

Grace Episcopal Church
Lexington, North Carolina

**March/April
2024**

The Grace Vine

**Easter
Edition**

Grace Episcopal Church
419 S. Main Street
Lexington, NC 27292-3234
336.249.7211

gracechurch@gracelexingtonnc.org
<https://gracelexingtonnc.org/>

Sunday Services:
10:30 a.m. in the church and live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube
9:30 a.m., Sunday School for all ages
Adults only during the summer months
-Wednesday Noon Prayer Service in the historic chapel-
First Wednesday of every month
Includes a Rite 1 Eucharist service.

Grace Church is Growing in Spirit, Love, and Mission

Ed Kelaher, Rector

Jesus promised in Acts 1:8 that the Holy Spirit's power would help His followers to carry out the mission of the Gospel:

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"



The mission of the Church – the Body of Christ – is a supernatural work only made possible by the Holy Spirit's power divinely given and nurtured.

The power of the Holy Spirit was manifest among the believers of the early church through the same spiritual gifts present in God's people today.

Scripture teaches us in Romans 8:11 that all those who put their faith in Jesus Christ are given the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. That same Spirit brings us together as one, inspires us, protects us, provides for us, teaches us, guides us, and loves us so that we might love, serve, and sacrifice for others in Jesus' Name.

In the pages that follow, you will see the evidence and witness of amazing Holy Spirit growth, inspiration, sacrifice, and power among the people of Grace Church. Our faith calls such evidence of the Holy Spirit "The Fruit of the Spirit". Galatians 5 teaches us that "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." We see such holy fruit in and from so many faithful parishioners investing themselves in ministry with Jesus in their hearts.

There is so much going on at once that it is hard to wrap one's head around it all. And the items reported here are only a PARTIAL accounting of what is being done. So much more is being carried out that is not mentioned, though it will be in coming newsletters.

As this edition of the Grace Vine goes to print, it is still the Lenten season. The glories of Easter and the risen Christ are coming, together with the call upon us to live "Resurrection Lives". Such living means that we are to live Christ-like, differently and more radically because of the Resurrection than we would if Jesus had not risen from the grave on Easter morning. Such living is only made possible by the Holy Spirit acting in us and transforming us step by step. In that light, the feeling of our parish is more one of Pentecost, with an exciting eruption and break-out of so much ministry and growth at one time!

***May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace
as we trust in Jesus, so that we may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.***

Romans 15:13

Ed+

Palm Sunday Community Worship Event

The Palm Sunday tradition continues!

Many of the churches of Lexington will once again come together for a procession and worship.

- Immediately following our worship service on Palm Sunday, March 24, our entire congregation, choir, and clergy are invited to walk out our front doors and gather on our front lawn – with those in vestments staying as such. A 12:15 start time is loosely set.
- Carrying our palm branches, we will then process together to the town square in front of the historic Davidson County Courthouse. Main Street will be closed and protected along the way by our Lexington Police Department.
- Hopefully we will meet and gather with our Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, and other brothers and sisters along the way. Other churches will be coming from other directions.
- A short community worship service will be led by the pastors of several different Lexington area churches and by a praise band from the Methodist Church. Emma Hylton, Chaplain of Hospice of Davidson County, and Chair of our local ministerial association (GLAMA) will offer some words of reflection for us all. Our Rector also has a role in the service.



- Worship bulletins will be provided for you, including lyrics. The service closes with our tradition of singing “Let There Be Peace On Earth”.
- All the attending choirs will gather as one on the Old Courthouse steps.
- In the event of rain, we will be warmly welcomed for worship at the YMCA instead.
- Please put this wonderful ecumenical event on your calendar. It is a most fulfilling, joyful, meaningful, and holy time together with brothers and sisters from across the Christian church spectrum!

					
Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. <small>A procession will be led to the town square for a community Palm Sunday gathering</small>			Friday, March 29 Good Friday Holy Eucharist Rite 1 service 12:00 p.m. in the chapel		
Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m. in the church			Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. in the church		

Global Mission at Grace Church



Everyone is invited to an organizational and action planning time during The Rector's Forum, Palm Sunday, March 24 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

There was great enthusiasm at our first exploratory gathering as an Our Little Roses Honduras Mission Team.

Grace Church has since then obtained a \$4,000 missions grant from our Diocese to advance our care of the girls of Our Little Roses Honduras!

Inspired by the presentations of Jeff and Kristen Lewis, and guided by Pam Harvey, who serves on our Diocesan Council, we applied for this assistance, said our prayers, and the gift became a reality. Thanks be to God!

For more than 15 years, parishioners Jeff and Kristen Lewis have devoted much of their lives to the babies, girls, and young women who are raised at the Our Little Roses (OLR) home and school.

Jeff and Kristen have twice spoken to our congregation about the needs of the mission. The passion, life focus, and enthusiasm they share about God's work at OLR are as contagious as they are inspiring.

