



the Grace TEAM

to each a ministry

DECEMBER 2013

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 God,

I wonder if it is really true that we learn more from our mistakes and the hard times in life than from the times when our lives are going well. I suppose that it *is* true. When we are forced to overcome some kind of adversity, even if we just get through it, there is some relief that follows, isn't there? Also, there is the chance that we have learned something from the experience and that we have grown in some way.

The fourth and final lesson of Jesus associated with our meditation cards is **learning to see times of adversity or loss as learning opportunities rather than catastrophes**. Now, that does not mean that, when the tornado destroys our homes, we don't acknowledge and grieve the loss. No, we do not suggest that people live in denial about times of loss.

Modern psychology has shown us the importance of dealing with the realities of life. Denying them and repressing them can lead to psychological trauma. The question is, after we have acknowledged and taken the time to grieve the loss, can we look back at the experience as an opportunity to grow rather than simply as a catastrophe?

Can we look back at the catastrophe and see the many ways in which God was with us and helped during the experience, rather than feeling forsaken by God? Can we make the choice to trust God in the wake of catastrophe and tremendous loss? I am reminded of Job's statement after all

the losses he experienced. He trusted God enough to say, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15, KJV). In other words, Job said he would trust God no matter what should befall him in life.

A cynic would say someone who says that is only hedging his or her bets. That way, the cynic says, God can be the ultimate absentee landlord, doing nothing for us and yet expecting everything from us.

“Can we make the choice to trust God in the wake of catastrophe and tremendous loss?”

But there is another way to see things, and I believe that is the way in which Job saw them. Job said he would trust God no matter what because he knew God the way you know your very best friend or the person you have been closest to in your life. You *know* that person is trustworthy. Why would

we or Job say God is trustworthy? We would say it only if we believe what God has revealed to us, that He has prepared better things for us than we could ask for or imagine and that His love for us is completely boundless.

When we understand this, we know that, whatever catastrophe befalls us, not only did God not orchestrate it, but that God also weeps with us in it.

God's Peace and Blessing,

Fr. Gary

Parish News

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

Chalicians are needed for the 11:15 service. If you would like to serve in this ministry, please contact Sally Coburn at 645-5369. Training is available.

Christmas greens and flower donations for memorials and thanksgivings will be accepted by the Flower/Altar Guild beginning Sunday, December 1. Watch your pews for envelopes. Memorials and thanksgivings will appear in the *TEAM* after Christmas.

Early Birds will not meet between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

Men of the Church will meet on Tuesday, December 10, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Larry Harris, 330 Stratford Road, Asheville. Larry will be our host and cook. Everyone is welcome. The cost is \$10.00. Please sign up on the blue sheet on the kiosk.

The **Monday Morning Bible Study** led by Fr. Bob Reese meets from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the parish hall. Each week the study is about the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday. Please join us. All are welcome.

Our **Monday Soup Suppers** continue. Please join us. The meal is served from 4:45-5:45 p.m. It is free of charge. Expenses are defrayed by a Diocesan grant and by a partnership with Manna Food Bank. All are welcome to come enjoy good food and fellowship with parishioners and others during the wonderful seasons of Advent and Christmas. Our Advent Taizé services will follow the soup suppers at 6:00 p.m. on Mondays from December 2-23. Judy Rhodes will provide music.



As our **Soup Suppers** grow in popularity, **volunteers are needed** to serve as soup cooks, bread and fruit providers, dessert providers, and clean-up helpers. You will be reimbursed for your expenses. Please email Bill Crownover at billcrownover@bellsouth.net or call him at 298-0570 or 713-8504 to sign up for specific dates and tasks.

The Order of St. Luke program meeting will not be held this month. Meetings will resume in January.

The **Pumpkin Patch** netted a total of \$6,521.75. Thank you again to all, workers and shoppers alike, who made it a success! This money will be used by Consider Haiti to help Haitian children.

Purls of Grace meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the library. If you have questions, would like to learn to knit prayer shawls, and/or would like to deliver shawls, contact Jeanne Robertson at jrobertson38@me.com.

Steadfast House is an ABCCM homeless shelter for women and children. Our Grace Outreach cook teams provide meals once a month for the shelter. We currently need a leader and folks interested in forming a cook team. There are four cook teams and each team cooks three times a year. The leader organizes families on the team, and the cooks then combine forces to prepare and serve meals for the forty to fifty residents of Steadfast House. It is fun, quick and easy and a great way to get to know other members of Grace while helping folks in our community. It is also not a huge commitment since you will cook only three times in 2014! Please contact Katherine Kaderabek at katherine@beverly-hanks.com for additional information.

