



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

10:30 a.m. - Rite II

Virtual on YouTube

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.

the Grace TEAM

to each a ministry

March 2021

A Message from Rev. Milly

Dear Good People of Grace,

"2021 Lent has been cancelled."

This was the opening line to my Ash Wednesday service this year, half-joking. Because for sure, if we have not learned that we are dust and to dust we shall return, we never will. If we don't know we are going to die; that in fact, we are mortal...no 40 days of Lent will teach us that.

The last year has been difficult, all this fasting from what and who we love, all this sacrifice for the good of others. All this death and fear. So, clearly, we know we are dust, we know we are mortal. But do we know we are teeming with life? That even in the midst of such difficulty, even in the midst of this season of Lent and winter's edge, that we are teeming with life?

My friend Phillip Hassett put out a beautiful and profound message to the community and he gave me permission to share it with you. He says:

"Old Testament scholar Ellen Davis translates the Hebrew word 'Adamah' as 'fertile soil.' This word is part of the pun in Genesis 2, where God creates a human (Adam) out of the Adamah.

This translation is used in the Common English Bible translation, and so Gen. 3:19, from which the text for the administration of Ashes on Ash Wednesday is taken, is rendered: "you are soil; to the soil you will return."

This has resonated deeply with me ever since I first read it. And especially a year into a pandemic, where we have been so intensely reminded of our individual and collective mortality every day, I find this comforting. Dust is dry, dead, lifeless, nothing. But soil—fertile soil—is

itself alive and full of the things needed to support life. It is teeming with life and potential.

And so too are you: you are full of life and potential for growth. Even if that growth has been limited during the past year, you still have the possibility of nourishing growth. And even when you die, the things you helped grow during your life will help nourish and feed other life and growth.

We are fertile soil, and to the fertile soil we will return."

Perhaps as we enter the interior of the Lenten Season, we are being asked to fast from all that keeps us from that potential and possibility, all that keeps us from sowing seeds in this fertile soil of our lives.

Look around, Spring is coming. Look around. I am not giving away the punch line here, we know Resurrection has the final word. Look around, you can smell it, you can see it pushing forth from the cold ground. Signs of new life, signs of fertile soil. Life, death, new life...this is the ancient and sacred path. As we prepare for new life found in Spring and Easter Resurrection, I invite you to ponder anew your potential...no matter how old or young, successful or winded, ill or well. No matter your condition on this earth, you have potential and are still full of life, you are still fertile soil waiting for the right seed to fall at the right moment. As we dig deeper into this season of Lent, prepare yourself to participate, to collaborate with God in the coming Resurrection.

Till the fertile soil of your soul, New Life awaits.

Peace and love,

Rev. Milly



"Raise the Roof" Fundraising Campaign Begins

Our campaign is now underway for installing the new roof and repairing the stone parapets on our church, along with doing the associated structural repairs, masonry work and preventive maintenance.

The roofing project is expected to take four months with the most work being dedicated to the craftsmanship necessary for repairing and restoring the stonemasonry of our 116-year-old church. Doing so will help fix and prevent water leaks, improve energy efficiency, preserve the history and beauty of our church, and make the job of installing shingles in the future more efficient.

Funding-wise, we estimate we will need to raise \$200K from a capital campaign to go along with the designated funds and Capital Reserve. The campaign offers parishioners ways to give tax-deductible contributions, including giving assets with accumulated gain values, like stocks. You can learn more in the "How and What to Give" guide below.

Now's the time to get Grace ready for the next generation! Please make your donation today!

How and What to Give

Giving by Mail:

You may send a check made out to Grace Episcopal Church and mail it to: Grace Episcopal Church, 871 Merimon Avenue, Asheville, NC 28804. **Be sure to put on the MEMO line "Roofing Fund", so it is not counted as a pledge.** The amount given will appear on your quarterly statement.

Giving on the Website:

Under "Give to Grace", click "Donate Now by Clicking Here". Under "Fund", click "Special Gift-Raise the Roof", and then fill in the rest.

