



# *the* Grace **TEAM** to each a ministry

JULY 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](http://www.graceepiscopalchurch.us)  
and  
[www.facebook.com/graceasheville](http://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,

First, on a personal note, it looks like I may need another surgery for my foot problem. I know you have noticed me limping on some Sundays, and for a year or so now, I have been sitting to preach. Anyway, I would ask for your prayers as I make these medical decisions. I'll send an all-parish email if and when I have the surgery so that you can include me in your prayers on that day.

Secondly, you will be receiving a mailing in July that is very important to us as a community of faith. We are updating our ministry data base. This mailing will direct you to a spiritual gifts inventory online. It would be a personal favor to me as your priest and a blessing to you, as well, I believe, to think through the spiritual gifts God has given you. There will also be a few questions to help you determine your personal style and passion.

The inventory questions will take about fifteen minutes to answer plus another fifteen minutes to look at the results and think about how they apply to you. The personal style questions and the passion questions together might take another twenty or thirty minutes. SO, what I am asking for is about an hour of your time during July to think about how God has wired you up for ministry.

This gift of an hour will accomplish two wonderful things: First, it will help you see how God has gifted you to serve in this world. This will give you the confidence to step forward as needed when a situation in your life calls for the gifts you have been given. Here is a simple example. Let's say you have the spiritual gift of leadership. Your personal style is "people/structured," which

means you prefer working with people rather than doing a task on your own and you are a structured or organized person. Let's also say you have a passion for making newcomers feel welcomed at church. In light of this spiritual gift of leadership, your people/structured personal style and your passion to welcome newcomers at church, one way in which you

**"...what I am asking for is about an hour of your time... to think about how God has wired you up for ministry."**

might offer yourself is as a Vestry member. Then, this fall when you see something in the *Team* about either nominating someone for Vestry or stepping forward to serve, you may feel much more confident about submitting your name to be a Vestry member at Grace.

That is the personal benefit to giving God this hour to inventory your gifts and find where you fit in ministry.

The second, corporate part is that, as you mail this information back to us regarding your spiritual gifts, personal style and

passion, we will enter it into the computer here at Grace. Then, in the case of our example, as we look for people to serve on the Vestry, we can search this data base for people with the spiritual gift of leadership, find that you "fit," and ask you to consider serving. This way, since the Vestry is the leadership body of our church, we can have a parish that is actually *led by leaders*. What a concept!

This effort during July to have folks give an hour of their time to think about their ministry will bear much fruit IF, and this is the big "if" — IF folks will just do it. So, when this comes in the mail, like Nike says, JUST DO IT, and get your results back to us. I think you'll be glad you did.

God's Peace,

Fr. Gary Coffey

# Events at a Glance

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## 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*

## Church Office Closed for July 4th Holiday

*Monday, July 6*

## Generational Healing Eucharist

*Tuesday, July 7, 7:00 p.m., CH*

## TEAM Meeting

*Wednesday, July 8, 11:00 a.m., OF*

## Order of St. Luke Program Meeting

*No meetings in July*

## Steadfast House Meal

*Friday, July 10, 6:00 p.m.*

## PubSing

*Sunday, July 12*

*5:30 p.m., snacks; 6:00 p.m., singing*

## Men of the Church

*Tuesday, July 14, 6:00 p.m.*

## Healing Prayer Services

*Tuesday, July 14, 21, 28, 7:00 p.m., CH*

## Taizé Worship Service

*Sunday, July 19, 8:00 p.m., CH*

## Vestry Meeting

*Monday, July 20, 5:30 p.m., LI*

## Broughton House Lunch

*Thursday, July 23, 12:00 Noon, PH*

# Family Fish Fry Set for August 28

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Kids of the Kingdom Music Outreach will host a kick-off family dinner on Friday, August 28, 5:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall. We will eat a fish meal (child options available) prepared by the Men's Group and follow the meal with family and group games related to reading the notes of the bass clef.

This is in an effort to continue increasing the awareness of the written musical language (which started in the early Christian church) and to build enthusiasm for the music of the young people in our church family. Ticket information coming soon at church (or email Joanna at [jboydbest@gmail.com](mailto:jboydbest@gmail.com), 712-1337).

There will be live music (on the bass, of course)!

