



# the Grace TEAM

to each a ministry

December 2021

## Grace Episcopal Church

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

grace.church.asheville@gmail.com  
Visit us online at  
[www.graceavl.com](http://www.graceavl.com) &  
[www.facebook.com/graceasheville](https://www.facebook.com/graceasheville)  
Or [www.facebook.com/grace.church.718689/](https://www.facebook.com/grace.church.718689/)

### The Grace TEAM

is published monthly.  
Deadline for articles is the 15th.

### Sunday Worship

10:30 a.m. - Rite II  
In-person and  
Virtual on YouTube

### Gospel Bible Study

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.  
Zoom

### Centering Prayer

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.  
Zoom

### Spiritual Direction Sessions

Wednesdays, 1-3:00 p.m.  
Appointment required

### On-Line 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.

Good People of Grace,

I hope that you are feeling the same excitement that swells up in my soul when I think of the approaching Advent season. In so many ways, Advent encapsulates what brought me to the priesthood and to church itself. Perhaps more than any other liturgical season, Advent emphasizes the best parts of Anglicanism. For one, it is deeply ceremonial. For each of us, our most fundamental memories of "the Christmas season" are intimately connected to the rituals that make up the four Sundays of Advent. We feel excitement to light the Advent wreath, wait with anticipation to peel back the next window in our Advent calendar, or admire the Christmas tree and its accompanying decorations. The organ's pipes blast the tune of familiar hymns, and blue cloths adorn pulpit and altar. There is something about this season, and about these traditions, that reminds us that we are at home.

Advent also invites us into contemplation. Quiet, still, wait—all are adjectives preachers

use in Advent sermons. It is a time for patience, both as the celebration of Jesus' birth nears, and as we await the return of Jesus. Just as we practice patience, we also take spiritual inventory during this time. We ensure that we are prepared for Christ's return by tending to our spirits. As Jesus says in Luke 12:35, "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks."

I pray that we feel a deep well of gratitude for this exciting season. I am confident that its bounties will be significant for us on our journey together as the Body of Christ. Let us sing a joyful song in our anticipation, and let us remember the words of the hymn "Lift Up Ye Mighty Gates" —

*"Redeemer, come, with us abide;  
our hearts to thee we open wide; let  
us thy inner peace feel; thy grace  
and love in us reveal."*

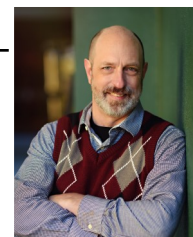
Peace,

Fr. Mike



# From Our Sr. Warden

**MOVING AHEAD.** Dear Grace, as I sit to write what will be my final letter to you as senior warden, I think back to what a year it has been. We've added Angel as Sexton, Archie as Technical Director, and Fr. Mike as Associate Priest. We went from having all virtual services to only allowing one tabernacle group at a time, to fully in-person services. Along the way, we have mandated masks, then having masks be optional, and back to mandatory masks. Our choir and PubSing have returned. Vestry meetings moved from Zoom to in-person. Oh, and we put a new roof on the church and one on our rental property. Quite a year.



So, are we back to normal? Gee, I hope not. We should never go backwards. I think we should always be striving for progress, leaving the past behind. We can have fond memories, and we can learn from the past and build upon the wisdom we've acquired. But we have to keep moving ahead, with new wardens, new vestry members, new goals, standards and benchmarks.

As I leave the position of senior warden and move on to my next super time-consuming volunteer job, there are many folks I need to thank. Kim Hayes deserves a medal for the patience she's shown me as I have made her wait every month for these rambling submissions to this newsletter till minutes before she needs to go to press. I thank Valerie and Lindsay for the support they've shown me as I tried to learn what's needed to guide this ship we called Grace. I thank Jim Compton for being a steady hand on the wheel, providing deep institutional knowledge, competent, capable and diligent management of our most valuable physical assets, our buildings and grounds, and his rational, calming presence in our leadership meetings. Of course, I must thank Reverend Milly for her confidence in this "Chr-Easter" (the guy who only showed up at church on Christmas and Easter) that I could assist and support her as her first chosen senior warden in her first year at Grace. We've learned a lot together, haven't we, Milly? I'm so excited and proud to see where we will go next. And finally, last but not certainly not least, I have to think my loving and patient wife Cate, without whom I could never have taken on this challenge. I am so honored to have been your senior warden.