Advent Wreath-Making

It's Advent wreath-making time! The first Sunday of Advent is December 1, and we will make wreaths in the parish hall at 10:00 a.m. It is a wonderful family event, and it is an opportunity to participate in a centuries-old Christian tradition. Mary Israel and the Flower Guild will guide us as we make our own family Advent wreaths. All supplies including candles are available for a donation of \$5.00. Candles only may be purchased for \$3.00.

Advent Taizé Worship

Advent Taizé Worship services will take place on Mondays, December 2-23 at 6:00 p.m. following the Monday Soup Suppers. It is a great time to eat soup, enjoy fellowship with one another and worship during the Advent season.

Foyer Kickoff Social December 15

Our Foyer Kickoff Social get-together will be a cocktail social on Sunday, December 15, at 5:30 p.m. in the church conference room. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre to pass around; wine will be provided. The various groups will begin meeting in December or January. Each group decides on its own start date.

Please sign up on the sheet in the foyer. For more information call Betsy Sherman at 299-7430.

IT'S A COOKIE BASH

for our homebound folks

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 17, in the parish hall

WHAT TO BRING? COOKIES!

Enough for our sixteen homebound friends plus extras for exchanging with each other.

Please plan to stay for a cup of hearty soup and cookies (of course!) for dessert! This annual gathering is a great opportunity for fellowship and community-building. If you have questions, please call Kathleen Griffin at 258-2105 or Georgi Bruce at 669-0993.



Hanging of the Greens on December 22

Hanging of the Greens helpers and decorators, we need you on Sunday, December 22. Please mark your calendars to come help with the traditional Hanging of the Greens at Grace. We will begin at 1:00 p.m. We will also need help decorating the trees and preparing the Crèche. Please call Jean Haldane at 253-9085 to let her know that you will come to help.



Christmas Eve Prelude

This year's Christmas Eve Prelude is a special gift from the Choirs of Grace. The Adult Choir, the Handbell Choir and our organist Cathy Adkins will present a special Christmas Eve Prelude beginning at 9:15 p.m. Please join us to spend some quiet time listening to beautiful music in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity that begins at 10:00 p.m.

Sunday Classes for Adults

The Bible Study Class facilitated by Dr. Bill Dismukes meets in the library. The class has resumed a study of one of the major prophets, the Old Testament Book of Isaiah, and will examine the book of in its historical, cultural and Biblical contexts. Isaiah is the best known of the four major prophets, and the book contains many of the Old Testament Messianic prophecies. All are welcome as the class learns from the text and from one another's insights.

The Downstairs Class is reading the book *Sleeping With Bread*, by Matthew and Dennis Linn and Sheila Fabricant-Linn. The Linns bring their extensive Jesuit training to all their writings, combining the disciplines of psychology, theology and spirituality. *Sleeping With Bread* explores cultivating the spiritual practice of the examen to enrich the lives of children, families and individuals.

Someone once said that the unexamined life is not worth living. This book leads us to a simple way in which we, both adults and children, can learn to examine our lives daily. The practice enables us to be aware of our feelings about our daily lives and to see God's actions and graces on a daily basis.

The Pretty Good Coffee and Conversation Class meets in the parish hall. The class study is Brian McLaren's new book *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha and Mohammed Cross the Road?: Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World*. When four religious leaders walk across the road, it's not the beginning of a joke. It's the start of one of the most important conversations in today's world. Can we be committed Christians without having to condemn or convert people of other faiths? Is it possible to affirm other religious traditions without watering down our own?

Widely-acclaimed author and speaker Brian McLaren proposes a new faith alternative, one built on "benevolence and solidarity rather than rivalry and hostility." That way of being Christian is strong, but it doesn't strong-arm anyone. It goes beyond mere tolerance to vigorous hospitality toward, interest in, and collaboration with others. Lyn Burkett and Monty Wooten are facilitators for the class.

EYC Schedule for December

EYC meets at Grace at 4:30 on Sundays unless otherwise indicated.

