

# CLARKE PARISH

Grace Episcopal Church / St. Mary's Memorial Church

## THE EVANGELINE

September 22, 2021



### FROM THE OFFICE

COVID TRACKER  
Clarke County, VA

Sept 20, 2021  
**RED ALERT** (High)

While we remain in either **RED** (high) or **ORANGE** (substantial), we will continue to require masks at all Clarke Parish services.

If we drop to **YELLOW** (moderate) or **BLUE** (low) for 14 consecutive days, we will lift the mask mandate.

**It MUST be 14 consecutive days though in accordance with CDC guidelines.**

If you wish to monitor this information, you may use the following link using the CDC website, and select

### Reflections

Sadly owing to the aggressive spread of the delta variant of COVID-19 I have decided, in consultation with the staff and Karen Keating to postpone the celebratory evensong that was to take place this Sunday to celebrate the ministry of Karen Keating at Grace Church. We hope to reschedule for a date in the spring TBD.

As a result instead of the planned one service of Holy Eucharist at 9:15 at St. Mary's, we will hold our full complement of services this Sunday at 8, 9:15, and 11:15. There will be no adult education, however.

The bishop has now mandated that masks be worn indoors for all church worship and meetings. We have also been asked to hold any events where food and drink are consumed outside. St. Mary's vestry has decided to cease coffee hours until we can eat and drink safely indoors again. Grace has only been holding intermittent coffee hours so I would encourage them to follow St. Mary's lead. We will address our two big events in November as time gets closer but we have contingency plans in the works should we need them.

We have a responsibility as Christians to ourselves and our neighbors. Our bodies are God's temple and so we are obligated to protect our own bodies as well as those of others. We are at a crucial time in this country and in Virginia. The Episcopal Church

Virginia and Clarke  
County.

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>.

Community Transmission

High

New Cases - 36

Positivity - 9.27%

Deaths - 0

Eligible Population Fully

Vaccinated - 53%

does not recognize religious exemptions for having the vaccine and while, of course, we recognize that some people cannot have it for health reasons I ask that anyone who is not medically ill-advised to take the vaccine take it as part of your Christian duty. We will not be mandating vaccines in this parish to attend worship but we will be strongly encouraging them.

Let's all do our part. COVID isn't going away but we can get to a place where we can live with it.

Blessings,  
Justin+

**Coffee with the Clergy RETURNS:**

Please join me on Monday afternoons at Cordial Coffee in Berryville from 2-4 pm. This time is meant for parishioners and community members alike to come down and share a cup of coffee/tea and some conversation with me. I hope to see you soon!

## UPCOMING SERVICE SCHEDULE

### *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost* September 26, 2021

**8 am at Grace Episcopal Church**  
Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

**9:15 am at St. Mary's Memorial Church**  
Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

**Celebrant:** Rev Justin A. Ivatts

**Seminarian:** Caroline Mitchell

**Lay Reader:** Gwendolyn Malone

**Pianist:** Hailey Outland

**11:15 at Grace Episcopal Church**  
Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

**Celebrant:** Rev Justin A. Ivatts

**Seminarian:** Caroline Mitchell

**Lay Reader:** Penny Poe

**Organist:** Wendy Oesterling

**Acolytes:** Diane & Robyn Preston

**Usher:** Ben Newlon (September)

**[Click HERE - Lectionary Insert for September 26, 2021](#)**  
Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 / Psalm 124 / James 5:13-20 / Mark 9:38-50

The altar flowers at Grace Church are given to the glory of God by the Donner family (Stefan, Suzanne, Aza, Ilia, Kostya, and Nastia)

## Virtual Worship

For those of you still wishing to join us virtually instead of attending in-person worship, the 11:15 am service at Grace Church will continue to be live-streamed each week.

Please use the links below to view the service offerings.

These links are permanent and will not change week after week.

Our YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTT0nfgs77DzKrl2qxC38Cg>

Our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Grace-Episcopal-Church-111667788869782>

## Lay Reader & Acolyte Schedule September & October 2021



Please click the link below to access the most recent schedule of lay readers and acolyte assignments at both Grace and St. Mary's.

