach

Stewardship

Strategic Planning

Welcoming / Incorporation

Worship

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUN Holy Eucharist, 9:00 A.M.  
Christian Formation, 10:00 A.M.  
Holy Eucharist, 11:15 A.M.  
Celtic Evensong with Holy Eucharist,  
5:30 P.M.

WED Holy Eucharist & Healing, 12:10  
P.M.

MON-FRI [Yoga Morning Prayer at  
Studio](#), 7:00 A.M.

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Sunday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Closed Friday & Saturday.

# ADVENT - HOPE



Hope rarely descends or magically appears. Most often, it's passed on. It comes to us as a gift. We don't find it, as much as we receive it. And almost always, that gift comes in the form of a story. The Christmas tale is the central example of that this month. It is obviously the story we are called to share in December.

And yet, the Christmas story's additional gift is its reminder that we all have our own stories of hope to tell. Jesus wasn't just born in a manger many years ago; Christ is born over and over again in our present day lives. Like Mary and Joseph, we all, at some point, have been "on the run," thinking we are alone, but then suddenly God sent holy companions to guide and walk with us. We've all been told at one time or another that there's no room for us, but then God opened a door and gave us a warm place to rest. Like the shepherds, we've been told we are worthless and relegated to the cold fields, and then an angel appeared and reminded us that we actually have a central and divine part to play in God's story. We've all been lost in the dark and then a star came and gently led us back home.

But it didn't stop there. Out of gratitude for what God has done in our lives, we share the story of what happened to us. We told others our tales of hope finding us, and in doing so, others began to believe that hope would find them as well. Even more than that, our stories inspired people to look around and notice how hope was there, waiting for them right where they stood.

The bottom line is, when we recognize who is with us in those dark moments, our stories give birth to hope! The light doesn't travel through the dark on its own. It hitchhikes on the experiences we have with each other. That is why we are a community of hope.

God's story this Advent is also our story. May we look with expectant hope for God to reveal Godself to us anew this Advent season.

Peace,

# THE SEASON OF ADVENT

## ADVENT RESOURCES

### ***Beginning December 3rd ...***

Use the links below to access various resources to guide you through the Advent season:

- [Global Online Advent Calendar](#)
- [Keep Watch with Me - A daily Advent reader for peacemakers](#)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

### ***First Sunday of Advent...***

Join us as we welcome in the new church year with the season of Advent, beginning December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Advent is a time of waiting and preparing our hearts for the Nativity of Jesus. During this time we use the liturgy from Rite I, which is akin to the older 1928 version of the Book of Common Prayer, and uses more traditional language than is found in Rite II.



### ***Bishop's Visit...***

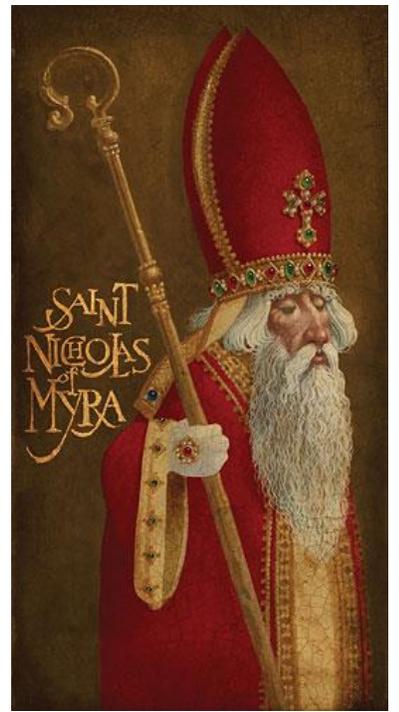
The Bishop of Arkansas, the Right Reverend Larry Benfield, will be making his annual visit to Grace on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. He will be greeting the congregation at 10:00 a.m. as well as confirming and receiving new members into



the Grace Family at both services. Please join us!

## ***St. Nicholas Day...***

December 3<sup>rd</sup> also marks the celebration of St. Nicholas. At 10:00 a.m. (before the Bishop speaks) we will hear the story of St. Nicholas. We will celebrate both St. Nicholas and Bishop Benfield with a reception at that time as well. All are welcome, (especially children as St. Nicholas himself is known to appear)!



## CHRISTMAS FAMILY

### ***Family in need...***

Each year Grace adopts a "Christmas Family" through the Genesis House and helps to provide a nice holiday for that family. Earlier this year, we began helping the Murphy Family.