- December 1: No meeting/Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 8: Our History
- December 15: Caroling at Deerfield and supper; meet at Grace at 3pm
- December 22: PARTY!!!
- December 29: No meeting/Christmas Holiday

Conscious Discipline

Downstairs Adult Sunday School Class
Beginning Sunday, January 5, 2014
Jarod and Molly Coffey, Facilitators

Created by Dr. Becky Bailey, an internationally renowned expert in child developmental psychology, Conscious Discipline® is built on the premise of developing discipline within children rather than applying discipline to them. The Conscious Discipline process applies equally to parents, childcare givers, educators, and patient caregivers.

Discover how to use the latest brain research to break out of the instinctive habit of disciplining children the same way you were disciplined as a child.

You'll also be able to help children progress from physical or verbal aggression to calm self-regulation, freeing them to make better choices and empathize with others. If you've ever struggled to keep a child focused on an idea or task, you'll be delighted to find that changing your own responses can help children boost their learning skills. Your new ways of responding will also help children develop kindness and self-respect, honor those different than themselves, solve problems with compassion, and grow into responsible adults.

Grace Outreach Notes

Sue Thompkins



The Angel Tree is up in the foyer! We are once again preparing for Christmas by purchasing gifts for foster children in Buncombe County who have been removed from their families of origin by the Courts because of abuse or neglect.

The stipends received by foster parents to care for these children are not large enough to include the purchase of gifts for Christmas. That's where we can step in and help. Each of the seventy-five angel decorations hanging on our tree has the name, age, grade and clothing sizes of a child, as well as a list of gifts for which the child has asked. Please remember, you do NOT need to purchase everything on the list. The items are "wishes" and the child will be happy to receive any of the items listed.

In the past, parish members have enjoyed shopping with friends to purchase the requested gifts. By partnering with someone to provide for an "angel," you can enjoy the camaraderie of shopping together and can help defray the expense.

Gifts are to be returned to the church no later than Sunday, December 15. The date is earlier than usual at the request of the Department of Social Services to assure that all presents are delivered to the foster homes before Christmas. You may wrap your gifts if you wish. If you wrap them, please label them. That way, the social workers and foster parents will know what is in each package. In addition, please be sure to return the angel decoration with the corresponding gifts to make sure they go to the child for whom you bought them. If you have any questions, please call me at 230-9328.

The Grace Outreach Committee would like to thank you in advance for sharing the spirit of Christmas with a child who is no longer living with his or her birth family, but who still has dreams of a merry Christmas.

Typhoon Relief. Many of you may be interested in making donations to help with the relief effort for Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. You may donate through Episcopal Relief and Development which is the relief agency sponsored by the Episcopal Church. ERD is currently working with partner churches in the Philippines to provide items that are needed the most at this time. As you can imagine, this relief effort will be an ongoing project. You may donate using one of the following three methods:

1. by phone at 1-855-312-4325,
2. by mail at Episcopal Relief and Development, P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058,
3. or via the internet at www.episcopalrelief.org.

Continued Need for Habitat. We continue to need volunteers to help build Episcopal House X in Swannanoa. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please call Sue Thompkins at 230-9328. We need the following volunteers: December 18 (Wednesday), one volunteer is needed to help with flooring; January 3 (Friday), two volunteers are needed to help with trim and cabinets; and January 8 (Wednesday), two volunteers are needed to help with the final touches. And then, the house is FINISHED and Tracey and Adrian Corn can move into their new home!



Healing Prayer Corner

Jeanne Robertson

We are in the middle of the holiday season and all is well. That may be so for some people, but for most, the holidays are a time of stress and deadlines. It is the time of the year that many people are the unhappiest. Life is hard, and the holidays only tend to increase those feelings of loneliness and isolation. Sometimes the greatest gift we can give someone is the gift of time. Taking time to listen to them and taking time to pray with them. A wise person once said that if you have something bothering you and you talk with another person, it cuts that problem in half. In the time of hurrying about and deadlines, take time to look for that person who just needs a friendly ear to listen to them. "Torch" is a program for youth who are in prison. It is very similar to a Cursillo weekend. Their motto is "Listen, Listen, Listen, Love, Love, Love". I think all of us could use this motto during this busy holiday season. May the love of our Lord Jesus richly bless each of you now and throughout the coming year.

Planned Giving & Endowment

Fr. Alex Comfort

Where's My Goody?

Those of us who are professionals in the development or fundraising field are aware that many non-profits give small gifts in return for contributions – T-shirts, coffee mugs, mailing address labels, or even more expensive items. We call these gifts donor premiums. Because of our contributions, we may be put into special groups who get free lunches or something similar. The *Living Stones Society* is the group our diocese has for those who make planned gifts or who include the diocese or any of our congregations in their wills.

