



# the Grace TEAM

to each a ministry

December 2020

## Grace Episcopal Church

871 Merrimon Avenue  
Asheville, NC 28804  
828-254-1086

grace.church.asheville@gmail.com

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

10:30 a.m. - Rite II

Live-Streamed

### Gospel Bible Study

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.

Live-Streamed

### Compline

Monday-Saturday, 8:00 p.m.

Live-Streamed

### Centering Prayer

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.

Zoom

### Spiritual Direction Sessions

Wednesdays, 1-3:00 p.m.

Appointment required

*For information about accessing live-streaming, see page 3.*

## A Message from Rev. Milly

Dear Good People of Grace!

These times we find ourselves in can feel like we are a people wandering in the desert. Lost and afraid, separated from our community and our deep sense of safety and belonging.

Yet, we are the children of courageous and faithful people who also walked in the wilderness, on their way to the promised land.

While they walked, lost and separated from their people and their land, they formed mobile worship spaces, small and light enough to carry with them.

Spaces where they could gather together. Spaces that represented that God traveled with them until they made it to the promised land. They called these spaces tabernacles.

The Tabernacle played a crucial part in keeping people connected and engaged with each other. Tabernacles created sacred spaces that called people to prayer and to care for their neighbor.

Tabernacles held the people together, until they could reach the promised land.

Good people of Grace, we are wandering in the desert, and yet, we, too, will reach the promised land. But the journey is far from over and we need sacred space, faithful presence, and prayer to keep us engaged and comforted until we, as a people, are able to come home; until we, too, can get to that promised land.

To that end, Grace church will begin to create ten or more Tabernacles made up of 7-10 people each. These tabernacles will offer space and will meet weekly, via Zoom at first, for

prayer and fellowship. If the congregant does not have access to Zoom or the internet, weekly contact will be made (by phone or in person) by a member of the tabernacle they are given.

Each Grace congregant will be given a tabernacle and each tabernacle will be "guided" by a vestry member, pastoral care team member or Grace staff

member. The purpose of the tabernacle is to create small groups out of our larger church, so that we can ensure every person is getting regular care and is being given a way to connect to Grace.

The smaller size of the tabernacle also makes it possible to grow relationships at a deeper level during this time of distance.

We find ourselves in very different and difficult

days. We, as a church, have been doing our best to meet the needs of our growing parish, and yet, we are finding that the same ways of doing church and caring for our neighbor are simply not possible now. Our Tabernacle Ministry will help us create relationships, meet needs and give members a way to stay connected with consistent presence and care.

Over the next week, we'll be making up the Tabernacle groups and assigning "guides" to each. Those guides will be emailing or calling you to let you know which Tabernacle you are given. Participation in your tabernacle gathering is, of course, up to you. It is an invitation—an invitation to connection and fellowship as we all travel through this wilderness to the promised land.

Peace,  
Rev. Milly



*Tabernacles created sacred spaces that called people to prayer and to care for their neighbor.*

# As Advent Begins...

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."



Blessed Advent People of Grace,

It is funny, how the seasons come and go regardless of the state of the world. The earth turns and the days and nights slip away into the past...and we, we are left squarely in the present moment. This present moment we find ourselves in is full...full for some, most I dare say, of grief and loss, separation and distance, fear and anxiety. Indeed, we are a people crying out in the wilderness.

What does our scripture say to people who are deep in the wilderness? What are we to do while we wander?

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

Prepare. This is the season we find ourselves in. We are a people, grieving and fearful...wandering in the desert and yet, still, still called to prepare a way for our God.

As we move through this Advent season together, we will be exploring how we, as a people, are called to make way for our God...to ready ourselves for the new life found in Jesus Christ. For each of us, this preparation will be different. But also, as a community, there are ways we can make ourselves ready, ways that, together, we can prepare. Perhaps, we can make ready our home...bringing joy to our neighbors with decorations and lights. Perhaps we can offer gifts of freshly baked goods to those we love. Perhaps, we can offer mercy and comfort to those who struggle. And, we can ready ourselves with prayer and hopeful anticipation of the birth of Christ in the world. Even in the midst of the wilderness, there are things to celebrate and there is joy to share.