The Murphy's are a family of three that have successfully worked through the Genesis House program and found some stability with employment and housing. Sadly, the mother, Lea, was diagnosed with very serious cancer that has spread throughout her body. Grace Church volunteers have been helping them with various things since this diagnosis, meals, gas money, etc. The father, Carlos, has continued to try and work while also caring for his wife and getting her to all her medical appointments. They have a teenage daughter, Meranda, who is struggling with the challenges facing the family at the moment.

The Outreach Committee has decided to continue to support the Murphy family and adopt them as our Christmas Family.

For the next couple of weeks there will be a small tree in the Parish Hall with various tags attached. These tags reflect gift cards and items the family needs or has asked for. Please feel free to take a tag and return it with the item (wrapped or unwrapped) by December 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your generosity!

## GRACE CHILDREN'S CHOIR SCHOOL



### ***Winter Concert...***

The Grace Children's Choir School will be having their Winter Concert on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to come and

enjoy the music, followed by a light reception in the parish hall.

## PLEDGE UPDATE

### ***Stewardship 2018...***

Grace is winding up our 2018 Stewardship Campaign and so far have received 44 pledges totaling \$219,000 (compared to 70 pledges totaling \$368,00 for 2017).

If you have not yet made a commitment to Grace, and feel led to do so, please click [HERE](#) to access our online pledge card. We draft our budget based on your gifts and appreciate your generosity and your support of the work we do as Grace Church. Thank you.



# HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

## ***Christmas & New Year Services...***



December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 has the rare honor of being both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve, providing you the opportunity to really get your church on!

The schedule of services will be as follows:

### Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

- 9:00 a.m. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist (no Children's Chapel)
- 11:15 a.m. 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Holy Eucharist (no Children's Chapel)
- 5:00 p.m. The Nativity of Our Lord with Holy Eucharist (with choir, children's chapel, and nursery)
- 10:00 p.m. The Nativity of Our Lord with Holy Eucharist (with small choral ensemble, no childcare)

\*Please note that while there will be a light coffee hour after each morning service, there will be no Christian formation for adults or children.

### Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

- 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation
- 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 5:30 p.m. Celtic Evensong with Holy Eucharist

The church offices will be closed:

- Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>
- Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

# GREENING OF THE CHURCH

## ***December 24<sup>th</sup>...***

The church will be "greened" on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 12:30 p.m. (after the Fourth Sunday of Advent but before Christmas Eve). If you would like to help, please contact Bay in the office. Thank you!



# VESTRY MEETING



## ***December 10<sup>th</sup>...***

The Grace vestry will meet on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

# OUTREACH AT GRACE

## SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

### ***Sunday Collections...***

Each Sunday during the month, we will be collecting donations for the various organizations we support. Please bring your donations and place them in the basket at the back of the Nave before the service and they will be brought forward to be blessed during the offering. Thank you!

### **1st Sunday**

Genesis House

(canned food w/pop tops, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sm. shampoo bottles, soap)

### **2nd Sunday**

Manna Center

(tuna, peanut butter, cereal, mac & cheese)

### **3rd Sunday**

The Children's Shelter

(hoodies in all sizes, deodorant, combs & hairbrushes, hair ties)

### **4th Sunday\***

Little Free Pantry

(peanut butter, diapers in all sizes, bread, canned goods)

\*If a month contains 5 Sundays, the collection for Little Free Pantry will continue.

# FROZEN FOOD FRIDAYS

***Starting December 1<sup>st</sup>...***



FROZEN FOOD  
FRIDAYS  
3:00-4:00PM

The Garden has begun a food recovery program called Frozen Food Fridays. Free frozen packaged meals will be handed out every Friday from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. next to the Little Free Pantry. Meals are available for anyone so please spread the word. If you would like to help please contact Patty or the office.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

***Epiphany Pageant...***

The annual Epiphany Pageant and Chili Supper will be held on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. If your child would like to participate, please let the office know, or one of our Children's Ministry Leaders, Laura Arft or Rochelle Franco. Please look for more details in the coming weeks!



# LECTIONARY

## **DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>**

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

## **DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

## **DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

## **DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> FOURTH**

**SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Canticle 15 or Psalm 89:1-4,  
19-26

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

## **DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

## **DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalms 147

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

John 1:1-18

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**[www.gracesiloam.org](http://www.gracesiloam.org)**

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