



# the Grace TEAM

to each a ministry

February 2022

## Reflections from Fr. Mike

### Grace Episcopal Church

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[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 at [http://](http://tinyurl.com/graceUTvideos)

[tinyurl.com/graceUTvideos](http://tinyurl.com/graceUTvideos)

#### 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.

Dear Friends of Grace,

Being from the North, I find winter in Asheville to be an absolute delight. Where I'm from, I have fond memories of shoveling a foot and a half of snow on Halloween while trick-or-treaters stroll by. Though this was an anomaly, it is safe to say that winter was something to be endured. It was almost always long and sometimes harsh. When I moved to Asheville, I remember being shocked by the fact that spring existed here. In my memory, March and April were months of frigid drizzles and the occasional snowstorm. To come to a place where March and April are pleasant, and with ubiquitous blooming of flowers, has been a great blessing. And yet, winter does exist in Asheville. And in the beginning of February, we find ourselves right in the thick of its embrace. I pray on these sometimes frigid winter days in the mountains you have an abundance of coffee, tea, and a warm fire to kick your feet up next to.

Though it can seem like a boring time, there is a deep spirituality to winter. As the temperatures drop, everything seems to slow down. Our life and commitments are pared down. Like the bears that surround our precious landscape, we, too, enter a kind of hibernation (or at least I do!). We have taken time to reflect on the year that has passed, and settle in to our commitments for the budding new year, growing in body and in spirit closer to the light that Christ invites us all to participate in.

In all seasons, I begin each day looking out three portrait windows that sit alongside my couch. Usually I have a hot cup of coffee clasped between my hands. It is fascinating to watch the landscape change with the seasons. In winter, my view carries on further than usual with the trees having dropped their leaves. With a particularly cold morning, I can see where snow has blanketed the mountaintops beyond, and where exactly that snow stopped falling as elevation decreased. As the landscape awakens to spring's arrival, frost and snow will be replaced by the budding of leaves, and eventually the flowering of rhododendron thickets in those same mountains. As Pete Seeger once wisely sung (I think he may have been quoting some earlier tradition), "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven." Whatever season you find yourself in, I pray that God grants you the patience and the wisdom to find Christ's message within.

Peace,

Fr. Mike



# From Our Sr. Warden

**HOW IS 2022 GOING SO FAR?** Aww, that's very sweet of you to ask, thanks. In the whole 15 days from when I started as Senior Warden to when this article is due, things have been going pretty well. Our 30 day free trial of 2022 isn't over, so let's not send it back yet.

However, as I write this, Covid has blown up again, so we are working prayerfully, thoughtfully and diligently to figure out what our worship needs to look like the next few weeks to keep everyone safe. By the time you read this that might be a moot point, but as the past two years have shown us, probably not. We are all tired of this mess, but the safety of everyone in the congregation and on staff while they are at church will always be the priority. And with that I need to say THANK YOU to everyone for your willingness to be flexible and accommodating with this constantly changing scenario. Again – IT'S HARD! But, the Girl Scouts are still selling cookies, so there IS stuff to look forward to. And, cookies are allowed on our Allyship, so YAY!! Covid, by the way, is not.

Another exciting thing is that with all that has been going on, we are still doing great things at Grace and are in a great place. Sometimes that's hard to see, but we get lots of comments from others outside of our Community who are really impressed with where we are and what we are doing during all of this craziness. So, carry on!



