



the Grace TEAM

to each a ministry

MARCH 2015

Parson to Person

Gary Coffey

Grace Episcopal Church

871 Merrimon Avenue
Asheville, NC 28804
828-254-1086

Visit us online at
www.graceepiscopalchurch.us
and
www.facebook.com/graceasheville.

The Grace TEAM
is published monthly.

Sunday Worship

7:45AM - Rite I

9:00AM - Family Eucharist
11:15AM - Festival Eucharist

Healing Prayer

Every Sunday at
9:00AM and 11:15AM
there is a Prayer Station
available with

Lay Healing Prayer Ministers.

Healing Prayer Services

Tuesdays, 7:00PM - Healing
Prayer Service;
Eucharist with Generational
Healing Service
first Tuesday monthly.

Wednesdays at 12:15PM

Healing Prayer Service and
Eucharist - laying on of hands
by the priest for God's Healing.

Taizé

Third Sunday of each month at
8:00PM there is a Taizé service
attended by an ecumenical
congregation who enjoy the
reflective form of worship
using candles, incense, chants,
meditative readings, and
prayers. Healing Prayer is also
offered at the service.

Dear People of Grace,

I really like where Easter Day falls on the calendar this year. The reason? It's so clean! It falls on the first Sunday of April. The season of Lent, which continues through the month of March, is easier to remember as well. And, since this is the March newsletter you're receiving during the first week of March (a little late, we know, but no one but God is perfect, right?), it is a very excellent time to take stock and see how your Lenten discipline is going. So — how is it going?

What was your plan? Is it working for you? If not, how can you adjust it between now and the first Sunday of April? It's not too late to make an adjustment or even make a new plan.

You still have about four weeks in which to prepare with some kind of spiritual practice for the Easter Feast.

But who cares anyway about us preparing ourselves for Easter? Well, I think it's fair to say that God cares. And why does God care about our spiritual practices? Because God really loves us and wants what's best for us.

Remember, God is our Heavenly Father. If you have trouble identifying with God as Father because you had an unloving earthly father and/or mother, please hear and try to internalize this. God is in the redemption business. God wants to redeem or make up for that father and/or mother you never had. Not only that — God can and does do that for us because, Beloved, you are *God's* child now. God has taken over as the loving Parent you may never have had.

Our loving Parent God cares about our spiritual practice in the same way my son and daughter-in-law care about their child's violin practice. They encourage her to practice

because they love her and can see from the outside of her that practicing her violin brings her great joy even though it requires work and commitment.

That's why our loving God cares about our spiritual practices. God knows the joy these practices will bring us because we were created to be in intimate contact with this Parent God who loves us. Surely it is this unfathomable joy that is the basis of every spiritual practice whether it's sitting with

God in silence or reading scripture or prayer or bathing the wounds of the poor or the sick in some way. It's all about living into your wonderful destiny as a child of the Living God who sent His Son to model what being human is. Part of what Jesus modeled was

spending time with the loving

Heavenly Father and listening to Him.

One thing we overhear the Father saying to Jesus is, "You are my Son, the beloved, and with you I am well pleased." The Father has those same sentiments for us as His children. The Father's voice echoes His words for Jesus to us saying, "You are my Child, the beloved, and with you I am well pleased." My prayer is that you will hear these words over and over from God all the days of your life. If you need a reminder, put these words on a sign on your refrigerator or mirror or on the dash of your car, or in all three of these places!

**"You are my Child,
the beloved, and
with you I am well
pleased."**

**"You are my Child,
the beloved, and with you I am
well pleased.**

God

God's Peace and Blessing,

Fr. Gary Coffey

Events at a Glance

Weekly Gospel Bible Study

Mondays, 10:30 a.m., PH

Early Birds Men's Book Study

Tuesdays, 8:15 a.m., LI

Centering Prayer

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., OF

Generational Healing Eucharist

Tuesday, March 3, 7:00 p.m., CH

Lenten Taizé Eucharist Services

Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19 & 26, 5:30 p.m., CH

PubSing at the French Broad Brewery

Sunday, March 8

Snacks, 5:30 p.m.; singing, 6:00 p.m.

Men of the Church

No meetings during Lent

Healing Prayer Services

Tuesdays, March 10, 17, 24, & 31, 7:00 p.m., CH

TEAM Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 11:00 a.m., OF

Order of St. Luke

Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m., PH

Steadfast House Meal

Friday, March 13, 6:00 p.m.

