



the Grace TEAM

to each a ministry

December 2019

Grace Episcopal Church

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Asheville, NC 28804

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Visit us online at

www.graceavl.com &

www.facebook.com/graceasheville

The Grace TEAM

is published monthly.

Deadline for articles is the 15th.

Sunday Worship

8:00 a.m. - Rite I

10:30 a.m. - Rite II Family &

Choral Service

Healing Prayer

Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

there is a prayer station available with Lay Healing Prayer Ministers.

A Healing Prayer Service and Eucharist with laying on of hands for God's healing is offered on Wednesdays, 12:15 p.m.

Taizé

On the third Sunday of each month at 8:00 p.m., a Taizé service is 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 this service.

A Message from Fr. Gary

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Blessed Advent to all! Living in a secular world may sometimes make us forget that, as Christians, we are called to live counter-culturally. We practice this "counter-culturalness" by loving our neighbor as our self, focusing outward instead of inward, getting up on Sunday morning to worship God instead of sleeping in, caring for the least among us, believing in something far bigger than ourselves, and believing that through Christ's life, death, and resurrection we are saved.

As a liturgical Church, we engage this "counter-cultural" life in numerous ways. First of all, we begin our new year (the Church Year) on the First Sunday of Advent, which this year is December 1, instead of January 1, as the secular

world does. Advent is the season of "waiting" and "expectation" for our Lord to arrive as an innocent child and is accentuated by certain changes in our worship space and liturgy.

On December 1, we will start Lectionary Year A, which focuses on the Good News of Christ as proclaimed in the Gospel of Matthew. Having just finished Year C, we will not hear again from Luke for another two years. We will not sing the Gloria or a Song of Praise, but will instead sing the Tri-agon, meaning "thrice holy." Since we are in a season of waiting and of expectation, the Gloria is not appropriate because it proclaims Jesus Christ as the Holy One and we are "liturgically" waiting for Jesus to come among us. This is also the reason why we do not sing Christmas carols prior to Christmas Eve. We will also sing a simpler form of the Sanctus and Fraction Anthem during Advent. There will be other changes with different Prayers of the People, prayers and collects. Then, with the arrival of the Baby Jesus on Christmas Eve, we will rejoice and once

again sing the Gloria and more joyous service music with Alleluia's.

The worship space also changes during Advent. As we are waiting for Jesus to arrive, we do not have flowers in the sanctuary; we replace them with greenery. Our liturgical color changes to blue which indicates a more solemn and anticipatory season. The Advent wreath with candles decorates the sanctuary that helps mark the time through Advent as we approach the birth of our Lord and Savior.

The combination of our different lectionary years with readings from different Gospels, our changes in our worship space, and the changes in our liturgy assist us in participating personally in the life of the church and our life in Christ. One way to think of this is that we are participating in a weekly drama where the readings (the script), the worship space (the stage and scenery), and the liturgy (the action

"Living in a secular world may sometimes make us forget that, as Christians, we are called to live counter-culturally."

of the people and participants) come together in a meaningful worship experience where we praise God and are fed by Jesus Christ.

As we begin our Advent journey, it is important to remember that Advent is not just a season in which we recall an event of the past—Jesus' birth—but also a time in which we look to the present and the future. When will Jesus come again? When will we see the kingdom of God on earth, as it is in heaven? No one knows. And so the more important questions are: What can we do as the church, Christ's body here on earth, to bring about God's reign of justice and peace today? What can we do as individuals to reorder our lives, in the light of God's love? What would it mean to live as a people who believe in Jesus as the savior of all the earth and to expect him to come again at the fulfillment of time? I invite each of you this Advent to ponder and act on these questions anew.

In Christ's Love and Blessing this Advent and Christmas,

Gary+

Events at a Glance

A Quick Review of the Month

Sunday Fellowship
Breakfast, 8:45 a.m., PH ; Coffee, 11:40 a.m., PH

Monday Morning Gospel Bible Study
Mondays, 10:30 a.m., PH (cancelled 12/23, 12/30)

Early Birds Men's Book Study
Tuesdays, 8:45 a.m., LI (cancelled 12/24, 12/31)

Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing
Wednesdays, 12:15-1:15 p.m., CH (cancelled 12/25, 1/1)

Centering Prayer
Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., CR (cancelled 12/25, 1/1)