At Grace, we don't do that. We do not make judgments about other groups; we simply see gifts as what they are – contributions for the good of Grace Church. The "widow's mite" is as good as a large pledge. Including Grace Church in your will is a wonderful gift. God sees the value of your sacrifice, and that's our gift to you.

But when you give alms, do not let your right hand know what your left hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matt. 6:3-4)

We thank you for your consideration.

A Report from Convention

Corinne Spencer

Ann Robinson and I had the privilege of being delegates from Grace Church at the 92nd Convention for our Episcopal Diocese, whose mission is to "Walk in the Way, Widen the Walls, and Wake Up the World." Bishop Taylor reminded us that there are sixty-four parishes that are each unique in their local realities, but we all have "One Lord, One Faith, and One Baptism."

Our Bishop, and the guest speaker, Bishop Sean Rowe, both stressed that the Episcopal Church is in a time of transition which can elicit fear, discord, and insularity. Both Bishops urged us, as The Church, to embrace connection, interdependence, and collective discernment, all undergirded by prayer. We were encouraged to let go of fear and to hold onto things lightly; to be involved in creative and civil conflict; to experiment – if something doesn't work, let it go and try another. Bishop Rowe said, "We have the product, Jesus Christ, that works 100% of the time", but we have not been able to sell it. He stressed the importance of good managers whose job is to take the visions of leaders and make them happen, after studying what the people in a community need. Bishop Taylor encouraged "kenosis", the emptying of self, in the interest of the other because we are all part of the whole.

"Our job for 2014 is CONNECTION," was the edict from our Bishop. Two exciting, available resources to make connections are *The Center for Spiritual Resources* which Robin Whittington created to provide information on programs and tools to help us use our spiritual gifts in God's work in the world. Another is *The City*, an internet site, managed by Chris Goldman, which is just for use within our Diocese for the purpose of providing information within ministries, of events, for prayer requests, and to generally be in contact as needed. Access these two via a web browser. The Convention resolutions and other information can also be accessed through the web.

The experience was enhanced by the presence of some of our active Diocesan youth who supplied music, reflections, a sermon, and participated in worship in multiple ways. Some of the members of Canterbury at UNCA served as acolytes. It was also made special by singing some of the liturgy and hymns in both Spanish and English.

Bishop Taylor reflected that "Christianity is always a movement – a pilgrimage – a journey." Let us journey together in His power and love.

Thank you, Corinne and Ann, for the gift of your time as you represented Grace at Convention. More information about convention, including transcripts of addresses by Bishop Taylor and the convention's guest speaker, Bishop Sean Rowe, may be found on the diocesan web site:

www.diocesewnc.org

December Meditation Card Scriptures

This month's theme is "Rejoicing in Trials." The corresponding weekly verses are below.

MEDITATION FOR WEEK ONE

And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. (Romans 5:3-5, NRSV)

MEDITATION FOR WEEK TWO

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (I Thessalonians 5:16-18, NRSV)

Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ to live. (I Thessalonians 5:16-18, *The Message*)

MEDITATION FOR WEEK THREE

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4, NRSV)

MEDITATION FOR WEEK FOUR

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28, NRSV)

That's why we can be sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good. (Romans 8:28, *The Message*)

Monthly verses are published in the TEAM for you to preview or to clip and use in case you miss a Sunday.

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; Jim Dahlin; Eunice Ferguson; Joe & Jill Frazier; Catherine Godfrey; Buddy Greenwood; Jess Gregory; Olivia & the Haller family; Mary Hayes; Shari Lane; Nancy Remmers; Barbara Seagraves; Lucinda Watkins.**

For Homebound Parishioners and Those in Healthcare Facilities: **Elizabeth Butler; Henny Caldwell; Edith Cook; Jeanne Galyean; Bob Hall; June Kelley; Frances Kennickell; Neill Mason; Dot Morgan; Frances Payne; Maryli Perkins; Laura Stephens; John Sumner.**