Giving Stocks:

You may donate gifts of long-term, appreciated stocks, bonds or shares of mutual funds. Please contact your financial advisor, stock custodian, or brokerage firm for information regarding transfers of stock, etc. So that you do not pay capital gains, the stocks, bonds or shares need to be transferred to an account that Grace has established with **Parsec Financial**. You will need some of the following information to make the transfer:

- ◆ Receiving Institution Account Number: 7775-3497
- ◆ Account Title/Registration: **Grace Episcopal Church**

- ◆ Name of Receiving Institution: **Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.**

- ◆ DTC Number: **0164**

After all the above has been completed, please send an email to Anne Jarema, Treasurer, giving information on your stock, bonds or shares. Please specify in your email that monies are for the "Raise the Roof" campaign. Also, please seek the advice of your financial advisor on valuation for tax purposes. Upon receiving monies from the stock, etc. sale by Parsec Financial, a thank you letter will be sent to you with the amount Grace receives.

Giving from a Traditional (Taxable) IRA:

If you are 72 and must take the RMD in 2021 from a taxable IRA, you may want to consider donating the RMD through a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (up to \$100,000)**. It must be a direct transfer from the financial advisor or brokerage firm to Grace Episcopal Church. Grace will send you a separate thank you letter giving the exact amount.

For information on reporting the QCD, please visit IRS.gov and consult your financial advisor. If you have already donated the RMD, you may not be eligible for this donation. However, you can start taking money out of your IRA penalty-free at age 59 ½.

Timing and Planning from Jr. Warden Jim Compton:

- ◆ Final preparations to sign the contract with Scott MacAlister of Cornerstone Construction are underway.
- ◆ Projected start date is March 1. The contract specifies 150 days to complete the job with a number of days figured in for bad weather, and no work on Sundays.
- ◆ The handicapped parking space will be temporarily relocated, and the parking spaces along the front lawn will be designated as a construction zone.
- ◆ A plan submitted by Mike Cox of Architectural Design Studio in November of 2019 revealed issues that, in addition to replacing shingles, required attention to the stone walls and flashing.
- ◆ The first part of the project will involve removing the capstones of the four gables, installing a water barrier and then replacing each stone in its original position. A groove will be cut parallel to the roof to receive new counter flashing.
- ◆ The roof itself will then be addressed, including sagging between rafters. Waterproof barriers, copper valley flashing and 45-year shingles for the entire roof will then be installed.

"As the work on our new roof progresses, we ask your prayers for all involved. May everyone work safely together. And may the old stones, the new materials, and the weather cooperate."

*Jim Compton
Junior Warden*

Vestry Report from Our Sr. Warden

Your Vestry held its monthly meeting on February 15. As you can probably imagine, one of the main topics of discussion was the roof project and the campaign to pay for it.

We received a report from our Treasurer, Anne Jarema. Anne told us that the PPP loan we received last year has been forgiven by the Small Business Administration and our bank, which helped offset the dip in revenues due to the pandemic.

Turning to the roof project, Anne presented the anticipated timeline of payments to the contractor and identified four funds to be used for the project – the Chiott and Mason bequests, the Capital Reserve, and of course, the Roof fund, which includes a contribution from the Endowment, as well as some donations that have come in. I know elsewhere you've been reading about the "Raise the Roof" campaign, so I won't belabor the point here, other than to say, please help us out where you can.

We heard from our Junior Warden, Jim Compton, that we are aiming for a March 1 start to the roof project (though that is now looking like a week or two after that). Jim also discussed revisiting the plans and funding for the Fellowship Hall project, and efforts to be undertaken to address issues with trees on the grounds, including our recently designated "Treasured Trees."

Rev. Milly's report touched on work done on issues related to regathering, and we discussed plans and proposals regarding what we can do as a faith community to address the short-term needs of our house-less neighbors, thrust into our consciousness by the DOT's clearing of the encampment under I-240 at Lexington St earlier this month.

One of many innovations Rev. Milly has brought to us is the addition of a "Wisdom Chair" to our Vestry meetings. This position rotates among former Vestry members. The Wisdom Chair sits in on the meeting, without participating in discussions or votes, but rather as an observer. At the end of the meeting, the Wisdom Chair shares with us her or his thoughts on how the meeting went and, as the title implies, nuggets of wisdom for how to make future meetings even better. This month's Wisdom Chair was Jackie Schauer, whose comments and insights were well-received and appreciated by all.

Valerie is available to share the recordings of our Vestry meetings with all of you. I hope that you'll avail yourself of this resource by emailing grace.church.asheville@gmail.com or calling the church office. We are committed to transparency in all we do on the Vestry, because this is your church. We're only temporary stewards in these roles.