Elaine Potter

## Events at a Glance

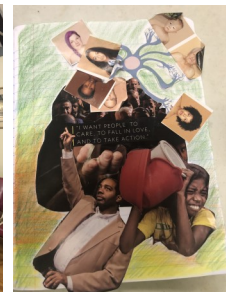
### *A Quick Review of the Month*

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
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
Saturdays, 9:00 AM	Flower Guild	Kitchen
Tuesday, February 1, 5:00 PM	Outreach Committee Meeting	Zoom
Wednesday, February 2, 11:00 AM	Interment of Sally Coburn	Urban Garden
Thursday, February 3, 8-9:00 AM	Create + Connect Circles Experience	Parish Hall
Saturday, February 5, 9:00 AM	Storage House Volunteer Work Day	Upper Parking Lot
Saturday, February 5, 11:00 AM	Purls of Grace	Library
Tuesday, February 8, 10:00 AM	Stewardship Meeting	Zoom
Tuesday, February 8, 6:00 PM	Men of the Church	Parish Hall
Wednesday, February 9, 10:00 AM	TEAM Meeting	Zoom
Sunday, February 13, 12:00 Noon	Outreach Retreat	Parish Hall
Monday, February 14, 6:00 PM	Worship Committee Meeting	Zoom
Saturday, February 19, 10:00 AM	Diocesan Vestry Leadership Day	Trinity Episcopal Church
Sunday, February 20, 8:00 PM	Taizé	Church Sanctuary
Monday, February 21, 5:30 PM	Vestry Meeting	Downstairs Conf. Room
Sunday, February 27, 3:00 PM	PubSing	Cork & Keg

# Parish News, Updates & Reminders

## CREATE + CONNECT CIRCLES EXPERIENCE.

Throughout Epiphany, we have been gathering with Ginger Huebner on Thursdays, 8-9:00 a.m., for her “Create + Connect Circles” experience. You still have an opportunity to stop by the parish hall and experience this blending of collage and color with reflection on scripture on Thursday, February 3. All materials provided, no artistic experience necessary, and ALL are welcome! You can learn more about Ginger and this process at <https://www.createandconnectcircles.com>. Or call her with any questions: 828-545-4827.



## MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES.

You still have time to join this special Monday Morning Bible Study series for Epiphany with the Rev. Guy Sayles, 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. Epiphany means manifestation or appearing. For these final two meetings, we will continue to focus on how each text shows us dimensions of Jesus:

- ◆ February 7: Seeing Jesus as Healer and Teacher (Luke 6:17-26)
- ◆ February 14: Seeing Jesus as the Flow of Mercy and Love (Luke 6:27-38)



All are welcome to participate. The Monday Morning Bible Study is on Zoom and a link can be found at the top of the Grace homepage, <https://www.graceavl.com/> under “Weekday Links.”



**PUBSING.** Our monthly PubSing, an informal gathering to sing hymns, old time gospel and Americana inspirational music, will congregate on Sunday, February 27, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Cork and Keg located in the Weinhaus, downtown Asheville. Vaccination and masking are required. Come join us as we celebrate in song. For more information contact Monty Wooten at [monty-wooten@bellsouth.net](mailto:monty-wooten@bellsouth.net) or 828-254-1114.



**PURLS OF GRACE DATE CHANGE.** We make shawls, lap robes, scarves and hats for people in situations where they need to feel that someone cares...a HUG, if you will.

Any knitter or crocheter, beginner to pro, can make a shawl. I am happy to teach anyone who wants to learn to knit or crochet if they promise to make one shawl a year. If you'd like to meet with me anytime for instruction or to see our pattern and yarn stash, please call.

Our next meeting will be at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, February 5, in the church library. This is a change from our previous meeting time and hopefully, first Saturdays will be better for all. *Remember—please call, don't email. I sometimes go a week without looking at my email. Thanks to all, Beth Woodson (828) 645-4293.*

**DIOCESAN VESTRY LEADERSHIP DAY.** Saturday, February 19, at Trinity Church, our Diocese is offering their annual Vestry Leadership Day. This event is designed to provide a broad overview of the various roles and responsibilities of the Vestry, including finances, for not only new vestry members but also any members who want a leadership refresher. Please remember to pray for our own vestry members as they engage in this important learning time.

**COVID 19 REMINDERS. In-Person Worship.** In-person Sunday worship has resumed at Grace, 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.

**Children's Transition Room.** Since not all children have been given an opportunity to get vaccinated, the parish hall is available on Sundays as a “Transition Room,” where you can view the service live while remaining socially distanced. 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!

# Parish News, Updates & Reminders

(continued)

**MAKE STEWARDSHIP YOUR WAY OF LIVING.** Greetings from your 2021-2022 stewardship team!

First, many thanks to all of you who responded so generously during the Stewardship Campaign and also in November and December when you heard Grace's further needs. You made it possible for us to move even closer to reaching our budget goal for 2022.

In the next few months, we will be focusing on stewardship as a way of living, as a perspective which is ever mindful that "the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it" (Psalm 24). Everything we have we owe to God. Stewardship can help us remember the primacy of our relationship with God and of being conscious of each of God's blessings to us.

As part of the spiritual practice of year-long stewardship, we invite you to engage in the following exercise and to invite family members to join you. The intention of this exercise is to remind us of God's love to us and of our dependence on God. It is to help us be more aware of God's gifts and our relationship to those gifts and to God.