To adequately prepare, it is important to be present, present in the season, in the moment, in the wilderness that we find ourselves in. It is only in that deep awareness that we can together make a way for God and, together, be prepared to walk The Way, with our God.

Peace, Rev. Milly

## MAKING THE HOUSE READY FOR THE LORD

by Mary Oliver

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but  
still nothing is shining as it should be  
for you. Under the sink, for example, is an  
uproar of mice- it is the season of their  
many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves  
and through the walls the squirrels  
have gnawed their ragged entrances- but it is the season  
when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And  
the racoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard  
while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;  
what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling  
in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly  
up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will  
come, Lord; you will, when I speak to the fox,  
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering  
sea-goose, know  
that really I am speaking to you  
whenever I say,  
as I do all morning and  
afternoon:  
Come in, Come in.



# Events at a Glance

## *A Quick Review of the Month*

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.** The church office will be closed December 24-28 for Christmas and from noon December 31-January 3 for the New Year. We wish everyone a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a hope-filled, joyous 2021. Peace to all.

Date and Time	Service, Meeting or Activity	Location
Nightly Except Sunday, 8 PM	Compline *	Facebook Videos
Sundays, 10:30 AM	Sunday Holy Eucharist Service *	YouTube Channel
Sundays Following Worship	Virtual Coffee Hour	Zoom Meeting
Sundays, 1:00 PM (through Dec. 20)	Advent Study: The Way of Love	Zoom Meeting
Mondays, 10:30 AM	Monday Morning Bible Study	Zoom Meeting
Wednesdays, 12-1:00 PM	Pastoral Care Meeting	Zoom Meeting
Wednesdays, 1-3:00 PM	Personal Spiritual Direction	Church Sanctuary
Wednesdays, 5:30 PM	Centering Prayer	Zoom Meeting
Thursdays, 8:00 AM	Women Walking the Way	Beaver Lake
Thursdays, 10:30 AM	Rector & Lay Leadership Meeting	Zoom Meeting
Thursdays, 6:00 PM	EfM	Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, December 2, 5:00 PM	YMCA Mobile Market (all welcome)	Church Parking Lot
Monday, December 7, 4:30 PM	Outreach Meeting	Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, December 9, 10:00 AM	TEAM Meeting	Zoom Meeting
Monday, December 21, 5:30 PM	Vestry Meeting	Zoom Meeting
Dec. 24-28, Dec. 31 (noon)-Jan. 3	Church office closed for the holidays	
Thursday, December 24, 8-9:00 PM	The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ *	YouTube Channel
Friday, December 25, 10-11:00 AM	Christmas Day Service *	YouTube Channel
Sunday, December 27, 10:30 AM	A Service of Lessons and Carols *	YouTube Channel
Sunday, January 10, 10:30 AM	Annual Meeting begins during worship *	YouTube Channel
Sunday, January 10, 12:00 Noon	Business Meeting following worship	Zoom Meeting
	* BULLETIN AVAILABLE	Grace Website

**HOW TO ACCESS WORSHIP SERVICES AND MEETINGS.** For live-streamed Services and Offerings, bulletins, booklets and links to Bible Study, Christian Formation classes and other meetings, you will find links near the top of the Grace homepage, [graceavl.com](http://graceavl.com). To join a Zoom meeting, just click the appropriate link.

Some of our other meetings will also continue via ZOOM. Your host will email an invitation and instructions, a link will be posted on the web site, or check your bulletin or Friday's email for a Meeting ID and password to log in. Then go to <https://zoom.us/> and click "Join a Meeting," put in the Meeting ID number, click "Join" and add the password you have been given.

**KEEPING US ALL CONNECTED.** Much of the information we share with parishioners is done online. Our worship is streamed on YouTube. "This Week at Grace" is sent every Friday as an email. Special reminders and notices are also sent via email. But not everyone is connected to this electronic avenue of communication. Do you know members of our Grace family who don't use or have access to the internet? If so, please call the church office and let us know. This will allow us to use other forms of communication to keep these dear members of our family connected, too.