# Parish News

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

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

**Lectors, Intercessors and Presenters are needed** for the 11:15 service. From the podium, the Lector reads the first reading of the service and the Intercessor reads the Prayers of the People. The Presenters bring the wine and bread to the altar. If you can assist in this ministry, please contact Sally Coburn at 645-5369 or call the church office at 254-1086. Training available.

**The Men of the Church** will meet Tuesday, July 14, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of host and cook John Woodson. His address is 1178 New Stock Road, Weaverville. The cost is \$10.00. Directions to John's home are on the kiosk with a sign-up sheet. Please join us.

**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 July. It will resume in August.

**The Order of St. Luke Study Group, *The Healing Miracles of Jesus***, will be offered by Jeanne Robertson on Saturdays, October 17 and 31, and November 14 and 21. 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, 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, July 12, at the French Broad Brewery, 101 Fairview Avenue. Please bring a snack at 5:30 p.m. Singing begins at six. For more information, contact Monty Wooten at [info@forestguide.com](mailto:info@forestguide.com) or 828-254-1114. For directions, go to <http://frenchbroadbrewery.com/directions/>.

**Ushers are needed** for the 11:15 service. If you could serve in this ministry, please contact Larry Harris at 771-2520 or Becky in the church office at 254-1086. Thank you for prayerfully considering this ministry. Instruction is available. And remember, ladies are also welcome in this ministry.

# Grace Outreach

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**Welcome Home Boxes for Homeward Bound.** Homeward Bound is the main organization in WNC helping homeless men, women, and children move into housing. They operate on the “housing first” model and currently have a retention rate of 89%, which means that 89% of the people they have moved into permanent housing have stayed in housing rather than returning to homelessness. As part of this program, Homeward Bound provides their newly housed clients with supplies in the form of **Welcome Home Boxes**. These boxes contain household and cleaning supplies that are helpful for someone who is moving into a new home.

Homeward Bound is always in need of paper towels, sandwich bags, cleaning supplies, skilletts, pots, and shower curtains. Donations of basic household items (such as sheets and towels) and cleaning supplies are gratefully accepted at 19 North Ann Street between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There is more information in the article posted on the kiosk in the foyer.

**Upcoming Events.** Over the next couple of months, the outreach committee at Grace will be sponsoring several opportunities for you to help as we strive to meet the needs of “the least of these” in our community. We will be having a **food drive for ABCCM** and having our annual **back-to-school drive for school supplies** for needy children. In addition, we’ll be helping to build **the Episcopal Habitat House**.

Watch your church bulletins and the August *TEAM* for more information on each of these ministry opportunities. There will be sign up sheets in the foyer to volunteer for the Habitat House during the last part of July. Remember as we ask for your support and help with these projects that you are a necessary part of the “village” of Grace Episcopal Church that is needed to make these projects successful. We thank you in advance for your help and for your caring for the less fortunate members of our community.

## Broughton Luncheon is July 23

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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 may email her at [margaretdahm@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

## Be a Snow-Day Hero

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*Catherine Godfrey*

This past winter, during a snow event, I was volunteering at the church when a call came in from an elderly woman who was calling for herself and her mother. They were out of food and hungry. Because of the snow, they could not get to a food pantry. Was there something I could do?

Our church takes care of people through the local county-wide food and assistance agencies, but those agencies do not deliver to individuals. So, I called my son. He’s a good young man who loves the challenge of helping others when the weather is bad. I gave him the names, address, and phone number of the women and sent him to the store.

Then, I went to work on the bigger issue: taking care of the needy in bad weather. Who likes the challenge of getting around in bad weather? Aside from my son, I thought of my brother, who, as a scout master, used to pack a deuce-and-a-half with provisions and scouts and head up into places like Nantahala in many feet of snow to go camping. So, I called the local scout district office and presented the situation. The district secretary ran it by the district director and got back to me. They were willing to announce the need at troop meetings but would assume no responsibility for coordination or communication...and no liability. They would pass on contact information. I was grateful.

I then went looking for 4-wheel drive vehicle clubs. There are none in Asheville. So I went to a dealership. The general manager was excited by the idea and said he would much rather spend his marketing and advertising budget helping the community, than just selling cars.

Grace Episcopal Church is offering to coordinate between volunteers, the county-wide food and assistance agencies, and those who find themselves hungry and/or cold in a bad weather event.

For more information and/or to volunteer to deliver food to those who are stranded due to bad weather, please contact me, Catherine Godfrey, at [csgodfrey@charter.net](mailto:csgodfrey@charter.net). Thank you.

