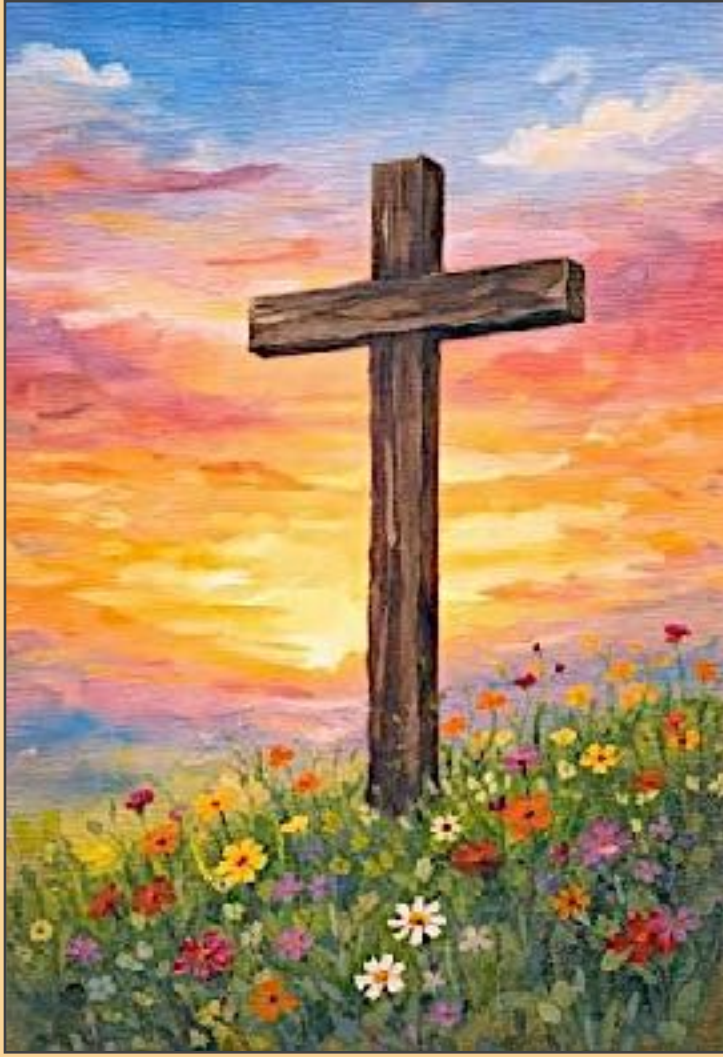


Grace Episcopal Church

Grace is a Christ-centered Community devoted to Servant Ministry and Spiritual Growth.



Morning Prayer

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2026

9:30 AM



GRACE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH + SHEFFIELD, ALABAMA

Interpreting This Week's Prayer

Collect of the Day: *Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Dear God: In you we live and move and have our being. It is your Spirit, living in us, that helps us think and act in ways that bring goodness and life into our relationships and into your world. Give us your Spirit today and always. In Jesus' Holy Name we pray. Amen.

Prelude

Processional Hymn 388

O worship the King

O worship the King, all glorious above
O gratefully sing his power and his love
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise

O tell of his might! O sing of his grace
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm

The earth with its store of wonders untold
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old
Hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail
In thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail
Thy mercies, how tender! How firm to the end
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend

Opening Sentences

BCP 78

The Officiant says

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Confession of Sin

BCP 79

The Officiant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept

Officiant and People together, all kneeling

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Officiant stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

Invitatory and Psalter

BCP 80

All stand.

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Venite *Psalm 95:1-7*

BCP 82

In unison.

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us down down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b *Confitemini Domino*

This psalm tells the whole story of Jacob's family, all the way from his grandfather, Abraham, to his descendant, Moses. This portion of the psalm complements our first reading.

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name; *
 make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
 and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; *
 let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 Search for the Lord and his strength; *
 continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
 his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
 O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 16 Then he called for a famine in the land *
 and destroyed the supply of bread.
- 17 He sent a man before them, *
 Joseph, who was sold as a slave.
- 18 They bruised his feet in fetters; *
 his neck they put in an iron collar.
- 19 Until his prediction came to pass, *
 the word of the Lord tested him.
- 20 The king sent and released him; *
 the ruler of the peoples set him free.
- 21 He set him as a master over his household,
 as a ruler over all his possessions,
- 22 To instruct his princes according to his will
 and to teach his elders wisdom.
- 45 Hallelujah!

Reader and People together

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

The First Lesson

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

This story about Jacob's favorite son is straight from the VBS Hall of Fame. Which is sort of strange, when you consider how nightmarish Joseph's brothers' actions toward him are! With Joseph, the story of Abraham's family takes an important turn, for it is because Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt that all of Jacob's family will eventually find a home there—a home where they, too, will be pressed into slavery.