# Parish News, Updates & Reminders

**HAVE YOU TURNED IN YOUR 2021 PLEDGE YET?** You still have time to pledge! If you haven't done so yet, please make your 2021 pledge by contacting the church for a pledge card or pledge online at <https://tinyurl.com/GracePledge>. Our Vestry is creating the 2021 budget based upon the pledges that have come in. Thank you so much to all who have pledged already.

**HURRY! AN ANGEL NEEDS YOU.** As Christmas approaches, we may be deep into a global pandemic, but seventeen-year-old Tessa still needs shirts and pants and art supplies; little two-year-old Ayden is hoping for dinosaur toys, cars and trucks; and Charlotte, 18, would really love a prepaid Visa gift card to use at the beginning of next school year when she starts college. These are just three of seventy children, ages 1-18, in local foster care, whose Christmases can be made happier with our help.

And here's great news! For these children, the annual Angel Tree at Grace Church is happening again this year! Although you won't find the traditional tree in our foyer decorated with angel wish lists, there are still ways to get involved:

A simple, touch-free way to help out is to calculate what you would normally spend on Angel Tree gifts and donate that amount on the Grace website at [www.graceavl.com](http://www.graceavl.com) or with a check to Grace Church mailed to the church office. Either way, please remember to add a memo indicating that your donation is for the Angel Tree. Outreach shoppers will then use that money to buy gifts on your behalf.

If you would rather choose an Angel and do your own shopping, that's fine, too. It's a great way to get the whole family involved, whether you're shopping in stores or online. Contact Courtney Booth ([court5656@hotmail.com](mailto:court5656@hotmail.com)) or Cheryl Deyton ([cherylpersonaldeyton@gmail.com](mailto:cherylpersonaldeyton@gmail.com)) for some smart no-contact shopping tips and information about our Angels. They'll be glad to help you get started.

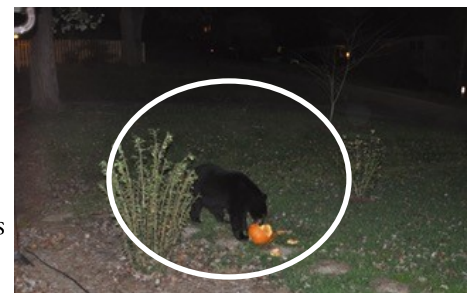


We hope you won't delay. Our deadline for receiving all gifts and donations is **Sunday, December 13**, so please consider how you and your family want to participate and then, get started early. **If you do your own shopping, please deliver your gifts to the church during office hours, 9:-00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., on Mondays.**

One last note. **Online shoppers are needed!** If you're comfortable taking several names and shopping for them using funds from the money being donated to the Angel Tree, please, please let Cheryl or Courtney know. If we all pitch in, the work will be easier for everyone.

As always, thank you. It's your support of the Grace Angel Tree that makes this special project a success year after year.

**CAUGHT ON CAMERA.** The pumpkins bought by Anne Jarema and Cliff Albertson at our recent Pumpkin Patch didn't stand a chance against this furry thief in the front yard. Look closely and you'll see what we mean.



**PRAYING TOGETHER.** Weekly on Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Rev. Milly will be holding open spiritual direction sessions in the Grace sanctuary for individuals or couples. This is a time to receive pastoral care and to let yourself rest in the comfort of our sacred sanctuary space. Masks and social distancing are required. Please email Rev. Milly at [Rev.Milly4Grace@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.Milly4Grace@gmail.com) to schedule your time with her.



**WOMEN WALKING THE WAY.** Women of Grace, please consider joining Rev. Milly for a weekly walk at Beaver Lake. This time together (while socially distancing and wearing masks) will be devoted to deep listening to how we as women walk the way of Jesus in the world and in our community of Grace. No need to register or even email Rev. Milly; just show up Thursday at 8:00 a.m. in the Bird Sanctuary parking lot just past the North Asheville Library at 1030 Merrimon Avenue, going north.

