



# the Grace TEAM

to each a ministry

May 2021

## Grace Episcopal Church

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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.*

## A Message from Rev. Milly

Dear Good People of Grace,

Throughout the book of John, we find Jesus attempting to explain himself. Now, let's be clear, he wasn't defending Himself, He was attempting to build relationship with those around Him, by offering insight into who He was/is. He was using metaphors that were relatable for people in their particular context and time.

And Jesus said:

"I am the Bread of Life,"

"I am the Resurrection and the life,"

"I am the door or gate,"

"I am the vine,"

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"

"I am the Light of the World"

"I am the Good Shepherd"

"I Am"

And now, here we are in the middle of Eastertide and Jesus has risen, Jesus has ascended and the disciples are now out in the world, tending and feeding the flock.

And of course, we are being called to do the same. So our lectionary wisely circles back to the middle of the story, where we find Jesus explaining Himself to those who are curious, because if we are to go into the world "to all nations" in His name, we need to be reminded of exactly who He is and who we are.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we are the sheep.

Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches.

Jesus is the Light and we are those who have walked in darkness.

Jesus has Risen, Jesus has ascended indeed! But Holy Scripture has left us with many ways of seeing the Christ all around us. Ways that help us better understand who Jesus Christ is and to better understand who we are, in relationship to Him.

So, what about for you? If Jesus were sitting with you at the table right now, what metaphor might He offer to you so that you could better understand who he is, and who you are? How might He explain Himself, so that you and He could understand one another and be in deeper relationship?

Perhaps Jesus might offer us;

"I am the vaccine that has 100% efficacy," or

"I am the gardener, you are the rose that blooms in winter," or

"I am the river that flows north, you are the paddler."

Try it. Have fun imagining what Jesus might say to you to help you understand Him more deeply, and to understand yourself in relationship to Him.

This Eastertide is all about coming to know the Christ among us. Because, after we have come out of the Upper Room and begin the work of love in His name, we will see Him everywhere.

Peace and Blessed Eastertide,

Rev. Milly

# What Will Our Legacy for Grace Be?

Doug McClellan

During one of my visits to Grace to see the progress and work being done on our new roof, Jim Compton, our Junior Warden, showed me the cornerstone of our church.

The cornerstone was simple and yet so important. On it were engraved the words, "Grace Memorial Church, A.D. 1905."

Like all cornerstones, it marked the beginning of a building and provided the direction and alignment for the builders. It is part of the legacy our founding fathers and mothers left for us.

And it got me thinking about our new roof. What if the new roof becomes part of the legacy we will leave for those who follow in *our* footsteps?

And if so, what if our contributions to the Roof Campaign were enough to pay for most of the construction costs? What if, by accomplishing this now, the burden of repaying a bridge loan by our congregation in the years ahead could be made lighter? Could that be a part of our legacy left for *them*?

Please consider this question faithfully and make your contribution to our Roof Campaign today.



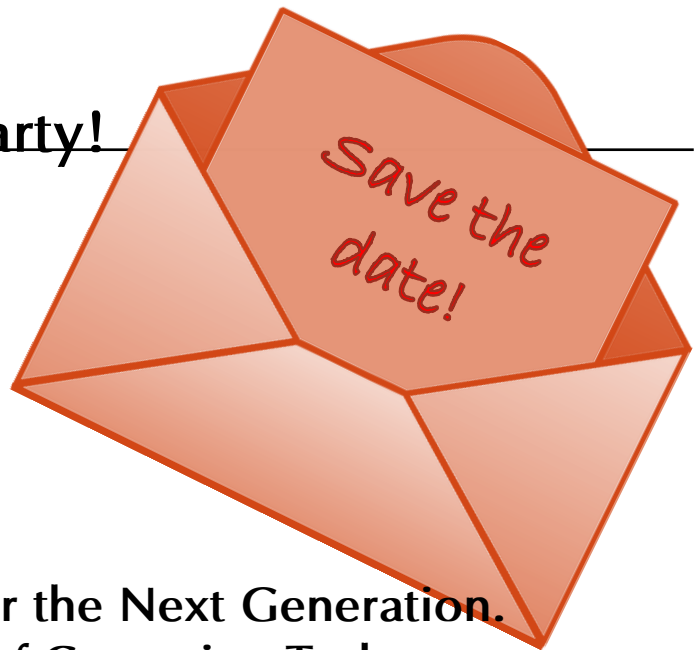
## Raise the Roof Pentecost Party!