Choir and Bell Rehearsals
Wednesdays: Bells, 6:00 p.m.; Choir, 7:15 p.m. (none 12/25, 1/1)

EfM Gathering
Thursdays, 6:00 p.m., LI (cancelled 12/26, 1/2)

Advent Wreath-Making Workshop (details on p. 3)
Sunday, December 1, 9:30 a.m., PH

Altar Guild Meeting
Sunday, December 1, 11:45 a.m., LI

Advent Journey (details on p. 3)
Tuesdays, December 3, 10 & 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m., PH

Outreach Meeting
Tuesday, December 3, 5:30 p.m., LI

YMCA Mobile Market
Wednesday, December 4, 4:30-5:30 p.m., parking lot

Advent Book Study Group (details on p. 3)
Thursdays, December 5, 12 & 19, 10:30 a.m., PH

Purls of Grace
Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m., LI

Newcomers Ministry Meeting
Sunday, December 8, 9:15 a.m., LI

PubSing
Sunday, December 8, 4:00 p.m., PH

Worship Committee Meeting
Monday, December 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m., LI

Holiday Cookie Bash
Tuesday, December 10, 10:00 a.m., PH

Men of the Church
Tuesday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.

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

Taizé Worship Service
Sunday, December 15, 8:00-9:00 p.m., CH

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

Steadfast House Meal
Friday, December 20, 6:00 p.m.

Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, December 22, 11:30 a.m.

Church Office Closed for Holidays
December 24-January 1

Service of Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 29, 10:30 a.m. service, CH

Come to **Breakfast** every Sunday, 8:45-10:00 a.m. in the parish hall. During breakfast, around 9:20, join Fr. Gary or Fr. Bob for an informal chat about current events, theology, liturgy, or anything else that's on your mind.

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

Stay for **Coffee and Conversation** in the parish hall following the 10:30 service. Families are encouraged to host.

The **Early Birds Men's Group** is a small group of men that meets in the library on Tuesdays, 8:45-10:00 a.m. to discuss a chosen book. All men of the church are welcome.

Grace Church offers a **Holy Eucharist and Healing Service** on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. Healing prayer stations are also available at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service and at the Taizé service every third Sunday.

Men of the Church meets Tuesday, December 10, at the home of Larry Harris, 330 Stratford Road, Asheville. The social starts at 6:00 p.m., followed by supper and a short business meeting. The cost is \$15, and a sign-up sheet is posted in the foyer. All men of the church are welcome.

Monday Morning Gospel Bible Study is at 10:30 a.m. in the parish hall. Facilitated by Fr. Bob, it is a study of the Gospel for the following Sunday.

The **Order of St. Luke** will not meet in December.

Come join us for **PubSing**, an informal gathering on the second Sunday of each month to sing hymns, old-time gospel, and Americana inspirational music. We'll meet December 8 in the parish hall at Grace to sing Christmas carols from 4:00-5:00 p.m., and those who wish to participate will go caroling in the neighborhood from 5:00-6:00. For details, contact Monty Wooten at montywooten@bellsouth.net or 828-254-1114.

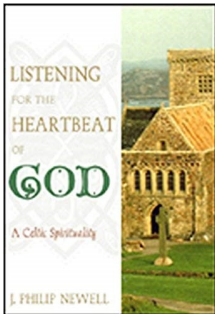
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Parish News, Updates & Reminders



THE ADVENT WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOP is 9:30-10:30 a.m., December 1, the first Sunday of Advent. This is a wonderful family event and an opportunity to participate in a centuries-old Christian tradition. All supplies, including a wreath, a choice of purple or blue candles and greenery, are available for a donation of \$10.00. Wreaths only or candles only may be purchased for \$5.00. Volunteers to help cut greenery on Saturday, November 30, at 9:00 a.m. in the parish hall are always needed and welcome.

ADVENT JOURNEY. Join us in exploring our Advent readings as we creatively engage the Scriptures. In response to *Lectio Divina*, we will choose images from magazines to create a prayer card using collage that expresses our longing for encountering the Holy One. The making of the art is intuitive. When we begin, we do not know where we will go. If you want an adventure with God during Advent and can tear, cut, and paste, this is for you. Join Fr. Gary Butterworth and Katie Warren in the parish hall on Tuesdays, December 3, 10 & 17 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Space is limited to 20. Sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer. If you have questions, contact Katie Warren at 828-275-3971. Plan to have dinner prior to class.



