



the Grace TEAM

to each a ministry

JUNE 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 would like to encourage all of you to make worshipping God a part of your re-creation during the summer season. The summer season or season after Pentecost is a season of growth in the Church. As we watch the plants in our gardens and the crops in the farmers' fields grow, so we, too, can be growing in our faith in Jesus Christ.

A part of our growth is gathering for worship on Sundays. Pulling out of your driveway and driving to Grace Church each Sunday is a witness to those in your neighborhood that the worship of God is important to you and that you value your time of worship and praise, even during the summer months.

Each Sunday you attend worship is also an encouragement to those seated around you in the pews. It is a reminder that we are not "Lone Ranger" Christians. Rather, we have all been baptized into the one Body of Christ, and the Scripture says we are members of one another. Therefore, when one of us suffers, we all suffer together. When one of us is honored, we are all honored together. We work and play and live in this community of faith called Grace Church.

Also, probably anywhere you travel this summer will have an Episcopal church, or an Anglican church, as our churches are called in most places outside of the United States. Wherever you are, it is fun to visit an Episcopal or Anglican church which uses a book of common prayer the same as or similar

to the one we use. It is a reminder that the family of God in Christ Jesus is everywhere. Almost anywhere we travel in the world, we will have our Episcopal or Anglican family with which to celebrate the Gospel and worship our Lord when we get there.

Because you are so familiar with

"We work and play and live in this community of faith called Grace Church."

our liturgy, you will understand what is going on even if the prayer book is in a different language. In fact, because you know how the prayers go, often you can translate the words because of your familiarity with the prayers in English.

When you visit other Episcopal parishes in the U.S., you may also see something they are doing that you can bring back to Grace. For example, the words in our Sunday bulletin inviting all who seek God and who are drawn to Christ to receive holy communion were taken from Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. You may read in another church's bulletin about a ministry and bring that idea back to Grace with you, as well.

You come to worship because you experience God there. Experiencing God in worship is a blessing. So, remember the blessing of worshipping our wonderful Lord as you make your plans for the summer.

Grace and Peace,

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, June 2, 7:00 p.m., CH

Men of the Church
Tuesday, June 9, 6:00 p.m.

Healing Prayer Services
Tuesday, June 9, 16, 23, & 30, 7:00 p.m., CH

TEAM Meeting
Wednesday, June 10, 11:00 a.m., OF

Order of St. Luke Program Meeting
No meetings in June and July

Steadfast House Meal
Friday, June 12, 6:00 p.m.

PubSing
Sunday, June 14
5:30 p.m., snacks; 6:00 p.m., singing

Vestry Meeting
Monday, June 15, 5:30 p.m., LI

Father's Day
Sunday, June 21

Taizé Worship Service
Sunday, June 21, 8:00 p.m., CH

Market Place – Vacation Bible School
June 22-June 25, 9:00 a.m.-12:10 p.m.

We could not open the church doors at Grace without our volunteers. We appreciate each of you, and the church staff and Vestry extend their very special thanks. Parishioners are welcome to send in special thanks to go in the *Team*. Deadline is the 15th.

More Grad News

Lewis Dahm, son of Andrew and Margaret Dahm, will be graduating from Appalachian State University in May with a degree in History.

Georgi Bruce also claims granddaughter Elly Withers' successful graduation from UNC/Chapel Hill with thanksgiving (just a few genes and dollars worth)!

Parish News

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

The **Men of the Church** will meet Tuesday, June 9, at 6:00 p.m. Arnold Clark will host and cook. His address is 63 Pleasant Grove Road, Weaverville. Please join us. The cost is \$10.00. Directions are on the kiosk with the sign-up sheet.

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** Program Meeting will not meet in June and July.

Jeanne Robertson will offer the **Order of St. Luke study group**, *The Healing Miracles of Jesus*, on Saturdays, July 11, 18 & 25. This is an intensive DVD-based instruction and discussion study that prepares people for full membership in the Order of St. Luke. We will meet in the library from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Please contact Jeanne at 683-7701 if you are interested or if you would like more information.

Join us for **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 this month on Sunday, June 14, at the French Broad Brewery, 101 Fairview Avenue. Please bring a snack at 5:30 p.m.; singing begins at 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Monty Wooten at info@forestguide.com or 828-254-1114. Get directions at frenchbroadbrewery.com/directions/.