I've said this before, but it's worth repeating that I've never been prouder to be a member of this church and this community. Amen!

Events at a Glance

A Quick Review of the Month

Date and Time	Service, Meeting or Activity	Location
Nightly Except Sunday, 8:00 PM	Compline *	Facebook Videos
Sundays, through Mar. 21, 9:00 AM	Fasting from All that Divides Us from Love	Zoom Meeting
Sundays, 10:30 AM	Sunday Holy Eucharist Service *	YouTube Channel
Sundays Following Worship	Virtual Coffee Hour	Zoom Meeting
Mondays, 10:30 AM	Monday Morning Bible Study	Zoom Meeting
Mondays, through Mar. 29, 7:30 PM	Create + Connect Circle	Zoom Meeting
Tuesdays, 5:00 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, 1:00 PM	Rector & Lay Leadership Meeting	Zoom Meeting
Thursdays, 6:00 PM	EfM (start date to be announced)	Zoom Meeting
Monday, March 1, 4:30 PM	Outreach Meeting	Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, March 3, 5:00 PM	YMCA Mobile Market (all welcome)	Parking Lot / Foyer
Wednesday, March 10, 10:00 AM	TEAM Meeting	Zoom Meeting
Monday, March 15, 5:30 PM	Vestry Meeting	Zoom Meeting
Sunday, March 28, 10:30 AM	Palm Sunday	YouTube Channel
Mon.-Wed., March 29-31, 5:00 PM	The Last Seven Words of Christ	YouTube Channel
	* BULLETIN AVAILABLE	Grace Website

The complete Holy Week and Easter schedule can be found on page 5 of this issue.

Parish News, Updates & Reminders



SOUL STIRRING WITH REV. BILL AND REV. MILLY. The Bible is meant to inspire, convict, inform and direct. The Bible is personal and communal. Understanding Scripture is hard enough; sometimes living it out in this world can feel next to impossible.

When Bill and I began our living together as a married couple, our kids made fun of us for “arguing” about Scripture and theology while making dinner. But for us, as a couple, and a couple of pastors, at that, discussing the Bible while cooking and listening to music is what inspires our love and our living.

So, we are bringing our cooking, Bible discussions, and music choices to you in a “Soul-Stirring” weekly video. Every week, Bill and I will send out a short video offering our take on the upcoming lectionary Scripture readings while we make dinner in our kitchen. Each week, along with Scripture, we will share with you the recipe for the meal we are making that evening, a soul-stirring song that has the power to lift us up, and a few questions that you can reflect on with those you love.

We hope, through these informal videos, you find inspiration for living better, loving well, knowing the Bible, and knowing those you love more deeply. Look for links in your weekly email and on our web site homepage.

TABERNACLE MINISTRY GROUPS. Each parishioner has been placed in a Tabernacle Group made up of 10-12 couples or individuals. The purpose of these groups is to care for and connect members of Grace to each other as we travel toward the “promised land” of regathering in our sacred space for worship together. If you have not heard from a Tabernacle Group Host, please email Rev. Milly at rev.milly4grace@gmail.com and she will make sure you are connected. Watch a video at <https://youtu.be/ML3muh6Cy9s> for more information .



PASTORAL CARE TEAM REACHES OUT TO PARISHIONERS.

Weekly tasks for members of our Pastoral Care TEAM are to pray for all people on the prayer list, make regular phone calls to those on the prayer list, visit when possible those who are homebound or in need of care, connect through cards of celebration or sympathy, bring the Eucharist (when safe and possible) to those who request the sacrament, 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. The Pastoral Care Team at Grace meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. To contact the Pastoral Care Team, please either call Rev. Milly at 828.772.1429 or email the Pastoral Care team at Pastoralcare4grace@gmail.com.

PRAYING TOGETHER. Weekly on Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Rev. Milly holds 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 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.