LISTENING TO THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD. Where do you hear the heartbeat of God today? Is it in scripture? Is it in the people and nature around you? Can you still find it in today's challenged environment? Come listen and explore a Celtic spirituality that emphasizes the goodness of creation and humanity made in the image of God in this Advent Book Study Group. Led by Fr. Bob, the group will meet in the parish hall from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 5, 12 & 19. We will be using the 1997 edition of the book, *Listening for the Heartbeat of God* by Philip Newell, available to order on Amazon. If you would like help ordering the book, please contact either Fr. Bob or Doug McClellan.



HANGING OF THE GREENS. Calling all "Hanging of the Greens" helpers and decorators! We need you Sunday, December 22, at 11:30 a.m. Please mark your calendars now and plan to come help with this Grace Church tradition. We also need assistance decorating the trees and preparing the Creche. We hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS EVE PAPER BAG PAGEANT.

Stars, shepherds, animals and angels! Come participate in the Grace Christmas Pageant on December 24 at 4:00 p.m. If you are new to Grace, come join a long tradition. Bring your little ones to the parish hall at 3:15 to participate. Simple costumes are in paper bags, and parishioners help the children with selections and getting dressed. Children sit with family during the service and go to the back of the church when instructed. At the end of the service, the costumes are returned to the paper bags in the parish hall. No rehearsal necessary. Create a lasting memory for your children and grandchildren. **Also, anyone interested in helping with the Pageant, please call the church office.** Jobs include narrators, costume organizers, reception helpers, and cleanup.



Holiday Worship

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24
4:00 p.m., Family Christmas Worship
with the Paper Bag Pageant

9:30 p.m., Choral Prelude

10:00 p.m., Christmas Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

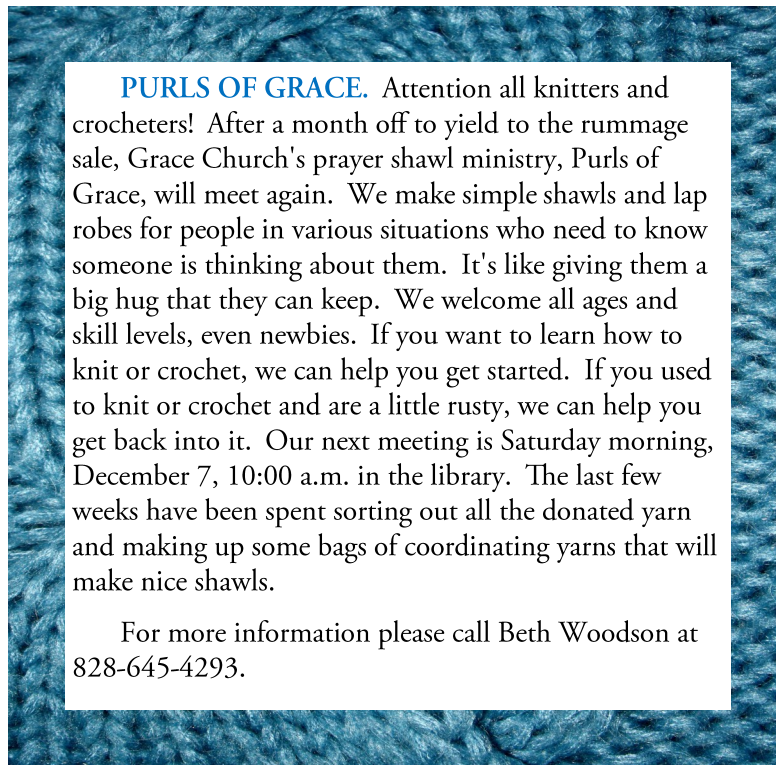
10:00 a.m., Christmas Holy Eucharist

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 29, 10:30 a.m.



DECEMBER DATES FOR THE ASHEVILLE EPISCOPAL YOUTH MINISTRY. As the holidays approach, we have so much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to. Check the dates! Mark your calendars! Don't miss a minute of the fun! If you have questions, please contact Jenna, jenna@wncyouth.org.



