



the Grace TEAM

to each a ministry

DECEMBER 2016

Parson to Person

Gary Coffey

Grace Episcopal Church

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

The Grace TEAM

is published monthly. Deadline
for articles is the 15th.

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,

As I am writing this on November 22; there are only thirty-two more shopping days until Christmas. That's the bad news. The good news is Advent begins this coming Sunday, November 27. Why is that good news? It is good news because Advent gives us some holy space during the busyness of the holiday season. Let's face it. Some of the busyness is probably unavoidable in our culture. There are special gatherings with family and friends which will involve food shopping and preparation. Most of us also have some Christmas shopping to do for family and friends. Some of us, (God bless you and keep you safe!) will be traveling during the holidays. Even if only some of this applies to you, it is apt to speed your life up

so that Christmas, even the twelve days of Christmas, could come and go in a blur.

But, we Christ followers have a chance to step out of the flow of all the busyness by being intentional about meeting with God regularly during Advent. Some of us will make family Advent wreaths this coming Sunday, November 27, in the parish hall at 10:00 a.m. At that time, we will receive a booklet with a simple little daily service for Advent. But, whether you have an Advent wreath or not, you can light a candle or candles at your table each night symbolizing the light of Jesus that has come into the world and remained with us. As the days get shorter and the physical darkness of night encroaches upon our days, it is a blessing to light candles which always dispel

the darkness as Christ always dispels our spiritual darkness. If you need the simple Advent table worship service booklet, just call us at the church office and we will get one to you.

Our four Sundays of Advent worship will serve as weekly stepping stones to the celebration of the Incarnation of God and the Nativity of our Lord Jesus, which begins with our first Christmas Eve service at 4:00 p.m., the annual Children's Paper Bag Pageant. Any child can come at 3:30 p.m. that day and we will provide him or her with a costume for the pageant. Then, with the help of our children, we will see the Christmas Story reenacted before our very eyes.

Then, in the evening, we will hear and sing the familiar carols from 9:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and celebrate the Christ-mass both at the 10:00 p.m. worship service that evening and at the 10:00 a.m. service on Christmas Day.

As that great carol says so beautifully, "Let every heart prepare Him room!" I wish you quality time with God during the Season of Advent as we watch and wait for the celebration of the holiest event of all time when God chose to come and be one of us, so that we could behold the very face of God firsthand in the face of His Son Jesus.

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

Wishing you and yours Advent and Christmas blessings,

Fr. Gary

“But, we Christ followers have a chance to step out of the flow of all the busyness by being intentional about meeting with God...”

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., CR

Bells and Choir Practice

Wednesdays, Bells: 6:00 p.m.; Choir: 7:30 p.m.

Generational Healing Eucharist

Tuesday, December 6, 7:00 p.m., CH

Order of St. Luke

No meeting in December

Steadfast House Meal

Friday, December 9, 6:00 p.m.

PubSing

Sunday, December 11: snacks 5:30 p.m.; singing 6:00 p.m.

Cookie Bash for the Homebound

Tuesday, December 13, 10:00 a.m., PH

Men of the Church

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

Healing Prayer Service

Tuesday, December 13 (regular schedule resumes next month), 7:00 p.m., CH

TEAM Meeting

Wednesday, December 14, 11:00 a.m., OF

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 18, 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., CH

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 18, 1:00 p.m., CH

Taizé Worship Service

Sunday, December 18, 8:00 p.m., CH

Vestry Meeting

Monday, December 19, 5:30 p.m., LI

Christmas Holidays (Church Office Closed)

Thursday, December 22 - Tuesday, December 27

Christmas Eve Services

*Saturday, December 24, CH:
Holy Eucharist, Paper Bag Pageant, 4:00 p.m.
Choral Prelude, 9:30 p.m.
Festal Holy Eucharist, 10:00 p.m.*

Christmas Day Eucharist

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

New Years Day (Church Office Closed)

Monday, January 2

Parish News

Join us in celebrating the **birth of Grazia Valentina Starnes**, daughter of Oscar and Emanuela Starnes and granddaughter of Pat Starnes. Grazia Valentina was born November 20. Congratulations to all!

