

A Grace Note from the Rector
October 31, 2024

Dear Ones,

Happy Hallowe'en! As the seasons continue to roll, our minds and hearts turn toward what lies beyond with three celebrations over the next three days – All Hallows' Eve, All Saints' Day, and All Souls Day. This Sunday, we will observe All Saints' Sunday, with a renewal of our Baptismal Covenant, and the admission of three new Daughters of the King. Please remember to **set your clocks back** before you go to bed on Saturday.

I look forward to seeing many of you on Saturday evening at 5:30 as we take time to celebrate our time together and begin to say farewell. This Sunday will be my last sermon. My final Sunday will be the 10th, and Jennifer Phelps, the Transition Minister for the Diocese, will be with us to preach.

In the midst of goodbyes, the Stewardship Co-Chairs, Mary Mordue and Teresa Curtis, encourage you to look to the future of your common life and mission. Today's **Stewardship Moment** is from **Mike Ashley**.

As we come up the walk, any Sunday, regardless of weather or what's on our minds, we notice, in season, beautiful flower beds and well-sculptured lawns thanks to Gordon, Mark, and others. We come through the door of Grace Episcopal Church, and—if we're not late—mingle for a moment with choir members, who always offer and generate smiles. Then, a very pleasant person says welcome and hands along a service bulletin. We have a seat, then Tim, without fail, invites us into worship, just as, later, he will send us along into the world as new persons. His artistry at the organ console contributes so much to our worship, and is a real treat, as well.

We praise God in hymn and service music, hear sins forgiven, Father Paul sings the Collect, then come first reader, psalm, second reader, and again Father Paul with Gospel, sermon, and creed. Our own members pray for church and the world, and together, priest and people, we celebrate Holy Communion, hear words of blessing, and reverently head to a wonderful coffee hour. We have such fine cooks in our midst.

Several of our folks spend the afternoon, after much preparation during the week, making meals for the folks in the neighborhood. "Five stars," we hear our guests proclaim. How about appetizer, main course, salad, dessert, and a welcome bottle of the finest water.

There's nothing new in all this. Just so much to relish in a community that at its heart is the Lord Jesus Christ. I can't think of any other place I'd like to be, and to be a part of.

WHAT TO DO WITH BODY PARTS IN BIBLICAL HEBREW

Join my friend and colleague **Dr. Rebecca Abts Wright at a Lunch & Learn on November 11, Noon CST (1pm EST)**. Like most languages, Biblical Hebrew uses body parts metaphorically. However, a passage can be seriously misunderstood if we put our English definition onto the Hebrew idiom. A billboard example of this is in the "first great commandment" Jesus teaches. Hebrew simply does not use the word "heart" the same way English does. So what did Jesus mean? What are the greatest and second-greatest commandments? Attend this Lunch & Learn with Dr. Wright to find out!

<https://theology.sewanee.edu/faculty-online-lunch-learn-series/>

VOTE FOR THE COMMON GOOD



Join Bishop Jennifer online on Sunday evening at 7 for a Pre-Election Prayer Service. Go here to register and get the Zoom link. <https://indydio-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMocemhrT4iGt3xoBv0bPd754w5rtNBhafW#/registration>

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill thy purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GATHERING GRACE NEWS

Thanks to everyone who helped on Sunday to prepare and serve 113 meals of Cheeseburgers, Mac & Cheese, Salad and, of course, cake! If you're in the market for doing something useful AND having fun, please join us any Sunday afternoon.

A BETTER WAY ~ NOVEMBER NEEDS

Shampoo, conditioner, razors, deodorant, toothpaste, hairbrushes, combs and body wash. This is the same list of items as October but are greatly needed. As you shop, look to see if any of these items are on sale (buy one get one free). Thank You!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Susan Atherton (November 5)

Beulah Baker (November 5)

Phill Wills (November 5)

Helen Beach (November 6)

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.

God bless you in this time of change,

The Rev. Dr. Paul Jacobson, *Rector*

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