Taizé Worship Service

Sunday, March 15, 8:00 p.m., CH

Vestry Meeting

Monday, March 16, 5:30 p.m., LI

Renewal of Vows Service & Lunch

Thursday, March 26, 11:00 a.m., All Souls

Holy Week Begins on Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29

Easter Baskets for the Homebound

Tuesday, March 31, 10:00 a.m., PH

Parish News

Centering Prayer meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in Fr. Gary's office. All are welcome.

The **Clergy Renewal of Vows Service and Lunch** will be held at All Souls on Thursday, March 26, 11:00 a.m. Please make lunch reservations with the Diocese.

The Tuesday morning **Early Birds** meet at 8:15 in the library and study the Word through books. All are welcome.

Eastertide Palms and Flowers envelopes will soon be in the pews. Thank you contributing to the beauty of our church in this holy season.

Experience the **Great Vigil of Easter** at the Cathedral of All Souls on Saturday, April 4 at 8:00 p.m. *Grace Parish will not have a 6:00 a.m. Vigil service this year.*

The **Men of the Church** will not meet during Lent.

Monday Morning Bible Study meets at 10:30 a.m. in the parish hall. Please join us as Fr. Bob facilitates a study of the gospel for the following Sunday. All are welcome.

The **Order of St. Luke** will meet on Thursday, March 12, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Our program will be the DVD Gospel lesson of the woman bent double. We'll also watch a video clip which challenges us to think about our thoughts, words, and deeds regarding people who behave in a manner with which we disagree. *All are welcome. One does not have to be an OSL member to attend. We will not meet if the Asheville city schools are closed that day or will close early because of inclement weather.*

Come join us for our monthly **PubSing**, an informal gathering on the second Sunday evening of each month to sing hymns, old-time Gospel and Americana inspirational music. We will meet on Sunday, March 8, at the French Broad Brewery, 101 Fairview Avenue. Please bring a snack to share at 5:30 p.m.; singing will follow at 6:00 p.m. For more information contact Monty Wooten at info@forestguide.com or 828-254-1114. For directions, go to <http://frenchbroadbrewery.com/directions/>.

Transportation Ministry. From time to time, we get requests from parishioners who need a ride to the doctor or the drug store. If you could help with this ministry, please contact Fr. Gary at 273-0635.

Help! Volunteers still needed to brew coffee once a month for the 11:15 service. It really isn't complicated *or* time consuming. Just put coffee in a filter, put the filter in the Bunn coffee-maker, brew, and pour into the urns in the foyer. If you're still a little unsure, Georgi Bruce will gladly walk you through it. If you can help in this ministry, please contact Becky in the church office at 254-1086 or email Becky at grace.parish@att.net. Meanwhile, everyone who knows how, please continue making coffee until we can rebuild this important team. Thank you!

During Lent, Come Away to Taizé

We can't take everyone at Grace on a trip to the monastic community at Taizé, France during Lent. But, we can certainly bring the quiet meditative worship of Taizé home to you right here at Grace Church each Thursday during Lent at 5:30 p.m. Judy Rhodes provides the lovely music during these midweek worship experiences, and we will continue weekly through Thursday, March 26. Please make Taizé at Grace a part of your Lenten journey. Come away to Taizé!

Our Lenten Study Continues

Fr. Gary Coffey



As we journey through the Lenten Season together, sometimes there are those of us who like having a learning opportunity. That said, you still have time to join us in the parish hall during Sunday School time as I lead a study on Michael Green's book entitled *I Believe in the Holy Spirit*.

Believe me when I tell you there is no down side to learning more about the Blessed Holy Spirit for it is the Holy Spirit that is God's real and active presence inside us and in the world today.

We study two chapters each week through Palm Sunday, March 29. The book is available through Amazon.com or BN.com.

If you can read the book, you will benefit more, of course. But even if you can't read the book, coming to the class for the presentations and discussion, I believe, will be helpful.

So, why not make a plan to be with us every Sunday that is possible for you. There's still time to let it be a part of your Lenten discipline. I think you will be glad that you did!

Reflection on the Renewal of Vows

Not all of us are ordained. But even so, we are all called, like our clergy, to make and keep promises to God. In preparation for the annual clergy renewal of ordination vows two years ago, our bishop, The Rt. Rev. G. Porter Taylor, wrote words still thought-provoking today — for all of us.

Tomorrow ... the clergy and lay leaders of the diocese will gather at All Souls Cathedral to renew our vows. After the priests and deacons have reaffirmed their intention to fulfill the promises they made at their ordinations, I will stand before the congregation and say, "And now, as your bishop, I, too, before God and you, re-dedicate myself and reaffirm the promises that I made when I was ordained. I ask your prayers."