Centering Prayer meets Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the downstairs conference room. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve Pageant organizers are still seeking volunteers for the following: costume organizer, reception director, speaking parts, and group leaders. Please email Joanna at jboydbest@gmail.com if you can help. **Note:** costumes will be in the parish hall at 3:30 p.m.

The **Early Birds** meet in the library Tuesday mornings at 8:15 to learn more about the Word through book studies. All are welcome.

The December meeting of **Men of the Church** will be held December 13 at 6:00 p.m. Larry Harris will be our host and chef at his home, 330 Stratford Road. The cost is \$15, and a sign-up sheet is posted on the kiosk in the foyer. All men of the church are welcome.

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

PubSing is 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, December 11, at the French Broad Brewery, 101 Fairview Road. You may bring a snack at 5:30 p.m.; singing begins at 6:00. For more information, contact Monty Wooten at montywooten@bellsouth.net or 828-254-1114. Get directions at frenchbroadbrewery.com/directions/.



We offer our thoughts and prayers to the friends and loved ones of George Michael Buckley (brother of Carole Hudson), Colonel Tom Barr (father of Tom Barr), Chuck Wilcox (husband of Barbara Wilcox), and Sherry Martin (mother of Wendy Kuykendall).

In your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters.

Another Successful Rummage Sale!

Thanks to co-chairs Elly Withers and Mary Ann Warren, the many hard-working volunteer sorters and sellers, the clean-up crew and all who donated items, our rummage sale was a great success! Over \$2600 was raised to be used by our Women of the Church for needs within our parish and beyond. Thank you to all who participated. Enjoy some photos below.



Mary Ann and Elly



Shoppers...

Shoppers...



And more shoppers!



Some of the rummage sale crew

Pumpkin Patch Totals

Our annual Pumpkin Patch has just raised \$8,701.46, which is being sent to Consider Haiti! And although this is a project we undertake every year, this fall, in the aftermath of a devastating hurricane, the money we raised selling pumpkins is financial support that will provide much-needed relief as the Haitians rebuild. Thank you for all you did to contribute to the success of this special project.



November Baptisms

November 20th, we welcomed
Henry Frederick Donaldson,
son of William and Stephanie Donaldson,
into the church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.
Henry has been sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism
and marked as Christ's own forever.

November 20th, we also welcomed
Alfonso Ponce,
into the church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.
Alfonso has been sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism
and marked as Christ's own forever.

Cookie Bash for the Homebound



Please save an important date!

WHEN? Tuesday, December 13

WHAT TIME? 10:00 a.m.

WHERE? The parish hall

WHAT TO BRING?

Enough cookies to give to our homebound friends
and to exchange with each other

Please plan to stay for a cup of hearty soup and cookies for dessert! This annual gathering is a great opportunity for fellowship and community-building. If you have questions, please call Kathleen Griffin at 337-8241.

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Joel P. Rogers

Join us on December 18, at the 9:00 and 11:15 services for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. This service will be followed by Holy Eucharist as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas services later that week. The service will include the Adult Choir, the Handbell Choir, and guest musicians.

This traditional Advent service was seemingly started when the Royal Cornwall Gazette, in 1878, reported that the choir of Truro Cathedral would sing a service of carols at 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.



'Tis the Season

Amanda Edwards

I love Christmas and everything about it! The smells of homemade treats baking in my oven, decorating the Christmas tree with my family, and celebrating the birth of Jesus are part of the seasonal celebration. What I love most though is giving to others and putting thought into special gifts, whether it is by helping a family in need provide gifts for their children, baking treats for friends, supporting my favorite non-profits with a financial gift, or writing an extra check to support Grace Church. It feels good to give to others and I believe we are created to give. It increases our happiness and makes us feel alive!