# July 2015 Ministry Schedule

Date	Service Time	Acolyte C	Acolyte G	Acolyte E	Lector, Intercessor & Presenters	Healing Team	Ushers	Chalcists	Coffee Hour	Scripture	Lesson
<b>5-Jul</b>											
	7:45						Ed Duncan	Jack Frue			
	9:00	Faith Valley	Maya Bell	Maira Stewart	L, I, P - Paul and Daphne Urquhart	Louise Wernicke Patricia Hargrove	Ray and Wendy Kuykendall	1. Sarah Valley 2. Anne Simmons	Katherine Kaderabek	Ezekiel 2:1-5	1st Lesson
	11:15	Mark Silvers	Jonah Silvers	Elly Withers	L, I, P - Kristen Dusenbery, Mark Silvers & Alternate	Karen Compton Pat Davis	Bob Turner Paul Stewart	1. Carol McMichael 2. Sally Withers	Sallie Hunter	II Corinthians 12:2-10	2nd Lesson
<b>12-Jul</b>											
	7:45						Jim Black	Jack Frue			
	9:00	Harrison Best	Andrew Best	Louise Wernicke	L - Bill Crowover I - Hugh Vaughn P - Crowover Family	Sherry Coward Jeanne Robertson	Paul and Vicki Vest	1. Cuyler Dupree 2. Scott Best	Micki Newton	Amos 7:7-15	1st Lesson
	11:15	Rusty McCredie	Sally Withers	Grace Miller	L, I, P - Rusty McCredie, Sally Coburn & Alternate	Mary Israel Corinne Spencer	Larry and LuAnn Harris	1. Bill Warren 2. Leeann Shearouse	Volunteer	Ephesians 1:3-14	2nd Lesson
<b>19-Jul</b>											
	7:45						Andrew Dahm	Margaret Dahm			
	9:00	Noah Clary	Helena Cullen	Cuyler Dupree	L - Angie Cullen I - Debbie Jones P - Jones Family	Pat Davis Jane Whitman	Tom and Liz Barr	1. Debbie Jones 2. Jennifer Clary	Elaine Dephousse	Jeremiah 23:1-6	1st Lesson
	11:15	Mark Silvers	Jonah Silvers	Bob Grimes	L, I, P - Elaine Potter, Nancy Clark, and Alternate	Sonny Rawls Karen Compton	Ron Sims Arnold Clark	1. Bill Spencer 2. Carol McMichael	Volunteer	Ephesians 2:11-22	2nd Lesson
	Taizé 8:00 PM				L-Monty Wooten P - Henry Watts	Deb Gravatt					
<b>26-Jul</b>											
	7:45						Steve Jones	James Cannon			
	9:00	Laura Ellington	Liesl Ellington	Daphne Urquhart	L, I, P - Beth and John Woodson	Jeanne Robertson Shari Lane	Derek and Wade Edwards	1. Carol Booth 2. Ann Robinson	Cuyler Dupree	II Kings 4:42-44	1st Lesson
	11:15	Cheryl Aull	Sally Withers	Eric Howell	L, I, P - Eric Howell, Nancy Remmers & Alternate	Sonny Rawls Mary Israel	Elaine Potter Henry Watts	1. Charles Carter 2. Kimberly Kneier	Georgi Bruce	Ephesians 3:14-21	2nd Lesson
<b>Flower Arrangers</b>											
<b>Date</b>	<b>Counters</b>	<b>Depositors</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>							
<b>5-Jul</b>	Steve Birkhofer	James Cannon	<b>5-Jul</b>	<b>Group 1 - Jul 4 - Jul 10</b>							
<b>12-Jul</b>	Martha Boyette	Judy Bohan	<b>12-Jul</b>	<b>Group 2 - Jul 11 - Jul 17</b>							
<b>19-Jul</b>	Sally Withers	Chal and Hugh Vaughn	<b>19-Jul</b>	<b>Group 3 - Jul 18 - Jul 24</b>							
<b>26-Jul</b>	Georgi Bruce	Anne Simmons	<b>26-Jul</b>	<b>Group 4 - Jul 25 - Jul 31</b>							