Thank you, Grace! Yours in Christ's Love, Ben

## Events at a Glance

### *A Quick Review of the Month*

Date and Time	Service, Meeting or Activity	Location
Sundays, 9:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Church Sanctuary
Sundays, 10:30 AM	Sunday Holy Eucharist Service **	YouTube & In-Person
Mondays, 10:30 AM	Monday Morning Bible Study	Zoom
Mondays, 3:00 PM	Pastoral Care Meeting	Zoom
Tuesdays, 10:00 AM	Stewardship Meeting	Zoom
Wednesdays, 1-3:00 PM	Praying Together ( <i>by appointment</i> )	Church Sanctuary
Wednesdays, 5:30 PM	Centering Prayer	Zoom
Wednesdays, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Church Sanctuary
Thursdays, 8:00 AM	Women Walking the Way	Beaver Lake
Sunday, December 5 & 12, 12:00PM	Adult Formation: Mystical Advent Journey	Parish Hall
Sunday, December 5, 3:00PM	Budget Creation Meeting	Parish Hall
Tuesday, December 7, 5:00 PM	Outreach Meeting	Zoom
Wednesday, December 8, 10:00 AM	TEAM Meeting	Zoom
Monday, December 13, 6:00 PM	Worship Committee Meeting	Zoom
Tuesday, December 14, 5:00 PM	Men of the Church	Parish Hall
Thursday, December 16, 5:00 PM	Purls of Grace	Library
Sunday, December 19, 11:45 AM	Annual Meeting	Parish Hall
Sunday, December 19, 1:30 PM	Hanging of the Greens	Church
Sunday, December 19, 8:00 PM	Taizé	Church Sanctuary
Monday, December 20, 5:30 PM	Vestry Meeting	Downstairs Conf. Room
Friday & Monday, December 24 & 27	Staff Holidays	
Friday, December 24, 4:00 PM	Family Christmas Eve Service (Paper Bag Pageant)	Church
Friday, December 24, 8:00 PM	Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	Church
Saturday, December 25, 10:00 AM	Christmas Day Service	Church
	** BULLETIN AVAILABLE	* Zoom Access Available



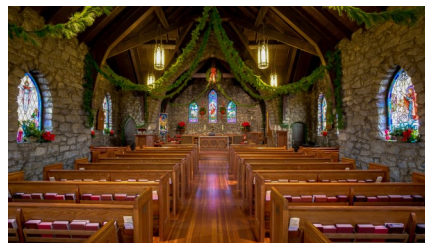
### THE MYSTICAL ADVENT JOURNEY: CREATING FERTILE GROUND FOR

**NEW LIFE.** Advent is a time of preparation for new life to emerge. In the dark of winter, we are invited into the mystical practice of digging deep into our inner landscape to nourish our spiritual soil and our souls, so that, come Christmas, we are prepared to receive the living Christ, and come Epiphany, the revelations that grow from his light in our lives. We will explore poetry, music, and art for creating fertile soil to ground our journeys.

Join us! This Adult Formation for Advent will be in the parish hall following worship at 12:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of Advent, December 5 and 12! No need to register; feel free to bring your lunch with you!

**HANGING OF THE GREENS.** Following our annual meeting on Sunday, December 19, all who are able are invited to take part in a Grace Church tradition—the hanging of the greens! Your help decorating the sanctuary for the celebration of our Lord's nativity is needed. And the end result—breathtaking! Thank you in advance for your participation!