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

Readers of the Old Testament and the Prayers are needed for the 11:15 service. Please pray about serving in this ministry. If you have questions or would like to serve, contact Sally Coburn at 645-5369.

Special thanks to Don Hawkins for all the work he does in our Urban Garden. He is always planting flowers and recently replaced the bolts that hold our name plaques on the stone wall. He also cleaned them. Thanks Don, we know this garden is special to you because of Martie.

Special thanks to Charlotte Chiott for donating and making curtains for our nursery. Thanks also to her husband, Travers, for hanging the blinds and curtains. He drilled through concrete for hours and hours. Thanks Travers!

Grace Outreach

Free Meals for Kids This Summer — No Questions Asked! Summer meals are available for ALL children, ages 2-18, every weekday, June 15-August 7.

While our Backpacker program takes a summer hiatus, the non-profit organization Congregations for Children is partnering with the Buncombe County School system to provide nutritious summer meals for children (from city schools or county schools, even visiting friends or relatives) free of charge.

Over half the children in Buncombe county schools receive free or reduced-cost meals during the school year. You have to wonder what those same kids would do without this program when school is out for the summer. In its first summer, the Summer Food Distribution Project provided 53,000 meals. Last summer, the total rose to 84,000.

This summer, there are a total of nine distribution sites, including two in the northern part of the county near where many of us live. Volunteers and site supervisors (supervisor training provided) are still needed to help with distribution, so please consider giving a little time to this rewarding and much-needed project. Scheduling is very flexible.

Information about volunteering and site locations is available by contacting Karen Ballard, 828-665-7501 or rkbball@ballesouth.net.

And if you know of children who might be hungry this summer, please let them know about this program.



Habitat House is Coming in 2015. As most of you know, Grace Episcopal Church is an active supporter of Habitat for Humanity. In addition to our annual financial support, we partner with Habitat and the other Episcopal churches in our area to build an “Episcopal House” every two years.

2015 is our year to build another house! Construction will begin in late August and will continue for three months. Grace is responsible for providing workers for ten days during the build. Please pray about ways in which you can help with this ministry. If any of you would like to help organize and/or recruit Grace volunteers, please contact Sue at 230-9328. You will have lots of opportunities in the next few months to volunteer your help to build the actual house. Let's make this project a success as we provide a needy family with a home of their own!

Broughton Luncheon is July 23

We will once again provide lunch for residents from Broughton House on Thursday, July 23. Margaret Dahm will plan and cook for the event, but she needs volunteers to set tables, serve, ice cakes, mash potatoes, and call the Bingo game. Please let her know if you can help. Her phone number is 254-2772, or you can email her at margaretdahm@yahoo.com.

We are also collecting bingo prizes. Please leave prizes in the office or in the basket in the foyer. Please do not donate jewelry or items with sharp points. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

Elly Withers Assigned to Panama

Elly Withers, long time Grace parishioner, will be volunteering in Panama with the Young Adult Service Corps (YASC) through the Episcopal Church starting in August. YASC is a one-year program that sends young adults all across the world to serve God. This year, there are thirty-three young adults participating in the program headed for places like Japan, Brazil, and even Rome to work with Austin Rios, our former associate priest.

Elly will be in Panama with the nonprofit Promesa, which is run by Panamanians of the Episcopal Church outside of the capital. She will work on various environmental projects, including sustainable agriculture with indigenous communities in the territories of Bayano and Madungandi.

The motto of Promesa is “to promote food sovereignty, care for the environment, and promote social justice in farm working.” Elly is excited about dedicating her life to service through this organization, especially since it is directly related to her undergraduate studies. She just graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a degree in Spanish and Global Studies (with a focus in Environment).

YASC functions under the notion that volunteers are not serving abroad as individuals, but as missionaries sent from their communities. The church community is integrally connected to their service abroad. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, Elly is required to raise \$10,000, which will cover her expenses for the year. She plans on keeping a blog, detailing progress in projects; she also plans on giving a presentation upon returning in the fall of 2016. She looks forward to representing Grace in Panama and connecting the church to her service abroad!