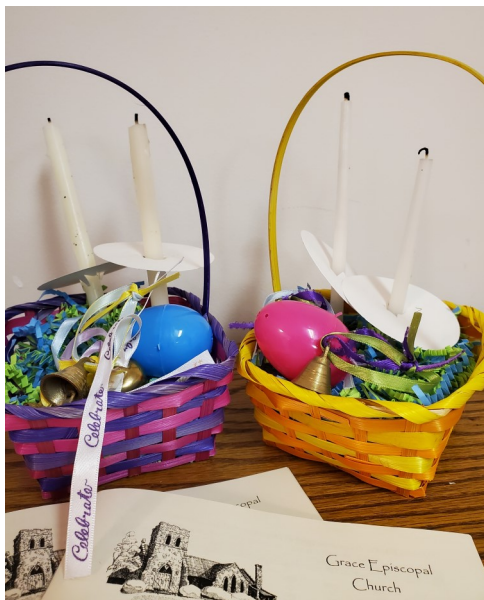
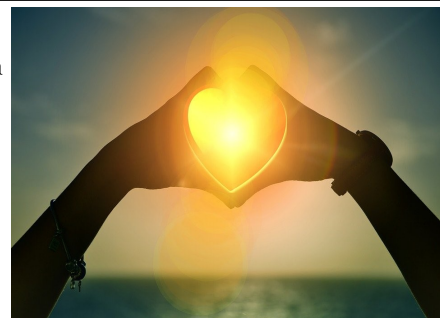


ORDER OF ST. LUKE CONTINUES VIA ZOOM! The OSL Mountain Chapter will meet via Zoom on Thursday, March 11. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m., end no later than 8:30 p.m., and will continue their new program series, “Fundamentals for Receiving and Praying for Physical Healing.” The focus will be on the first fundamental: “Healing is the Will of God for Everyone, Everywhere, Every Time.” A DVD about the healing journey of a 17-month-old boy who was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer will be reviewed and discussed

Your participation is welcome. One does not have to be an OSL member to take part. If are not on the Mountain Chapter email list, please send an email to mtn_osl@yahoo.com. A link for the Zoom meeting will be sent to you.

For You During Lent

FASTING FROM ALL THAT DIVIDES US FROM LOVE. In a time when "fasting" from so much we love seems to be the norm, how do we enter into this season of Lent with fresh eyes and an open heart? Lent has never truly been a time to fast from what we love, but is a time to empty ourselves of all that divides us from the Love of God and neighbor. Join Rev. Milly as we explore together the Temptations of Christ as a practice of discernment for understanding what threatens to divide us, as God's people, from true Love. This class continues on Sundays, March 7, 14 and 21, at 9:00 a.m. Join Rev. Milly by Zoom at Meeting ID: 863 5824 3136, Passcode: 282737, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86358243136?pwd=VEV2dkUzclJLOXdUOEJJBb3hEamVmdz09>.



EASTER VIGIL BASKETS. It has been a most unusual time that we find ourselves in—simply chocked full of learning curves and distance. However, we want you to have a little something familiar to use as you celebrate the Easter Vigil with us at Grace: an **Easter Vigil basket** filled with candles, bells, words of the utmost importance for Easter—and maybe even a surprise Easter egg!

Sign up for your Easter Vigil Basket between March 8-19. Then, remember to pick it up March 29-April 2, so you can have it as you celebrate with your Grace family at the Easter Vigil on April 3!

Remember—you'll need to sign up between March 8 and 19 to receive a basket. Just click this sign-up link: <https://tinyurl.com/EasterVigilBasket>.

Our Holy Week Worship Schedule



Palm Sunday. The service will be aired March 28, 10:30 a.m. on YouTube.

Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Since the 16th Century, the Seven Last Words of Christ have been a central focus of Good Friday and Holy Week Liturgies. This Holy Week at Grace, we will explore the Seven Last Words of Christ on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday and Holy Wednesday, March 29, 30 & 31. These reflections will be aired on YouTube at 5:00 p.m. each of these evenings.

Maundy Thursday Liturgy. The April 1 liturgy will be aired on YouTube at 5:00 p.m.

Good Friday. April 2, a 12:00 noon service will be aired on YouTube; a 5:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross service will also be aired on YouTube.

Holy Saturday. April 3, a memorial service in the Urban Garden will be aired on YouTube at 11:00 a.m. The Easter Vigil service will air on YouTube at 8:00 p.m. Each congregant will be given a basket for this service that includes bells, a candle and a bulletin. *See information about registration and basket pick-up dates in the article above.*

Easter Day. Our Easter celebration will be aired Sunday, April 4, 10:30 a.m. on YouTube.

What Can I Do?