*Photo by Terry Barnes*




## Our Christmas Worship Schedule

December 24, 4:00 p.m. , Christmas Eve Paper Bag Pageant & Family Service

December 24, 8:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Eucharist

December 25, 10:00 a.m., Christmas Eucharist

January 2, 10:30 a.m., Lessons and Carols

## Yes! Our Paper Bag Pageant is Back!

**CALLING ALL STARS, SHEPHERDS, ANIMALS AND ANGELS!** It's the long-awaited return of the **Christmas Eve Paper Bag Pageant at Grace!** Parents, grandparents, children, families old and new—you're all invited to come join the celebration Friday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.

Bring little ones to the parish hall at 3:15 to participate. Simple costumes are in paper bags, and parishioners help the children with selections and getting dressed. Children sit with family during the service and go to the back of the church when instructed. At the end of the service, the costumes are returned to the paper bags in the parish hall. No rehearsal necessary. Join us and create a lasting memory for your children and grandchildren!



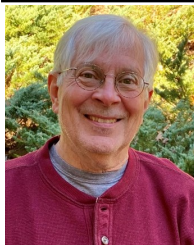
Also, anyone interested in helping with the Pageant, please call the church office. Jobs include narrators, costume organizers, reception helpers, and cleanup.



# Annual Meeting

Please plan to attend the annual parish meeting to vote for Vestry and the annual budget! Mark Your Calendars for December 19 after Sunday worship. Only those present will be able to vote on the budget, Bylaw changes and vestry. Refreshments will be served.

## Meet Our 2022 Vestry Nominees



*Joe Aull*

**Joe Aull.** Joe and Cheryl arrived in Asheville in April 1980 with his transfer to a position with the Blue Ridge Parkway. They visited Grace shortly after the birth of their first son, Bill, and the reception they received was so warm and welcoming, even with a noisy newborn, that their decision was made that day. They joined Grace, and Joe was confirmed soon after.

Opportunities arose at the Parkway, and Joe and Cheryl have been here ever since. Their sons, Bill and Michael, were both baptized and confirmed at Grace. Cheryl found a home in the choir, and Joe served three terms on the vestry, including as Junior and Senior Warden. Most recently, he served as Treasurer for seven or so years, ending that role this year. Cheryl and Joe have been involved in the many changes which have occurred here over the years, and as Joe says: "I am excited and hopeful as we begin the next phase of growth and development of our spiritual community at Grace."

**Andrew Beasley.** Andrew Beasley is a father, husband and teacher. He and his wife, Sarah, settled into Grace about five years ago following loving stints at Holy Spirit and All Souls. Miles, 11, was baptized in Mars Hill while Kendall, 6, was christened in Biltmore Village. Andrew and Sarah met at an EYC event many years ago in Knoxville, Tennessee. The family has lived in Weaverville for nine years and share their home with an obnoxious dachshund called Leo.



*Andrew Beasley*



*Terri Frue*

**Terri Frue.** Terri was raised in McConnells, South Carolina and was an active member of Olivet Presbyterian church before moving to Asheville. Terri and her husband, Jack, were married here at Grace in 2003, and she was confirmed into the Episcopal Church at Grace in 2004. Their twins, Bailey and Cameron, were baptized and confirmed at Grace. Terri has participated in several ministries, including Room in the Inn mobile shelter for homeless women. Terri's interests include walking, gardening, baking, crocheting and sewing, and spending family time at the lake.

**Katherine Kaderabek.** Katherine is a life-long Episcopalian. She and her husband, Todd, have been members of Grace (on and off) for around 19 years. They have two grown children, Thames and Miller, who were both baptized and raised at Grace and a sweet labradoodle, Charlie. Katherine is Managing Broker at Beverly-Hanks Realtors and in her free time you'll find her outside exploring our beautiful mountains or enjoying peaceful time on Folly Beach.



*Katherine Kaderabek*



*Tara Lonneman (L)*

**Tara Lonneman.** We also want to take this opportunity to introduce Grace's newly appointed Treasurer for 2022, Tara Lonneman. Tara was introduced to Grace Church through her participation in Centering Prayer, and in August of 2021, she became a confirmed member of Grace. Previously, she volunteered as a CCD teacher at St. Pius X Church in Edgewood, Kentucky and began a Sunday kid's program at St. Leo the Great, a refugee congregation, in Cincinnati, Ohio. While living overseas, she explored various denominations and consistently attended St. Andrews, an Anglican Parish of Kohimarama, in New Zealand.