To prepare for this service, I reread those promises. One caught my attention: "be merciful to all, show compassion to the poor and strangers, and defend those who have no helper." This reminds me that none of us is baptized or ordained to keep the Church machine working. Our charge is not to save the Church but to participate in Christ's saving the world.

I love the Church and I believe that our sacraments are vehicles for grace. I am confident that the Word spoken within the Church's walls are words that empower disciples to go and proclaim the Good News by word and example.

However, I am once again reminded of our diocese's mission to "Wake up the World," by immersing ourselves in the world. As a bishop in the Church, my calling is to be merciful to all people, not just the flock. That mercy, I think, is less by word and more by deed. What does it mean to insist on the dignity of all persons in a society that equates worth with wealth? I ask myself what it means to remember that citizenship in the household of God is different from being an American citizen. In light of this vow, I wonder how it's possible to prioritize a way of mercy if every moment of every day is scheduled, because the people I think about are those on my calendar.

Sunday is Palm Sunday. We will all go to Jerusalem and remember what is in store for our Lord and for all who follow him. My prayer as I join in the renewal of vows is for God to put to death my narrow focus on the Church machine and to widen my heart so that Jesus might fill me with his mercy and use me to show that mercy to all people.

What promise is the Lord calling for you to renew and what needs to be crucified in order for you to embrace it with your whole heart?

*Remember, this year's
Renewal of Vows is
Thursday, March 26, 11:00
a.m. at All Souls,
and all are welcome.*

*If you would like to stay for
lunch following the service,
reservations
are requested.
Please contact the Diocese.*

Last Minute Sign-Up for EYC Conference!

EYC Spring Conference is an annual celebration of the growth within the Episcopal Youth Community.

On March 6-8, any 8th-12th grader is encouraged to join us at the Valle Crucis Conference Center to celebrate the Seniors who will be moving into young adulthood upon their graduation from high school. We will also welcome all of the 8th graders into this sacred community. This is a very special weekend which will be attended by Porter Taylor the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina in order to bless all of the Seniors in our Diocese.

Our theme for the weekend will be "Touching on Diversity". We will explore the various things that make us different and unique as well as those which are similar and connected. Discussing issues surrounding, race, culture, religion, sexuality, and gender equality will help participants learn about people who are different from them. Our goal is to educate one another so that the fear and anger which often arises from a lack of understanding may be eliminated.

We will also mix in a healthy amount of fun, music, worship, free time, and mission work.

Sign up today: http://www.diocesewnc.org/digital_faith/events/3163177

Easter Baskets for Homebound Friends



Spring is coming! Easter is coming! It's time to think about our risen Lord, daffodils, and Easter eggs! It's also time to think about Easter baskets for our friends and parishioners who are no longer able to participate in the day to day life of our parish.

You are invited to join in the fellowship involved in putting together these baskets and to share in the joy that comes from delivering them to our friends who are in nursing homes or at home.

The date and time for this year's project is 10:00 a.m. on March 31, and we will gather in the parish hall.

We will write individual cards, fill the baskets and organize delivery. Bring a bag lunch. Dessert will be furnished.

Suggested items we would appreciate receiving for the baskets are listed to the side, but if you can think of other items that might be welcomed, please bring those also.

If you can help with the baskets, donate items, make deliveries, or if you have any questions, call Georgi Bruce at 669-0993 or Kathleen Griffin at 258-2105.

Suggested Donations *(your ideas are welcome, too)*

- baskets (small-medium)
 - Easter basket grass
- plastic eggs (filled or empty)
 - soft candy
 - hand lotion
 - lip balm
- notepaper, stamps, pens
 - small potted plants

ECW Spring Extravaganza

All women in our diocese, young and old alike, are invited to join the fun Saturday, May 16, 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the 1927 Lake Lure Inn and Spa, Lake Lure, NC. Festivities include a fashion show, high tea, and a silent auction, and it's all for a worthwhile cause! Proceeds benefit the Women's Education Program for Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of WNC.

Cost is \$30.00 per person. a registration form can be downloaded at episcopalchurchwomen-wnc.org. For more information, contact Mary Ann Ransom by email at mransom1@bellsouth.net or 828.625.8338.

This event replaces the ECW's Spring Fling.



MAY 16, 2015
SAVE THIS DATE!