People of Grace, exciting things are happening! The Holy Spirit is alive and among us! Spring is here! And a new roof is being raised! Let's celebrate all the good news!

You and your family are invited to gather on the church lawn for a **"Raise the Roof Pentecost Party" on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, noon to 2:00 p.m.** Lunch will be included, plus games, music and a tour of our new roof. All are welcome!

Of course, for everyone's safety, we'll be social distancing and masks will be required.

Be sure to save the date and join the fun! Let's raise the roof!



**Let's Get Grace Ready for the Next Generation.  
Contribute to Our Roof Campaign Today.**

# From Our Sr. Warden



As I write this, the verdict in the Chauvin trial has just been announced. A lot of prayers were answered today. More prayers are needed tonight. Justice is not a destination. It is a journey. For us Christians, it is a journey with Jesus guiding us down the path. Amen.

A recent Gallup poll reported that, as of last year, only 47% of Americans say they belong to a church, synagogue, or mosque. In this same poll, yearly from 1937 until the late 1980s, over 70% of Americans acknowledged their church membership when asked. But since the turn of the century, that number has steadily declined. Now, it has dropped below 50%. In other words, for the first time in a very long time, we self-acknowledged followers of the God of Abraham are officially in the minority in this country.

The authors of the study attribute much of the decline in church membership to the increasing number of Americans who express no religious preference. In other words, collective and organized worship of God is fading in popularity. More troubling, perhaps, are the numbers showing that formal church membership among Americans who do have a religious preference has declined. More and more of Abraham’s followers are not buying what the institutional churches are selling.

Of course, the power of the institutional churches far exceeds their popularity. In no way are we in danger of being oppressed by the majority today. But wouldn’t it be a good thought experiment to consider these statistics through the longer lens of history and compare the risks and benefits of being a Christian now to being a Christian in the first 400 or so years A.D., when Christians were truly a powerless minority.

Christianity in ancient Rome was a dangerous venture. Religion was especially important to the Romans. Within the Roman Empire, Christianity was banned, and Christians were fed to the lions for entertainment. The safest, most prudent decision an early Christian could make would be to turn away from Christ. Yet thousands persisted. Christianity not only survived; it flourished and prospered, becoming the world’s largest religion.

The spark that fueled that exponential growth was the teachings, the message, and the story of Jesus Christ. That spark lives on amongst us here at Grace. Our church plays an enormously fruitful role in the everyday lives of our parishioners and the communities we call home. For us, Christianity is not simply an ideological affiliation. It is a comprehensive way of life.

I think it would behoove us to look to the example of the early Christians and not be concerned with whether we’re popular or cool or whether our numbers are going up or down. None of that is as important as the message of loving one another that Jesus declared as Commandment #1. That is how we honor, praise and worship our Lord!

That, and we need to pay for this roof project! Check your mail and see Doug’s letter on page 2 for more about how you can get involved.

## 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, 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, 4:30 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
Sundays, May 2-23, 9:00 AM	Adult Spiritual Formation Class (see p. 4)	Zoom Meeting
Monday, May 3, 4:30 PM	Outreach Committee Meeting	Zoom Meeting
Tuesdays, May 4-18, 5:30 PM	Liberation Theology Bible Study (see p. 4)	Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, May 12, 10:00 AM	TEAM Meeting	Zoom Meeting
Monday, May 17, 5:30 PM	Vestry Meeting	Zoom Meeting
Sunday, May 23, 10:30 AM	Pentecost Service (see p. 4)	YouTube/In-Person
Sunday, May 23, 12 Noon-2:00 PM	“Raise the Roof” Pentecost Party (see p. 4)	Church Lawn
Monday, May 31	Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday	
Monday, May 31, 4:30 PM	Outreach Discernment Committee Meeting	Zoom Meeting
	* BULLETIN AVAILABLE	Grace Website

**ONLINE ACCESS.** Go to [www.graceavl.com](http://www.graceavl.com) and look for links near the top of the page to most of our online services and bulletins and access to parish-wide Zoom meetings. For some Zoom meetings, reference the email invitation you may have received from the meeting Host.