For Others (names to stay on for four weeks; call the church office to keep names on the list for a longer time): **Thomas Barr** (son of Tom & Liz Barr); **David Bell** (brother of Tricia Hargrove); **Margaret Buncick** (mother of Marella Buncick); **Chris Carson** (son of Martha & Randy); **Debbie D.** (friend of Lynda McCredie); **Kelli Davis** (daughter of George & Pat); **Steve & Karin Ellis** (neighbors of Sue Thompkins); **Sonny Enloe** (friend of Mary Israel); **Veronica Fisher** (friend of Kathleen Griffin); **Wesley Garbee** (friend of Charlotte & Travers Chiott); **Karen Kaforey** (daughter of Micki & Fred Newton); **Meg Karayiannis** (niece of Nancy Ackermann Cole); **Don & Kristi Kitchens** (brother & sister-in-law of Cheryl Aull); **Tommy Masters & Robert Baker** (father & son of Donna Trimnal); **Jim & DiAnne Monroe; Forrest Renfro** (grandson of Becky Barker); **Ann Sparks** (mother of Angela Taylor); **Erik & Susan Stoops** (brother-in-law & sister of Wendy Kuykendall); **Jennifer Svenstrup** (friend of Paul & Vicki Vest); **Deane** (sister of Joyce Noble); **Ellen; Elizabeth; Evelyn** (friend of Jim & Karen Compton); **Jean & Mary Dee** (sister and cousin of Walt Noble); **Julie** (daughter of Rita Spragg); **Lisa** (niece of Betsy Sherman); **David & Mitchell** (friends of Charlotte & Travers Chiott); **Richard; Sue; Susan; Will; for those among us who are cold, hungry or homeless; 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: **Margie Eblen** (daughter of Bobbie); **Sarah Garcia** (daughter of Nancy Fergusson; niece of John and Lelia Cort); **Priscilla Parks** (mother of Judy Bohan); **Helen Powers; Grace Walker.**

For Those in Service to Our Country: **Ryan & 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); **Marty Hawks** (son-in-law of Joy & Carl Markey); **Jon Holland** (parishioner); **Spencer & Erica High; Gregory Melson** (grandson of Charlotte Melson); **Daniel Schultz** (son of Judy Rhodes); **Karl Tenney** (nephew of Chuck & Barbara Wilcox); **Fr. Rick Tiff** (friend of Ray & Jeanne Robertson); **Caitlin Vest** (granddaughter of Pat Vest, niece of Vicki & Paul Vest).

For our President Barack Obama, his Cabinet, Congress & our country; for Sandy Hook and other shooting victims, survivors and families; for peace & resolution of conflict in the Middle East & throughout the world; for victims of Hurricane Sandy & the Oklahoma tornadoes; for the people of Haiti & Durgapuhr, India; for those who bring rescue & relief; for raising world awareness; for victims of the disasters in Russia, Japan, the Philippines & other areas; for rain across the earth; for better stewardship of water.

December Anniversaries

Jim and Betsy Dreger	3
Randy and Susan Smith	8
Charles and Barbara Wilcox	17
Rusty and Lynda McCredie	19
Paul and Daphne Urquhart	19
David and Sally Withers	20
William and Sue Thompkins	21
Hugh and Chal Vaughn	21
Rick and Kim Hayes	27
Fred and Micki Newton	29
Steve and Carol Booth	30

December Birthdays

2 Clifford Stubbs	20 Derek Edwards
3 Beth McKinsey	21 Jonathan Cort
3 Bob Turner	21 Lucie Holland
4 Joyce Noble	22 Robert Green
4 Walker Webb	22 Charles Wilcox
5 Suzy Young	22 Ed Woeckener
6 Nancy Moss	23 Nora Jones
9 Peter Booth	23 Jane Smith
10 Ed Duncan	23 David Sweatt
11 Don Hawkins	24 Natalie Nery
13 Linda Smith	24 Olivia Nery
14 Scott Best	27 Tom Barr
15 Katie Nery	27 Courtney Bell
15 Rachel Smith	27 Grace Walker
16 Eva McKinsey	28 Doris Cummings
16 Kristin Perez	29 Helena Cullen
17 Kate Young	29 Alice Moriarty
19 Carsten Path	30 David Gentry, Jr.
20 Liz Barr	

Gifts for All of Us to Appreciate

The Aumbry Candle is given to the Glory of God by Nora and Steve Jones in celebration of the birthday of their grandson Walker Webb.

The Advent Wreath is given to the Glory of God by

Eva Dupree in memory of her parents Louis and Mildred Gantt;

Ed Duncan in loving memory of Dick Drake.

The flowers are given to the glory of God by

Nancy and Cal Remmers in thanksgiving for their children and grandchildren;

Deb Pegel in memory of her husband Louis.