June 2015 Ministry Schedule

Date	Service Time	Acolyte C	Acolyte G	Acolyte E	Lector, Intercessor & Presenters	Healing Team	Ushers	Chalicians	Coffee Hour	Scripture	Lesson
7-Jun											
	7:45						Ed Duncan	Jack Frue			
	9:00	Cuyler Dupree	Helena Cullen	Maira Stewart	L, I, P - Cuyler Dupree, Jenny Knapp & Knapp Family	Louise Wernicke Patricia Hargrove	Paul & Vicki Vest	1. John Woodson 2. Anne Simmons	Katherine Kaderabek	Genesis 3:8-15	1st Lesson
	11:15	Mark Silvers	Jonah Silvers	Eric Howell	L, I, P - Cal & Nancy Remmers & Alternate	Karen Compton Pat Davis	Bob Turner Paul Stewart	1. Sally Withers 2. Eric Howell	Sallie Hunter	II Corinthians 4:13-5:1	2nd Lesson
14-Jun											
	7:45						Jim Black	James Cannon			
	9:00	Noah Clary	Faith Valley	Zoe Davis	L, I, P - Robert Green and Green Family	Sherry Coward Jeanne Robertson	Doug Haldane Jim Siemens	1. Debbie Jones 2. Sarah Valley	Micki Newton	Ezekiel 17:22-24	1st Lesson
	11:15	Cheryl Aull	Bob Grimes	Sally Withers	L, I, P - Beth Stahl, Jenny Thomas and Alternate	Mary Israel Corinne Spencer	Larry and LuAnn Harris	1. Charles Carter 2. Kimberly Kneier	Volunteer	II Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17	2nd Lesson
21-Jun											
	7:45						Andrew Dahm	Margaret Dahm			
	9:00	Harrison Best	Andrew Best	Louise Wernicke	L - Greg Townsend I - Anne Simmons P - Townsend Family	Pat Davis Jane Whitman	Kaderabek Family	1. Daphne Urquhart 2. Greg Townsend	Elaire Dephouse	Job 38:1-11	1st Lesson
	11:15	Rusty McCredie	Jonah Silvers	Mark Silvers	L, I, P - Mark Silvers, Kristen Dusenbery & Alternate	Sonny Rawis Karen Compton	Ron Sims Arnold Clark	1. Sally Coburn 2. Leeann Shearouse	Volunteer	II Corinthians 6:1-13	2nd Lesson
	Taizé 8:00 PM				L - James Cannon P - Henry Watts	Deb Gravatt					
28-Jun											
	7:45						Steve Jones	James Cannon			
	9:00	Laura Ellington	Liesl Ellington	Cuyler Dupree	L, I, P - Louise Cate, Jeanne Robertson & Robertson Family	Jeanne Robertson Shari Lane	Tricia & Mickey Trinite	1. Carol Booth 2. Ann Robinson	Cuyler Dupree	Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15; 2:23-24	1st Lesson
	11:15	Sally Withers	Grace Miller	Elly Withers	L, I, P - Rusty McCredie & Carol McMichael, Sally Coburn & Alternate	Sonny Rawis Mary Israel	Elaire Potter Henry Watts	1. Bill Warren 2. Nancy Clark	Georgi Bruce	II Corinthians 8:7-15	2nd Lesson & 9:00

Date	Counters	Depositors	Date	Flower Arrangers	Altar Guild
7-Jun	Steve Birkhofer	James Cannon	7-Jun	Newton, Israel (Buchanan for Israel)	Group 1 - Jun 6 - Jun 12
14-Jun	Martha Boyette	Judy Bohan	14-Jun	Shearouse	Group 2 - Jun 13 - Jun 19
21-Jun	Sally Withers	Chal and Hugh Vaughn	21-Jun	Dawson, Buchanan, (Israel for Buchanan) Sat. Dawalt/Councell	Group 3 - Jun 20 - Jun 26
28-Jun	Georgi Bruce	Anne Simmons	28-Jun	Dawson, Buchanan	Group 4 - Jun 27 - July 3

Our Prayer List

June

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: **David Anderson; Jo Brokenshire; Sherry Coward; Mary Cozine; Ed Denison; Eunice Ferguson; Catherine Godfrey; Jess Gregory; Olivia & the Haller family; Mary Hayes; Nora Jones; Wendy Kuykendall; Michelle Lee; Charlotte Melson; Nancy Porter; Doris Rigsby; 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); **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); **Fred Motney** (father of Diane Wilkey); **Diane Noble** (daughter of Joyce & Walt Noble); **Erik & Susan Stoops** (brother-in-law & sister of Wendy Kuykendall); **Hunter Stubbs; Jennifer Svenstrup** (friend of Paul & Vicki Vest); **Kathy Taylor** (friend of Barbara Wilcox); **Sydnor Thompson III; Angela & Pauline Wright; Alex** (friend of Judy and Mike Bohan); **Alicia; Ashley** (daughter of Henry Watts); **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 and Their Families: **Joy Markey; Cynthia Nolen.**

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); **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.