# The Lord is Risen Indeed!

Here are a few photos from Easter morning at Grace, complete with people in the pews! Hallelujah!



As we continue to gather for worship in the weeks to come, we will stream services on-line as usual, but because the Bishop has given us the greenlight to have a small number of folks inside for worship (with many guidelines and precautions), we are also inviting a different Tabernacle Group to join for in-person gathering each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

If you are not a part of a Tabernacle group, and you want to join us for an in-person gathering, please email Rev. Milly at [rev.milly4grace@gmail.com](mailto:rev.milly4grace@gmail.com).



## Liberation Theology Bible Study Class Continues

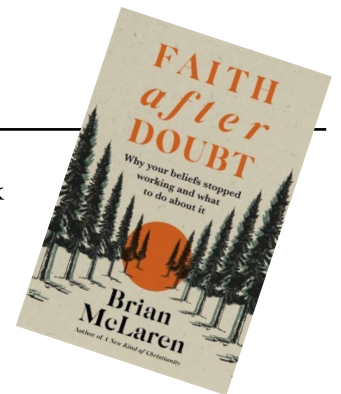


**EASTER LIBERATION BIBLE STUDY** continues via Zoom every Tuesday through May 18, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

How we read the Bible matters. Where we come from and our life experiences inform the way we understand what we read in the Holy Bible and shape the way we follow the teachings of Jesus. Liberation Theology is a theology grounded in the insight that God sides with the poor and marginalized throughout scripture. With guidance from community leaders like [Tami Forte Logan](#), [Amy Cantrell](#), [Bruce Waller Jr.](#), [Nontombi Tutu](#), [Amy Kim Kyremes-Parks](#) and others, we will continue to break down the various voices of Liberation Theology during the season of Eastertide. Reading together, we can discover how Liberation Theology informs us in preparation for Pentecost and the birth of the Church. Registration to attend any or all of these classes at <https://tinyurl.com/EasterBSt>.

## Ever Doubted Your Faith?

**BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THAT'S A GOOD SIGN!** Paul Tillich, the famous 20th century theologian, wrote, "Doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith....Sometimes I think it is my mission to bring faith to the faithless, and doubt to the faithful." Join the Rev. Dr. Sydnor Thompson on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. through May 23, to continue a discussion of Brian McLaren's latest book, *Faith After Doubt: Why your beliefs stopped working and what to do about it*. You'll get much more from the class if you have the book, which can be ordered on Amazon. There's still time to participate. Find a link to the class on the Grace web site homepage under "Service Links."



## Pentecost at Grace!

**WEAR YOUR RED** and get ready for Pentecost at Grace Church, May 23, 10:30 a.m. If you have not yet been to church in person through your Tabernacle Group, we encourage you to sign up for Pentecost by May 5 at <https://tinyurl.com/Pentecost2021>. After that, we will open to people who have attended church already, first come, first get a pew. Our limit is 30 individuals. We can't wait to worship together with you! And of course, the service will also be streamed on YouTube.



# 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.

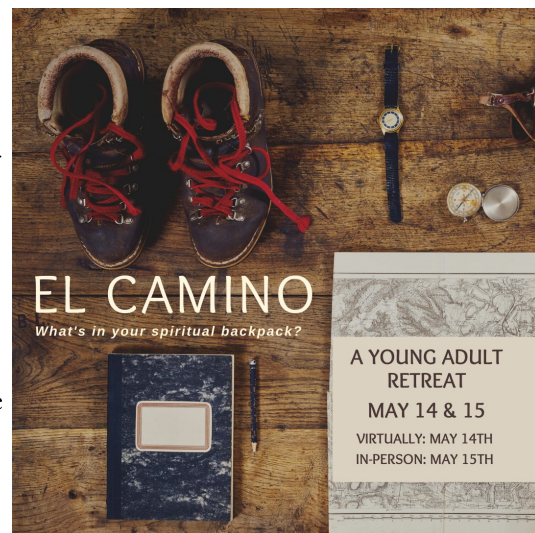
So, we are bringing our cooking, Bible discussions, and music choices to you in a series of “Soul-Stirring” videos. Every week or so, Bill and I will send out a short video offering our take on the upcoming lectionary Scripture readings while we make dinner in our kitchen. Along with Scripture, we will 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. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/GraceUTvideos> for past and future Soul Stirring episodes.