USHERS NEEDED. December is a busy season at Grace. This year, due to unexpected factors, there is a huge shortage of ushers for the 10:30 a.m. worship services. Can you help? Couples, parents with their children, teens—it's an easy ministry, so please offer your services by contacting Elaine Potter, elaine@graylineasheville.com.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIFT CARD

SCAMS. Be on the lookout for potential schemes. We have recently received emails from someone posing as Fr. Gary and asking for gift cards to help a person in need. Please **do not** respond to anything like this without first contacting Fr. Gary to make sure it is legitimate. Gift cards have been the present Americans want most for thirteen consecutive years. But that popularity may be what makes gift cards such a prime target for thieves whose intention is to trick you into sending them. As Valerie noted in a recent email, there are ways to identify and protect against this sort of email fraud.

Three tips to avoid gift card scams and also what is known as email "phishing":

- Use gift cards only as gifts for people you know — and never for payments.
- Legitimate businesses and government agencies will never demand payment in gift cards.
- **If your religious leader, grandchild or anyone else calls or emails and asks for money, first call them back to make sure it's really them.**
- FTC officials say anyone who has been scammed should report it: at ftc.gov/complaint; to local law enforcement; and to the gift card company.

Even if a scammer is long gone with the proceeds of a crime, reporting helps officials understand what ploys are being used so they can educate people and prevent future losses. AARP's Fraud Watch Network can help you spot and avoid scams. Sign up for free "watchdog alerts," review their scam-tracking map, or call the toll-free fraud helpline at 877-908-3360 if you or a loved one suspect you've been a victim. Pick up a booklet from the church information table.



BISHOP'S VISIT. Our bishop, The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, will make his bi-annual visitation to Grace on Sunday, March 22. During his visitation, Bishop José will preach, celebrate, baptize, confirm, receive and reaffirm new people into the Episcopal Branch of The Jesus Movement. We will offer confirmation classes in January and February. If you or your children are interested in being confirmed, please let Fr. Gary or Fr. Bob know so we can coordinate days and times for the classes. More details will follow.

Grace Ministries in Action

"Grace Ministries in Action" spotlights reports from our ministry leaders, keeping us informed about their programs and ways in which each of us can get involved. If you have questions, ideas or comments about a ministry, please contact that ministry's leader directly. They would love to hear from you.

MINISTRY LEADERS

ADULT FORMATION: Greg Townsend,
gwtownsend@outlook.com

ALTAR GUILD: Jackie Schauer,
jschauer@jsaworks.com

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: John Woodson,
jlwoodson@aol.com

CHILD FORMATION: Mark Silvers,
mhswjak@hotmail.com

CHOIRS: Rusty McCredie,
rebscape@att.net

COMMUNICATIONS: Eric Howell,
eric_howell@att.net

ENDOWMENT: Steve Birkhofer,
sbirkhof@unca.edu

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW): Cheryl Aull,
ckauill@charter.net

FELLOWSHIP: Sally Withers,
sallywithers@gmail.com

FINANCE: Anne Jarema,
anne_jarema@verizon.net

FLOWER GUILD: Mary Israel,
tobarranged@bellsouth.net

GARDEN GUILD: Kathleen Griffin (828-337-8241), Jackie Schauer 828-337-9441

HEALING MINISTRY: Jeanne Robertson,
jerobertson38@me.com

MEN OF THE CHURCH: Jim Compton,
j.t.compton@gmail.com

NEWCOMERS:

OFFICE MINISTRY: Chal Vaughn,
chalhugh@gmail.com

OUTREACH: Kim Hayes,
kimhys53@gmail.com

PASTORAL CARE: Cliff Albertson,
clifford.albertson@verizon.net

PUBSING: Monty Wooten,
montywooten@bellsouth.net

STEWARDSHIP: Greg Townsend,
gwtownsend@outlook.com

TAIZÉ: James Cannon,
imjcannon@frontier.com

YOUTH MINISTRY: Jenna Sharrits,
jenna@wncyouth.org

WEDDING MINISTRY: Elaine Potter,
elaine@graylineasheville.com; Cheri Potter,
Cheripotter82@gmail.com

WORSHIP: Fr. Gary Butterworth,
gary.butterworth@gmail.com

ADULT FORMATION. Join the conversation. Our breakfast forum—informal conversations about the church, the world, whatever is on your mind—continues during breakfast in the parish hall.

ALTAR GUILD. Whether you're new to this great ministry or a seasoned veteran, please attend a meeting Sunday, December 1, 11:45 a.m. in the library to discuss plans for the upcoming holidays. Our Altar Guild works behind the scenes to make worship during this season wondrous. Consider becoming a part of their ministry.