Grace Outreach

Sue Thompkins

ABCCM Food Drive. We will be holding our first ABCCM food drive of 2015 Sunday, March 22. As we begin 2015, the need for food for many impoverished families in Buncombe County continues. One source of food which is available is the food pantries operated throughout the county by ABCCM. We at Grace are committed to helping provide food for those vital pantries. Members of the Grace Outreach Committee will place bags in the pews at all services on Sunday, March 15. Each bag will have a list of food items that are currently needed by the pantries. Please return your filled bags to the church on Sunday, March 22, so that we can deliver them to ABCCM. We appreciate your help with this project.

Feedback from Jones Elementary. The Grace Backpackers recently heard back from some friends at Ira B. Jones Elementary School:

“In case you don’t hear it often enough - THANK YOU. This particular outreach really does make a difference. This year I feel like our families are especially appreciative - the children seem to really take ownership in getting the bags home and feel empowered by helping their families. Kudos to Grace!!!”

— from Sarah Cain, principal at Ira B Jones.

“Yes, thank you for this outreach! As one of the moms who delivers these bags, the joy on the children’s faces when they see their bags is priceless.”

— from Heather Post, one of the moms who handles the distribution at Jones.

A Special Request — Again



Back in December, the Grace Backpacker program came to you with a special request. Tuna. We caught you at a busy time of year, already working hard to reach out to so many in need. And yet, when we asked you to help us collect

cans of tuna, you came through with tuna. *Lots* of it. For weeks, you made it possible for us to add that important, light-weight, easy-to-prepare protein to the bags we packed. Thank you so much!

But now, once again, we are finding no tuna on the shelves at Manna Food Bank. And once again, we turn to our friends here in this parish for help. Over the next several weeks, please add regular-size cans of tuna to your grocery shopping lists and put them in the basket in the foyer at church.

We pack forty-eight bags a week. Last time, when we asked, one parishioner brought in an entire 48-can case! But it doesn’t matter. Whether it’s one can or twenty, your contribution will make a difference.

And on behalf of our Backpacker kids, we thank you again.

Holy Week Worship and Activities

Holy Week is the week leading up to the greatest feast in the Christian church, the Feast of the Resurrection or Easter Day. The first record of Holy Week services comes from a pilgrim named Egeria, who traveled to Jerusalem in the fourth century. The Triduum or “three days” of Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day begins at sundown on Maundy Thursday. Please join us for one or all of the days of special observance.

The Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday:

March 29 — “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” So begins the day of celebration commemorating Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We will gather on the lawn outside the church at 9:00 and 11:15 to proceed joyfully into the services. The tone turns somber, however, as we hear of Jesus’ betrayal and crucifixion. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday.

Reconciliation of a Penitent (confession):

The sacramental rite will be offered by appointment during Holy Week for those who wish to make a private confession as part of their preparation for Easter. If you’d like to schedule a time for confession, please call Fr. Gary or Fr. Bob.

Wednesday in Holy Week:

April 1 — The Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer is offered at 12:15 p.m.

Maundy Thursday:

April 2 — Service at 6:00 p.m.; Vigil from 7:00-8:00 p.m. As a sign of servanthood, we include the washing of hands (optional; learn more about this below). Following the liturgy, the altar is stripped

and Edwards Library is transformed into a chapel. You may observe a vigil in the library, keeping watch in the night as Jesus did with His disciples at Gethsemane.

Good Friday:

April 3 — The day marks the crucifixion of our Lord. We do not celebrate the Eucharist on this day; instead, at 12:00 noon and again at 6:00 p.m., we share a holy meal from the reserved Sacrament using the Liturgy for Good Friday. The church will be open from 1:00-3:00 p.m. for those who wish to meditate on the death of Jesus.

Holy Saturday:

April 4 — Holy Saturday is a day of rest and quiet, the day when Jesus lay in the grave. A liturgy recalling those who have died takes place in the Urban Garden at 10:00 a.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter:

April 4 — 8:00 p.m. at the **Cathedral of All Souls**. Grace Parish will not have a 6:00 a.m. Vigil service on Easter Day this year.

Easter Day:

April 5 — Our celebration begins at our regularly scheduled services at 7:45, 9:00, and 11:15 a.m. Bring bells to ring and for the 9:00 service, bring flowers with which to “flower the cross.” Children age three through fifth grade will enjoy an Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 a.m.! (See egg hunt details on page 7.)

