

# ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021

*REMINDER: We have regathered for in person worship each Sunday at 10 am, and no reservations are needed. For those not ready to return, the livestream continues on our YouTube Channel*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Hunter F. Cooke, grandson of Richard and Joanne Beck, son of Brad and Jessica Beck Cooke, graduated from Lincoln Charter School, Denver, NC.

Jackson Matthews, son of Patrick and Meredith Matthews, graduated with honors from Southampton Academy. He will be working at Matthews Sand & Gravel/Matthews Towing & Repair.

Eric Mitchell, son of Erica Roney, graduated from Old Dominion University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fine Arts. He plans to join the Air Force.

Tom Pollard, grandson of Beth Pollard, graduated from UVA with degrees in History and English.

McGee Roman, daughter of Rawn Hyatt, graduated from Davidson College with a BA in Political Science and Hispanic Studies. She will be attending UNC law school in the fall of 2021.

## PRAYER FOR THE GRADUATES

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on our graduates as they head in a new direction. Grant that they may continue to grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## CHURCH STEWARDSHIP DAY(it's not always about the money!)

As Episcopalians we believe that stewardship is about being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God. The tradition of giving back to God and to the church comes from the Biblical practice of "tithing," which means to give back a tenth of our earnings to God (Numbers 18:26). The Episcopal Church sees stewardship as more than simply contributing money to the church; it's also about contributing time and talents and volunteering for ministry and mission. It's about reaching out to build relationships from a perspective of abundance instead of scarcity.

(<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/what-we-do/stewardship/>) To put it another way, stewardship is what we do with all that we have, after we say "I believe."

One way that we can live this out is by being responsible stewards of the church property. You are invited to join us for a church workday. We will be doing some weeding and light pruning outside, and some light housekeeping inside. Working together on a project is one of the best ways to have fun and get to know others. See below for more details.

**What:** Church Stewardship Day

**When:** June 5, 9 AM – 12 PM (come and help for any amount of time you can give)

**Where:** Christ and Grace outside and inside

**What to bring:** work gloves and garden tools (rakes, clippers, shovels, etc.) Inside cleaning supplies will be provided

Water and snacks provided.

Any who want to go out for lunch together afterwards will leave from the church at noon to enjoy fellowship and food.

## **PRAYER LIST**

We beg you to feed the hungry, protect the refugee, embrace the distressed, house the homeless, nurse the sick, and comfort the dying. Especially we pray for Melissa Aigner, James Christiansen, Thomas Clark, Pret Kaichen, Mark Sheffield, and Mary Villeponteaux.

## **THE COLLECT**

O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **REVISED GUIDELINES FOR PARISH LIFE**

- **Following CDC and diocesan updated guidelines, fully vaccinated persons are free to be unmasked in worship if desired.** *Unvaccinated persons are requested and highly recommended to continue to follow CDC guidelines, especially mask wearing and social distancing.* All are requested to stay at home when feeling ill and join in worship online.
- **Please respect and show compassion for those who make different choices than you or who have different health and comfort needs.** Please continue to “remember the least of these” and model Christian charity as we navigate this new phase of reentry. Those leading worship will also make different decisions as we continue to work to be a community that is both welcoming, safe and non-judgmental.
- **Restrooms.** All restrooms are open. Please continue to avoid crowding and please disinfect after use.
- **Children are welcome.** We ask that you bring quiet pew activities and keep your children with you at all times. Masks for children are at the parents’ discretion.
- **Enter and Exit as you choose.** All doors will be open and you may enter or exit any door. Attendance registration is no longer required. We will no longer dismiss by rows, but we ask that you continue to respect the personal space of one another as you depart.
- **Offering plates.** We will not resume passing of offering plates. They will be located at the doors in the nave. This will be familiar if you have attended the Celtic Service.
- **For the time being, we will continue to sit in every other row.** As we move forward and/or as we start reaching capacity, we will then reassess our spacing practices. The balcony/choir loft is closed to all but our AV volunteers.
- **Personal space is a good thing.** When finding a seat, always ask if you may sit next to someone. They may prefer some distancing.
- **Singing.** With masks no longer required, the Regathering Team has made the decision to continue with our practice of no congregational singing at this time.
- **The Peace.** We will continue to exchange the peace from a safe distance for now.
- **Communion.** In this phase we will continue to offer communion in one kind (wafers) at the base of the chancel steps.
- **Service length.** We will continue to offer a service that is shorter in length to keep our time together as safe as possible, considering that we are not all masked and our air handling system is older and without newer filter systems. Additionally, a shorter service is more suitable for our live-streaming worshippers.
- **Fellowship and Formation.** We will soon begin offering refreshments outside after the service, but will wait until September to resume Sunday education activities.
- **Outside Groups.** Outside groups who use our space will be contacted and invited to return, and will be expected to create and follow their own safety guidelines in consultation with the Rector.

## **2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1**

Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke" —we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

## **Mark 3:20-35**

The crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his disciples could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

"Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

## **The Collect of the Day**

O God, from whom all good proceeds: Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are right, and by your merciful guiding may do them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.