# Our Prayer List

July

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:* **Walter Adamson; Jo Brokenshire; Sherry Coward; Mary Cozine; Ed Denison; Eunice Ferguson; Catherine Godfrey; Jess Gregory; Olivia & the Haller family; Mary Hayes; Nora Jones; Wendy Kuykendall; Doris Lederer; 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; Fred Motney; 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):* **Nancy Bailey** (friend of Barbara & Chuck Wilcox); **Carolyn & Winn Baker** (friends of Bob & Jeannette Reese); **Bethany** (daughter of Joan); **Chris Carson** (son of Martha & Randy); **Debbie D.** (friend of Lynda McCredie); **Kelli Davis** (daughter of George & Pat Davis); **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); **Jerry & Mary McAuliffe** (friends of Barbara & Chuck Wilcox); **Diana Noble** (daughter of Joyce & Walt Noble); **Erik & Susan Stoops** (brother-in-law & sister of Wendy Kuykendall); **Jennifer Svenstrup** (friend of Paul & Vicki Vest); **Kathy Taylor** (friend of Barbara & Chuck Wilcox); **Sydnor Thompson III; Angela & Pauline Wright; Alex** (friend of Mike and Judy Bohan); **Alicia; Ashley** (daughter of Henry Watts); **Don & Patricia; Elizabeth; Karen; Lou** (mother of Kim Hayes); **Mary Dee** (cousin of Walt Noble); **Pam** (friend of Cheryl Aull); **Richard; Sue; Susan; Ted & Aline; 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 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.**

## July Anniversaries

Bob and Barb Bell	4
David and Pat Anderson	8
Douglas and Jean Haldane	9
Mark and Shannon Wall	9
George Davis Jr. and Pat Davis	13
Wade and Lily Elder	13
Larry and LuAnn Harris	24
Jack and Terri Frue	26

## July Birthdays

1 Debbie Jones	19 John Sanderson
3 Stuart Bell	20 Shaleena Simpson
3 LuAnn Harris	21 Noah Clary
4 Arnold Clark	21 Zachary Hunter
4 Eva Dupree	21 Judy Warner
4 Sonny Rawls	22 Catherine Godfrey
4 Faith Valley	24 Kristen Dusenbery
5 Cassidy Bell	24 Mary Ida Sprague
5 Emmie Lou Elder	25 Cate Scales
8 Brenda Haller	25 Diane Wilkey
9 Louise Wernicke	26 Jim Compton
10 Chal Vaughn	26 Ashley Israel
12 Nathaniel Potter	28 Martha Carson
13 Bobbie Blackburn	29 Ian Calabria
13 Shari Lane	29 Paul Jordan
13 John Woodson	30 Jim Black
15 Victor Nikolov	30 Kippy Comfort
15 Glenda Sanderson	30 Keegan Lyda
17 Elaine Dephouse	30 Patrick Young
17 Fred Newton	31 Ed Denison
19 Ingrid Adelsbach	31 Bobbi Holland
19 Mariana Nikolov	

### That Dish You Can't Find Anywhere...

...may be in the church kitchen!

If you have recently contributed food for a parish function, please check in the kitchen for any dishes you may have forgotten to retrieve. And thanks for helping out!



## Gifts to Appreciate

The Aumbry candle is given to the Glory of God by Cuyler Dupree in memory Joy Markey.

The flowers are given to the Glory of God:

by daughters Ginny Shew, Anne Simmons and Betty Bear in memory of John L. Simmons;

by the Duncan and Drake families in memory of Heber Peacock;

by Linda and Glenn Crawford in memory of Albert Walker Hargrove;

by Elizabeth and Richard Krueger in memory of their parents, Clara and Edmund Felt, and Lee and Theodore Krueger.

## Thank You, Leeann!

Leeann Shearouse, who attends our 11:15 service, came up with the idea of having a beautiful waterfall in our Urban Memorial Garden, where we inter the ashes of members of Grace Church who wish to be buried there. We had a small pond there previously and rather than replace a failed liner, Leeann suggested a three-tiered waterfall.

Water Dance Creations built the waterfall, and Leeann, who is experienced in building and maintaining ponds like this, assisted them in the placement of the stones. Following installation, Leeann donated plants and landscaped around the waterfall, including a beautiful water lily in the new pond. She will also be donating special fish which will help in the balance of the water by consuming the algae which grows naturally in the pond. We welcome you to stop by to look at and listen to our new waterfall! To get to the Urban Garden, go down the steps from the foyer and straight through the glass door opposite the foot of the stairs.