As many of you know, I am a professional fundraiser. In my line of work, we often see people donate to six causes at Christmas. Why shouldn't our church be one of those six? Grace Church can be on the receiving end of benevolence and generosity and the dollar amount doesn't matter. Your amount is what you are prayerfully guided to give.

This is the season of giving. Will you join me and the Stewardship Committee of Grace by celebrating this Christmas season by completing your pledge to Grace Church? You can even do this quickly and easily at home by visiting our website at www.graceepiscopalchurch.us and completing the online pledge form.

Your financial resources allow us to expand our mission of serving Christ in our community. On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we wish you a warm and merry Christmas and are grateful to each of you for supporting Grace Church.

Diocesan Convention Report

Greg Townsend



It was a great honor for Shannon and me to serve as Grace Church's lay delegates to the 95th Convention of the Diocese of Western North Carolina. Equal parts legislative assembly, corporate worship, breakout sessions, and family reunion, Convention gave us an opportunity to connect with Episcopalians from across the Diocese of Western North Carolina, to reunite with old friends, and to make new ones. While this Convention did not address any major or controversial issues, we did name the eight lay and eight clergy delegates to represent the Diocese at General Convention in 2018 in Austin, Texas.

What made this Convention especially exciting was the presence of our new bishop, José McLoughlin. I believe we're going to find his leadership very engaging and action-oriented. As Convention opened, Kanuga lay under a blanket of haze from the wildfires burning throughout our area. Of especial concern was the Lake Lure fire, and the evacuation of the communities of Lake Lure, Chimney Rock, and Bat Cave. Absent from Convention was the rector of the Church of the Transfiguration in Bat Cave, Wes Shields (whom many of us may remember from his time with us over the past few years), as he was helping with the fire-control efforts in his community. At one point, the church itself (and Wes's house) was in the evacuation zone and looked to be in peril. Throughout Saturday, Bishop McLoughlin

kept one eye on Twitter, communicating with Wes and with Episcopal Relief and Development. By the end of Saturday's session, he had secured funding from ERD for parishes in the Diocese to assist community members affected by the fires. How cool is that!

The Bishop also demonstrated his commitment to the youth of the Diocese through actions and words. Youth leaders played prominent roles in our corporate worship, reading lessons and delivering the homilies at Friday's Evening Prayer and Saturday's Morning Prayer services. Moreover, the Bishop challenged each parish to send two more children to Camp Henry each summer, declaring that money will not be the reason a child can't attend, even if he has to dig into his own pockets!

Convention ended with the Eucharist on Sunday. In his sermon, Bishop McLoughlin called on each of us to do the work the Kingdom of God requires: working for peace and justice as a healing and loving presence in our communities. This is how we are to "Walk in the Way, Widen the Walls, and Wake up the World!"

*Thank you, Greg and Shannon, for the gift of your time and effort
as our representatives at this year's Diocesan Convention.*

Grace Ministries in Action

Grace now has twelve active ministries. This new "Grace Ministries in Action" segment of the TEAM is designed to spotlight reports from ministry leaders and keep you up-to-date about the ministries, their programs, and ways in which each of us can get involved.

Ministry Contacts

Adult Spiritual Growth: Greg Townsend

Youth Ministry: Elaine Potter

Children's Sunday School: Mark Silvers

Communications: Eric Howell

Buildings and Grounds: Bill Crownover

Newcomers: Ray Kuykendall

Fellowship: Sally Withers

Pastoral Care: Kathleen Griffin

Stewardship: Kimberly Kneier

Finance: Oscar Starnes

Healing: Jeanne Robertson

Outreach: Sue Thompkins

Worship: Gary Coffey

Children's Sunday School

Parents Night Out! The Grace Children's Formation committee will be providing some much needed time for parents to go on a date, go Christmas shopping, or have some "you" time! When? Saturday, December 10, 4:00-8:00 p.m. The cost will be \$10.00 per child and will cover a drink, salad, pizza, and cookies plus games and time to socialize with one another. Please RSVP via text to Mark Silvers, (828) 424-9471. Include your name and how many children will be attending.