- ◆ Everyone is invited to select a very ordinary but "essential" object in his or her life: a car, refrigerator, bicycle, bed or a favorite article of clothing or pair of shoes.
- ◆ A special place can be set up in the home with a picture of the chosen objects for all to see.
- ◆ Every day each person can take a moment of silence while reflecting on the object and intentionally praying, "Thank you God for blessing me with this \_\_\_\_\_ and for blessing me with a grateful heart. May I use it and all your blessings to your glory this day and every day."
- ◆ Each person is asked to make note of what the experience is like and to share it as a family at the end of each week. Perhaps children can draw a picture of the experience.
- ◆ Insights from those family discussions can then be shared in as many places as possible (Bible study, Women's Walk, choir practice, etc.).

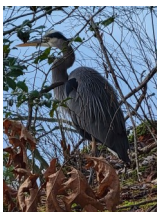
(Modified from an article by Angela Emerson, the minister of stewardship development in the Diocese of Vermont. <https://www.ecfvp.org/vestry-papers/article/312/no-more-pledge-cards-please>)



As you consider what is essential in your life and what your blessings are, consider Grace Church. What blessings does Grace provide for you in your quest to follow Jesus?

Louise Cate Wernicke, Stewardship Chairperson

**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).



**WOMEN WALKING THE WAY.** Following the final "Create + Connect Circles" class on Thursday, February 3, the "Women Walking the Way" group bundles up again and heads back to the lake! 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.

**MEN OF THE CHURCH, FEBRUARY 8.** Men of Grace Church, you're all invited to gather in the Parish Hall for fellowship and great food Tuesday, February 8, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Your host for February is Ron Sims.

**ORDER OF ST. LUKE.** The OSL Mountain Chapter will meet via Zoom on Thursday, February 10, at 6:30 p.m. The group will continue consideration of the fifth fundamental in the series, "Fundamentals of Receiving and Praying for Physical Healing: Value the Truth Over the Facts." They will also view the DVD healing journey of a man who made a full recovery after a horrific accident, followed by a related prayer experience.

One does not have to be an OSL member to participate. If you are not on the Mountain Chapter email list, please send an email to [mtn\\_osl@yahoo.com](mailto:mtn_osl@yahoo.com) to receive a link for the Zoom meeting.

# Parish News, Updates & Reminders

(continued)

## WAYS TO TAKE PART IN THE PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY AT

**GRACE. Emergency Meals.** “Feed My Sheep” is a ministry of the Pastoral Care Team. It has fallen by the wayside lately because of the pandemic, but now, it’s time to start it up again. The premise of “Feed My Sheep” is that there will be food in the freezer at Grace for any who need it or are unable to prepare food for themselves.

Pastoral Care invites your participation by preparing foods such as soups, chili, stew or similar “one pot meals” and placing them in freezer bags labeled with description and date. Then, just bring them to church with you on Sunday (or any other day) and put them in the freezer in the kitchen.

If you have any questions, please contact Cliff Albertson, [Clifford.albertson@verizon.net](mailto:Clifford.albertson@verizon.net) or 914-806-6831, or any members of the Pastoral Care Team. You may also send an email to the team at [Pastoral-care4grace@gmail.com](mailto:Pastoral-care4grace@gmail.com).



*Feed My Sheep!*

**Care You Can Share.** Here are some other 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!

## 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:**

Scott McKenzie, [emailscottmckenzie@gmail.com](mailto:emailscottmckenzie@gmail.com)

### **CHILD FORMATION:**

#### **CHOIR:**

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:**

Tara Lonneman, [Tara265@gmail.com](mailto:Tara265@gmail.com)

### **FLOWER GUILD:**

Pat Davis, [dpatdavis@aol.com](mailto:dpatdavis@aol.com)

### **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, [jt.compton@gmail.com](mailto:jt.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:**

Fr. Mike Reardon, [revmike4grace@gmail.com](mailto:revmike4grace@gmail.com)

### **PASTORAL CARE:**

Cliff Albertson, [clifford.albertson@verizon.net](mailto:clifford.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:**

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!**

**KEEPING OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS SAFE & WARM.** As we appreciate all the gifts we receive, let us show our love of Jesus now by helping ABCCM provide winter clothing and blankets to our neighbors in need (Matthew 25:40) through their “Safe & Warm” Campaign.