The Washing of Hands

Fr. Gary Coffey

I have found that we 21st century Americans are very particular about having others touch our feet. And why wouldn’t we be? Most of the time, we keep our feet hidden in closed shoes. I remember the first time that I tried on a pair of Teva sandals, I didn’t know if I could wear them because my feet were so “exposed” in them. Of course, after wearing them for a while, it became “normal” to have my feet so exposed. In the Jewish culture at the time of Jesus, washing someone’s feet was an expected expression of hospitality. If you attended someone’s home as a guest, your feet would be washed by a servant or by someone in the host family if they had no servants. Therefore, people at that time and in that culture were used to having their feet handled by others. Not so with us!

So, several years ago when I was serving at a parish in Iowa, I got the idea of switching from washing feet on Maundy Thursday to washing hands. People are far less sensitive about their hands than they are with their feet. The year we made the switch from washing each other’s feet to washing each other’s hands, the participation went from about 20% during foot washing to about 90% during handwashing.

So, even though I know that there is something really special about the vulnerability of footwashing that gets lost in this switch to handwashing, I think it’s still good to have most of us participating lovingly in washing one another’s hands than having only a few of us washing each other’s feet.

I would love to know what all of you think. Shoot me an email at garycoffey77@gmail.com.

Easter Traditions

(a re-print from last year)

The Triduum leads us into our Easter celebration. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week, and it includes the days of the Easter Triduum, also called Holy Triduum, Paschal Triduum, or The Three Days. It is the period of three days that begins with the liturgy on the evening of Maundy Thursday and ends with evening prayer on Easter Sunday.

A moveable feast. For followers of Jesus in the Episcopal tradition, Easter, which celebrates our Lord's resurrection from the dead, is our most important holiday.

Often called a moveable feast because it doesn't fall on a set date every year, Easter is observed anytime between March 22 and April 25. Christian churches in the West celebrate Easter on the first Sunday following the full moon after the vernal equinox on March 21. Orthodox Christians use the Julian calendar to calculate when Easter will occur and typically celebrate the holiday a week or two after the Western churches, which follow the Gregorian calendar.

Where the name "Easter" originated. It is believed Easter derives its name from Eostre, an Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. A month corresponding to April had been named "Eostremonat," or Eostre's month, leading to "Easter" becoming applied to the Christian holiday that usually took place within it. Prior to that, the holiday had been called Pasch (Passover), which remains its name in most non-English languages.

It seems probable that around the second century



A.D., Christian missionaries seeking to convert the tribes of northern Europe noticed that the Christian holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus roughly coincided

with the Teutonic springtime celebrations, which emphasized the triumph of life over death. Christian Easter gradually absorbed the traditional symbols.

About those Easter eggs. In Medieval Europe, eggs were forbidden during Lent. Eggs laid during that time were often boiled or otherwise preserved. Eggs were thus a mainstay of Easter meals and a prized Easter gift for children and servants.

In addition, eggs have been viewed as symbols of new life and fertility through the ages. It is believed that for this reason many ancient cultures, including the ancient Egyptians, Persians, and Romans, used eggs during their spring festivals.

Easter lilies and hope. Sometimes called the "white-robed apostles of hope," it is said lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's agony. Tradition has it that the beautiful white lilies sprang up where drops of Christ's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow and deep distress. Churches continue this tradition at Easter time by banking their altars and surrounding their crosses with masses of Easter lilies to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life everlasting.

"In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it..." After their baptism, early Christians wore white robes throughout Easter week to symbolize their new lives. Those who had already been baptized wore new clothes as well to represent the life with Christ they shared with the newly baptised.

In Medieval Europe, churchgoers would take a walk after Easter Mass, led by a crucifix or the Easter candle. Today these walks endure as Easter Parades. People show off their spring finery, including lovely bonnets decorated for spring.

Beyond Easter Sunday. Easter is followed by a fifty-day period called Eastertide, or the Easter Season, ending with Pentecost Sunday.

Easter Egg Hunt Details!

One of Grace Church's own traditions, the Children's Easter Egg Hunt, will be held on Easter morning following the 9:00 service. Children through fifth grade will gather in the parish hall, and the hunt will begin about 10:10 a.m.

Please bring twelve empty plastic eggs and a basket for each child who will participate. Just put the empty eggs in the box in the foyer when you arrive.