[Click HERE - September & October 2021](#)

If scheduled, please remember to contact the office in case of conflict or unavailability and always attempt to find a substitute to swap dates with if needed.

***NOTE:** We are always in need of more volunteers to add to our lay reader roster at all church services. Lay reading is a wonderful opportunity to take part in the service, let your voice be heard reading scripture and prayers, and see the church from a different perspective standing at the lectern. If you would like to join this important ministry, please contact the office for more information and/or to be scheduled.*

## CHURCH NEWS

Always stay up-to-date with church events and activities...

**Church Calendar - Quick View!**



**September 22** - Wednesday Morning Bible Study RESUMES/ 10:30 am in the Conference Room. New Study Topic = *Heaven and Hell: A History of the Afterlife* (see below)

**September 22** - 'Sacred Ground' - 6 pm in the McIntosh Chapel

**September 26** - Clarke Parish Trustees Meeting / 10:15 am in the Conference Room.

**September 29** - Wednesday Morning Bible Study / 10:30 am in the Conference Room.

**September 8** - 'Sacred Ground' - 6 pm in the McIntosh Chapel

**October 2** - Blessing of the Animals - 10 am at the Rectory



**October 3** - YOUTH Sunday School Classes RESUME / 10 am in the Parish Hall (We will start the program year with a Parent/Student Informational Meeting in the McIntosh Chapel - [see below](#))

**October 5** - St. Mary's Vestry Meeting / 1 pm in the Parish House

**October 6** - 'Sacred Ground' - 6 pm in the McIntosh Chapel

**October 13** - 'Sacred Ground' - 6 pm in the McIntosh Chapel

**October 17** - St. Mary's ECW Meeting / 10 am in the Parish House

**October 18** - GEC Vestry Meeting / 7 pm in the Conference Room

**October 20** - 'Sacred Ground' - 6 pm in the McIntosh Chapel

**October 24** - St. Mary's 114th Homecoming Service/ Dr. Caroline Mitchell will be the guest speaker. This service will be pre-recorded and released on Oct 24

**October 27** - 'Sacred Ground' - 6 pm in the McIntosh Chapel

**October 30** - Choral Evensong at Wickliffe / 4:30 pm

**October 31** - Rogue Sunday Service offered at 11:15 am by the youth of Clarke Parish. Rogue Sunday will be immediately followed by our annual Spooktacular Halloween Party in the grassy area outside the parish hall.

## Wednesday Morning Bible Study

**New Study Topic beginning THIS WEEK!**

**Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Conference Room**

By popular demand, we will embark on an exploration of hell starting TODAY - Wednesday, September 22th at 10:30 am. Social time will precede class each week beginning at 10 am. If you are interested in participating, please purchase *Heaven and Hell: A History of the Afterlife* by Bart D. Ehrman.



## 'Sacred Ground'

**A Film-Based Dialogue on Race & Faith**

**Wednesday Evenings at 6 pm in the McIntosh Chapel!**

You are cordially invited to join us for a series of conversations walking through important chapters of America's history of race and racism while weaving in a thread of family stories, economic class, and political and regional identity. We will focus on our long-term commitment, as the Episcopal Church, to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society as part of the church initiative *Becoming Beloved Community*.

Gwen Malone and Wendy Oesterling are serving as facilitators for this 10-week program. We will meet weekly on **Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the McIntosh Chapel at Grace Church.** (9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 10/27, 11/3 & 11/10)

**Everyone is welcome! Masks mandatory!**

**Christian Education**  
**Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study**

10:15 am in the Parish House @ St. Mary's



Please join us each week as we focus on a new session of Adult Sunday School - 'Episcopal Church 101'.

This fun and informative class is open to all seeking a clearer understanding of our Episcopal traditions but is mandatory for those seeking confirmation or reception into the Episcopal Church on November 7th when Bishop Gulick visits Clarke Parish.

Have you ever wondered what makes us English? Who are the Anglican Communion anyway? Who is our head, God, The Queen, The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Presiding Bishop, all of the above? How is our local parish governed? How do the readings on Sunday get selected? What do Anglicans believe about the sacraments, especially Holy Baptism and the Eucharist? Come and find out the answers to these and many other questions in our Episcopal Church 101 class starting THIS SUNDAY, September 12<sup>th</sup> and every Sunday in October at 10:15 am at the St. Mary's Parish House. Mandatory for those being confirmed or received, encouraged for all others.