**CHILDREN OF GRACE, ARE YOU READY FOR CAMP HENRY?** As of now, Camp Henry will be in session this summer! Parents, ECW scholarships in the amount of \$235 per child are available (until funds are depleted) to help children of Grace attend. For details, please email Cheryl Aull at [ckauil@charter.net](mailto:ckauil@charter.net). For more information about Camp Henry sessions and how they are addressing concerns related to COVID, please visit their web site <https://www.lakelogan.org/camphenry/>



**EL CAMINO: THE ROAD TO EMMAUS / A YOUNG ADULT RETREAT**, May 14 on Zoom, May 15 in person at Lake Logan. Young Adulthood (college age - late 20s) is often a time of trying on new experiences, recognizing inherited gifts & skills, and seeking out new tools to brave the wilderness of adulthood. Many questions emerge during this time of life: Who am I? How do I make sense of society? What am I called to do with my life? Where is God in all of this? In this spirit, our theme is “El Camino” to honor the journey of young adulthood. We are curious to ask: as you prepare for this journey, or are on the journey already, what is in your backpack? We will use the story of the Road to Emmaus as our framework as we explore these questions and the tools needed for the journey. The hope is that community will be built in dialogue & reflecting together, and participants will leave refreshed with a better sense of what is in their backpack & wellness practices for the journey. Learn more at <https://www.diocesewnc.org/events-1/el-camino-a-young-adult-retreat>



**ORDER OF ST. LUKE CONTINUES VIA ZOOM!** The OSL Mountain Chapter will meet via Zoom on Thursday, May 13. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m., end no later than 8:30 p.m., and will continue their program series, “Fundamentals for Receiving and Praying for Physical Healing.” The focus will be on the third fundamental: “Remove Any Heart Barriers to Receiving Healing.” A DVD about the healing journey of a man who suffered chronic pain from fibromyalgia will be viewed and discussed. Your participation is welcome. One does not have to be an OSL member to take part. If you are not on the Mountain Chapter email list, please send an email to [mtn\\_osl@yahoo.com](mailto:mtn_osl@yahoo.com). A link for the Zoom meeting will be sent to you.

**Reminder: the church office will be closed  
Monday, May 31 for the Memorial Day Holiday.**





**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 Mondays 4:30 p.m. To contact the Pastoral Care Team, please call Rev. Milly at 828.772.1429 or email the Pastoral Care team at [Pastoralcare4grace@gmail.com](mailto: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](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 Ministry Leadership

### ADULT FORMATION:

The Rev. Milly Morrow, [Rev.milly4grace@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.milly4grace@gmail.com)

### ALTAR GUILD:

Interim: Shannon Townsend, [gstownsend@att.net](mailto:gstownsend@att.net).

### BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

Jim Compton, [j.t.compton@gmail.com](mailto:j.t.compton@gmail.com)

### CHILD FORMATION:

Mark Silvers, [mhswjak@hotmail.com](mailto:mhswjak@hotmail.com)

### CHOIRS:

Rusty McCredie, [rebscape@att.net](mailto:rebscape@att.net)

### COMMUNICATIONS:

Eric Howell, [howell.eric.r@gmail.com](mailto:howell.eric.r@gmail.com)

### ENDOWMENT:

Steve Birkhofer, [sbirkhof@unca.edu](mailto:sbirkhof@unca.edu)

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW):

Cheryl Aull, [ckaul@charter.net](mailto:ckaul@charter.net)

### FELLOWSHIP:

Seeking new organizer; contact Rev. Milly with interest

### FINANCE:

Anne Jarema, [anne\\_jarema@verizon.net](mailto:anne_jarema@verizon.net)

### FLOWER GUILD:

Mary Israel, [tobarranged@bellsouth.net](mailto:tobarranged@bellsouth.net)

### GARDEN GUILD:

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

### HEALING MINISTRY:

Jeanne Robertson, [jerobertson38@me.com](mailto:jerobertson38@me.com)

### MEN OF THE CHURCH:

Jim Compton, [j.t.compton@gmail.com](mailto:j.t.compton@gmail.com)