Quarantined, what can I do to be the hands, feet and eyes of Christ in a suffering world? Too old, too busy, too burdened with my own problems, how can I advocate for those who struggle every day to find shelter, put food on the table, provide for their families? Just one individual in the midst of so many in crisis, what can I do to make a difference—right here, right now?

The Grace Church outreach committee is working for you right here, right now on projects and activities that will help and advocate for safe and affordable housing; for enough food for everyone; for affordable and adequate healthcare; for sanctuary for those living in fear; and for respect and equity for all.

Below, find some information and suggestions that might offer guidance.

You can do this!


“Hey Neighbor, Can You Help Me Stay Warm?” ABCCM has its “Safe and Warm” heating assistance campaign underway to help the elderly, families with children, and struggling Veterans in Buncombe County keep their utilities on, and also have the warm blankets, coats, and winter wear they need right now. You can help in several ways:

- ◆ Drop off blankets, winter coats, and clothing at ABCCM's Crisis Ministry location at 24 Cumberland Avenue, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- ◆ Drop off coats and blankets at Carolina Furniture Concepts and First Citizen Bank locations in Buncombe County.
- ◆ Make a monetary donation for "Safe and Warm" heating assistance online at www.abccm.org/safeandwarm.

Let's keep in mind the words Jesus spoke about giving and reach out to neighbors who need our help right now.



A Success Story from Haiti. Shebno Saint-Georges is one of the very first children enrolled in the [Consider Haiti] program in 2009 in Guibert (locality near Fond-Baptiste). [He is probably] 18 or 19 now. ... his parents could barely provide for his food and school needs. He suffered from malnutrition. He had the face of a little old man. Although he was over the age required to be enrolled, [it was] decided to include him in the group of children who were going to be the first enrolled. He received a pregnant goat which ... gave birth to three young. In the meantime, Shebno is slowly recovering from his malnutrition... To pay for his school fees and buy class materials, Shebno's parents had to sell goats each time from the population of his goats. At the end of 2020, thanks to his goats, Shebno finished his classical studies. Shebno is very grateful to have been among the very first to enroll in the program.

 In 2019, we here at Grace Church raised money for the purchase of pregnant goats for this Consider Haiti program, and we are so happy to hear about Shebno. There are many other young Haitians like Shabno, and assisting them is as easy as buying a pregnant goat! To learn more about what you can do, please visit <https://www.considerhaiti.org/products/pregnant-goat>.

Sponsor a Winter Survival Kit for \$50!

Kit includes:

- *Waterproof sling bag
- *Emergency tent
- *Emergency sleeping bag
- *Emergency blankets
- *Thick ski gloves
- *Thermal socks
- *Winter hat
- *Hot Hands
- *Masks & sanitizer
- *Emergen-C packs
- *Chapstick



Beloved Asheville. Thanks to your pledging and support, Grace Outreach made the purchase of ten winter survival kits for Beloved Asheville this year's Lenten outreach offering. If this is of interest to you, learn more about helping and advocating for the homeless in Asheville by going to <https://belovedasheville.com/>.

An Email to Your Congressman Can Make A Difference. What does the Episcopal Church have to say about public policy? What actions can you, as an Episcopalian, take? Learn more through the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/>

The Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) is a grassroots effort of the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations to educate, equip and engage individual Episcopalians in federal public policy advocacy from a faith-based perspective using trustworthy information.



To discuss what you can do, please get in touch with Grace Outreach.

Email Kim Hayes at kimhys53@gmail.com

Grace Ministry Leadership

ADULT FORMATION:

The Rev. Milly Morrow, Rev.milly4grace@gmail.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, ckauill@charter.net

FELLOWSHIP:

Seeking new organizer; contact Rev. Milly with interest

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, jeroberston38@me.com

MEN OF THE CHURCH:

Jim Compton, j.t.compton@gmail.com

NEWCOMERS:

The Rev. Milly Morrow, rev.milly4grace@gmail.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