With overnight temperatures regularly dropping below freezing, ABCCM is asking its member churches to collect winter clothing, coats, gloves, hats, and blankets through February.

ABCCM is giving these items to the people who come to its Downtown Crisis Ministry (24 Cumberland Ave.). Also, volunteers are taking the blankets and protective clothing to the homeless on the streets during Code Purple nights (less than 32 degrees).

Click the following link to watch a short video clip showing how your coats and blankets will help others:

[https://www.foxcarolina.com/christian-ministry-makes-a-difference-during-cold-weather/video\\_7b8e4919-f930-5ba9-86d9-dce1da69a216.html](https://www.foxcarolina.com/christian-ministry-makes-a-difference-during-cold-weather/video_7b8e4919-f930-5ba9-86d9-dce1da69a216.html)

During the last “Safe & Warm” campaign, ABCCM collected and distributed over 4,000 items.

**Let’s love our neighbors now and fill the marked ABCCM box in the foyer at Grace with warm winter clothing, gloves and hats, and blankets!**

**FROM HAITI WITH LOVE.** Every six months, Consider Haiti’s community health agents in Montrouis, Fond Baptiste and Ivoire identify 55 children who are malnourished. These kids are seen monthly for weight checks, vitamins and deworming medication when needed. If a child is sick, medical care is provided. For example, last November, a little girl needed hospitalization. Consider Haiti provided extra funds to send her for care, and she is now better and back home. Additionally, Consider Haiti provides supplementary food, water filters and goats, along with training and education, not only for the children, but for entire families. In December, Consider Haiti colleagues made 89 home visits, provided 12 families with water filters and instructions as to their use, and distributed 114 goats to families. As a note, they now have a population of almost 2000 goats!



*This is community health agent Mireille in the mountain village of Ivoire during a meeting with the moms and the children she is following. The buckets are part of water filters.*

**PEACE AND JUSTICE.** Our world, our nation, our community, our selves. Where is peace in these spaces? How do we find it and once found, how does it become ministry that serves justice? In our baptismal creed, we are asked: “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?” We answer: “I will, with God’s help.”

Today, this is not an easy commitment. Can we build peace-filled spaces within which to address poverty, violence, racism, war, divisiveness? We can, with God’s help.

If you are called to the ministry of peacemaking and justice, Jesus reminds you: “You are a child of God.”

If this speaks to you, please email Kim Hayes at [kimhys53@gmail.com](mailto:kimhys53@gmail.com)

**STAY INFORMED 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 Peacebuilding. 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).



# Mental Health: The Other Pandemic

*"Wherever two or more are gathered, I am there with them." Matthew 18:20*



**THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH IN THE “POST (NOT POST) PANDEMIC PANDEMIC.”** Just google Mental Health Post Pandemic and you will see the results of many studies suggesting what we could have guessed with simple observation: the reality that the COVID pandemic has led to another pandemic which we will be recovering from for years to come. That is the pandemic of disconnection leading to real mental health crises.

Humans are social creatures. Our wellbeing—physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually—is deeply dependent on our living well, together. Our wellbeing is dependent on our care of one another and our connection to each other in sustainable and loving ways.

Yet, for almost two years, we have been told our health relies on the opposite—that in order to be safe we must be distant. And so, we have been. We have lost connections to many of our greatest coping tools. You can read this article for more information: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/nurturing-self-compassion/202103/is-mental-health-crisis-the-next-pandemic>

And for this reason, "Church" has taken on a new and more profound importance. What was once seen as an extra activity (church functions and events and liturgies) has become, for many of us, an essential point of connection, even survival.

The Pastoral Care Team of Grace, with their work to call and check in with congregants, to reach out and connect, has become an even greater, essential function of our common life together. For that reason we are highlighting our Pastoral Care Team members on the “Family Album” page (p. 8) in this issue of our Grace TEAM Magazine. The month within which we continue to explore how the love of Jesus is made manifest in this world, we lift up the people who weekly manifest Christ's love through daily actions of connection.

As we move forward in our common life together here at Grace, we will be exploring how we can provide this essential work of connection and care to our wider community, to those in need in Asheville and Buncombe County. We have so many assets to care for people in our world. We are gifted with many spiritual directors, retired pastors and clergy with mental health backgrounds and skills. And we have space. Space that can be used to welcome, to offer groups and classes and support, not just to those of us blessed to be members of Grace, but to any who may need this blessing of sacred space and deep connection.