The cost of the waterfall was underwritten by the Urban Memorial Garden Fund which consists of the one-time \$500 fees which our people pay to be interred there. We also have an architect, Keith Hargrove, working on a drawing for a new way to display the bronze plaques bearing the names of those interred in the garden. We were extremely careful to see that the footprint of the waterfall is between the areas where ashes were previously interred. No one's ashes were disturbed by the construction of the waterfall.

### Our Love and Condolences to Martha

Boyette in the loss of her mother who died on June 1. May our Lord comfort you in your grief.



# Overall Surplus for First Five Months

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## Statement of Activities - Grace Church Year to Date - May 2015

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<b>Income:</b>			
Pledges	141,276	146,638	(5,362)
Prior Year Pledges	2,215	-	2,215
Non-pledged Offerings	16,340	25,618	(9,278)
Open Offering	3,775	8,013	(4,238)
Interest	5	63	(58)
Misc.	8,327	5,115	3,212
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>171,937</b>	<b>185,447</b>	<b>(13,509)</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Outreach/Mission	18,762	23,805	(5,043)
Parish Programs	3,517	6,229	(2,713)
Operations	25,293	31,384	(6,091)
Personnel	123,489	124,029	(539)
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>171,061</b>	<b>185,447</b>	<b>(14,386)</b>
<b>Income Less Expenses:</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>877</b>

Pledge receipts through the end of May totaled \$141,276 compared to budgeted pledges of \$146,638. Considering all income sources, income for the first five months totaled \$171,937; while we had projected income to be \$185,447. We ended May with a negative variance in income of (\$13,509).

The negative income variance for the first five months was offset by expenses in the first five months which were less than budgeted amounts by \$14,386. When added to the negative income variance of (\$13,509), year-to-date income less expenses resulted in an overall surplus for our first five months.

We are currently experiencing a surplus of \$877 while at this point in 2014 we experienced a positive balance of \$3750.

We are grateful that all needs have been met thus far and continue to look forward to another successful year in 2015.

Your Vestry

## Facing the Furnace

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*Catherine Godfrey's continuing review of the 3-part book Walking with God Through Pain and Suffering by Timothy Keller*

Part 2, "Facing the Furnace," starts where Part 1 left off: We, with our finite minds, cannot know the infinite mind of God. There are several key ideas in Keller's book worth exploring, like "the evil we see today was not part of God's original design." "The world is too fallen and deeply broken to divide into a neat pattern of good people having good lives and bad people having bad lives." "We should not expect to be able to grasp all God's purposes, but through the cross and gospel of Jesus Christ, we can know His love." "(Some people) tend to assign blame to victims of tragedy especially if it is not possible to punish a perpetrator. This comes from a normal human impulse to make sense of things, but it also stems from the deep human need to believe we are in control of our own lives."

I cannot relate here all of the bits of wisdom and comfort that Keller imparts, so I highly recommend you read this book...particularly if you struggle to understand and accept the pain and suffering in your own life, or the life of a loved one. As Keller says, "It is looking to Jesus that enables you to function in God's (world). It takes away self-pity, as we consider what He endured for us without complaining. If He endured infinite suffering and loss for us, we should be able to endure finite grief and loss, knowing that God is working behind the hateful evil to bring out some good in our lives. If we keep our eyes 'fixed' on Jesus, we will come through the pain and experience with the deeper peace that can be the result."

Keller adds, however, that "suffering does not automatically or naturally lead to growth and good outcomes. It must be handled properly or faced patiently and faithfully." Furthermore, he emphasizes strongly that the best time to handle pain and suffering is BEFORE it ever strikes. (Hint: the answer is a strong relationship with God through prayer. Once you are in pain, that relationship is very difficult to establish.)

Keller concludes Part 2 emphasizing the importance of knowing how best to address the suffering and grief of someone else. What works for one person, in one situation, could be disastrous for another.

I was personally moved by Keller's retelling of aspects of Simone Weil's essay, "The Love of God and Affliction." The components of affliction are isolation, implosion (or self-absorption), numbness, anger, self condemnation and shame, and the temptation to embrace suffering. I look forward to part 3, where Keller deals with how we can actually, practically, face and get through the suffering that has come upon us.

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church  
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Asheville, North Carolina 28804

Return Service Requested

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- In this issue look for:*
- July Events at a Glance
  - Upcoming Fish Fry
  - Snow Day Ministry Opportunity
  - Our New Urban Garden Water Feature
  - and of course, "Parson to Person"

JULY 2015

to each a ministry

**TEAM**

*the Grace*