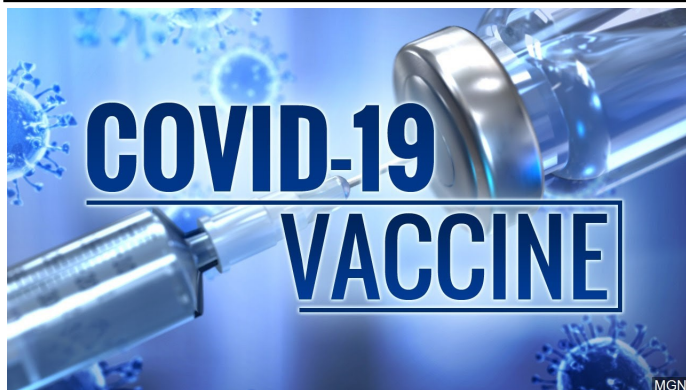
Cheri Potter, Cheripotter82@gmail.com

WORSHIP:

The Rev. Milly Morrow, rev.milly4grace@gmail.com

If you have questions, ideas or comments about a ministry or if you would like to learn more and get involved, please contact that ministry's leader directly. They would love to hear from you.

COVID-19 Vaccines Available



According to NCDHHS guidelines, if you are a healthcare worker, or 65 years of age or older, you are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. To find out where to go to get vaccinated, click on this link <https://myspot.nc.gov/map-view> or check for a spot at covid.mahec.net to register for their waitlist. Community members on the waitlist will be contacted to make an appointment as vaccines become available.

UNC Asheville has joined forces with the Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) in the global fight against COVID-19. Starting on Feb 19 through early summer 2021, UNC Asheville and MAHEC will operate a COVID-19 immunization site at the UNC Asheville Reuter Center located on

1 Campus View Road in Asheville. The indoor site will operate as vaccines are made available by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. The site is scheduled to operate on certain days depending on vaccine availability. Appointments are required. No one without an appointment will be allowed to enter.

THE GRACE FAMILY ALBUM

"The Grace Family Album" features people you've known for years and people you'll be meeting for the very first time. Enjoy getting to know your family, and if you have suggestions for future issues, please let us know.



Carol Booth

CAROL BOOTH is a wise and spiritually insightful friend. She is also a poet, student of the French language, gardener, knitter, loving "Nana" to two grandchildren and *huge* Tour de France fan. With Steve, her husband of over 50 years, Carol has traveled the world, gazed at the rings of Saturn, and entertained many with fabulous gourmet meals. Since 1985, Carol has served in many capacities at Grace, including Vestry, as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and lector, church treasurer and on the Worship Committee. She is also a long-time member of Grace Outreach. Never shy about saying what she thinks, Carol has comforted and cared for many, often over a good glass of wine. And if you're *really* lucky, she's knitted you a pair of socks!

"Carol's ability to see deep into the heart of a situation never ceases to amaze me. Wisdom, kindness and a wonderful curiosity all seem to inform her thoughts, words and actions. I've been blessed by her friendship for many years." *Kim Hayes*



Al & Julia Anne Dawson

AL DAWSON is a quiet man with many gifts. His gentle smile is generously given to his Grace Church family as is his amazing skill as a woodworker. Most recently, he made beautiful miniature wooden vases as gifts for all the Flower Guild members. Al's first visit to Grace was in 1981, as he and Julia Anne sought a church home in Asheville. "Upon leaving Coffee Hour," writes Julia Anne, "our family was invited to a parishioner's home later that day. A welcome call from Fr. Bill Edwards and another from Betty and Rusk Henry with a dinner invitation followed. We never attended another parish. How *could* we after being so graciously adopted by the family of Grace!"

"Al built the honeysuckle arbor in the courtyard and has used his considerable woodworking skills at Grace throughout the years." *Kathleen Griffin*

JULIA ANNE DAWSON has served that adoptive church family ceaselessly ever since that first visit. Her keen eye for spotting "bargains" for the annual Country Store, her skill at organizing and beautifying our kitchen and parish hall, her interest in the landscaping, her artistic contributions to the Flower Guild, her involvement with outreach, and her calm, compassionate presence at memorial receptions for the families and loved ones of departed parishioners have made Julia Anne a legendary part of parish life at Grace. And as the years have passed, we have also recognized Julia Anne as our "church historian," a position she has relinquished just this past year. She is eager to find someone to fill that role of preserving the story of Grace for generations to come.