Tara has an MBA and an Accounting degree, and works at a local CPA where she communicates monthly reports to small business owners in the Asheville area. As a recent home-owner in Weaverville, Tara can be found working on house projects or planning her next outdoor adventure! Welcome to Grace, Tara.



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE.** To all who have responded to our campaign with pledges, thank you so much. Your willingness to “give until it feels good” enables Grace Church to grow and thrive. [Click here](#) or on the photo to the left for a stewardship thank you!

**PURLS OF GRACE.** The Purls of Grace Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet in the church library on Thursday, December 16, at 5:00 p.m. Come get patterns and yarn for a project you can take on that long-awaited trip to visit friends and family over the holidays. Shawls are great projects for riding in the car. I have ideas for all levels of knitters and crocheters, including simple projects for beginners. I'll be glad to help you get started. Please call me at 828-645-4293 for more information. Also, call if you can't make the meeting, and I'll arrange to meet you at another time. See you there! Beth Woodson



**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 are required. Please email Rev. Milly to schedule your time, [rev.milly4grace@gmail.com](mailto:rev.milly4grace@gmail.com).

**CARE YOU CAN SHARE.** The Pastoral Care Team seeks to make the compassionate presence of Christ known through intentional connection and through the physical and spiritual care of those in need. Here are some skills you might be able to share:



1. Driving skills: e.g., willing to help transport a member to a doctor's appointment.
2. Home care skills: e.g., willing to spend time with a homebound member in need.
3. Social Service skills: e.g., willing to link a member to needed business, financial and medical resources.
4. Legal skills: e.g., willing to help a member with insurance or legal issues.

Please email [pastoralcare4grace@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralcare4grace@gmail.com) if you are willing to help in any of these areas. Thank you for joining in this effort to love one another even as God has loved us in Jesus Christ!

**WOMEN WALKING THE WAY!** Women of Grace and beyond, you're invited to join Rev. Milly for a weekly walk at Beaver Lake. This time together 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.



**COVID 19 REMINDERS. In-Person Worship.** We continue to offer in-person Sunday worship, but please know that, if you do not feel comfortable being at church at this time, we understand and will be here to welcome you when you come back. Meanwhile, take good care of yourself. Masks are required for in-person church, and we will practice social distancing.

**Children's Transition Room.** Since children under the age of 12 have not yet been offered an option of vaccination, the parish hall is available on Sundays as a "Transition Room," where you can view the service live and socially distance. This is an offering and of course you and your children are welcome to get the activity backpack and come on into the sanctuary as well!



# Grace Ministry Leadership

*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.*

## ADULT FORMATION:

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

## ALTAR GUILD:

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:

## CHOIRS:

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

## ENDOWMENT:

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

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW):

Cheryl Aull, [ckauill@charter.net](mailto:ckauill@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 "Marzy" Israel, [tobarranged@bellsouth.net](mailto:tobarranged@bellsouth.net)

## GARDEN GUILD:

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

## HEALING MINISTRY:

Interim: Karen Compton, [comptons0292@gmail.com](mailto:comptons0292@gmail.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:

Sydnor Thompson, [sydnorthompson@gmail.com](mailto:sydnorthompson@gmail.com);

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

## PUBSING:

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

## SHEPHERDS' MINISTRY:

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

## STEWARDSHIP:

Louise Wernicke, [lcwernicke@aol.com](mailto:lcwernicke@aol.com)

## TAIZÉ:

James Cannon, [imjcannon@charter.net](mailto:imjcannon@charter.net)

## WEDDING MINISTRY:

Katherine Johnson, [graceweddingsavl@gmail.com](mailto:graceweddingsavl@gmail.com)

## WORSHIP:

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

# Grace Outreach Updates

What can I do to help build the kingdom of Heaven on earth? 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?