### Syllabus - Episcopal Church 101

- **September 12** - Music in the Anglican Tradition
- **October 3** - An introduction to The Revised Common Lectionary
- **October 10** - An introduction to the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion
- **October 17** - An introduction to the Book of Common Prayer
- **October 24** - Class will meet at 9:45 in the Parish Hall @ GEC (Homecoming at St. Mary's – one service at 11:00) / Q&A – bring your questions and have them answered

## Christian Education

Youth Sunday School  
and Confirmation Classes



10 am in the 'Gracement' beginning on October 3, 2021!

Hooray...It's almost time to finally rejoin for in-person Sunday School fun in the Gracement! After enduring over a year of virtual, take-home, or no classes, we can now safely regather on Sunday mornings for classroom lessons, fun projects, and extracurricular activities. Who's ready?

**We will begin our program year on Sunday, October 3 @ 10 am. All students AND parents are asked to join in the McIntosh Chapel at this time for an informational meeting, session overview, teacher introductions, and classroom assignments.**



## Blessings of the Animals

Saturday, October 2, 2021

10 am @ The Rectory

At this time of year, you might notice a procession of animals, everything from dogs and cats to hamsters, chickens, lambs, and even horses, being led to churches for



a special ceremony called the 'Blessing of The Animals.' This custom is celebrated in remembrance of Saint Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures great and small. Saint Francis wrote a Canticle, an ode to God's living things: "*All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures.*"

You are invited to bring your furry, feathered, or finned friends to the Rectory grounds on Saturday, October 2nd @ 10 am to receive a special blessing at this wonderful outdoor service. RAIN OR SHINE! For our younger parishioners, stuffed animals are most welcome to come and receive a special blessing too.

*Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land. You inspired Saint Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.*

## Important News From the Diocese

### Bishop Search Committee Announces Listening Sessions and Open Survey



The search process for the 14th Bishop of Virginia is lifting off in earnest this Fall, and we want to hear from you! Be on the lookout in the coming weeks for an important online survey.

**We want as many people as possible in the Diocese to participate in this survey.**

In early October the committee will also conduct virtual listening sessions to give parishioners an opportunity to share their hopes for our new bishop. The schedule for the listening sessions will be as follows:

- Tuesday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, October 16 at 10:30 a.m.
- Monday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 22 at 7:30 p.m.

For now please mark your calendar. A sign-up for each virtual listening session will be coming soon!

## Scenes from last Sunday's 'Mass on the Grass'





## Online Giving

It's as easy as 1,2,3...

We have partnered with [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) - a trusted platform to provide a simple, convenient, and secure way to continue supporting our ministry through online giving from anywhere at any time.

Please consider this option to make a pledge or one-time payment to the church. You can also set up recurring payments, and likewise, you can utilize [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) to give to the General Fund, Grace Giving, St. Mary's Giving, the Rector's Discretionary Fund, the Backpack Program, or 'Other' by selecting from the drop-down menu options.

[Click HERE to Give Online Now](#)

The [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) link is also available by visiting the Parish Website at [www.ClarkeParish.org](http://www.ClarkeParish.org)

# COMMUNITY NEWS



# Music Together!

The Community Music School of the Piedmont

This fun 10-week class will be held in the 'Gracement' at Grace Episcopal Church.

Please help spread the word or register your little person now.

## Music Classes for Children from Birth – Kindergarten



Next 10 week session starts  
Monday, September 13th at 10am

Grace Church  
110 North Church Street  
Berryville 22611



Presented by:  
The Community Music School of the Piedmont



To register or for more information:

(540) 592-3040

[www.piedmontmusic.org](http://www.piedmontmusic.org)

[piedmontmusic@aol.com](mailto:piedmontmusic@aol.com)

Grace Episcopal Church & St. Mary's Memorial Church | 540.955.1610  
[amzgrace@verizon.net](mailto:amzgrace@verizon.net) | [www.clarkeparish.org](http://www.clarkeparish.org)