### NEWCOMERS:

The Rev. Milly Morrow, [rev.milly4grace@gmail.com](mailto:rev.milly4grace@gmail.com)

### OFFICE MINISTRY:

Valerie Heavens, [grace.church.asheville@gmail.com](mailto:grace.church.asheville@gmail.com)

### OUTREACH:

Kim Hayes, [kimhys53@gmail.com](mailto:kimhys53@gmail.com)

### PASTORAL CARE:

Cliff Albertson, [cliff.albertson@verizon.net](mailto:cliff.albertson@verizon.net)

### PUBSING:

Monty Wooten, [montywooten@bellsouth.net](mailto:montywooten@bellsouth.net)

### SHEPHERDS' MINISTRY:

Lorie Tola, [lorie.tola@gmail.com](mailto:lorie.tola@gmail.com)

### STEWARDSHIP:

Greg Townsend, [gwtownsend@outlook.com](mailto:gwtownsend@outlook.com)

### TAIZÉ:

James Cannon, [imjcannon@frontier.com](mailto:imjcannon@frontier.com)

### WEDDING MINISTRY:

Elaine Potter, [elaine@graylineasheville.com](mailto:elaine@graylineasheville.com)

Cheri Potter, [Cheripotter82@gmail.com](mailto:Cheripotter82@gmail.com)

### WORSHIP:

The Rev. Milly Morrow, [rev.milly4grace@gmail.com](mailto: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.*

# Grace Outreach: 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!*



**OUR VISIT TO BELOVED ASHEVILLE'S TINY HOME PROJECT.** On April 18, Grace Church gathered 26 of our members at Beloved Asheville to visit their Tiny Home project. This project is just one of the many actions Beloved Asheville has taken in response to their daily walk with people on the margins, with people suffering and with those who lack basic needs like housing, food, and connection.

While this Tiny Home Village is one response to the growing need for housing in Asheville, what Beloved really has is a vision of Community, not just housing. Even if a person gets a house and has food, "if they do not have love they have nothing" (1 Corinthians: 2). Beloved is building community, where love can grow.

And they have invited us to join them! We will soon have a community meeting about how we might engage Beloved Asheville in their work. In the meantime check out all that they are doing in this community at <https://belovedasheville.com/>.



**ASHEVILLE AREA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CHALLENGES HOUSING DISCRIMINATION.** After discovering a racial covenant in a deed for property purchased for the development of affordable housing, Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity is delving deeper into discriminatory housing practices in our community. The result is a powerful 18-minute video, [This Divided Land](#). We encourage you to view it.



**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, guided by the resolutions of the General Convention and the Executive Council. To learn more about the role our Church is taking on a national and global level, visit <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/>



Learn more about recent Outreach disbursements on page 11 of this issue.

# 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.*

Any liturgy that happens in a church takes many hands and hearts to create and offer with love. At Grace the work that happens before liturgy is crucial to the integrity of the service. The Altar Guild is often unseen as they do their work, but the fruit of it is in every detail you see when you are in worship. The linens, the sacred vestments, the Altar setting and care are all a part of the ministry of those who serve on this team. We want to thank each of you that serve in this capacity and we give thanks to God for the gifts you offer.

*Jeanne, Shannon and Beth are just three of a whole team of skilled, committed and caring Altar Guild volunteers. We hope to introduce you to others in months to come.*



*Jeanne Sims*

**JEANNE SIMS**, is also known as the "Christmas Lady" because of her skill setting up the Christmas section of the ECW rummage sale. Her sense of humor, dedication to the task at hand, and willing spirit have kept all rummage sale workers in awe. As a member of the Altar Guild, Jeanne is always diligent and reliable. She's knowledgeable and exhibits good attention to detail. Jeanne can always be counted on to be easy to work with and cheerful.

Jeanne and her husband Ron are special members of the Grace family.

"I've always been delighted whenever I've had a chance to get to work with [Jeanne]."

*Sonny Rawls*

"...she also makes the most delicious desserts for many church gatherings!"

*Cheryl Aull*



*Shannon Townsend*

**SHANNON TOWNSEND** is conscientious, devoted, and always willing to step in and help. She has a wealth of knowledge and is always willing to share. She was instrumental in starting the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Sunday school program at Grace. A skilled organizer, you can find her behind the scenes at Pumpkin Patch, the Christmas Paper Bag Pageant, the Seder Meal and much more. A former vestry member and Senior Warden, she now serves on the Altar Guild and the Worship Committee. Shannon will take you under her wing, show you the ropes, and become a lifelong devoted friend. She and Greg are much-loved at Grace.