ECW. Rummage Sale. The Episcopal Church Women's annual rummage sale was a great success. We are happy to report that the proceeds totaled \$5,324. Thank you to everyone who helped make this sale possible. It was a great time of camaraderie and fellowship as well as lots of hard work. ECW members voted at our fall luncheon to use some of the funds raised to provide scholarship assistance for children to attend Camp Henry and/or Episcopal Young Churchmen conferences or events, outreach funding to assist with children's programs (Angel tree, school supplies for foster children, etc. as needs arise), a donation to the United Thank Offering, a donation to the diocesan ECW and assistance with church projects as needed. All of your contributions made this possible. We are grateful for your participation! A special thank you goes to Mary Ann Warren who has been the driving force behind this sale for the past several years!

Coming up sooner than you think, the spring **Derby Day luncheon** is Saturday, May 2, 12 noon in the parish hall. Start planning your Derby Day "fascinator" now!



GARDEN GUILD. We have a 237 year old "Treasured Tree" and we thought you'd enjoy seeing some photos from our recent celebration.

NEWCOMERS. A newly revived Newcomers Ministry is working hard to make Grace the welcoming community of Christians we want it to be. An organizational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 8, 9:15 a.m. in the library. For details, contact Pat Walters.

OUTREACH. As the holidays approach, we become more keenly aware of those among us who suffer and struggle. Let us be the hands and feet and eyes and heart of Jesus as we reach out to help.

The **YMCA Mobile Market** produce truck will be back in our parking lot Wednesday, December 4, 4:30-5:30 p.m., with free fresh vegetables for all who come to shop, no questions asked. Volunteers are needed to assist the YMCA staff the first Wednesday of each month. Lucy and Larry Bowen have complete details.

Let's Help ABCCM Turn Up the Heat On Hunger. We're holding a food drive December 1-15 to help ABCCM's Crisis Ministry meet immediate needs for feeding the homeless and hungry, especially as the bitter cold weather sets in. Canned foods (including pop-tops) are especially needed, i.e. canned meats



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Grace Ministries in Action

(continued from previous page)

(spam, stew, ham), canned chicken, tuna, fruits and vegetables; and hearty canned soups (beef stew, potato, bean or chicken). Look for bags and lists in the pews and remember ABCCM when you shop. Bags should be returned by Sunday, December 15.

The Angel Tree is Up in the Foyer! This year Grace Church will once again partner with Caring For Children and area foster parents to provide Christmas presents for children who are in foster and kinship care. Our generosity helps these families care for children in need. Simply take an angel from the tree, and buy as many of the items listed as you wish. Remember, these are wishes, and as you would do for your own child, you are not expected to purchase all items requested. Please return the items to church by December 16, and make sure the angel you took from the tree is returned with the presents, so we can make sure all gifts go to the correct child. You may choose to wrap the items, or not, as there are volunteers available to do so. Please enclose a list or post-it notes, so that the parents can know what has been purchased for the child. If you would rather donate money, checks should be made out to Grace with "Angel Tree" on the memo line.



Outrageous Grace Outreach!

Often, we don't get involved because we don't have enough information. In the months to come, the Grace Outreach Committee will be spotlighting parish outreach programs that we hope will be of interest to you.

About 100 adult women are homeless on any given night in Buncombe County. **Room in the Inn** is a faith-based program through Homeward Bound, where faith communities agree to provide the basic needs of twelve women for one week. In 2020, Grace Church will partner with St. Luke's in Chunn's Cove to host two weeks: May 3 and September 27. The volunteer opportunities we'll be sharing include:

Dinner Preparers: Volunteers (Sunday School classes, small groups, youth groups, families, etc.) who will prepare and deliver a meal by 6:30 p.m. to feed the Room in the Inn women and any volunteers that will be present for supper.

Dinner Hosts. Some faith communities utilize dinner hosts to eat with the women and then clean up after supper. The dinner hosts leave when the overnight hosts arrive.

Breakfast Preparers. Provide breakfast food the night before to be used the next morning.

Lunch Preparers. Volunteers should bring lunch food the night before their assigned day. This may be lunch meat, chips, etc., to be packed by the women or may be pre-packed in sacks by the volunteers.

Transportation. Drivers will be needed to pick up the guests at the AHOPE Day Center, transport them to your site and return them each morning.