Actually, a lot! All together, as the Grace Church family, we really can "collaborate in realizing the kingdom of heaven on earth through seeking and serving Christ in all persons, respecting the dignity of every human, and striving for social justice and peace." Let's make it a vision we all share.

**We can do this!**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW OUR CHURCH RESPONDS TO ISSUES** here and around the world related to Creation Care; Racial Reconciliation; Ending Poverty; Migration, Refugees and Immigration; and Human Rights and Peace-building. 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. Contact Kim Hayes for details, [kimhys53@gmail.com](mailto:kimhys53@gmail.com).

EPISCOPAL PUBLIC POLICY NETWORK

## The Grace Outreach Mission Statement

Together, with God's help, Grace Church is building the kingdom of heaven on earth.

# Advent Projects for the Family

**OUR ANGEL TREE IS UP** and once again we've decorated it with the names and needs of 65 area foster children, ages 1-18. Between now and Sunday, December 12, there are several ways to get involved:

- Choose an angel and do your own shopping. This is a great way to involve the entire family or partner with other families at Grace or in your neighborhood.
- Go touch-free. Simply calculate what you would normally spend on Angel Tree gifts and donate that amount to Outreach 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.
- Become a Grace Angel Tree shopper! Put your on-line shopping savvy to work purchasing gifts. Expenses will be reimbursed.

Remember, our deadline for receiving your gifts is Sunday, December 12! If you have questions, please contact Cheryl Deyton ([cherylpersonaldeyton@gmail.com](mailto:cherylpersonaldeyton@gmail.com)) or Kim Hayes ([kimhys53@gmail.com](mailto:kimhys53@gmail.com)).



**ADVENT IN A BAG!** Pick up your bag from the display in the foyer and let's get started! Each day during Advent, you can read the appointed scripture for the day (included with your bag), put the requested food item in the bag and let the kids use the complimentary colored pencils to color that day's bag decoration on the tree (and yes, grown ups can color, too). By the end of the Advent season, you'll have an Advent calendar "work of art" and a bag full of much needed non-perishable food items that can be brought to the church on Christmas Eve or on Sunday, December 26, to be delivered to ABCCM.

*Prior to the pandemic, we held regular quarterly food drives to benefit ABCCM. We haven't been able to do that in almost two years, so this fun, easy project is a great way to make up for all those missed food drives!*

## SHARING HOLIDAY CHEER WITH OUR NEIGHBORS.

We have a wonderful opportunity to brighten the holidays for sixty-five residents at Accordius Health of Asheville, a nearby nursing home at 500 Beaverdam Road. The Grace Outreach Committee is purchasing cards and small gifts for everyone and we invite parishioners to join us after worship on Sunday, December 12 to sign the cards and package the gifts. This is another easy way to reach out with a gift of love. Please join us.



**DOUBLE YOUR GIFT!** This is the time of year when supporters for some of our favorite helping agencies offer to match the donations we make. Right now, your gift will go twice as far for:

- ♦ Homeward Bound, <https://homewardboundwnc.org/> Between now and December 31, your donation to Homeward Bound will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000 through the **Creating Hope and Homes Gift Challenge**.
- ♦ Pisgah Legal Services, <https://www.pisgahlegal.org/> The **Justice for Women Giving Challenge** will match gifts dollar for dollar up to \$150,000 through December 31!
- ♦ Episcopal Relief and Development, <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/> A group of generous donors has offered to match every donation until the end of the year up to \$650,000!
- ♦ Beloved Asheville, <https://belovedasheville.com/home-for-the-holidays/> Make a financial contribution this holiday season to build a home in the Beloved Village and **Builders First Source** and the **Asheville Home Builders Association** will match your donation up to \$3500!

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; Sally Coburn; Dorothy Engel; Eunice Ferguson; Kathleen Griffin; Marzy Israel; Dodie King; Sonny Rawls; Laura & Tsz-yan Snyder; Lorie Tola; Barbara Wilcox; Don Wills.