March 2015 Ministry Schedule

Date	Service Time	Acolyte C	Acolyte G	Acolyte E	Lector, Intercessor & Presenters	Healing Team	Ushers	Chalicians	Coffee Hour	Scripture	Lesson
1-Mar											
	7:45				L I P - Cuyler Dupree and Jenny Knapp, Gavin Knapp	Louise Wernicke Patricia Hargrove	Steve Jones Kaderabek Family	James Cannon 1. John Woodson 2. Cuyler Dupree	Cuyler Dupree	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	1st Lesson
	9:00	Cade Wooten	Cheryl Deyton	Zoe Davis	L I P - Rusty McCredie, Jenny Thomas, & Alternate	Pat Davis Karen Compton	Elaine Potter Henry Watts	1. Sally Withers 2. Nancy Clark	Sallie Hunter	Romans 4:13-25	2nd Lesson & 9:00
8-Mar											
	7:45				L - Robert Green I - Robert Green P - Green Family	Sherry Coward Jeanne Robertson	Ed Duncan	Jack Frue			
	9:00	Noah Clary	Helena Cullen	Cuyler Dupree	L I P - Mark Silvers, Nancy Clark & Alternate	Mary Israel Corinne Spencer	Bob Turner Paul Stewart	1. Greg Townsend 2. Carol Booth	Paul Vest	Exodus 20:1-7	1st Lesson
	11:15	Cheryl Aull	Grace Miller	Sally Withers				1. Bill Warren 2. Carol McMichael	Volunteer	I Corinthians 1:18-25	2nd Lesson & 9:00
15-Mar											
	7:45				L - Anne Simmons I - Greg Townsend P - Townsend Family	Pat Davis Jane Whitman	Andrew Dahm	Margaret Dahm			
	9:00	Harrison Best	Andrew Best	Moira Stewart	L I P - Kimberly Kneier, Sally Coburn & Alternate	Sonny Rawls Karen Compton	Larry and LuAnn Harris	1. Anne Simmons 2. Daphne Urquhart	Katherine Kaderabek	Numbers 21:4-9	1st Lesson
	11:15	Mark Silvers	Jonah Silvers	Bob Grimes	P - Henry Watts I - Monty Wooten	Deb Gravatt		1. Mark Silvers 2. Bill Spencer	Volunteer	Ephesians 2:1-10	2nd Lesson & 9:00
	Taizé 8:00 PM										
22-Mar											
	7:45				L I P - Jeanne Robertson, Louise Wernicke & Robertsons	Jeanne Robertson Shari Lane	Steve Jones Derek and Wade Edwards	James Cannon		Jeremiah 31:31-34	1st Lesson & 9:00
	9:00	Gavin Knapp	Carsten Path	Louise Wernicke	L I P - Carol McMichael, Elaine Potter & Alternate	Sonny Rawls Mary Israel	John Rigby Rusty Herman	1. Charles Carter 2. Kimberly Kneier	Micki Newton	Hebrews 5:5-10	2nd Lesson
	11:15	Rusty McCredie	Sally Withers	Grace Miller					Georgi Bruce		
29-Mar											
Palm Sunday	7:45				L - Jenny Knapp I - Vicki Vest P - Vest Family	Brenda Haller Ann Robinson	Ed Duncan	Jack Frue			
	9:00	Zoe Davis	Laura Ellington	Cuyler Dupree	L I P - Kristen Dusenbery, Beth Stahl & Alternate	Sonny Rawls Mary Regal	Ed Woeckener Ron Sims	1. Greg Townsend 2. Ann Robinson	Elaine Dephouse	Isaiah 50:4-9a	1st Lesson & 9:00
	11:15	Cheryl Aull	Bob Grimes	Eric Howell				1. Sally Coburn 2. Eric Howell	Georgi Bruce	Philippians 2:5-11	2nd Lesson & 9:00

Date	Counters	Depositors	Flower Arrangers	Altar Guild
1-Mar	Steve Birkhofer	James Cannon	Greenery	Group 1 - Feb 28 - Mar 6
8-Mar	Martha Boyette	Judy Bohan	Greenery	Group 2 - Mar 7 - Mar 13
15-Mar	Sally Withers	Chal and Hugh Vaughn	Greenery	Group 3 - Mar 14 - Mar 20
22-Mar	Georgi Bruce	Anne Simmons	Greenery	Group 4 - Mar 21 - Mar 27
29-Mar	Georgi Bruce	Anne Simmons	Palm Sunday - Jones, Davis	Group 5 - Mar 28 - Apr 3

Our Prayer List

March

We publish the Parish Prayer List each month so you may include those listed in your daily prayers. We have included the last names of people with their permission, so you will have a better idea for whom you are praying and so you may contact that person if you desire.