"[Shannon] amazes me! I was apprehensive about being part of Altar Guild, but she graciously guided me (and the rest of our team) in learning the steps involved. ... I appreciate all she does for Grace Church!"

*Cate Scales*



*Beth Woodson*

**BETH WOODSON** has a remarkable history that includes radio dj, electrical engineer, knitter, quilter, puzzle fanatic, llama herder—and the list goes on and on. At Grace, her co-workers on the Altar Guild all agree that her kindness, efficiency, dedication, knowledge and attention to detail make her a go-to person for everything. Beth and her husband John are huge Georgia Tech football fans who slip off for a game whenever they can. They both enjoy traveling, hiking and the great outdoors.

Beth's quiet, constant dedication to Grace Church is a blessing.

"Beth has been given the gift of hospitality and cares deeply about those who are in need of a "pick me up." She is one of the fastest knitters and crocheters I have ever had the privilege of knowing."

*Jeanne Robertson*



# Our Prayer List

May

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:* Pat Anderson; Georgi Bruce; Sally Coburn; Dorothy Engel; Eunice Ferguson; Rusty Herman; Marzy Israel; Don & Ann Lewis; Gael Paschall; Sonny Rawls; Laura & Tsz-yan Snyder; Rita Spragg; Sydnor Thompson; Mickey Trinite; Don Wills.

*For Homebound Parishioners and Those in Healthcare Facilities:* Henny Caldwell; Bobbie Eblen; Ed Denison, Straudia Luedtke; 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)* Wesley Auret (Godson of Elaine Potter); Becky Blaylock (friend of Kathleen Griffin); Susan Barbour and family (friend of Elaine Potter); Cathy C. (friend of Don Wills); Martha Carson; Kari & Dave Chadwell (niece & nephew of Pat & George Davis); Patricia D. (relative of Don Wills); Wendy Davis (friend of Eunice Ferguson); Melinda Franks (sister of Becky Smith); Robin Fulk (niece of Charlotte & Travers Chiott); Darcy Howard (sister of Sydnor Thompson); Walt Justis (friend of Don Wills); Veronica Litun (mother of Valerie Heavens); Janie McDonald (friend of Elaine Potter); Gary Mills (friend of Pat Davis); Jerry Nelson; Janice Orson (friend of Rusty Herman); Susannah Perry (friend of Sonny Rawls); Jim Rainey (friend of Cliff Albertson); Dan & Debbie Thomas (friends of James Cannon); Dr. Gloria Trujillo (friend of Don Wills); Marilyn White (friend of Elaine Potter); Pauline Smith Wills & family (family of Don Wills); Ron Wills (nephew of Don Wills); Dr. Terry Wilkey (brother-in-law of Diane Wilkey); Fred and Wilma Wilson (parents of Debbie Jones); Cathy Winks (friend of Don Wills); Carol (friend of Marzy Israel); Keith (friend of Marzy Israel); Shango (friend of Kathleen Griffin); Teachers and Parents trying to maintain an educational environment.

*For Those Who Have Died and their Families:* Bill Frue (father of Jack Frue); Gene Pressley.

*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/](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  
Bill Frue (father of Jack Frue) and  
Gene Pressley.

## May Anniversaries

Andrew and Sarah Beasley	15
Chris and Rich Thompson	17
Lindsey and Luke Farmer	20
Alfonso and Shannon Ponce	21
Tom and Martha Bell	25
Allyn and Joan Aldrich	27
Tim and Kathy Wrinn	27
James and Giovanna Hopkins	30

## May Birthdays

Derek Dephouse	2	Monty Wooten	20
Charlotte Chiott	5	Lorie Tola	20
Karen Howell	7	Judy Rhodes	21
Lucy Bowen	8	Jennifer Clary	21
Charles Carter	9	Meghan Jordan	22
Jane Whitman	10	Leeann Shearouse	24
Dodie King	10	Nancy Walters	24
Molly Oxford	11	Anna Grace	25
Sydnor Thompson III	12	Katherine Kaderabek	26
Bill Buchanan	12	Thames Higginbotham	27
Annabelle Milling	13	James Cannon	28
Ellie Silvers	16	George Davis	30
Catherine Cullen	17	Jeanne Sims	30
Alyssa Jones	17	Barbara Crownover	30
Shannon Wall	19	Johnny Robinson	31
Ashley Ellington	19		