For Homebound Parishioners and Those in Healthcare Facilities: Bobbie Eblen; Ed Denison, Straudia Luedtke; Marion Mayfield-Johnson; Deb Pegel; Rita Spragg; Bob Turner; Shirley Turner.

For Others: Angela (sister of Steve Booth); Wesley Aurret (godson of Elaine Potter); Becky Blaylock (friend of Kathleen Griffin); Tanya Burdette (friend of Nany Clark and Marzy Israel); Ed C (friend of Jim Compton); Tom Cooper (father of Katherine Kaderabek); Ann Derwort (sister of Jeanne Sims); Robin Fulk (niece of Charlotte & Travers Chiott); Jackie Haines (sister of Carol Booth); Janis (sister of Larry Bowen); Jenna Keener (friend of Sonny Rawls); Sally Morrow (mother of Milly Morrow); Sharon Prater (friend of Lorie Tola); Sheila (sister of Ginny Moser); Glenn Thomas (brother-in-law of Ron Sims); Jayne Traylor (mother of John Chastain); Jim Tucker (husband of Marjie Tucker); Marilyn White (friend of Elaine Potter); Tammy Wyatt (mother of Chance Wyatt).

For Those Who Have Died and their Families: Gary Mills (friend of Pay and George Davis); Ron Sistrunk (husband of Suzanne DuPree).

For Those in Service to Our Country: Tommy & Danny Brown (grandsons of Ed & Marla Woeckener); Martha and Matt Cardenas (daughter & son-in-law of Hannah Pennell); Matthew George (son of Zoe Davis); Jason Marino (son of Lynda McCredie); Daniel Schultz (son of Judy Rhodes); Nancy Smith; Sarah Jane Wilkey (daughter of Diane & Tony Wilkey).

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.

Please go to [www.graceavl.com/spiritual-growth/prayer-ministries/](http://www.graceavl.com/spiritual-growth/prayer-ministries/) for more opportunities to request prayer. Get permission from anyone you would like to add to this list and contact our Pastoral Care Ministry at [pastoralcare4grace@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralcare4grace@gmail.com) or contact the church.



Our condolences and prayers go to the friends, family and loved ones of Gary Mills (friend of Pay and George Davis); Arbie Rhodes (mother of Judy Rhodes); Ron Sistrunk (husband of Suzanne DuPree); and Bruce Williams (friend of James Cannon).



## December Anniversaries

Rusty & Lynda McCredie	19
David & Sally Withers	20
Hugh & Chal Vaughn	21
Kathy Mouton & Scott Shuford	22
Mickey & Tricia Trinite	23
Rick & Kim Hayes	27
Earl & Judy Booze	27
Fred & Micki Newton	29
Steve & Carol Booth	30

## December Birthdays

Bob Turner	3	Kate Young	17
Edward Ellington	4	Steve Birkhofer	19
Joyce Noble	4	Carsten Path	19
Lisa Okes	4	Derek Edwards	20
Artus Moser	4	Larry Bowen	20
Suzy Young	5	Robert Jamison	21
Jeff Russell	5	Robert Green	22
Sylvia Greenwood	7	Ed Woekener	22
Peter Booth	9	Lucy McKenzie	22
Lynn Melancon	9	Jane Smith	23
Donna Pate	10	Nora Jones	23
Don Hawkins	11	Natalie Nery	24
Bill Norlin	11	Olivia Nery	24
Scott Carter	13	Bill Smith	26
Teresa Cantrell	14	Lindsey Farmer	26
Chuck Davis	14	Courtney Bell	27
Katie Nery	15	Debbie Williams	27
Emily Oxford	15	Helena Cullen	29
Stearns Oxford	15	Winn Oxford	30
Tanya Lee	16	Jack Britts	30

## Special Gifts

The Aumbry Candle is given to the Glory of God by Nora and Steve Jones in celebration of the birthday of their grandson Walker Webb.

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



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

On December 26, 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.** The flower guild will once again be decorating the altar and chancel areas at Grace as well as the two front doors this year. Your donations in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving will be welcomed to help cover expenses. Donors will be published in the TEAM after Christmas. Thank you so much!