# Grace Ministries in Action

## MINISTRY LEADERS

**ADULT FORMATION:** Greg Townsend,  
gwtownsend@outlook.com

**ALTAR GUILD:** Interim: Shannon  
Townsend, gstownsend@att.net.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:** Jim  
Compton, j.t.compton@gmail.com

**CHILD FORMATION:** Mark Silvers,  
mhswjak@hotmail.com

**CHOIRS:** Rusty McCredie,  
rebscape@att.net

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Eric Howell,  
howell.eric.r@gmail.com

**ENDOWMENT:** Steve Birkhofer,  
sbirkhof@unca.edu

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW):**  
Cheryl Aull, ckaull@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,  
j Robertson38@me.com

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

**NEWCOMERS:** Pat Walters,  
pwalterspa66@icloud.com

**OFFICE MINISTRY:** Valerie Heavens,  
grace.church.asheville@gmail.com

**OUTREACH:** Kim Hayes,  
kimhys53@gmail.com

**PASTORAL CARE:** Cliff Albertson,  
cliff.albertson@verizon.net

**PUBSING:** Monty Wooten,  
montywooten@bellsouth.net

**SHEPHERDS' MINISTRY:** Lorie Tola,  
lorie.tola@gmail.com

**STEWARDSHIP:** Greg Townsend,  
gwtownsend@outlook.com

**TAIZÉ:** James Cannon,  
imjcannon@frontier.com

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

**WORSHIP:** The Rev. Milly Morrow,  
rev.milly4grace@gmail.com

*"Grace Ministries in Action" continues to spotlight 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.*

**COMMUNICATIONS.** Do you have an extra laptop computer or tablet that you no longer use? Donate it to Grace and we will offer it to a congregant who needs technological assistance to connect with weekly services. If you have a computer or computer skills to offer us in this effort please email Milly at Rev.milly4grace@gmail.com

Another communications note: This QR code will take you to the Grace Church web site. Just scan it using your cell phone's camera app and your phone will automatically open the site. Give it a try!

SCAN ME



**ECW.** This past November 7, nine ladies enjoyed a beautiful day at a socially distanced fall gathering of the Grace Episcopal Church Women in the church courtyard. After time spent visiting, the group had a short business meeting where they voted to disburse the following amounts from the proceeds of the 2019 rummage sale: \$2000 to Outreach, \$1000 to the Grace Garden Guild, and up to \$235 per child for Grace parents who request assistance for their children to attend Camp Henry this summer (as long as funds are available).

Enjoy a few photos from the day:



## OUTREACH. Holiday Gifting Suggestions.

Now is a great time to check out the Homeward Bound gift registries. It's an easy way to purchase

much-needed gifts for Homeward Bound clients. Please visit their [Amazon Wish List](#), and from Target, the [AHOPE Day Center Registry](#) (to help the currently homeless, including women from Room in the Inn) and the [Welcome Home Donation Center Registry](#) (for clients now moving into their own housing).



**The Angel Tree.** Please don't wait to donate and/or shop! This year, we have "wish lists" from seventy local children in foster care, and we need your help to make sure they all have a wonderful Christmas.

To learn more about how we're doing the Angel Tree this year, see the article on page 4 or contact this year's Angel Tree coordinators: Courtney Booth (court5656@hotmail.com) or Cheryl Deyton (cherylpersonaldeyton@gmail.com). They can get you started.

*Continued >*



**Looking for a Volunteer Opportunity that You Can Do from Home?** MANNA FoodBank is seeking SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Educators to work with MANNA's Community Outreach team to increase awareness about federal benefits programs such as Food Stamps that support people experiencing food insecurity. SNAP Educators will help develop and deliver presentations and webinars to potentially eligible residents throughout MANNA's 16-county service region. As COVID has paused in-person outreach,

all outreach events will take place over the internet through video-conferencing platforms, or at public events with proper PPE and social distancing protocol. Go to <https://www.mannafoodbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/SNAP-Educator.pdf> for more information about the role.