Jesus says "Wherever two or more are gathered, I am there with them." Indeed, when we gather together, Jesus is made known to us through our connection with one another.

Thank you to our Pastoral Care Team—for all you do and who you are and what you have come to symbolize among us. We thank you and, as your Rector, I look forward to dreaming dreams about how we as a community can extend our loving reach to even more who desperately need connection, to gather and feel the presence of Christ among us.

Peace and many blessings,  
Rev. Milly

*If you or your family or children are in a transition, experiencing feelings of isolation or disconnection, finding that you are stuck in old patterns or simply want to discern your path more deeply, I would be honored to begin a conversation with you. Learn more at <https://www.graceavl.com/spiritual-growth/spiritual-direction-mental-health-wellness-family-systems-coaching/>*



# THE GRACE FAMILY ALBUM

*“The Grace Family Album” features people you’ve known for years as well as people you’ll be meeting for the very first time. Enjoy getting to know your family. Pastoral Care works quietly and diligently behind the scenes to reach out to and care for parishioners in need. Their prayers and helping hands lift us up every day. This month, we offer our heartfelt gratitude for the ministry of our Pastoral Care Team.*



## THE GRACE PASTORAL CARE TEAM.

Fr. Mike Reardon

Lorie Tola

Sydnor Thompson

Hannah Pennell

Cliff Albertson

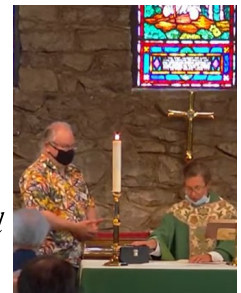
James Cannon

Pat Davis

Kathleen Griffin

Nancy Porter

Chal Vaughn



**TAKING COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND.** *“In the name of God and this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ’s body and blood.”* **TRANSPORTATION, HOME AND HOSPITAL VISITS, CALLS, CARDS AND MORE.**



With the help of parish volunteers, Pastoral Care reaches out and checks in with services and the precious gift of their personal time to listen and comfort. **EMERGENCY MEALS.** Pastoral Care team members keep our church freezer stocked with your donations of soups, chili, stew and other hearty meals. These meals are made available to anyone who needs them in times of crisis.

**AND PRAYER. SO MUCH PRAYER.** Every team member spends time in prayer for the needs of Grace parishioners. If you have requested prayer, you have probably felt the gentle touch of being lifted up by someone from Pastoral Care.



# Our Prayer List

# February

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 Davis; Dorothy Engel; Eunice Ferguson; Kathleen Griffin; Michael Jenkins; Laura & Tsz-yan Snyder; 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:* David Andrew (friend of Don Wills); Haywood Allen (husband of Carole McClellan's aunt); Angela (sister of Steve Booth); Wesley Auret (godson of Elaine Potter); Becky Blaylock (friend of Kathleen Griffin); Lara Brongel and family (daughter of Jackie Schauer); Ed C (friend of Jim Compton); Jimmy Cole (lifelong friend of Sonny Rawls); Paula Collins (cousin of Kathleen Griffin); Deanna (friend of Dodie King); Ann Derwort (sister of Jeanne Sims); Robin Fulk (niece of Charlotte & Travers Chiott); Jackie Haines (sister of Carol Booth); Janis (sister of Larry Bowen); June (friend of Barbara Wilcox); Jenna Keener (friend of Sonny Rawls); Jonathan Kinyon (brother of Shannon Townsend); Laurie Lopez (mother of Mike Reardon); Chrissy Lusio (friend of Don Wills); Sally Morrow (mother of Milly Morrow); Jessica Nicolea (friend of Don Wills); Matthew Pennell (son of Hannah Pennell); Meredith Peppers (cousin of Carol McClellan); Len Porter (friend of Don Wills); 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); Ronald Vince (brother-in-law of Anne Jarema); Marilyn White (friend of Elaine Potter); Wilena (aunt of Kim Hayes); Rev. Steve Wilson (friend of Don Wills); Tammy Wyatt (mother of Chance Wyatt); Zack (son of friends of Jeff & Bea Russell).

*For Those Who Have Died and their Families:* Donna Kalinske (mother of Gael Paschall's son-in-law); Dr. Dick Walton (friend of Dodie King).