For Parishioners: **Jo Brokenshire; Sherry Coward; Mary Cozine; Ed Denison; Eunice Ferguson; Catherine Godfrey; Buddy Greenwood; Jess Gregory; Olivia & the Haller family; Mary Hayes; Mary Israel; Nora Jones; Wendy Kuykendall; Michelle Lee; Carol McMichael; Charlotte Melson; Nancy Porter; Corey & Tsz-yan Snyder & family; Corinne Spencer; Lucinda Watkins; Chuck Wilcox.**

For Homebound Parishioners and Those in Healthcare Facilities: **Henny Caldwell; Bob Hall; June Kelley; Neill Mason; Maryli Perkins; Martin Shaw; Laura Stephens; Pat Woodard.**

For Others (names to stay on the list for four weeks; call the church office to keep names on the list for a longer time): **Roberta Alexander; Jerry & Mary McAuliffe** (*friends of Barbara Wilcox*); **Carolyn & Winn Baker** (*friends of Bob & Jeannette Reese*); **Bethany** (*daughter of Joan*); **Stephanie Blackwell & family** (*sister of Jeanne Sims*); **Deane Boggs** (*sister of Joyce Noble*); **Chris Carson** (*son of Martha & Randy*); **Carolyn & Steve Creasman** (*friends of Barbara & Chuck Wilcox*); **Debbie D.** (*friend of Lynda McCredie*); **Kelli Davis** (*daughter of George & Pat Davis*); **Ann & Joe Derwort & family** (*sister & brother-in-law of Jeanne Sims*); **Kaci Epley** (*cousin of Vicki & Paul Vest*); **Margaret Frazier** (*friend of Jim & Karen Compton*); **Hammitt family** (*friends of Jeanne & Ray Robertson*); **Bill & Mary Hayes** (*parents of Rick Hayes*); **Donald Israel** (*brother-in-law of Mary Israel*); **Meg Karayiannis** (*niece of Nancy Ackermann Cole*); **Roger & Sherry Martin** (*parents of Wendy Kuykendall*); **Fr. Tim & Beverly McRee** (*friends of Grace Church*); **Fred Motney** (*father of Diane Wilkey*); **Forest Pivrotto** (*great-nephew of Nancy Clark*); **Julie & Rita Spragg; Erik & Susan Stoops** (*brother-in-law & sister of Wendy Kuykendall*); **Jennifer Svenstrup** (*friend of Paul & Vicki Vest*); **Kathy Taylor** (*friend of Barbara Wilcox*); **Alan & Melissa Wood; Angela & Pauline Wright; Alicia; Ashley** (*daughter of Henry Watts*); **Bethany; Don & Patricia; Elizabeth; Linda; Lou** (*mother of Kim Hayes*); **Mary Dee** (*cousin of Walt Noble*); **Pam** (*friend of Cheryl Aull*); **Richard; Sue; Susan; for all those affected by our struggling economy.**

For Those in the Episcopal Church: **Katharine**, our Presiding Bishop; **Porter & Robert**, our Bishops; **the clergy; the vestry; the staff; the ministries of this Parish; Church of the Advocate; ABCCM; Consider Haiti; Episcopal Relief & Development; Food for the Poor; Manna Food Bank; Meals on Wheels.**

For Those Who Have Died & their Families: **Rhea Ferguson** (*husband of Eunice*); **Jo-An Ward.**

For Those in Service to Our Country: **Tommy & Danny Brown** (*grandsons of Ed & Marla Woeckener*); **Matthew George** (*son of Zoe Davis*); **Steven Grenier** (*son-in-law of Jean & Doug Haldane*); **Austin Harrison** (*grandson of Joan Sanderson*); **Jon Holland** (*parishioner*); **Spencer & Erica High; Gregory Melson** (*grandson of Charlotte Melson*); **Jason Marino** (*son of Lynda McCredie*); **Daniel Schultz** (*son of Judy Rhodes*); **Karl Tenney** (*nephew of Chuck & Barbara Wilcox*); **Fr. Rick Tiff** (*friend of Ray & Jeanne Robertson*); **Caitlin Vest** (*niece of Vicki & Paul Vest*).

For our President Barack Obama, his Cabinet, Congress and our Country; for victims of violence across the world; for local agencies & those who work for relief of the poor; for better stewardship of water; for resolution of the political crises across the world.