Innkeeper Volunteers. Each night you will need a minimum of two adults (one must be female) to spend the night with the women. One person must always remain awake during the night. Most teams sleep in shifts.

Room in the Inn is an opportunity to get to know our neighbors who struggle with housing security and show them hospitality and love. Volunteering in any way is important to the women we serve.

This is not "outreach as usual" for Grace. Clearly, to make it work, it's going to take planning and a lot of creative involvement from a lot of people. Are you one of them? Let's start the conversation with your feedback, questions, great ideas and volunteer support! Be watching for more information in the weeks to come.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUTREACH

Consider Haiti. Consider Haiti's single, most urgent goal is to promote the health and welfare of children in Haiti. The Pumpkin Patch hosted by Grace is their biggest fundraiser. We are also looking at other ways (pregnant goats!) to offer our support.

Foster Child Assistance (Back-to-School Supplies / Angel Tree). Through donations of school supplies in the fall and gifts at Christmas, Grace assists foster families. Please take a tag from our Angel Tree this month.

Grace Backpackers. In partnership with Jones Elementary School and MANNA Food Bank, Grace volunteers provide supplemental food resources to children identified as food insecure.

*Does something here intrigue you? Learn more!
Contact Kim Hayes, kimhys53@gmail.com*



This past Sunday, we welcomed members of Asheville Greenworks to our community to celebrate one of our legacies, five large oaks on our property, three of which are over 220 years old. Our guests praised us for our foresight and efforts to maintain what others have left for us.

We also celebrated the end of our liturgical year, Christ the King Sunday. Father Gary's sermon encapsulated the year at its end, taking us from the quiet expectation of Advent through the Nativity to the Cross and on to Pentecost, the Great Fifty Days of Easter, and Ordinary Time. Sunday, December 1 begins the New Year as we start our walk through our history of salvation once again.

It's in the timelessness of the cycle that I find meaning and renewal. As we work through the liturgical calendar, we hear the same stories that tell us of God's love for us, taking our part in a community of Christians that stretches back to the early church. We're able to participate in this cycle because of the vision and gifts of those who came before us.

As we move into the new year, I invite you to join us as we share our gifts and build on the legacy others have left for us. We'll collect pledges for 2020 on the second and third Sundays of Advent, December 8 and 15. Come with us as we work to share Christ's love in our world through our ministries at Grace Church.

"Come with us as we work to share
Christ's love..."

Pledge in-gathering:
Sunday, December 8 and 15

Our Prayer List

December

We publish the Parish Prayer List each month so you may include those listed in your daily prayers. To help you identify and/or contact the people for whom you are praying, we have included the last names of people with their permission.

For Parishioners: Chris Carson (son of Martha & Randy); Nancy Clark; Ed Denison; Eva Dupree; Eunice Ferguson; Mary Hayes; Mary Israel; Don Lewis; Maria Mason; Gael Paschall; Nancy Porter; Sonny Rawls; Becky and Bill Smith; Beth Stahl; Laura & Tsz-yan Snyder; Corinne Spencer; Rita Spragg; Kelly Thompson; Chal Vaughn; Paul Vest; Pat Walters; Katie Warren; Don Wills.

For Homebound Parishioners and Those in Healthcare Facilities: Henny Caldwell; Straudia & Mel Luedtke; Rita Lyda; Marion Mayfield-Johnson; Tom Paine; Cal Remmers; Mary Ida Sprague; Laura Stephens.

For Others (names will stay on the list for six weeks; call Kathleen Griffin or the office to keep names on the list for a longer time): Carolyn Brown (friend of Ray & Jeanne Robertson); Melinda Franks (sister of Becky Smith); William Fredericksen (brother of Barbara Wilcox); David & Suana Gentry; Judy Hinman (sister of Barbara Wilcox); Bob Noble (brother of Walt Noble); Janice Orson (friend of Rusty Herman); Joanne Poston (sister-in-law of Bill & Corinne Spencer); Ben (friends of Lucy and Larry Bowen); Lisa & Stan; Toni and family (friends of Don Wills).

For Those Who Have Died and their Families: Mark Schweizer; Bill Spencer.

For Those in Service to Our Country: Tommy & Danny Brown (grandsons of Ed & Marla Woeckener); David Ely (son of Dave Ely); Matthew George (son of Zoe Davis); Spencer & Erica High; Jason Marino (son of Lynda McCredie); Daniel Schultz (son of Judy Rhodes); Nancy Smith, Sarah Jane Wilkey (daughter of Diane and Tony Wilkey), Patricia (friend of Kathleen Griffin).