*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 [graceavl.com/spiritual-growth/prayer-ministries/](http://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 [pastoral-care4grace@gmail.com](mailto:pastoral-care4grace@gmail.com) or contact the church.



Our condolences and prayers go to the friends, family and loved ones of  
Donna Kalinske (mother of Gael Paschall's son-in-law),  
Daphne Urquhart (former member of Grace), and  
Dr. Dick Walton (friend of Dodie King).

## February Anniversaries

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Rebecca and Donald Alford	6
Cliff Albertson and Anne Jarema	7
Glenn and Brenda Haller	11
Greg and Emma Plank	12
Bob and Shirley Turner	15

## February Birthdays

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Bob Grimes	1	Hali Karla	18
Marella Buncick	4	Bob Bell	19
Mike Nery	4	Larry Harris	20
Eunice Ferguson	8	Evans Webster	20
Pat Stafford	9	Sam Snead	23
Hannah Pennell	10	Pat Starnes	24
Cheri Potter	10	Tricia Trinite	24
Andrew Beasley	10	Marion Mayfield-Johnson	25
Margaret Crum	11	Bill Dismukes	25
Julian Nemethy	13	Liesl Ellington	25
Al Dawson	14	Caroline Parker McFatter	25
Gary Roper	14		
Rusty McCredie	16		
Cooper Green	18		

## Special Gifts

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The Aumbry candle is given to the Glory of God by Charlotte and Travers Chiott in thanksgiving for all of God's blessings.



The flowers are given to the Glory of God

- ◆ by the Drake and Duncan families in memory of Marguerite Alexander;
- ◆ by Cheryl Aull in thanksgiving for Joe's birthday;
- ◆ by Kathy Mouton in honor of Tess and Joe Mouton and Jerry and Bob Shuford;
- ◆ by Lucy and Larry Bowen in thanksgiving for all the many ministries at Grace and in our community.

### THANK YOU TO ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS GREENERY AND FLOWER DONORS.

- ◆ George and Pat Davis in memory of Marzy Israel;
- ◆ Lorie Tola in memory of John Tola;
- ◆ James Cannon
- ◆ Anonymous

## Ash Wednesday, Lent & Holy Week Schedule

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**ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2.** A solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the penitential Lenten season. Our Ash Wednesday worship and imposition of ashes will be at 12:00 noon and at 6:00 p.m.

**TAIZÉ** worship will be held at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday evenings throughout Lent, March 9-April 9.

**HOLY WEEK, APRIL 10-16.** Holy Week in the Christian church is the week between Palm Sunday and Easter and is observed with special solemnity as a time of devotion to the Passion of Jesus Christ. Here at Grace, worship is planned for **Palm Sunday** at 10:30 a.m. (April 10); **Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday** at 5:00 p.m. (April 11-13); **Maundy Thursday** at 5:00 p.m. (April 14); the **Good Friday** liturgy at 12:00 noon and **Stations of the Cross** at 5:00 p.m. (April 15). On **Holy Saturday** (April 16), there will be a Memorial Service in the Urban Garden at 11:00 a.m., and our Holy Saturday **Great Vigil of Easter** will be held that evening at 8:00 p.m.

**EASTER, APRIL 17.** We celebrate **the resurrection of Jesus Christ** on Easter Sunday at 10:30 a.m.



## HOLY WEEK

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# Learning From a Treasured Tree

*As you may already know, our Vestry had to make the sad decision recently to remove one of our beloved "Treasured Trees." The words below are reflections on that loss by Rev. Milly.*

The decision to remove our Historical Treasured Tree at Grace was a difficult decision to make for our Vestry. After having invested in this beautiful tree, celebrated around it and marked it as sacred, accepting that it was indeed dead and needed to be removed, was a painful process.

And yet, we watched as it grew more and more fragile and we thought of our new roof and the potential for costly damage. We thought of the potential for falling limbs and of the children playing on the playground. And we knew, we needed to accept this death and do the responsible and hard thing; we needed to remove the Treasured Tree.

Today, the tree has been taken down. As our Junior Warden Scott McKenzie supervised the job, he kept us updated on the process. As the last of the limbs fell, he stated; "Wow, it's amazing how much brighter it is now. I hadn't noticed that the dead tree was still casting such a big shadow. The mass of it was deceiving; it is really a big change."

