

The
Communicator



G R A C E E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H
 S P R I N G H I L L , T N

**SPECIAL
 POINTS OF
 INTEREST:**

- Annalee Baptism
- What is the Mission Council

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FROM THE VICAR

While I was away, a letter went out, in an anonymous envelope, to many members of our congregation. I am taking this opportunity to address this letter: its contents and its results.

Setting the obvious agenda and personal attacks aside, the substance of this letter displayed a lack of understanding about what the Constitutions and Canons of the Diocese of Tennessee outline regarding the function and structure of a congregation within its jurisdiction. I will begin by addressing the point of greatest confusion. In Canon 15 of the Constitution and Canons one finds that:

Sec. 11. The Vestry shall elect from among its members a Senior Warden and a Junior Warden. The Vestry shall also elect a Treasurer, a Clerk, and such other officers as it shall desire, none of whom need be members of the Vestry. It shall organize itself as it deems proper, into committees for the better attention to its work

What is clear from this section is that each Vestry is responsible for the election of its officers. This is not done in the Annual Meeting. It is the decision of each Vestry.

Sec. 12. (a) The Vestry shall have responsibility for raising and disbursing moneys and for keeping proper records thereof. It shall be responsible for building, maintaining and keeping in good condition for the use of the Parish, all parish buildings and improvements. It shall be responsible for all equipment and property belonging to the Parish, and for the maintenance of the grounds, and real properties owned apart from the church building. It shall be responsible for all business and temporal affairs of the Parish. In discharging these duties, it shall carefully observe all requirements of the General Church, and of the Diocese.

This shows that a Vestry is responsible for the record keeping of the congregation. While records should always be open, there is never a place for badgering or rudeness. This is done under the guidelines of the Constitutions and Canons, not a set of rules forced on a Vestry by a congregational vote.

(c) The Vestry shares equal responsibility with the Rector for the prompt and accurate preparation and filing of the Annual Parochial Report and the financial audit.

Here Canon 15 shows that a Vestry and a Rector share the responsibility for the recording and reporting of the financial situation of the congregation, along with other details. This

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should put to an end the false dichotomy of the clergy not knowing anything about the money of a congregation. This false dichotomy was even spoken against in a recent Stewardship seminar, hosted by the Diocese, and in the printed material distributed at the same.

In the next section, the similarities and differences of a Parish and a Mission of the Diocese of Tennessee are outlined. Canon 18 of these same Constitutions and Canons states:

(b) The Mission Council, and its several officers, shall have the same powers and perform the duties assigned by Canon to the officers and Vestry of a Parish except that they shall not elect nor call a Vicar or Minister in Charge.

What is clear from this section is that a Mission Council has similar responsibilities for the guidance of the congregation. The difference is that the Mission Council cannot bring in the clergy to lead it. That is the purview of the Bishop of the Diocese.

To sum it up, the Episcopal Church does not function under a congregational form of church governance. This is true of the Church at large and also for each of its congregations. We minister within an Episcopal form of church governance, beginning with the Archbishop of Canterbury, flowing through the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the US, The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, and then through the Bishop of Tennessee, and The Right Reverend Dr. John C. Bauerschmidt. It finally goes down to his Vicar and his Wardens, and his Mission Council. Episcopal congregations do not vote (or yell or belittle) every little thing.

In the end, it is up to the group of people who stand behind this letter to decide if their place is even in the Episcopal Church. Honestly, those who are behind this letter, as well as those who signed that petition, are not happy with things as they are at Grace Church and want to return to things as they used to be. As I said in the meeting this group demanded with the Bishop, I empathize with you, but it is what it is. We are not going backwards.

As a result, I, the Vicar at Grace, stand ready to help you find a place to worship where you will be happy. I'll have a transfer letter waiting for you to give me the name of the congregation where you are going. It is time for this unhappiness to be over.

To the rest of you I say, it is up to the Bishop, his Mission Council, me as your Vicar, and you as the community of faith to follow the path set before us by Scripture under the guidance of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. Things may not be done in the way that they were in the past here at Grace. But that is not the real point anyway. We are here to worship the risen Christ. I will lead you there.

In the words of the late radio commentator, Paul Harvey: "And now you know... the REST of the story."

Father William "Doc" Martin
Vicar
Grace Episcopal Church

WHAT IS THE MISSION COUNCIL

The Mission Council (for a Mission) has the same duties as a Vestry (for a Parish), except that a Vestry can call a Priest and the Bishop appoints the Vicar for the Mission.