For Those in the Episcopal Church: Michael (our presiding Bishop); José (our Bishop); the clergy vestry, staff, ministries and people of this parish; Church of the Advocate.

For our President Donald Trump, his Cabinet, Congress & our country; for victims of violence across the world; for local agencies & those who work for relief of the poor; for better stewardship of the environment; 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 337-8241 or gkcgiffin7@gmail.com or the church office at grace.church.asheville@gmail.com.



Our condolences and prayers go to the friends, family and loved ones of
Mark Schweizer (an area church musician) and
Bill Spencer (husband of Corinne Spencer).

December 2019 Ministry Schedule

If you are unable to serve, please find a replacement and contact the Verger for that service.

8:00 AM	December 01	December 08	December 15	December 22	Christmas Eve	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	December 29
Verger	Lorie Tola	James Cannon	James Cannon	James Cannon	If you see blank spaces below for Christmas services and you are able to serve, please contact the church office.			James Cannon
Chalistic	Susan Robinson	James Cannon	James Cannon	Jack Frue				Susan Robinson
Usher	Johnny Robinson	Ed Duncan	Steve Jones	Ed Duncan				Steve Jones
10:30 AM					4:00 PM	10:00 PM	10:00 AM	
Verger	Chip Coon	Chip Coon	Lorie Tola	Chip Coon	Lorie Tola	Chip Coon	James Cannon	Chip Coon
Acolyte C	Maya Bell	Carsten Path	Cheryl Aull	Liesl Ellington	Maya Bell	Eric Howell	Elly Withers	Zoe Davis
Acolyte G	Joe Wood	Tessa Path	Ellie Silvers	Nola Ellington	Aleena Bennett	Ellie Silvers	Sally Withers	Charlie Scales
Acolyte E	Aleena Bennett	Zoe Davis	Jonah Silvers	Laura Ellington	Daphne Urquhart	Jonah Silvers		Louise Wernicke
Lector 1	Robert Green	Louise Wernicke	John Woodson	Carol Booth		Vicki Vest		Bill Smith
Lector 2	Vicki Vest	Greg Townsend	Beth Woodson	Anne Simmons		Nancy Walters		Barbara Wilcox
Intercessor	Kristen Dusenbery	Nancy Walters	Hugh Vaughn	Rusty McCredie				Jeanne Robertson
Presenters	Green family	Louise Wernicke, Greg Townsend	Woodson Family	Carol Booth, Anne Simmons				Barbara Wilcox, Jeanne Robertson
Chalistic 1	Greg Townsend	Nancy Walters	Charles Carter	Cliff Albertson	John Woodson	Mark Silvers		Carol Booth
Chalistic 2	Daphne Urquhart	Don Lewis	Kimberly Kneier	Ann Robinson	Daphne Urquhart	Greg Townsend		Mark Silvers
Ushers	Elaine and William Potter	Larry and LuAnn Harris	George Davis Will Israel	Ed Woeckener (alternate)	Ben and Aeron Scales			Elaine and Nate Potter
Healing Team	Louise Wernicke Tricia Harbrove	Allyn Aldrich Joan Aldrich	Pat Davis Jane Whitman	Jeanne Robertson Shari Lane				Ann Robinson Brenda Haller
Scripture - Lesson 1	Isaiah 2:1-5	Isaiah 11:1-10	Isaiah 35:1-10	Isaiah 7:10-16	Isaiah 9:2-7	Isaiah 9:2-7	Isaiah 52:7-10	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Scripture - Lesson 2	Romans 13:11-14	Romans 15:4-13	James 5:7-10	Romans 1:1-7	A Christmas Pageant	Titus 2:11-14	Hebrews 1:1-4	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
Counters	Steve Birkhofer	Martha Boyette	Sally Withers	Georgi Bruce				Georgi Bruce
Depositors	James Cannon	Judy Bohan	Chal & Hugh Vaughn	Anne Simmons				Steve Birkhofer
Flower Arrangers	Wyatt - Advent Wreath Newton - Greenery	Greenery	Greenery	Westall - Greenery Bowen - Hanging	December 23: All: Decorate for Christmas			Dawson
Altar Guild	Grp 1: Nov 30-Dec 6	Group 2: Dec 7-13	Group 3: Dec 1-20	Group 4: Dec 21-27				Grp 3: Dec 28-Jan 3
7:00 PM Taizé								
Verger			James Cannon					
Lector Intercessor			Monty Wooten					
Healing Prayer			Amy Trees Debbie Thomas					

December Anniversaries

Randy and Susan Smith	8
Rusty and Lynda McCredie	19
Paul and Daphne Urquhart	19
David and Sally Withers	20
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

Special Gifts

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.