Families! Let Rev. Milly know at [rev.milly4grace@gmail.com](mailto:rev.milly4grace@gmail.com) if you would like to help light the candles on our Advent Wreath each Sunday during Advent.

Our church is transformed during Advent and Christmas!  
Thank you for your dedicated work, flower & altar guild members!

# Budget Report for October 2021

After ten months of 2021, we have received Pledged Income of \$272,977 including prepayments for the year. Income from all sources totaled \$321,893, as a result of retained earnings from the prior year and increased payment of pledges. Due to increased expenses, we are currently in an operating deficit position.

Mission, Operational, Program, and Personnel expenses at the end of October 2021 totaled \$338,592, \$108 more than those forecasted in the budget adopted by the Vestry. Expenses have increased as the church continues to reopen and due to the addition of the Tech Director and the Associate Priest. These expenses have been countered so far by some projected expenses not materialized.

The approved budget included a deficit. The Vestry is hopeful that this will be eliminated by December with continued payment of pledges. 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 provided \$315,540 of the \$385,000 goal. This amount is more pledged monies than had been received last year; currently, pledged receipts are more than projected. We are prayerfully hopeful that this year will be a bountiful one as Grace grows.

## Statement of Activities - Grace Church Year to Date - October 2021

	Actual	Budget	Variance
<b>Income:</b>			
Pledges	272,977	265,742	7,235
Open Offering	12,173	16,667	(4,494)
Building Income	6,825	9,080	(2,255)
Administrative and Other Income	29,918	25,650	4,268
Total Income:	<b>321,893</b>	<b>317,138</b>	<b>4,755</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Administrative	9,103	21,667	(12,564)
Outreach/Mission	44,239	46,039	(1,800)
Parish Programs	8,164	8,062	102
Operations	64,657	69,657	(5,000)
Personnel	212,429	193,059	19,370
Total Expenses:	<b>338,592</b>	<b>338,487</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Income Less Expenses:</b>	<b>(16,699)</b>	<b>(21,349)</b>	<b>4,647</b>

some variance due to  
rounding

**REMEMBER OUR ANNUAL MEETING,  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 11:45 A.M. FOLLOWING WORSHIP.**

# December 2021 Ministry Schedule

Service Time	Verger	Acolyte(s)	Lector	Intercessor	Chalicer(s)	Usher(s)	Healing Team
<b>Dec 5</b>							
10:30		James Cannon	Kristen Dusenbery	Sydnor Thompson	Lorie Tola	George and Pat Davis	
<b>Dec 12</b>							
10:30		Sally Withers	Louise Wernicke	Jenny Thomas	Greg Townsend	Ron and Jeanne Sims	Louise Wernicke
<b>Dec 19</b>							
10:30		Susan Robinson	John Woodson	Elaine Potter	Lorie Tola	Paul and Vicki Vest	
Taizé 7:00 PM			Monty Wooten	James Cannon			Amy Trees Debbie Thomas
<b>Dec 24: Christmas Eve</b>							
4:00 PM						Elaine Potter	
8:00 PM		Lorie Tola	Sydnor Thompson	Nancy Walters		Ben and Aeron Scales	
<b>Dec 25 Christmas</b>							
10:00			Bill Smith	Carol Booth			
<b>Dec 26</b>							
10:30		James Cannon	Elise Cassarino	Cliff Albertson	Susan Robinson	Elaine and William Potter	
Date	Vestry Member of the Day		Flower Arrangers			Altar Guild	
5-Dec	Elaine Potter					Group 1 - Beth Woodson	
12-Dec	Vicki Vest					Group 2 - and Sonny Rawls	
19-Dec	Steve Birkhofer					Group 3 - Lorie Tola, Jeanne	
24-Dec. 4pm						Beth Woodson - set up and reset	
24 Dec. 8pm						Shannon Townsend - clean up	
25-Dec							
26-Dec	Mathes Mennell					Group 4 - Shannon Townsend	