"Julia Ann has always been very devoted to Grace Church. Always doing what needed to be done - church receptions, buying, washing and ironing tablecloths, a devoted member of the Flower Guild, making beautiful flower arrangements." *Pat Davis*



Kathleen Griffin

KATHLEEN GRIFFIN is a source of practical wisdom, visionary ideas and unflagging energy within the Grace Church family. The same compassionate skills that made her a good nurse in her professional career have given Kathleen the ability to discern and respond to needs of others at Grace. She has been an influential force in pastoral care and outreach. As a Master Gardener, Kathleen not only brings her gardening skills (and transplants from her own yard) to the church grounds; she brings entire Master Gardener teams to Grace to care for our landscaping. Just recently, she was instrumental in having an historic tree on the church grounds officially designated as a "Treasured Tree" by Asheville Greenworks. Kathleen is a beloved Grace tree-hugger! She has also managed our prayer list, delivered Easter baskets and holiday cookies to the homebound, organized the church directory and coordinated the "Lunch Bunch." Kathleen and her late husband Bob have been a true blessing to Grace Church.

"Kathleen has a servant's heart, always concerned about others." *Pat & George Davis*

"Kathleen's talents and gifts are many, and her overflowing heart translates into action with service to us all." *Valerie Heavens*

Our Prayer List

March

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: Georgi Bruce; Nancy Clark; Sally Coburn; Dorothy Engel; Eunice Ferguson; Doug Haldane; Marzy Israel; Don and Ann Lewis; Sonny Rawls; Laura & Tsz-yan Snyder; Rita Spragg; Sydnor Thompson; Mickey Trinite; Sally Withers.

Homebound Parishioners and Those in Healthcare Facilities: Henny Caldwell; Bobbie Eblen; Ed Denison; Straudia Luedtke; Rita Lyda; Marion Mayfield-Johnson; 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) Becky Blaylock (friend of Kathleen Griffin); Kari & Dave Chadwell (niece & nephew of Pat & George Davis); Natalie and the Champion Family (friends of Kim and Rick Hayes); José Corral (friend of Lorie Tola); Wendy Davis (friend of Eunice Ferguson); Melinda Franks (sister of Becky Smith); Robin Fulk (niece of Charlotte & Travers Chiott); Don Jones (friend of Jim & Karen Compton); Jenna Keener (friend of Sonny Rawls); Angela and Tony Lewis (friend of Dodie King); Bob Lewis (friend of Sonny Rawls); Veronica Litun (mother of Valerie Heavens); Ron Meade (friend of Sonny Rawls); Gary Mills (friend of Pat Davis); Jim Rainey (friend of Cliff Albertson); Marilyn White (friend of Elaine Potter); Fred Wilson (father of Debbie Jones); Teachers and Parents trying to maintain an educational environment.

For Those in Service to Our Country: Tommy & Danny Brown (grandsons of Ed & Marla Woeckener); 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 Joe Biden, 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/ for more opportunities to request prayer. Please get permission from anyone you would like to add to this list and contact the office.



March Anniversaries

Cathy Adkins and Earl Leininger	2
Kristen and Howard Dusenbery	31

March Birthdays

Tom Wernicke	1	Laura Parton	18
Adam Coon	2	Marzy Israel	19
Eric Howell	2	Nola Ellington	20
Grace Miller	2	Cameron Bell	23
Joseph Aull	5	Bill Crownover	25
Pat McKinsey	8	Becky Smith	26
Carol Booth	11	Kimberly Kneier	26
James Carlin	12	Charlie Milling	27
Gael Paschall	15	Mark Wall	27
Valerie Heavens	15	Sally Coburn	27
Corey Snyder	16	Kelly Thompson III	29
Lindsay Whitner	16	Terri Frue	29
Scott McKenzie	16	Walker Wrenn	29
Andrew Wall	17	Brett Young	31
Donald Alford	17	Shawn Chase	31
Keith Hargrove	17		

Special Gifts

The Aumbry candle is given to the Glory of God by Tricia and Keith Hargrove in thanksgiving for the blessing of family and friends.

Traditionally, throughout the Lenten season, Grace Church does not decorate the altar with flowers.

The palms for Palm Sunday, March 28, are given to the Glory of God by the Drake and Duncan Family in memory of Ruth Bryce and Mary E. Pritchard.



Is There Someone You'd like to Remember or Recognize? **The Flower Guild is requesting a donor for the April Aumbry Candle and a flower donor for APRIL 18TH.** Even though our beautiful Sunday flowers often cost more, we request a \$50 donation for Sunday flowers, and a \$20 donation for the Aumbry Candle. This goes toward helping our flower guild continue to provide beautiful arrangements for us to enjoy each Sunday. Please contact Marzy Israel, 828-230-1396 or at tobarranged@bellsouth.net if you would like to claim the April 18 spot this year, or donate for the Aumbry Candle. Thank you to all who so generously give year after year in memory of or in recognition of loved ones.