**Dedication Ceremony for ABCCM's Transformation Village!** Nationally, 2.5 million children, or 1 in 30 children, face homelessness each year. Women represent approximately 39 percent of the homeless population across the country. Female Veterans comprise 9.1% of the population of homeless Veterans. A January 2019 point-in-time count found 580 homeless individuals within the Asheville area, a 4% increase over 2018. Of these, 149 were female (a 9% increase), 29 were under the age of 18. During the 2018-2019 school year, the Asheville City and Buncombe County schools reported 800 homeless children. Steadfast House, our current facility dedicated to housing homeless women and children, has a waiting list of more than 300 individuals. The current capacity there is limited to 43 beds.



**Transformation Village is ABCCM's vision of taking every single woman, mom with children and intact family off the street or out of a car.** They have purchased a 24-acre site near the Asheville Outlets that, in Phase One of the plan, will more than double the number of beds they currently have at Steadfast House. Plans for Phase One also include a community center with housing units, a kitchen and dining facilities, job training center, children's educational center, a playground and a medical clinic. ABCCM is building on their successful programs that move homeless women and children into stability, training programs and career-level jobs that give resi-

dents health, safety and education. Subsequent building phases will include housing for intact families, single men with children, female Veterans, survivors of domestic violence, and many others. Please join ABCCM in declaring that no woman or child should be homeless. Email [transformationvillage@abccm.org](mailto:transformationvillage@abccm.org) or click <https://www.abccm.org/transformation-village> for more information.

**PASTORAL CARE.** The Pastoral Care Team at Grace meets via Zoom on Wednesdays at noon. Our weekly tasks are to pray for all people on our prayer list, to make regular phone calls to those on the prayer list, to visit when possible those who are homebound or in need of care, to connect through cards of celebration or sympathy, to bring the Eucharist (when safe and possible) to those who request the sacrament, to be aware of and provide for the basic needs of those among us who are struggling with transportation, food, clothing or assistance. We invite you to reach out to us with any pastoral care needs you or your family may have. We also invite any among you to join us in this work if God is calling you to extend yourself in care of your neighbor. To contact the Pastoral Care Team please either call Rev. Milly at 828.772.1429 or email the team at [Pastoralcare4grace@gmail.com](mailto:Pastoralcare4grace@gmail.com).



**WORSHIP.** Join us for Compline at 8:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, on Grace's Facebook Page at [facebook.com/pg/graceasheville/videos/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/graceasheville/videos/). Access a link and An Order for Compline Booklet at [graceavl.com](http://graceavl.com) which you can download or read online.

# 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); Randy and Martha Carson; Nancy Clark; Cheryl Deyton; Cuyler Dupree; Eva Dupree; Dorothy Engel; Eunice Ferguson; Jack Frue; Doug Haldane; Marzy Israel; Shari Lane; Don and Ann Lewis; Walt and Joyce Noble; Nancy Porter; Sonny Rawls; Jeanne & Ray Robertson; Laura & Tsz-yan Snyder; Corinne Spencer; Rita Spragg; Sydnor and Kelly Thompson; Mickey Trinite; Pat Walters; Judy Warner; Katie Warren; Don Wills.

For Homebound Parishioners and Those in Healthcare Facilities: Henny Caldwell; Bobbie Eblen; Ed Denison; Straudia Luedtke; Rita Lyda; Marion Mayfield-Johnson; Tom Paine; Deb Pegel; Bob Turner.

For Others (names will stay on the list for six weeks; call the office to keep names on the list for a longer time): Bruce Appeldoorn (friend of Kathleen Griffin); Carolyn Brown (friend of Ray & Jeanne Robertson); Deane Brown (brother of Barbara Wilcox); Kari and Dave Chadwell (niece and nephew of Pat and George Davis); Melinda Franks (sister of Becky Smith); Robin Fulk (niece of Charlotte & Travers Chiott); Laura Julian (daughter of Rusty Herman); Veronica Litun (mother of Valerie Heavens); “Bunky” Ray Manship (friend of Rusty Herman); Chuck Morrow (brother of Rev. Milly Morrow); Sally Morrow (mother of Rev. Milly Morrow); Janice Orson (friend of Rusty Herman); Joanne Poston (sister-in-law of Corinne Spencer); Tara Smith (aunt of a friend of Pat and Nancy Walters); Jenean (niece of Kathleen Griffin); Mary, Rebecca, Michael and Turtle (great nieces and great nephews of Kathleen Griffin); Patricia (friend of Kathleen Griffin).