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him" —that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to see us free
 He visits and redeems us, he grants us liberty
 The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release
 God shall fulfill his promise and bring his people peace

He from the house of David a child of grace has given
 A Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven
 Before him goes his herald, forerunner in the way
 The prophet of salvation, the harbinger of Day

On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise
 The dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes
 He guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace
 O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease

The Second Lesson**Romans 10:5-15**

In Ch. 10, Paul is still exploring his questions, concerns, and reflections on fellow Jewish believers who have not accepted Christ. In these verses, he revisits themes that play a big role in Romans and in all of his original writings: Jesus is with us now, implanted in our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit; he is the basis of salvation, not one's ethnicity; it is necessary to share this news with as many people as possible.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
 on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

The Word of the Lord.
 People Thanks be to God.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height
 Rejoice in his word, ye angels of light
 Ye heavens, adore him by whom ye were made
 And worship before him, in brightness arrayed

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth
 In tuneful accord, all ye of new birth
 Praise him who hath brought you his grace from above
 Praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love

O praise ye the Lord! All things that give sound
 Each jubilant chord re-echo around
 Loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone
 And sweet harp, the story of what he hath done

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
 To him be outpoured all ages along
 For love in creation, for heaven restored
 For grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 14:22-33

Last week, Jesus was eager for some alone time. Instead, he ended up feeding fish and bread to at least 5000 people! Today, he finally gets to have his moment of Zen. As soon as he leaves the disciples alone, however, they find themselves in a tough situation on the sea. Peter's interaction with Jesus reminds us of the insightful saying, "The opposite of faith isn't doubt – it's fear."

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Apostles' Creed

BCP 96

Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead,

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The people kneel or sit

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Officiant Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 97

Officiant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Officiant prays the Versicle (V); the People offer the Response (R).

V. Show us your mercy O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Officiant offers the following Collects.

The Collect of the Day

Proper 8

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

For a New Week

This is another week, O Lord. We know not what it will bring forth, but make us ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If we are to stand up, help us to stand bravely. If we are to sit still, help us to sit quietly. If we are to lie low, help us to do it patiently. And if we are to do nothing, let us do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give us the Spirit of Jesus. *Amen.*
(BCP 461, adapted)

For the Presence of Christ

Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell in our hearts in the fullness of your strength; be our wisdom and guide us in right pathways; conform our lives and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*
(Adapted from the Act of Spiritual Communion, found in St. Augustine's Prayer Book)

A Prayer for Mission

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us your Spirit of love, that, in companionship with one another, your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Office Hymn 608

Eternal Father, strong to save

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the restless wave
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea

O Christ, whose voice the waters heard and hushed their raging at thy word
Who walkedst on the foaming deep, and calm amid its rage didst sleep
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea

Most Holy Spirit, who didst brood upon the chaos dark and rude
And bid its angry tumult cease, and give, for wild confusion, peace
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea

O Trinity of Love and power, thy children shield in danger's hour
From rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them where-so-e'er they go
Thus evermore shall rise to thee glad hymns of praise from land and sea

The People offer additional prayers, followed by these intercessions for our parish family:

We pray for God's Church throughout the world, for its unity and mission, and for all clergy and people. We pray especially for the Church in Alabama; for Sean, our presiding Bishop; Richard, our Bishop; Danielle, our Priest; Josh, our Deacon; and for our congregation, Grace Episcopal Church.

We pray for those in authority, especially Donald, our president; Kay, our governor; and for the mayors, city councils, and county commissions of the Shoals.

We pray for those on our intercessory prayer list, saying together
Elijah, Reagan, Penney, The Booth Family, Suzy, Tommy B, LaVera, Peter, Doug, Courtney, Bruce, Frances, Betty, Dan, Ro, Heather, Gail, Jessica, George, Jacquelyn, Pamela, & Jane.

We pray for all whose work puts them in harm's way and for those on active duty in the military, saying together
Joshua, Drake, Carter, Ethan, Jacobi, Kahleel, Henry, Jacob, Kadin, Dustin, Rebekah, Bryan, and William.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries: Nedra McCaig, Radford Scott, Mark Orman, Chelsea Underwood, & Hunter Ennis.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. We give thanks for the life of Betty Cole, sister of Rita Kelly.

Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

Offertory Hymn 689

I sought the Lord

I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew
He moved my soul to seek him, seeking me
It was not I that found, O Savior true
No, I was found of thee

Thou didst reach forth thy hand and mine enfold
I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea
'Twas not so much that I on thee took hold
As thou, dear Lord, on me

I find, I walk, I love, but oh, the whole
Of love is but my answer, Lord, to thee
For thou wert long beforehand with my soul
Always thou lovedst me

As the alms are brought forward, the congregations stands to sing

Doxology Hymn 380

Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise him, all creatures here below
Praise him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Offertory Prayer

We give you thanks, gracious God, for the blessing of this and of all our days. Accept, we pray, the offerings we humbly bring before you now: Accept our worship and praise; our prayers and supplications; our selves, our souls, and bodies. Accept our devotion to you and our service to one another, as well as our desire to help your people, even when we feel powerless and overwhelmed. Accept, we pray, our gifts of time and treasure, as well as our fervent longing to offer these things when we are unable to do so. Above all, accept our lives, freely given to you in gratitude for your infinite love; through him in whom all our offerings are made complete, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

BCP 101

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn 637 How firm a foundation

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in his excellent word
What more can he say than to you he hath said
To you that for refuge to Jesus have fled

“Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand

When through the deep waters I call thee to go
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine

The soul that to Jesus hath fled for repose
I will not, I will not desert to its foes
That soul, though all hell shall endeavor to shake
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake”

Postlude

Servants Today - August 9

VOD David McKinley	Safety Troy Youngblood	Greeter Janet Klas	Usher David Springer	Reader Scott Cilluffo
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Acolytes Kris Walls & Jem Davis	Chalice John Walls & Patti Thorne	Server John Walls	Cross Joshua Davis
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Altar Guild

Mary Cecelia Youngblood, Jodi McDaniel, Beth Scott, & Debbie Thompson

Fellowship

Lisa Gardner & Crew

The plant on the altar is given by Janet Port and Danny Hovater to the glory of God and in thanksgiving of our loving Grace family.

**Danielle, our priest, and Josh, our deacon, would love to hear from you!
Please do not hesitate to contact either or both of them!**

Danielle Thompson: 931-636-4898 THOMDL80@gmail.com

Josh Vacik: 256-740-1255 JVICIK@comcast.net

Grace Church Vestry 2026

Lisa Gardner
Annie Laurie Gray
Jerry Shea - Senior Warden

Chris Earl
Kris Walls
Troy Youngblood

Dennis Cole
David McKinley - Junior Warden
Janet Port - Treasurer
Darrell Todd- Clerk

Grace Episcopal Church

103 Darby Avenue, PO Box 838
Sheffield, AL 35660

Office: 256-383-2014

Text: 256-335-4546

Email: gracesheffieldoffice@gmail.com

Website: graceepiscopalsheffield.dioala.org

The Reverend Danielle Thompson, **Rector**

The Reverend Josh Vacik, **Deacon**

Parish Musician: Christa Belue Byrd

Organist: Nancy Hughes Bolte

Bookkeeper: Gayle Ozbirn

Parish Administrator: Lane Hardison Ennis

THIS WEEK AT GRACE:

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – MONDAY AT 8 AM (PARISH HALL)

LEARN TO PLAY BRIDGE – TUESDAY AT 10 AM (PARISH HALL)

GRACE GROUPS – WEDNESDAY AT 4 PM & 6 PM

GRACE NOTES OPEN JAM SESSION – THURSDAY AT 3:45 PM (PARISH HALL)

CENTERING PRAYER – THURSDAY AT 5:15 PM (PARISH HOUSE)

ALL GROUPS ARE "ROLLING ADMISSION" AND CAN BE JOINED AT ANY TIME! CONTACT LANE OR DANIELLE AND WE WILL PUT YOU IN TOUCH WITH A GROUP LEADER!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POT LUCK FELLOWSHIP: BRING A SNACK TO SHARE!

A bag of M&M's a box of cookies, or a jug of lemonade - let's all pitch in to make fellowship fun on **August 16**.

SHOALS SHELTER SUMMER COOL-DOWN DAYS

We are hosting 10-15 guest from Shoals Shelter from 12p - 4p in the Parish Hall on the following Thursdays:

August 13, August 27, September 10, September 24

Can you help with snacks, lunch, or on-site presence? Let Danielle know!

GRACE NIGHT RETURNS!

An easy-breezy monthly dinner with friends.

Bring a dish to share: whatever you want to eat or whatever you like to make - no need to sign up.

Dinner starts at 5:30 on Sunday, August 23.

FALL PREVIEW

Saturday, Sept 19: **Centering Prayer Workshop at Grace**, facilitated by Contemplative Outreach, Birmingham. Open to the public! 9 AM - 12 PM

Sunday, October 4: **The Great Episcopal Picnic**, hosted by St. Bart's. 10:30 AM

Sunday, October 18: **Pet Blessing AND Grace Night**. A combo platter of fun in our pavilion!

Friday, Nov 6 - Sunday, Nov 8: **Shoals Parish Retreat at Camp McDowell!** A weekend of fun with our friends from Trinity and St. Bart's. *Sign ups begin August 1!!!*

SCAN ME



Save our church website QR code!

Our church website is easily found using this QR code! Please save a picture of the QR code so you can share it with others.