Our Easter Flowers



In spite of all the present limitations, the Flower Guild will once again enhance our altar area and the front door with Easter flowers. In addition, we will continue with the "flowered cross" in front of the church. We welcome participation from parishioners in putting flowers on the cross on Holy Saturday. You can bring your own flowers or, because Easter is early this year and your gardens may not yet be in bloom, the Flower Guild will also furnish flowers.

As always, donations are humbly accepted for the cost of the Easter flowers. Be watching for more details at a later time.

We look forward to a joyful and blessed Eastertide and welcome the participation of our congregants whenever possible.

Thankfully,
Marzy Israel

Hopeful that Positive Trend Continues in 2021

After one month of 2021, we have received pledged income of \$37,057; income from all sources totaled \$68,755. The 2021 income from pledges and open offerings almost replicates January 2020. Both totals include about \$15,000 in prepaid pledges from the prior year. Removing the prepaid pledges, we are pretty much on target related to budget. Funds from last year's surplus totaling \$29,905 were brought back into operating income for 2021. Administrative, Mission, Operational, Program, and Personnel expenses at the end of January 2021 totaled \$417,885 and were \$29,760, less than the \$33,849 in the budget approved by the Vestry in December 2020.

The approved budget included a deficit of \$25,618, and the Vestry is hopeful that this will be reduced as the year progresses. As programs and offerings expand, we anticipate greater participation and involvement in both the spiritual and financial life of the Parish. The budget is based also upon a hopeful resumption of normal parish life later this year.

We closed last year on a very positive note given the turmoil we all experienced. Parishioners have been generous and our expenses have been restricted with our confinement. We prayerfully hope that this positive trend will continue in 2021. The stewardship effort for operating year 2021 provided pledges totaling \$315,540 of the \$385,000 goal. Pledges continue to be received

Statement of Activities - Grace Church				
Year to Date - January 2021				
		Actual	Budget	Variance
Income:				
	Pledges	37,057	26,574	10,483
	Open Offering	1,135	1,667	(532)
	Building Income	658	908	(250)
	Administrative and Other Income	29,905	2,565	27,340
	Total Income:	68,755	31,714	37,041
Expenses:				
	Administrative	-	2,167	(2,167)
	Outreach/Mission	3,604	4,604	(1,000)
	Parish Programs	51	806	(755)
	Operations	3,848	6,966	(3,118)
	Personnel	19,258	19,306	(48)
	Total Expenses:	26,761	33,849	(7,088)
Income Less Expenses:		41,994	(2,135)	44,129
some variance due to rounding				

Welcome to Our New Bookkeeper!



Lindsey Farmer

Lindsey Farmer is the owner and managing member of Hammer Hill Bookkeeping, LLC. She is a native of Western North Carolina, and the well-being of those within her community without a voice or in need of assistance have always been especially important to her.

After graduating from Enka High School in 2006, Lindsey attended Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. She began her career journey in the accounting sector of the healthcare industry. But after working for ten years within the healthcare industry, she felt called to put her skill set to use in a more meaningful way.

Lindsey was blessed to be given the support to follow her calling after marrying her best friend in 2017. She has had the honor of serving as bookkeeper for nonprofit organizations in Western North Carolina ever since. In 2021, she started her own business to better support and protect the nonprofit organizations that she serves.

In her personal life, she is an avid gardener. She also enjoys painting, hand-embroidery, and film.

Lindsey and her husband, Luke, enjoy spending time together with their dog (O-kuma) and their two cats (Kami and Oni).

Lindsey feels deeply honored to fill the role of bookkeeper for Grace Episcopal Church. If anyone has questions, concerns, or just wants to say "hello," please feel free to reach out to her. Email—office@hammerhillbookkeeping.com. Phone—(828) 676-8982.

Welcome, Lindsey! And thank you, Joe Aull, for your many years of patient service to Grace as our treasurer. One last reminder from Joe: effective immediately, for all things related to church financial matters, contact Anne Jarema, our treasurer, or Lindsey Farmer, our bookkeeper.