For Those Who Have Died and their Families: Dee Long (cousin of Karen Compton); Forrest McCann (cousin of Kim Hayes).

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; Charlotte (daughter of Pam Stein); Sarah Jane Wilkey (daughter of Diane & Tony Wilkey); Gus Whitman (grandson of Jane Whitman).

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.

For Protection from COVID-19: Protect all who have been or are being affected by this virus spreading around the world. Be with those who are sick and those who are caring for them. Be with those who have died. Be with those people who we often have ignored in the past, who are now proving to be our heroes: grocery store workers, baggers, cashiers, those who stock the shelves; pharmacy workers and pharmacists, truck drivers who ensure the goods and supplies we need are delivered. Be with our Healthcare workers, nurses, doctors, those who cook, clean and do the laundry. Be with the scientists and researchers who are working on a cure so that this virus may be eradicated.

Please go to [www.graceavl.com/spiritual-growth/prayer-ministries/](http://www.graceavl.com/spiritual-growth/prayer-ministries/) for more opportunities to request prayer. Please get permission from anyone you would like to add to this list and contact the office.



*Our condolences and prayers go to the friends, family and loved ones of Dee Long (cousin of Karen Compton); Forrest McCann (cousin of Kim Hayes); and Laura Stephens.*

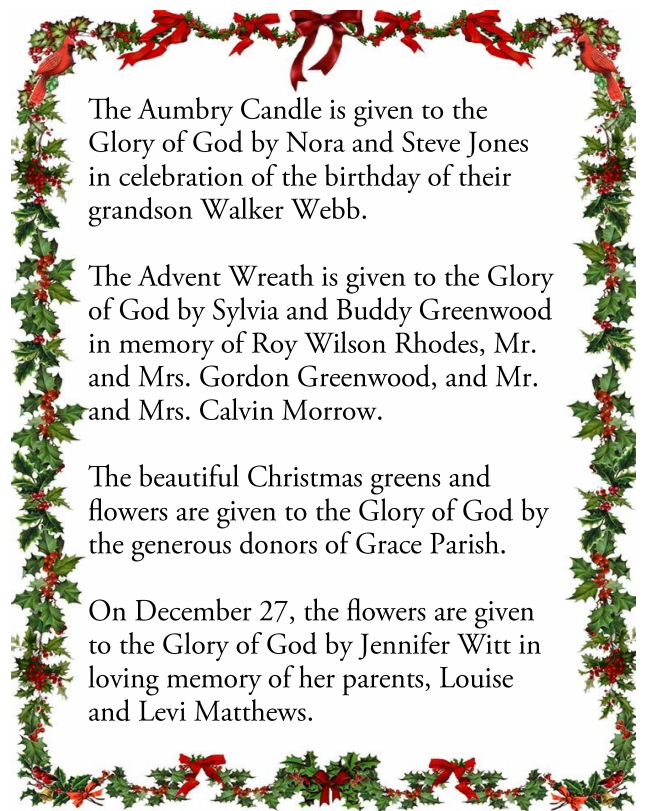
## December Anniversaries

Rusty and Lynda McCredie	19
David and Sally Withers	20
Hugh and Chal Vaughn	21
Micky and Tricia Trinita	23
Rick and Kim Hayes	27
Fred and Micki Newton	29
Steve and Carol Booth	30

## December Birthdays

Bob Turner	3	Larry Bowen	20
Beth McKinsey	3	Derek Edwards	20
Joyce Noble	4	Robert Jamison	21
Lisa Okes	4	Ed Woeckener	22
Walker Webb	4	Robert Green	22
Suzy Young	5	Lucy McKenzie	22
Sylvia Greenwood	7	The Rev. Jane Smith	23
Peter Booth	9	Nora Jones	23
Don Hawkins	11	Natalie Nery	24
Scott Carter	13	Olivia Nery	24
Teresa Cantrell	14	Bill Smith	26
Chuck Davis	14	Alison Phillips	27
Katie Nery	15	Courtney Bell	27
Kate Young	17	Winn Oxford	30
Steven Birkhofer	19	Pam Stein	29
Carsten Path	19	Helena Cullen	29

## 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.

On December 27, the flowers are given to the Glory of God by Jennifer Witt in loving memory of her parents, Louise and Levi Matthews.