March Anniversaries

Cathy Adkins and Earl Leininger	2
David and Suana Gentry	25
Beth and Pat McKinsey	30
David and Peggie Carey	31

March Birthdays

1 Tom Wernicke	17 Andrew Wall
2 Samuel Ellington	19 Mary Israel
2 Eric Howell	20 Nola Ashe Ellington
2 Grace Miller	20 Brad Smith
5 Joe Aull	23 Cameron Bell
6 Priscilla Hendrix	25 Bill Crownover
7 David Haynes	25 Nancy Remmers
8 Pat McKinsey	26 Kimberly Kneier
11 Carol Booth	27 Sally Coburn
11 Jimmy Hudson	27 Charlie Milling
12 James Carlin	27 Mark Wall
16 Henry Holland	29 Terri Frue
16 Lindsay Whitner	31 Ty Hamilton Gregory
17 Dave Hillier	31 Brett Young
17 James Corey Snyder	



Gifts to Appreciate

The Aumbry Candle is given to the glory of God by:

Kathleen Griffin in thanksgiving for her family.

The palms for Palm Sunday are given to the glory of God by:

Ed Duncan in memory of Dick Drake;

Rita Lyda in thanksgiving for Grace Church and in loving memory of her parents, Disa and Jens Krestensen.



Palm branches are a part of Christian worship on Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday, as it is sometimes called. This event commemorates Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, as foretold by the prophet Zechariah.

The Bible tells us people cut branches from palm trees, laid them across Jesus' path and waved them in the air. They greeted Jesus not as the spiritual Messiah who would take away the sins of the world, but as a potential political leader who would overthrow the Romans. Their shout "Hosanna" meant "save now."

In ancient times, palm branches symbolized goodness and victory. They were often depicted on coins and important buildings. Solomon had palm branches carved into the walls and doors of the temple (1 Kings 6:29). Again at the end of the Bible, people from every nation raise palm branches to honor Jesus (Revelation 7:9).

Today, many Christian churches distribute palm branches to worshipers on Palm Sunday. The people remember Christ's sacrificial death on the cross, praise him for the gift of salvation, and look expectantly to his second coming.

Endowment Gifts

James Cannon

Slow Start Bears Watching

Pledge receipts in January totaled \$19,748 compared to budgeted pledges of \$29,328. Considering all income sources, income for the first month totaled \$26,627, while we had projected income to be \$36,953; resulting in a negative variance of (\$10,326).

The negative income variance for the first twelve months was coupled with expenses in the first month which exceeded budgeted amounts by \$3998. When added to the negative income variance of (\$10,326), year-to-date income less expenses resulted in an overall deficit of (\$14,324) for our first month.

The current month's deficit is somewhat larger than the (\$9378) shortfall suffered in January 2014 and will bear watching since our expenses were not increased significantly this year and the shortage largely results from a decrease in income.

We are hopeful that all needs will be met and look forward to another successful year in 2015.

Your Vestry

Statement of Activities - Grace Church Year to Date - January 2015

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income:			
Pledges	19,748	29,328	(9,580)
Prior Year Pledges	2,215	-	2,215
Non-pledged Offerings	2,975	5,124	(2,149)
Open Offering	391	1,466	(1,075)
Interest	-	13	(13)
Misc.	1,298	1,023	275
Total Income:	26,627	36,953	(10,326)
Expenses:			
Outreach/Mission	3,757	4,761	(1,004)
Parish Programs	2,150	1,246	904
Operations	6,662	6,277	385
Personnel	28,382	24,669	3,713
Suspense Acct-credit card charges to be coded	-	-	-
Total Expenses:	40,951	36,953	3,998
Income Less Expenses:	(14,324)	0	(14,324)

From Our Presiding Bishop

"The Episcopal Church has been in partnership with the Diocese of Jerusalem for a very long time," Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori writes in the annual Good Friday letter to all congregations asking them to consider assistance for Jerusalem and the Middle East.

"The offering we collect on Good Friday carries on the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, through support for the many ministries of healing, feeding, and teaching among the dioceses of the Province," the Presiding Bishop writes.

Funds collected from the Good Friday Offering are gathered and distributed to the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East which includes the Dioceses of Jerusalem and Cyprus and the Gulf, all members of the Anglican Communion.

"May our offering this year strengthen the bonds among all God's people, and bless each one with concrete and eternal signs of more abundant life," she concludes.

Information and resources for the Good Friday Offering are available at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/good-friday-offering-resources>.

Please note: offerings are to be sent as one check from the diocese. Please forward Good Friday offerings to the diocesan office.

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church
871 Merrimon Avenue
Asheville, North Carolina 28804

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- In this issue look for:*
- *March Events at a Glance*
 - *Holy Week Schedule*
 - *Budget Update*
 - *and of course, "Parson to Person"*

MARCH 2015

to each a ministry

TEAM

the Grace