June Anniversaries

Bill and Sue Dismukes	3
Robert and Cheri Potter	5
Scott and Joanna Best	7
Jane and Hobart Whitman	7
Todd and Katherine Kaderabek	11
Deb and Ben Gravatt	12
John and Vicki Sanderson	15
Alex and Kippy Comfort	20
Greg and Shannon Townsend	22
Joe and Cheryl Aull	25

June Birthdays

2 Miller Kaderabek	13 Nancy Smith
2 Emma Plank	14 Georgia Snead
2 Sophia Siemens	14 Robert Townsend
3 Steve Booth	16 Helen (Betsy) Dreger
3 Heather Path	16 Sam Lyda
4 Bailey Gregory	16 Hugh Vaughn
4 Makayla Gregory	16 Tony Wilkey
4 Straudia Luedtke	18 Eleanore Brown
6 David Anderson	18 Randy Smith
7 Ben Grimes	18 Elizabeth Turner
7 Jay Wallace	19 Joyce Milling
8 Tom Cobb	20 Andrew Dahm
8 Zoe Davis	21 Hayden Israel
8 Matthew Engelbrecht	24 Nicholas Sanderson
8 Sally Withers	25 Cathy Adkins
9 Ben Cochran	25 Aubrey Southwell
9 Wade Elder	26 Jeanne Robertson
9 Sean Green	27 David Withers
9 Robert Hall	28 Terry Ellington
10 Courtney Booth	28 Jenny Knapp
11 June Thorne	28 Anne Simmons
12 Chloe Lyda	29 Deb Pegel
12 Kiril Nikolov	29 Mickey Trinite

Gifts to Appreciate

The Aumbry Candle is given to the Glory of God by Corinne and Bill Spencer in thanksgiving for their children Clark, David, and Jennifer and for Grace Church.

The flowers are given to the Glory of God:

- by Pat and George Davis in loving memory of their son, Mike;
- in loving memory of Grace Walker and Phillip Alfred (Pete) Walker by their family;
- by Joanna and Scott Best in celebration of their wedding anniversary;
- by Bobbie Eblen in memory of her husband Joe and her daughter Margie;
- in thanksgiving for fathers, grandfathers and sons by the Israel family;
- by Eva Dupree in memory of Joy Markey and Cynthia Nolan;
- by Dr. William B. Dismukes Jr. in loving memory of his father Dr. William B. Dismukes, Sr.
- by Louise Wernicke in memory of her parents, Louise Manget and Thomas M. Cate, and of her brother, Thomas M. Cate, Jr.

Thank You, Beth!



Beth Stahl, who has been our Director of Music here at Grace, is retiring after nineteen years of kind, creative, and dedicated service. In the early years, Beth directed all of our choirs. After a number of years directing the Children's Choir, Beth shifted all of her efforts to the 11:15 service, focusing on both the Adult and the

Handbell Choirs.

Due to various and sundry changes in her choir people's lives and their travel schedules, Beth sometimes had a half dozen people in the Adult Choir and at other times had twenty-five or thirty. She masterfully and cheerfully adjusted the music accordingly, often from week to week, and was able to assist each person in producing his or her best vocal musical effort. Well done, Beth!

Where the Handbell Choir is concerned, Beth encouraged the veteran players to achieve more and more, increasing their musical repertoire and their handbell skills. At the same time, she shepherded the newcomers and brought them on board in a way that made them feel a part from the beginning and then eventually developed skillful ringers out of all whom God sent her way.

Beth, we thank you for your tireless efforts, your dedication, and for the beautiful music you and your choirs have offered to the glory of God here at Grace Church over the last nineteen years. Well done, good and faithful servant! We thank God for you and ask God's richest blessings upon you and your family. We will keep you in our prayers during this time of transition to whatever musical ministry God has for you in the future. We love you!