Christmas Reflection from the Atria. Now the waiting has come to an end! After weeks of looking at an empty manger waiting for the Christ child, the Season of Christmas has come! Reflect on what this child could do. What changes will He bring? The anticipation has been building. . . Finally! He has come! This is what the young child has been preparing for. The time to place the babe into the manger. When you read the scripture about that wondrous holy occasion, you do not need to teach it! Nor, do you have to have all the answers. Simply guide the conversations. Allow the words to settle in their hearts as well as yours, and ponder with Mary the divinity and humanity that have met in the Christ child. Allow imaginations to roam the hillside, to see the shepherds, and consider the greeting from the heavenly host. Allow questions to rise: What was Mary feeling? What did Joseph think? How would I have reacted to the Angels with their glad tidings? Why did God choose such a birth for His Son? Have

an open discussion and listen to their thoughts. You may be surprised! Examine the Holy Scriptures with them. Grant the freedom to look at Christmas as a young Christian through new eyes, and love His celebration of incarnation.

Communications

Don't forget to like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/graceasheville/> is the Grace Church Facebook page, and we encourage you to submit your posts. This is your community, and it's a great place for you to share your news so that we can all get to know each other better, and support each other! This is a way in which we can extend community beyond our church doors.

Newcomers: The Importance of Greeters

The following is an excerpt from the book Welcome by Andrew D. Weeks, shared by Joyce Noble

Q. Why do you put so much emphasis on the role of greeters?

R. Greeters are our front line "troops," welcoming God's guests. Experienced greeters are able to recognize visitors by their body language and unfamiliar faces and are prepared to respond to their needs and questions. Greeters are trained to offer simple directions about seating, the order of worship, and the prayer books, Bibles, or hymnals used in the service. When someone has made the effort to visit, the very least they deserve is to be recognized and respected. This personal touch and readiness is powerful; I know from my own experience because it was the attention and warmth of just one man that drew me into the church.

In 1980 I visited a church for purely social reasons. The elderly man who greeted me made it abundantly clear that my presence there had made it more special for him, and he invited me to return, assuring me that he would be there for me if I did. As the week passed I remembered his smile, I began to realize that I wanted to return, just to see the look on his face! So I did, and it was worth it.

The mere presence of someone dedicated to serving visitors will deliver the message that your church is truly a welcoming place.

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So greeting is not just saying hello, shuffling visitors off to a pew, and then forgetting about them. Greeting requires responsibility, asking, "How can I serve you?" This is not easy; it requires courage to ask someone "What can I do to serve you?" They may dump a torrent of sorrow at you, or they may freeze at the intrusion. But serving visitors means receiving them into our hearts; it is a deliberate decision to care for these persons, for whatever time and at whatever depth they require at the moment we encounter them. It means ensuring that visitors will never be alone, physically or spiritually.

The first time I really took responsibility for a newcomer, I tried to comfort a crying young woman who was sitting alone in the back pew after the service. I had absolutely no idea what to do; I am not a trained counselor. But could not ignore her distress. So, I sat down and waited for her aloneness. I invited her to coffee hour. To my surprise, she accepted and was gracious and warm with those she met.

Postscript: Today she is a member, attending every week with her husband, and her two children are in Sunday school. She also has introduced her best friend to the church and she and her child are now regulars. So from my small, awkward effort, three adults and three children are now in community with us. This stuff works!

Outreach

The **Angel Tree** is up in the foyer. This year we are partnering with Caring for Children and the foster parents to help provide presents for Christmas for children who are unable to live with their birth families (usually because of abuse or neglect). You may take an angel from the tree. Please buy as many of the items listed on the angel as you want to purchase and return the items to the church. You do NOT have to buy everything on the lists. These are wishes and you would not give your own child everything he or she wishes for, so please treat these children the same. Make sure the angel is returned with the presents so that we may get the right presents to the child who asked for them. You may wrap the presents if you want to, but it is not necessary since there are volunteers who will do it. If you wrap the presents, please put a post-it note on each present saying what is in it so that the person who is caring for the child will know what it is. We would like to suggest that you find a friend with whom to "share" an angel or two and a fun time shopping together. If you want to make a monetary donation but not shop, please call SueThompkins at 828-230-9328, or email her at susan.thompkins@gmail.com. If you are planning to do this, you must do this before Monday, December 5th since Sue is leaving town and will not be able to shop for you after that week. **PRESENTS ARE DUE BACK AT THE CHURCH NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18.** We hope you have a blessed Christmas and are so grateful for your support of this project.