Our Little Roses Honduras began in 1986 as an Episcopal ministry founded by Diana Dillenberger Frade and her husband-to-be, Bishop Leo Frade of the Dioceses of Honduras and later Southeast Florida (now retired).

The mission of OLR is to rescue girls from situations of risk, then educating, empowering, and transforming them in a loving atmosphere into successful women of moral and spiritual values through the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The goals of our Grace Church OLR Mission Team will be to form relationships with the girls and staff, to



provide meaningful support, to send some of us for actual annual visits to the school, and to follow the lives of some of the girls into adulthood.

From the OLR website:

"Even on a short-term mission, visiting us in Central America will be full of games, adventures, spiritual growth, and relationship building. We cook together, play together, worship together, and learn what it means to have extended family from different places but with a shared love."

Come on Palm Sunday, March 24 at 9:30, for our next session to see how God might be calling you to a new ministry and mission loving precious children more sacrificially and faithfully.

You can go here for a much fuller vision of this vital ministry: <https://www.ourlittleroses.org/>



Jeff Lewis with 14 of Our Little Roses!

A New Funeral Coordinator for Grace Church

Funeral services are among the most important ministries of our parish, especially considering the wounded hearts and emotions of grieving loved ones. Coordinating these services involves the simultaneous management of so many moving parts – from pastoral care to music, to liturgy, to Altar Guild alerts, to flowers, to bulletin preparations, to lay readers, to eulogists, to scripture selections, to ushers and greeters, to mortuary coordination, to pew reservations, to cemetery directions, to receptions, and more.

We have benefited from the experienced ministries of so many individual parishioners who have had to wend or wind their ways through spontaneous communications and arrangements to get things in place for each funeral. Yet, how wonderful it would be to have a single individual to be the point-person for the coordination of it all.

Well, we now have that person!

Recently, it was the Rector's great delight and relief to have **Kristie Miller** volunteer to serve as Funeral Coordinator for Grace Church. After helping a dear friend through a funeral some months ago, Kristie

became inspired upon seeing the family's need and the Rector's need for additional support and coordination of the many features of the service. She brings to the role several ideas for improvements, efficiency measures, and services to make our church evermore excellent in our provision of funeral ministry to our families. She is also helping to compile a manual to bring organization and ease to our funeral processes.



Kristie and her husband, Thompson, are longtime members of Grace, and Thompson is currently a member of our Vestry. Their son, Will, serves as a youth leader in our Journey to Adulthood ministry. Thank you and God bless you, Kristie, for your heart to serve. May the Holy Spirit who has given you the inspiration to take on this vital ministry give you the grace and wisdom to carry it forward!

Ed Kelaher, Rector

Simple Carpentry Help Needed!

Claudia Russell is a deeply loved woman of our Parish. She is a United States Army Veteran and has served so many people over her lifetime.

She now finds herself in need of assistance after suffering a broken leg recently. It would be a great blessing for Claudia to have a ramp constructed to her front door for her independence and ease.



A Grace Church effort is planned for an upcoming date over the next few weeks. Anyone with even the most

basic hammer and saw abilities would be a big help. It would be a privilege to help Claudia as she recovers.

Would you please come and help us carry out this worthy project?

David Keyser has a lot of experience with building projects, and he has graciously agreed to supervise us in this holy work. Thank you, Dave!

This will surely be a very fun time filled with fellowship and new friendships.

Coffee, biscuits, doughnuts, and lunch will be provided. That alone should make it all worthwhile! Please contact the Church Office or Ed Kelaher if you are willing to help. EdKelaher@aol.com; 336-590-5787.

New Pastoral Care Leadership for Grace Church

Robin Sink has blessed our congregation of people over two years serving as a gifted leader, and helping me as Rector, in our Pastoral Care Ministry. Some months ago, she advised me that it is time for her to gracefully leave this role to discern what the Lord may have for her next. We also have been blessed by the faithfulness of her husband, Glenn, who serves so devotedly for our Grace Food Ministries. This is an amazing couple!

THANK YOU, ROBIN, for an immeasurable gift of ministry to God's people! Well done good and faithful servant! We have all been inspired and blessed watching you and Glenn serve so selflessly and caringly to so many people in need of God's love and care. Having you as a part of our Grace Church Family is a true gift from our Lord.



Moving forward, it must be spoken that filling Robin's shoes is a task requiring great prayer, sensitivity, patience, and thought. For at least four months, I have been earnestly lending myself to all these matters, arriving upon not one, but TWO appointees for the role.

***I am currently shouting Alleluias to our Lord that
LINDA AND LOUIE COX have prayerfully accepted
an invitation
to be the new Grace Church Pastoral Care
Coordinators!***

It is hard to imagine two people more lovely, faithful, prayerful, capable, sensitive, and kind to assist a priest in the care and support of those who need our ministry. Serving as a couple will provide new and different benefits, dimensions, and blessings to our congregation for sure.