Remember
Dad
Sunday,
June 21

Overall Deficit Continues

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

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income:			
Pledges	108,330	117,311	(8,981)
Prior Year Pledges	2,215	-	2,215
Non-pledged Offerings	12,840	20,495	(7,655)
Open Offering	3,084	6,410	(3,326)
Interest	5	50	(46)
Misc.	6,874	4,092	2,782
Total Income:	133,347	148,357	(15,010)
Expenses:			
Outreach/Mission	14,505	19,044	(4,539)
Parish Programs	4,369	4,983	(615)
Operations	22,281	25,107	(2,827)
Personnel	100,678	99,223	1,456
Total Expenses:	141,833	148,358	(6,525)
Income Less Expenses:	(8,486)	(0)	(8,486)

Pledge receipts through April totaled \$108,330 compared to budgeted pledges of \$117,311. Considering all income sources, income for the first four months totaled \$133,347, while we had projected income to be \$148,357; resulting in a negative variance in income of (\$15,010).

The negative income variance for the first four months was offset by expenses in the first four months which were less than budgeted amounts by \$6,525. When added to the negative income variance of (\$15,010), year-to-date income less expenses resulted in an overall deficit of (\$8,486) for our first four months.

We are currently experiencing a deficit of \$8,486 while at this point in 2014 we experienced a negative balance of \$7,501.

Your vestry continues to be hopeful that all needs will be met.

Walking with God through Pain and Suffering

A book review by Catherine Godfrey

In Part 1 (of 3 parts), Timothy Keller gives a decent chronology and review of philosophical and religious thought from ancient times to the present, particularly as each belief system addresses death, pain, and suffering. He calls them the "Cultures of Suffering." Keller argues that even though non-Western cultures help their people to be "edified by misery," Christianity offers the most comforting and satisfactory explanation: that there is an all-loving God; that there is a desirable afterlife; and that God allows pain and suffering in order to draw us closer to Him.

Atheists celebrate the fact that they do not have to struggle with 'if God, why suffering?' To the atheist, it is "no God...no struggle." They say: "Forget God; just work to make the world a better place." But, historically, that attitude has not been satisfactory.

As Keller points out, both research and experience tell us that a majority of people reach for the spiritual to help them interpret and bear up under horrendous suffering. Viktor Frankl, a Jewish psychiatrist who survived three years in the Nazi death camps, observed how some of his fellow prisoners were able to endure the horror and pass through it while others could not. The difference came down to what Frankl called meaning. The problem is that contemporary people think life is all about finding happiness. But when suffering comes along, it takes the conditions for happiness away, and so suffering destroys all your reason to keep living. Frankl noted how often secular or nominally religious people turned to faith once they entered the horror of those places. Frankl argued that this increased faith was not only natural, but it was one of the only ways to go on in an environment that stripped you of all earthly sources of significance, security, and purpose.

Throughout Keller's book, the connection between belief in God and the benefit of disaster is demonstrated through personal testimonies. For example, one family was living the easy life when disaster struck. The wife's reaction? Gratitude...because it reminded her to look to God for consolation and support.

Next, Keller addresses the "problem of evil." Keller points out that, "up until the 1980s, the argument against God from evil was considered among academic philosophers to be conclusive, a proof that the traditional God of the Bible could not exist." However, many Christian thinkers have put forth theodicies, the defense of God's goodness and omnipotence in view of the existence of evil. The word theodicy was coined by philosopher Gottfried Leibniz, meaning literally a justification of God's ways to human beings. One of the first theodicies had to do with "soul-making," in that "the evils of life can be justified if we recognize that the world was primarily created to be a place where people find God and grow spiritually into all they were designed to be."

In contrast, several non-Christian philosophers attempted to disprove the existence of God, using logic and reasoning...that if evil exists, an all-knowing, all-loving God cannot. These counter-arguments eventually ran out of steam because of one point: no matter how smart, logical, or rational we are, we cannot know the mind of God. Job learned that. Just because we see no purpose for evil, particularly natural evil (earthquakes, tsunamis, diseases, etc.), does not mean God has no use for evil.

Keller's book is approachable, well-researched, and thorough. In Part 2, we (and Keller) leave the other belief systems behind and deal with some of the thornier issues Christianity is up against, including God's purpose and use for suffering.

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

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- In this issue look for:*
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 - Goodbye to Beth
 - Broughton Luncheon Needs Volunteers
 - Summer Lunches for Kids
 - and of course, "Parson to Person"

JUNE 2015

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TEAM

the Grace