The Gift of Oatmeal! The Grace Backpackers are low on oatmeal! When you shop, please consider picking up an extra box of quick style oatmeal for our kids at Jones Elementary. You can drop it off in the basket in church foyer.

The Grace Outreach Committee would like to thank all the members of the parish for your support of the outreach programs we have done this year -- food for ABCCM, food for the Backpacker program, monetary donations for Transformation Village, back-to-school, and the Angel Tree. We would not be able to do the things we do without your support. Thank you!

Pastoral Care

Annual Cookie Bash/Cookie Exchange. Join this long-standing tradition at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 13, in the parish hall. We will be addressing cards and preparing containers of cookies for our 14-15 homebound parishioners. This is one of the times when we can honor the contributions of those who can no longer participate in the active life of the Church. If everyone brings two batches of cookies, we can fill the baskets and still have plenty of cookies to share with one another along with a soup lunch. If you have questions, please call Kathleen Griffin at 337-8241.

Friends in Christ. The Pastoral Care Committee is recruiting parishioners to make a commitment to visit one of our homebound members for thirty minutes a month for one year. This is a ministry of presence that I promise will bring you and our family more gratification than you can imagine. Please contact Kathleen Griffin at 337-8241 to learn more.

Feed My Sheep used four packages of soup this past month. Remember, if you are making soup, please make an extra quart for the freezer at Grace. Label the quart freezer bag with date, name of recipe, ingredients and your name.

Purls of Grace, the prayer shawl ministry at Grace, met in November for reorganization and will meet again at 5:00 p.m., January 19. Please call coordinator Beth Woodson if you have questions or would like to learn to knit.

Transportation Ministry responds to the Christian call to care for the sick by providing transportation to medical appointments for those who are homebound. When help from community organizations such as Mountain Mobility and Council on Aging is not a possibility, we are recruiting parishioners to provide this service as needed. Drivers will be compensated for their gasoline.

Cards and Calls. Pat Anderson and Chal Vaughn continue their faithful ministry of sending cards to parishioners.