The Mission Council is the legal body of the Church. It oversees the property, real and financial and solicits and spends the moneys of the mission. The Mission Council defines the vision of the mission and takes on the specific tasks to implement it. The Mission Council defines the policies that will govern the common life of the community. The worship of the mission is the sole responsibility of the vicar. Since Mission Council members are elected from the mission community, they are responsible for representing the community.

The Treasurer and Clerk are elected annually by the Mission Council; they are not members of the Mission Council, but serve as advisors to the Mission Council and as corporate officers of the mission. They have seat and voice, but no vote at Mission Council meetings. Elections of the Wardens, Treasurer and Clerk are held at the first meeting of the

Mission Council following the Annual Mission Meeting.

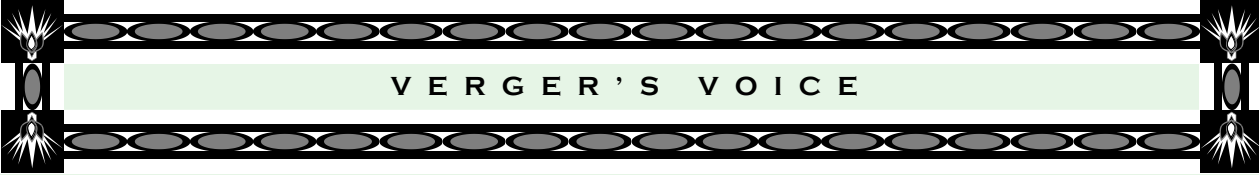
In fulfilling their role, it is understood that mission council members:

- Pledge to the mission both a financial and a ministry commitment.
- Attend worship on a regular basis.
- Attend monthly mission council meetings which take place each month, as well as called meetings by the vicar.
- Participate in a mission workday or retreat.
- Take a major responsibility for one area of the parish life.
- Make every effort to attend and participate in major mission events.

While the public may not participate, all discussion and deliberations in the Mission Council meeting are open to the public, except for executive sessions.

CURRENT MISSION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Diann Schneider — Senior Warden
Bill Reiger — Junior Warden
Linda Stella
Elizabeth Crouch
Kristi Coleman
Craig Dean
Patrick Craddock


 VERGER'S VOICE

I have been asked a few times where does the word Acolyte come from and what are they supposed to do. You know those people that serve at the altar. The origin of the word Acolyte comes through several languages; Old French (Acolyte) and Medieval Latin (Acolytus). The original use of the word Acolyte in English 1275-1325 A.D. was as a minor church functionary (follower, attendant, server or companion), and did not gain

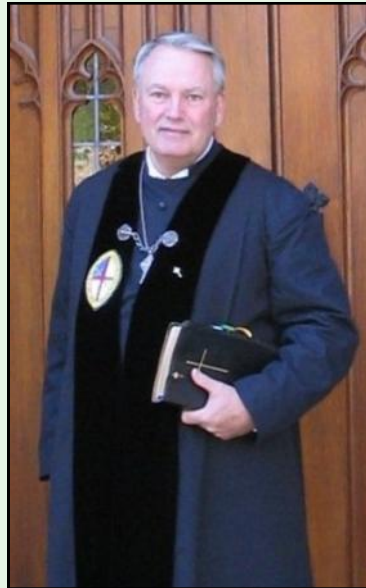
try on a pastel level, but it only became a preparatory rite leading to priesthood.

Possibly the first authentic document in which a mention is made of acolytes' is a letter written in 251 A.D. which gives a clear indication as to the number of priests, deacons and some 42 acolytes. The Council of Nice (325 A.D.) mentions acolytes present, not as designated for the service of the altar as today, but as persons trained in the atten-

guished, was placed in his hand by an archdeacon, as a sign that the lights of the church would be in his care; also an empty cruet was given to him, a symbol of his office to present the wine and water at the altar for the holy sacrifice.

The patron of those that serve at the Altar is Vincent, Deacon and Martyr. He lived in the late 3rd century and is commemorated in our calendar on January 22. Vincent is remembered for his love of God, his faithfulness to his Bishop and his unswerving loyalty to his responsibilities.