**CHRISTMAS GREENERY AND FLOWER DONATIONS FOR MEMORIALS AND THANKSGIVING.** The flower guild will be decorating the altar and chancel areas as well as the two front doors this year. Your donations in thanksgiving and in memory of loved ones will be gratefully welcomed to help with expenses and will be published in the "TEAM" after Christmas.



On Sunday, November 1, 2020

we welcomed

**Alex Thwaites**

and his daughter

**Briar Thwaites**

into the church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Alex and Briar were sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever.





# Experiencing a Surplus So Far

After ten months of 2020, we have received pledged income of \$280,470; income from all sources totaled \$350,541. Mission, Operational, Program, and Personnel expenses at the end of October 2020 totaled \$304,640 and were \$18,839 less than those forecast in the budget approved by the vestry in their June meeting.

The approved budget includes a small deficit, \$4758.25, but thus far in the year we are experiencing a surplus. The surplus is largely attributable to the receipt of our Paycheck Protection Program loan of \$34,900 and several one-time gifts received early in the year coupled with savings resulting from our limited operations. While we have filed for forgiveness of the PPP loan, we will not know until later this year or possibly early in 2021 if our obligation for repayment has been fully eliminated.

The current health crisis has not yet affected our financial situation adversely. Parishioners have been generous through October and our expenses have been restricted with our confinement. We prayerfully hope that this positive trend will continue as we all adapt to a new normal.

Statement of Activities - Grace Church				
Year to Date - October 2020				
		Actual	Budget	Variance
<b>Income:</b>				
	Pledges	280,470	246,028	34,443
	Open Offering	14,137	17,230	(3,093)
	Interest	73	63	9
	Misc.	55,861	56,077	(216)
	<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>350,541</b>	<b>319,398</b>	<b>31,143</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
	Outreach/Mission	31,587	35,458	(3,871)
	Parish Programs	9,401	12,357	(2,956)
	Operations	63,601	71,241	(7,640)
	Personnel	200,050	204,422	(4,372)
	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>304,640</b>	<b>323,479</b>	<b>(18,839)</b>
	<b>Income Less Expenses:</b>	<b>45,901</b>	<b>(4,081)</b>	<b>49,982</b>
	* some rounding variances			

# Thanks to Joe and All Who Oversee Our Finances

As we give thanks for all of the blessings God has given us, let us also give thanks to those who take care of Grace's finances. First of all, we thank Joe Aull for faithfully serving as our volunteer Treasurer since 2013. Joe has been a great servant helping Grace manage its finances and providing monthly narratives which have guided our financial decisions and laid the foundation for our annual pledge campaigns. May he be blessed in his retirement.

Helping Joe as bookkeeper were Anne Simmons and George Davis. Many blessings and thanks to Anne and George for their service, too.

As we head into the new year, Anne Jarema will be serving as our volunteer Treasurer. Thank you, Anne, for accepting God's call. Also, thank you, George for continuing your faithful service in 2021.

And as we approach the new year, let us also be prayerful in finding and hiring the best person to be our new Bookkeeper.

Doug McClellan, Senior Warden



Joe and Cheryl

**A Special Tribute to Joe Aull.** Joe has done so much for Grace since 2013. He has been a rock for so many, always there, to quickly respond to every question and provide guidance when needed.

Joe has paid our bills and worked with all the forms of giving and record keeping. He also developed the budget each year with input from others, worked with the annual auditing process, and did everything that is now being considered for the Bookkeeper position.

When we needed to upgrade our system, Joe researched and chose a new database and accounting software package, and set up the electronic giving portal which made it easier for all of us to make our pledges and gifts to Grace.

And while he was giving himself tirelessly to Grace, he did so with patience, dedication, and a servant's heart. **Thank you, Joe, from all of us.**