It can be true, that we learn to live with things that need to be removed from our spiritual lives because the mass of them can be deceiving. It is true that to accept that something is dead and then to allow that thing to be taken down, can be very, very hard. Letting go can bring up so much grief.

But, letting go makes room for new things to grow.

I am indeed sad that our Treasured Tree died. And, I am grateful that our Vestry was able to accept it and to make the right decision to protect our building and the people in it by removing the dead tree. And, now a congregant who is a master woodworker is taking the wood and will create beautiful objects that we will auction off in the months to come. That money will be used to further our mission at Grace. Perhaps you can have a piece of the Treasured Tree which has become a "new thing" to remember the power of letting go and of new growth.

I wonder what will grow now with all this new sunlight?



# Budget Report for December 2021

- December had \$42,772.85 of Total Income (Contributions, Building/Admin) and \$42,350.40 of total expenses, resulting in a Net Income of \$422.45.
- December pledges were \$13,771.13 higher than budgeted—Excellent!
- 2021 had \$411,718.78 of Total Income (Contributions, Building/Admin) and \$416,063.72 of total expenses, resulting in a Net Loss of \$4,344.94
- 2021 Actual performed \$21,273.87 better than budgeted. The following are factors that influenced this balance:
  - Contribution income was \$24,547.36 higher than budgeted
  - Admin income was \$9,710 higher than budgeted
  - Admin/Personnel Expense were \$20,713.76 higher than budgeted
  - Operations/Program Expenses were \$10,834.79 lower than budgeted
- December income was \$6,497 higher than November income.

We are pleased to see actual pledges exceed budget in December, resulting in a much better YTD Actual Net Income than YTD budgeted! The finance team would like to start analyzing expenses in relationship to the percentage of total income to help navigate our opportunities and provide direction for planning as we evolve in a growing church. We're looking forward to seeing how January plays out with the spending freeze and continued efforts to expand pledges and membership.

## Statement of Activities

December 31, 2021

	<b>Current Month Actual</b>	<b>Current Month Budget</b>	<b>Month Budget vs. Current Month Actual</b>
<b>Income</b>			
General Contributions Totals:	42,011.97	28,240.84	13,771.13
Building Income Totals:	758.00	908.00	(150.00)
Other Income Totals:	0.00	66.67	(66.67)
Administrative Totals:	2.89	2,498.33	(2,495.44)
Income Totals:	<u>42,772.86</u>	<u>31,713.84</u>	<u>11,059.02</u>
<b>Expense</b>			
Administrative Totals:	1,742.50	2,166.66	424.16
Mission and Outreach Totals:	7,403.88	4,603.92	(2,799.96)
Parish Program Totals:	2.66	806.26	803.60
Operations Totals:	6,670.17	6,966.00	295.83
Personnel Totals:	26,531.19	19,305.90	(7,225.29)
Expense Totals:	<u>42,350.40</u>	<u>33,848.74</u>	<u>(8,501.66)</u>
<b>Income - Expense:</b>	<u>422.46</u>	<u>(2,134.90)</u>	<u>2557.36</u>

# February 2022 Ministry Schedule

Service Time	Acolyte(s)	Lector	Intercessor	Chalicer(s)	Usher(s)	Healing Team
<b>Feb. 6</b>						
10:30	James Cannon	Hannah Pennell	Elise Cassarino	Cheryl Deyton	Paul & Vicki Vest	
<b>Feb. 13</b>						
10:30	Jack Frue	Cliff Albertson	Kristen Dusenbery	Susan Robinson	Todd & Katherine Kaderebek	
<b>Feb. 20</b>						
10:30	Greg Townsend	John Woodson	Sydnor Thompson	Nancy Walters	Ben Scales & Kokayi	
Taizé 8:00 PM		James Cannon	Monty Wooten			Amy Trees Debbie Thomas
<b>Feb. 27</b>						
10:30	Elaine Potter	Carol Booth	Jenny Thomas	Sally Withers	Ron & Jeanne Sims	
Date	Vestry Member of the Day	Flower Arrangers		Altar Guild		
6-Feb	Vicki Vest	Jones		Beth Woodson		
13-Feb	Mathes Mennell	Wyatt		Shannon Townsend & Sonny Rawls		
20-Feb	Steve Birkhofer	Wyatt		Lorie Tola & Jeanne Simms		
27-Feb	Elaine Potter	Warren and Bowen		Shannon Townsend		