*The first possible
reference to this
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about 189-199
A.D.*



the general meaning of a person installed in a ministry in order to assist a Bishop, Priest or Deacon until early 16th century. The first possible reference to this ministry dates from about 189-199 A.D. In 1545-1563 A.D. the Council of Trent defined the order so as to reactivate the minis-

dance of Bishops. About 500 A.D., the 'Statuta Ecclisiae Antiqua' gives us an outline of the ritual usage for the churches in Gaul (France), whereby the candidate for Acolyte was first instructed by the Bishop in the duties of his office, and then a candlestick, with a candle extin-

THE FIFTH SUNDAY BRUNCH

As Father Doc said one Sunday in church, "Now say that fast five times!" It is a little difficult to say it fast, but it does have a special meaning. There are about four months in the year that have five Sundays, and we are going to use the fifth Sunday for a brunch served between the services.

It a wonderful opportunity for both services to gather together to get to know each other. It is also a

wonderful time for all of our visitors to be our special guests and get to know the Grace family.

There were a lot of people ready to eat breakfast on July 31. Everyone had a good time, and there were a few first timers there. Our next breakfast will be October 30. Remember to put it on your calendar.

Our thanks to everyone that helped. And, the menu was better than your mama used to make



Kristi and Martin Coleman



Mama Flo and Diann Schneider



Stana & Robert Chapman, Susie & Greg Henton, Doc Martin, Angela Buttram LaRue & Jerry Schmelzer

Ed and Toni Strong with our Assistant Bell Ringer



John Hopkins Kimberly Sprinkle



KITCHEN HELP

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Greg and Susan Henton for designing and making drawer dividers for the kitchen drawers. If you haven't looked in the drawers lately you will see a big change. Each kind of utensil has their own little section. It is marvelous! Let's keep them that way.

ECW FUN BREAKFAST

We had a good turn out at the July breakfast and I think everyone had a good time. Our next breakfast will be September 10. Currently we will meet at the Cracker Barrel, but I am still looking as other places. If you have any questions, please call me at 931-486-0377.

BAPTISM

On August 7th Annalee Trodglen was welcomed to Grace Church by the Sacrament of Baptism. Annalee was received into our fellowship by numerous family and friends. Her membership in Christ's Kingdom and Grace Church was sealed by the Holy Spirit and supported by those in attendance. Father William (Doc) Martin officiated, assisted by Verger Craige Demoss and Chalice Bearer Mike Lee.



PARISH LIFE

I hear that once upon a time there was a desire to have a group called The Grace Social Group. When I inquired about this group, I was told that it never really got off the ground. I'm all about adventures, trying new things, sharing my favorite places with others, etc. so I say let's get this party started! My hope is that we will get the group together at least once a quarter to go on an outing. For the first outing, I'm going to share one of my favorite places with you all.

What: Grace Social Club

Where: Christy's on 6th (109 E. 6th Street, Columbia)

When: October 2 at 12 noon

Cost: \$12.95 plus tax and tip per person

Everyone is invited and it would be very helpful if you could let me know if you're planning on coming by emailing me at mypilgrimpath@gmail.com by noon on August 26th so I can let the restaurant know. This way they'll be ready for us. If it slips your mind, don't worry about it just come on down – there's room for everyone. Trust me or talk with Leslie and Milton – you don't want to miss out on the food which is delicious or the opportunity for us to all be in community together.

If you have an idea for an outing, please let me know. I'm happy to have help or hear suggestions about where we're going next!

**THOSE WHO ARE DEFENDING
ALL OUR FREEDOMS**



Kevin Chambers
Shane Land
Kevin Hubbard
Robert Carr
Shannon Biggs;
Marlin Mealer
Andrew Martin

BIRTHDAYS

Thomas Meinhart	1-Sep
Heather Argue	2-Sep
Susan Henton	5-Sep
Kathleen Pearson	5-Sep
Daniel Gibson-O'Grady	6-Sep
Millard (Bud) Mitchum	9-Sep
Richard Jones	11-Sep
Father Martin	13-Sep
Walter Main	14-Sep
Lauren Rieger	22-Sep
Steven Argue	23-Sep
Scott Workman	26-Sep
Milton Tudahl	27-Sep
Sean Hansen	30-Sep

ANNIVERSARIES

Eric & Stellasue Hansen	4-Sep
Matt & Julie Whittier	5-Sep
John & Janice Green	8-Sep
Robert & Jene-marie Marks	23-Sep
Ken & Elizabeth Crouch	30-Sep