December 2016 Ministry Schedule

Date	Service Time	Acolyte C	Acolyte G	Acolyte E	Lector, Intercessor & Presenters	Healing Team	Ushers	Chalicians	Coffee Hour	Scripture	Lesson
Dec 4											
	7:45				L, I, P - Jeanne Robertson, Nancy Walters, Jeanne & Ray Robertson	Deb Gravatt Louise Wernicke Patricia Hargrove	Andrew Dahm Jim Siemens Tom Barr	James Cannon 1. Jenny Knapp 2. Cuyler Dupree	Paul Vest	Isaiah 11:1-10	1st Lesson 9:00 Lesson
	9:00	Gavin Knapp	Aleena Bennett	Daphne Urquhart							
	11:15	Mark Silvers	Ellie Silvers	Jonah Silvers	L, I, P - Rusty McCredie, Jenny Thomas, Michael St. Clair	Pat Davis Karen Compton	Ron Sims Rusty Herman	1. Bill Spencer 2. Sally Coburn	Volunteer	Romans 15:4-13	2nd Lesson
Dec 11											
	7:45					Deb Gravatt	Ed Duncan	James Cannon			
	9:00	Cade Woolen	Cheryl Deyton	Louise Wernicke	L, I, P - Robert Green, Green Family	Jeanne Robertson Kathy Oesterlin	Paul and Vicki Vest	1. Greg Townsend 2. Carol Booth	Elaine Dephouse	Isaiah 35:1-10	1st Lesson 9:00 Lesson
	11:15	Cheryl Aull	Eilly Withers	Grace Miller	L, I, P - Mark Silvers, Kristen Dusenbery, (alternates)	Mary Israel Corinne Spencer	Lary and LuAnn Harris	1. Cliff Albertson 2. Eric Howell	Volunteer	James 5:7-10	2nd Lesson
Dec 18											
	7:45					Deb Gravatt	Steve Jones	Margaret Dahm			
	9:00	Zoe Davis	Maya Bell	Maira Stewart	L, I, P - Anne Simmons, Walt Noble, Simmons Family	Pat Davis Jane Whitman	Ray Kuykendall Jim Siemens	1. Debbie Jones 2. Jennifer Clary	Micki Newton	Isaiah 7:10-16	1st Lesson 9:00 Lesson
	11:15	Mark Silvers	Olivia Nery	Jonah Silvers	L, I, P - Sally Coburn, Carol McMichael, (alternate)	Karen Compton Sonny Rawls	Ed Woeckener Paul Stewart	1. Mark Silvers 2. Carol McMichael	Georgi Bruce	Romans 1:1-7	2nd Lesson
	Taizé 8:00 PM				I - James Cannon L - Monty Wooten	Deb Gravatt					
Dec 24 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Paper Bag Pageant; 9:30 p.m. Carols; 10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist											
	4:00 p.m.	Daphne Urquhart	(alternate)	Cuyler Dupree	L, I, P - Greg Townsend, Louise Wernicke, Townsend Family		Kuykendall Family	1. John Woodson 2. Greg Townsend		Isaiah 9:2-7	1st Lesson
	9:30/10 p.m.	Rusty McCredie	Bob Grimes	Eric Howell	L, I, P - Rusty McCredie, Kimberly Kneier, (alternates)		(alternates)	1. Charles Carter 2. Kimberly Kneier		Titus 2:11-14	2nd Lesson
Dec 25											
	10:00	John Woodson	Sally Withers	Eilly Withers	L, I, P - John and Beth Woodson		Ed Woeckener Tom Barr	1. Sally Coburn 2. John Woodson		Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14	1st Lesson 2nd Lesson
Dec 26											
Date	Counters	Depositors	Date	Flower Arrangers	Altar Guild						
4-Dec	Steve Birkhofer	James Cannon	4-Dec	Advent II	Group 1: December 3 - 9						
11-Dec	Martha Boyette	Judy Bohan	11-Dec	Advent III - Davis	Group 2: December 10 - 16						
18-Dec	Sally Withers	Chal & Hugh Vaughn	18-Dec	18-Westall-Hanging of the Greens, 23-All-Decorate Sanctuary	Group 3: December 17 - 23						
25-Dec	Georgi Bruce	Anne Simmons	25-Dec		Group 4: December 24 - 30						

Our Prayer List

December

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; Betsy Buchanan; Chris Carson (son of Martha & Randy); **Molly Coffey; Barbara Crownover; Nathan Crownover (son of Bill & Barbara Crownover); **Carol; Ed Denison; Eunice Ferguson; Rebecca Harris; Mary Hayes; Mary Israel; Wendy Kuykendall; Straudia & Mel Luedtke; Maria Mason; Joyce Noble; Nancy Porter; Elaine Potter; Sonny Rawls; Nancy Remmers; Doris Rigsby; Leeann Shearouse; Laura & Tsz-yan Snyder; Rita Spragg; Mike St. Clair; Harrison Taylor; Barbara Wilcox.******