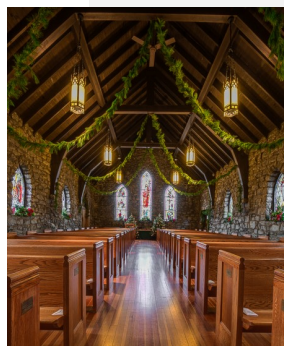
The Advent Wreath is given to the Glory of God by Sylvia and Buddy Greenwood in memory of Roy Wilson Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Greenwood, and Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Morrow.

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

The flowers on December 29 are given to the Glory of God by Jennifer Witt in loving memory of her parents, Louise and Levi Matthews.

December Birthdays

3 Beth McKinsey	19 Carsten Path
3 Bob Turner	20 Larry Bowen
4 Edward Ellington	20 Derek Edwards
4 Joyce Noble	21 John Shoemaker
4 Walker Webb	22 Robert Green
5 Suzy Young	22 Ed Woekener
7 Sylvia Greenwood	23 Nora Jones
9 Peter Booth	23 Jane Smith
10 Ed Duncan	24 Natalie Nery
11 Donald Hawkins	24 Olivia Nery
11 Joe Wood	24 Fiorenza Starnes
13 Scott Carter	26 Bill Smith
14 Teresa Cantrell	27 Tom Barr
15 Katie Nery	27 Courtney Bell
15 Emily Oxford	27 Alison Phillips
15 Stearns Oxford	29 Helena Cullen
17 Kate Young	29 Pam Stein
19 Steven Birkhofer	30 Winn Oxford



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 the beautiful décor which makes our church so beautiful at Christmas.



Sunday, November 3, we welcomed
Boyce Robert Davidson & Mitchell Isaias Davidson,
sons of Johnathan Boyce and Kathryn David Davidson,
into the church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Boyce and Mitchell are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism
and marked as Christ's own forever.

Deficit Resolution Dependent Upon Giving

Pledge receipts through the end of October totaled \$292,016, compared to projected pledges of \$285,062. Considering all income sources, income received for the period totaled \$365,256, while we projected income to be \$355,422. We ended the month with a positive income variance of \$9,834.

This positive variance is largely the result of a decision by the vestry to transfer a portion of a recently received bequest for funding the discernment process (\$10,000); using a one-time donation from a parishioner (\$10,000) received for operations; and transferring the savings from 2018 (\$23,144) to use for operations in 2019. These additions totaled \$43,144 and were included with income. In September, \$12,500 from the Endowment Fund in support of our shared youth missioner was added to miscellaneous income, further increasing our income surplus.

Expenses through the end of October totaled \$361,420, while we projected expenses to be \$363,264. These savings totaled \$1,844 for the first ten months this year.

As a reminder, the budget is \$9,410 in deficit to provide support for key programs even though projected income was unavailable. Thus far, with income exceeding projections and with continued savings on expenses, it is likely that our deficit will be resolved. As we proceed through the year, we will continue to monitor and adjust to eventually eliminate this shortfall. In the meantime, parish financial reports will reflect an unbalanced budget.

We continue to encourage prayer and attention to our stewardship efforts as we journey through this transition period for our ministries at Grace.

Your Vestry

Statement of Activities - Grace Church Year to Date - October 2019

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income:			
Pledges	292,016	285,062	6,954
Non-pledged Offerings	50	-	50
Open Offering	5,939	10,923	(4,983)
Interest	79	58	22
Misc.	67,172	59,381	7,791
Total Income:	365,256	355,422	9,834
Expenses:			
Outreach/Mission	42,038	41,671	367
Parish Programs	9,703	20,932	(11,229)
Operations	63,238	56,021	7,217
Personnel	246,442	244,641	1,801
Total Expenses:	361,420	363,264	(1,844)
Income Less Expenses:	3,836	(7,842)	11,678