PRAYER LIST

Diann	Eunice	Robert	Bob M
Gayle	John	Bettye	Marjorie
Ouida	Kathleen	Grace	Sandra
Jann	Nancy	Thomas	Clint
Keith	Matthew	Miranda	John B
Dorothy	Stan	Isabella	Elaine
Bob D	Lucy	Peoples of Libya	Peoples of Japan

ALTAR GUILD ASSIGNMENTS

September	Elizabeth Crouch
October	Betty Pigford
November	Fran Lovell

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH MISSION COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2011

The regular meeting of the Grace Church Mission Council was held on July 7, 2011 in Faith Hall. The meeting was called to order by Father Martin at 6:30 pm with Kim Fisher, the secretary being present. Craig Dean moved for the approval of the June minutes. Motion passed.

The Treasurer, Michael Lee reported:

FINANCIAL NARRATIVE

Highlights from the June financials:

Pledges & Donations		Over (Under)
June YTD Budget	June YTD Actual	Budget
\$45,929	\$46,032	\$103

Other Operating Receipts		
\$1,083	\$7,371	\$6,288

Expenses		
- Payroll		
\$ 36,532	\$36,354	(\$178)
Building & Grounds		
\$ 6,953	\$5,506	(\$1,447)
Outreach		
\$ 6,522	\$6,157	(\$365)
Church Supplies		
\$ 1,812	\$1,537	(\$275)
Miscellaneous		
\$860	\$1,543	\$683
Teams		
\$ 1,850	\$357	(\$1,493)

Net Income over expenses: \$1,949

Cash holdings:

First Tennessee ending 6/30 - \$ 183.

Green Bank ending 6/30 - \$ 51,000 A six month c/d purchased in January expires in July and will either be renewed or parked in savings – a ten day window is allowed to make the choice.

A number of issues needed to be ironed out in order to better report financial data each month.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH MISSION COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2011

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:30 with prayer and then the Mission Council met in Executive Session to discuss the vacancies on the Mission Council that was called to order by Father Martin with Kim Fisher the secretary being present.

Motion made by Diann Schneider for a voice vote to nominate Bill Rieger and Kristi Coleman to fill two vacancies on the mission council. Motion passed.

All " ayes" on voice vote to elect Bill Rieger and Kristi Coleman to the Mission Council.

Nomination by Patrick Craddock to elect Diann Schneider as Senior Warden. Voice vote taken. All "ayes".

Nomination by Diann Schneider to elect Bill Rieger as Junior Warden. Voice vote taken.
All" ayes".

The next regular Mission Council meeting will be held Sunday, August 7th, 2011 at 11:45 in Faith Hall following the second service coffee hour.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

GRACE CHURCH SERVER GRID SEP 2011

Service	Week Of	Lay Reader	Chalice Bearer	Chalice Bearer	Children's Church	Lay Reader	Ushers	Vestry Person
8:00 AM	Sept 4 th	Bill Rieger	Cheryl Kline					
	Sept 11 th	Craig Dean	Fran Lovell					
	Sept 18 th	Kristi Coleman	Michael Lee					
	Sept 25 th	Bill Rieger	Kristi Coleman					
Service	Week Of	Acolyte	Altar Guild	Chalice Bearer	Children's Church	Lay Reader	Ushers	Vestry Person
10:00 AM	Sept 4 th	Jacque Bartosch	Elizabeth Crouch	Craige DeMoss	Liz Landrum Carrie Craddock Elizabeth Crouch	Patrick Craddock	Jim & Linda Stella John & Janice Green	Patrick Craddock Linda Stella
	Sept 11 th	Olivia Russell	Elizabeth Crouch	Patrick Craddock	Ouida Martin Jacque Bartosch	Jane Feldner	Flo & Cheryl Kline	Craig Dean
	Sept 18 th	Cailleigh Craddock	Elizabeth Crouch	Cheryl Kline	Mary Rieger	Pat Adams	Bill & Lynn Rieger	Elizabeth Crouch
	Sept 25 th	Shannon Craddock	Elizabeth Crouch	Craige DeMoss	Linda Stella Mary Rieger	M Gibson-O'Grady		

If you are unable to serve your appointed date, please find your own replacement. Please notify the office at 931 486-3223 or office@graceChurchish.net with the name of your replacement so your replacement can be properly included in the weekly bulletin.



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