The beautiful Christmas greens and flowers are given to the Glory of God by the generous donors of Grace Parish. Christmas greens and flower donations for memorials and thanksgivings will be accepted by the Flower/Altar Guild beginning Sunday, December 1. Watch your pews for envelopes. Memorials and thanksgivings will appear in the *TEAM* after Christmas.



Thank you for your donations. And don't forget the annual "Hanging of the Greens," Sunday, December 22. Volunteers are needed. See article on p. 3 for details.

Events at a Glance

EYC

Sundays, 4:30 p.m., PH

Weekly Gospel Bible Study

Mondays, 10:30 a.m., PH

Welcome Table Soup Suppers

Mondays, 4:45-5:45 p.m., PH

Advent Taizé Services

Mondays, 6:00 p.m., CH

Early Birds Men's Book Study

Resumes January 7

Centering Prayer

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., OF

Adult Confirmation Classes

Tuesdays, December 3, 10, 17, 6:00 p.m. OF

Generational Healing Eucharist

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

TEAM Meeting

Wednesday, December 4, 11:00 a.m., OF

Purloins of Grace

First & Third Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., LI

Men of the Church

Tuesday, December 10, 6:00 p.m., PH

Healing Prayer Service

*Tuesday, December 10, 7:00 p.m., CH
Resumes January 7*

Order of St. Luke Program Meeting

Resumes January 9

Steadfast House Meal

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

Taizé Worship Service

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

Vestry Meeting

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

Cookie Bash for Homebound

Tuesday, December 17, 10:00 a.m., PH

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 22, 1:00 p.m., CH

Christmas Eve Services

*Tuesday, December 24
Holy Eucharist & Paper Bag Pageant, 4:00 p.m., CH
Choral Prelude, 9:15 p.m., CH
Festal Holy Eucharist, 10:00 p.m., CH*

Christmas Day Eucharist

Wednesday, December 25, 10:00 a.m., CH

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, December 25-27

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 29, 9:00 and 11:15 a.m., CH

New Year's Day - Church Office Closed

Wednesday, January 1

An October Slow-Down

October pledges of \$27,542 fell \$2458 short of the \$30,000 budget. That negative variance when combined with other October offerings of \$4743 brought total contributions for October to \$32,286 with a target of \$35,240. All other income sources of \$1811 resulted in October income of \$34,097 and when compared to the month's budget of \$37,219 resulted in a negative variance of \$3121. Year-to-date pledges received total \$298,279 and are under our \$300,000 budget by \$1721. Other year-to-date offerings of \$53,615 result in year-to-date total general contributions of \$351,894 or \$501 under the budget of \$352,395. When combined with all other income, the year-to-date income at the close of the first ten months from all sources totals \$367,120 and falls short of budgeted income of \$372,187 by \$5067.

October Expenses totaled \$35,282 and were \$1936 under budget. That positive variance when combined with the negative income variance of \$3,121 resulted in an operating deficit of \$1,185 for the month. Year-to-date expenses of \$355,114 are \$17,073 under budget because of the timing of remaining budgeted needs that will be met in November and December. The \$5067 shortfall in year-to-date income reduces the \$17,073 positive variance in year-to-date expenses to an operating surplus of \$12,006.

Budgeted expenses left to be paid in the remaining two months of the year total \$74,437. It is our continued prayer that offerings will meet those needs.

Your Vestry

Statement of Activities - Grace Church Year to Date - October 2013

	Actual	Budget	Over/Under
Income:			
Pledges	298,279	300,000	(1,721)
Prior Year Pledges	1,030	-	1,030
Non-pledged Offerings	45,088	42,395	2,693
Open Offering	7,497	10,000	(2,503)
Interest	131	208	(78)
Misc.	15,095	19,583	(4,489)
Total Income:	367,120	372,187	(5,067)
Expenses:			
Outreach/Mission	39,068	48,485	(9,417)
Parish Programs	9,461	12,083	(2,623)
Operations	54,390	56,167	(1,777)
Personnel	252,194	255,452	(3,257)
Total Expenses:	355,114	372,187	(17,073)
Income - Expense:	12,006	(0)	12,006

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church
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- In This Issue Look for:*
- Advent Activities and Holiday Dates to Note
 - Adult Sunday School Classes
 - A Report from Convention
 - Meditation Verses for December
 - And of course, "Parson to Person"

DECEMBER 2013

to each a ministry

TEAM

the Grace