For Homebound Parishioners and Those in Healthcare Facilities: **Henny Caldwell; Dave Carey; Bill & Mary Hayes** (parents of Rick Hayes); **Lou** (mother of Kim Hayes); **Rusk Henry; Donald Israel** (brother-in-law of Mary Israel); **June Kelley; Neill Mason; Joan Sanderson; Mary Ida Sprague; 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): **Deane Boggs** (sister of Joyce Noble); **Steve Boggs** (nephew of Joyce Noble); **Jenn Chenowith** (friend of Joyce & Walt Noble); **Ryan Conrad** (friend of Julia Anne Dawson); **Lyman Coxe** (friend of Liz and Tom Barr); **Debbie D.** (friend of Lynda McCredie); **Kelli Davis** (daughter of George & Pat Davis); **Chuck Dill** (son of Nancy Remmers); **Austin Drum** (brother of Nancy Clark); **Kacie Epley** (cousin of Vicki & Paul Vest); **Al Fadel** (friend of Nancy & Arnold Clark); **Joanne Giezentanner Greene** (friend of Nancy & Arnold Clark); **Danny Hall** (brother-in-law of David Gentry); **Priscilla Hickey** (sister-in-law of Barbara & Chuck Wilcox); **Kathleen Johnson** (friend of Barbara & Chuck Wilcox); **Jeff Johnston** (cousin of Eva Dupree); **Missy** (friend of Jeannette and Bob Reese); **Jim Monroe** (friend of Jeannette & Bob Reese); **Allen Singer; Jennifer Svenstrup** (friend of Paul & Vicki Vest); **Nancy Temple** (friend of Billy Gray); **Van** (brother-in-law of Jeannette Reese); **Lara Weaver** (daughter of Jackie Schauer); **John Whitman** (son of Jane Whitman); **June Williams** (friend of Kathleen Griffin); **Tim Yehl** (son-in-law of Jeanne & Ray Robertson); **Vincent** (friend of Jeannette & Bob Reese); **Elizabeth; Pam** (friend of Cheryl Aull); **Stan; Sue; Susan.**

For Those in the Episcopal Church: **Michael**, our presiding Bishop; **José, Porter & Robert**, our Bishops; **the clergy; the vestry; the staff; the ministries and people of this parish; Church of the Advocate.**

For Outreach Agencies through Which We Minister: **ABCCM; Consider Haiti; Episcopal Relief and Development; Food for the Poor; Habitat for Humanity; Manna Food Bank; Meals on Wheels.**

For Those Who Have Died and Their Families: **Chuck Wilcox** (husband of Barbara Wilcox); **Sherry Martin** (mother of Wendy Kuykendall).

In Thanksgiving: **For Those Who Serve to Protect Our Way of Life.**

For Those in Service to Our Country: **Tommy & Danny Brown** (grandsons of Ed & Marla Woeckener); **Dave Ely** (son of David Ely); **Matthew George** (son of Zoe Davis); **Austin Harrison** (grandson of Joan Sanderson); **Jon Holland** (parishioner); **Spencer & Erica High; Jason Marino** (son of Lynda McCredie); **Daniel Schultz** (son of Judy Rhodes); **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 crises throughout our world.

The Bulletin and TEAM prayer list is one of many prayer lists at Grace. Please get permission from anyone you would like to add to the list and contact Kathleen Griffin at gkcggriffin7@gmail.com or the church office at grace.parish@att.net

December Anniversaries

Randy and Susan Smith	8
Rusty and Lynda McCredie	19
Paul and Daphne Urquhart	19
David and Sally Withers	20
Sue and William Thompkins	21
Hugh and Chal Vaughn	21
Mickey and Tricia Trinite	23
Rick and Kim Hayes	27
Fred and Micki Newton	29
Steve and Carol Booth	30

December Birthdays

3 Beth McKinsey	19 Carsten Path
3 Bob Turner	20 Liz Barr
4 Edward Ellington	20 Larry Bowen
4 Joyce Noble	20 Derek Edwards
4 Walker Webb	21 Lucie Holland
5 Suzy Young	22 Robert Green
6 Nancy Moss	22 Ed Woekener
7 Sylvia Greenwood	23 Nora Jones
9 Peter Booth	23 The Rev. Jane Smith
10 Ed Duncan	24 Natalie Nery
11 Don Hawkins	24 Olivia Nery
14 Scott Best	24 Fiorenza Starnes
14 Teresa Cantrell	27 Tom Barr
15 Katie Nery	27 Courtney Bell
16 Ellen Brown	27 Roger Lyda
16 Eva McKinsey	28 Doris Cummings
16 Kristin Perez	29 Helena Cullen
17 Kate Young	30 E. David Gentry
19 Steve Birkhofer	

Hanging of the Greens

Calling all fearless "Hanging of the Greens" helpers and decorators! We need you Sunday, December 18, at 1:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars now and plan to come help with this tradition at Grace Church. We also need assistance decorating the trees and preparing the Creche.