## Welcome to the World!

**Arthur Clyde Johnson**  
*(born April 17th, 2021. 7lbs, 10oz 18.5 inches long)*  
 is the newest member of Grace Episcopal Church. Let us join together with his parents, Katherine and Garrett, in prayer for continued health, peace and joy!

## Special Gifts

The Aumbry Candle is given to the Glory of God by Rick and Kim Hayes in memory of their parents Lou and Bob Anslow, and Mary and Bill Hayes.

April flowers are also given to the Glory of God by:

- ◆ Carol and Steve Booth in memory of David and Barbara;
- ◆ Teresa Cantrell in loving memory of her parents Nyra and Bill Caton;
- ◆ Ed Duncan in memory of Dick Drake and Hazel Keller;
- ◆ Cheri Potter in memory of her stepfather, Jim Spray;
- ◆ Kathleen Griffin in loving memory of Bob Griffin and of their life together.



**Remember or Recognize Someone Special** with a beautiful Sunday flower arrangement. Although the flowers often cost more, the requested donation is just \$50, and it goes toward helping our flower guild continue to provide beautiful arrangements for the altar each Sunday. Please contact Marzy Israel at [tobarranged@bellsouth.net](mailto:tobarranged@bellsouth.net) or call 828-230-1396 if you would like to learn more about donating. Thank you to all who so generously give year after year in memory of or in recognition of loved ones.



# Anticipating a Bountiful Year as Grace Grows

After three months of 2021, we have received Pledged Income of \$95,354, including prepayments for the year. Income from all sources totaled \$130,809, largely as a result of retained earnings from the prior year. The amount is somewhat less than last year's Pledged Income at this time.

Mission, Operational, Program, and Personnel expenses at the end of March 2021 totaled \$86,331 and was \$15,215 less than those forecasted in the budget adopted by the Vestry. This difference is due to expenses less than the amount budgeted in all but Personnel, as social distancing remains. Expenses are expected to increase as the church reopens.

The approved budget included a deficit of \$25,619, 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. In the event that our optimism isn't rewarded, at present we do have sufficient reserves to adequately cover this possible shortfall.

The 2021 stewardship effort has provided \$315,540 of the \$385,000 goal. This amount is more pledged monies than had been received at this time last year. We anticipate this trend to continue as Grace attracts new members and we all look forward to reopening the church. We are prayerfully hopeful that this year will be a bountiful one as Grace grows.

<b>Statement of Activities - Grace Church</b>				
<b>Year to Date - March 31, 2021</b>				
		<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Income:</b>				
	Pledges	95,354	79,722	15,632
	Open Offering	3,181	5,000	(1,819)
	Interest	24	19	9
	Misc.	32,250	10,500	21,750
	<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>130,809</b>	<b>95,141</b>	<b>35,668</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
	Outreach/Mission	10,812	13,812	(3,000)
	Parish Programs	2,001	2,419	(418)
	Operations	14,201	20,898	(6,697)
	Personnel	59,316	64,418	(5,102)
	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>86,330</b>	<b>101,547</b>	<b>(15,217)</b>
<b>Income Less Expenses:</b>		<b>44,479</b>	<b>(6,406)</b>	<b>50,885</b>
* some rounding variances				

**A THANK YOU NOTE FROM GRACE OUTREACH.** Over the past month, thanks to the generous pledging of the Grace family, your Outreach Team has been able to respond to great need in our community. Scheduled 2021 gifts that would normally be disbursed much later in the year have been made now when they are needed most.

Donations of \$2000 to ABCCM for their eviction assistance program, \$1200 to Homeward Bound for their project to turn a local hotel into affordable housing for the homeless, \$1000 to Manna Food Bank, \$500 to Church of the Advocate, and \$500 to Pisgah Legal Services have been made on your behalf!

Thank you, people of Grace! Your gifts are making a big difference right now and will continue to make a difference all year long!