*Photo by
Terry Barnes
2014*

Special Gifts

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

Christmas Greenery and Flower Donations for memorials and thanksgivings are being accepted by the Flower/Altar Guild. Envelopes are in the pews. Memorials and Thanksgivings will be published in the *TEAM* after Christmas. Thank you for your generous contributions which pay for the Hanging of the Greens and all of the décor which makes our church even more beautiful at Christmas.

The beautiful Christmas greens and flowers are given to the Glory of God by the generous donors of Grace Parish.

New Altar Guild Members Needed

Our Altar Guild is absolutely desperate to get more help. The immediate need is for at least four new members! And you could be the perfect person to help! It's not a difficult job and is very important to our Sunday services. How much time will this take? One hour on one Saturday and Sunday each month. Can you find one or two hours each month to help? Please say yes! There will be training and help available.

If you are not on the Altar Guild, please call Cuyler Dupree (299-8412) or Zoe Davis (989-7031) and talk to them about joining. You may also call the church office.

If you are already on the Altar Guild, thanks for being there! And here's a way for you to help. Extend an invitation! Take one of the cards from the Altar Guild Sacristy, and give it to someone you'd like to ask to join us. Let them know how satisfying it is to serve in this way, and ask them to think about doing it, too.



Still Positive, Still So Very Grateful!

Statement of Activities - Grace Church Year to Date - October 2016

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income:			
Pledges	292,533	274,167	18,366
Prior Year Pledges	5,190	3,742	1,448
Non-pledged Offerings	38,761	34,329	4,432
Open Offering	13,625	8,702	4,923
Interest	40	58	(18)
Misc.	10,853	14,380	(3,527)
Total Income:	361,002	335,377	25,624
Expenses:			
Outreach/Mission	37,852	42,845	(4,993)
Parish Programs	9,215	10,051	(836)
Operations	58,271	57,886	386
Personnel	230,786	224,596	6,191
Total Expenses:	336,125	335,377	747
Income Less Expenses:	24,877	0	24,877

Pledge receipts through the end of October totaled \$292,533 compared to projected pledges of \$274,167. Considering all income sources, income received to date totaled \$361,002; while we projected income to be \$335,377. We ended the month with another positive income variance of \$25,624. Even considering a large donation received early in the year, we are still experiencing a very positive trend in pledged income.

The positive income variance thus far was reduced somewhat by expenses which were slightly greater than budgeted amounts by \$747. When subtracted from the positive income variance of \$25,624 our income less expenses resulted in a still healthy surplus of \$24,877 thus far in the year.

While we proceeded this year in a very positive manner, we do need to be aware

that a single donation has greatly influenced our financial position. We continue to encourage prayer and attention to our stewardship efforts.

Your Vestry

Buy a Brick for Someone Special!

Lake Logan and Camp Henry are pleased to offer a wonderful opportunity to our supporters just in time for the holiday season. This engraved brick project will allow you to purchase one or more bricks to honor a family member, beloved camp counselor or friend or to remember someone with a thoughtful and lasting gift in a place we all love.

Proceeds from this project will benefit Lake Logan or Camp Henry — your choice — to ensure that these special places continue for future generations.

When you purchase a brick in honor of someone, we will be happy to send a card letting that person or family know of the generous gift.

All bricks will be installed as part of a beautiful path to be created around the Bishop Johnson Dining Hall in the spring of 2017. All brick buyers and honorees will be invited to a special dedication ceremony at that time.

Questions? Contact Michelle Robinson, 828-575-5263 or mrobinson@diocesewnc.org.