The role of Pastoral Care Coordinators includes an awareness of all those in need, an accounting of



those needs, delegating to others to respond to those needs, informing the Rector of information about those we serve, calling those we serve to provide encouragement and a listening ear, and much more. Please

call upon Linda and Louie, or the Church Office, or me for any help you may need or with any information you might have about the needs of others.

May God bless Louie and Linda as they serve our parish.

***May the Holy Spirit who has given them the inspiration to serve,
give them the grace and wisdom to carry it forward.***

Ed Kelaher, Rector

Spring Luncheon

We are excited to announce the return of the Senior Ladies Luncheon. This special event honors women in our congregation 70 years and older. Lunch will be served in the Parish Hall on Thursday, April 18th at noon. Please RSVP to Cathy Riggan at rigganx4@lexcominc.net

An Update: Our New Family Ministry

- A wonderful bunch of local and inspired young adults at Grace Church spoke out loud of our need to be together with singles, couples, and parents for fun adult times together and new friendships. Those involved are from inside and outside of Grace!

- We spoke about how exciting it would be to gather at local restaurants, one another's homes, or at church to start something new, encouraging, and stimulating.

- We spoke of our longing to hear people tell their stories and talk about their challenges at work, at home, in dating relationships, in marriages, in parenting, in finances, in faith, and so much more. God didn't make us to "go it alone" or to be without companions on our paths.



- We spoke of our hearts to help and serve those in need, especially the foster children of our community and perhaps the American Children's Home right here in Lexington. Maybe our new group would be inspired to do such things to help.
- Our first gathering of adults and children was held on March 7 at the Brewer's Kettle on 1st Avenue here in Lexington. There were about 20 adults and kids all together for pizza, beverages, music, and



most of all great conversation. It might seem like a small group, but whether a new baby is 5 pounds or 9 pounds, there is an exciting birth nonetheless! And our new group was surely born that night.

- There were about 10 households who could not attend our first meeting but who expressed enthusiasm about the new ministry. Our next time together will hopefully grow our numbers with more people coming each time thereafter.
- Our first time together even inspired a first service project as a decision was made for some of us to participate in the building of a wheelchair ramp for a parishioner who needs that help. *Wonderful!*
- Please mark your calendars if new friends, good food, music, and faith sound like fun and fulfillment to you. Our next times together will be Thursday, March 21 and Tuesday, April 9, 6:00 pm, at Brewers Kettle in Lexington.

God is creating something new and exciting at Grace Church for young households!

The youth are for hire!
Let us help you with your yard work!
We are currently earning money to help us
pay for our pilgrimage next summer (2025).
Contact the Riggins
rignanx4@lexcominc.net

Leadership of Our Diocese to Meet at Grace Church

It was a proud event for Grace Church when parishioner Pam Harvey was honored to be elected to the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of North Carolina. Claiming one of our own as a leader of our Diocese gives us encouragement and strength in many ways. And just when we thought we had pretty much counted all those ways, along comes another.



everyone and to help with the provision, serving, and clean-up of an authentic Lexington style barbecue lunch.

Simply, the Diocesan Council is an elected body of the Diocese charged to conduct the affairs of the Diocese between our annual and special conventions. Members of the Council include clergy and lay people. The Council assists our Bishops in the planning and developing of the work and mission to be carried out. This includes the oversight of finances and the work of our Diocese's departments and officers. Loosely stated, the Diocesan Council is sort of a Vestry of the Diocese.



The entire Diocesan Council, together with Bishop Sam Rodman and Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, will grace Grace by holding their March 21st meeting in our Parish Hall. Several of our parishioners, together with our Rector and Staff, will be on hand to greet

Welcome Bishops and Diocesan Council!

It is our honor to be your hosts for this important gathering.

The Baptism of Ellie Grace Smith

Ellie Grace Smith will be baptized at Grace Church – her namesake church – on Sunday, April 14!



Ellie is our current titleholder of “youngest parishioner”, born on December 15, 2023. She is the wildly indulged daughter of Annabell and Reggie Smith, Jr., and the wonderfully pampered

granddaughter of parishioners Carolyn and Richard Wolfe.

Ellie also holds the title of “youngest bell ringer ever”, having sounded our Chapel bell with her Mom at our Ash Wednesday service last month.



Please mark your calendar to be with us to celebrate the baptism of this beautiful and precious child, who will soon become the newest member of the Family of God!

A reception will follow our service in Ellie's honor.



God bless Ellie Grace!

CONNECTED CHAOS!



A NEW GATHERING OF YOUNG SINGLES,
COUPLES, AND PARENTS!

Thursday, March 21, 6:00

Tuesday, April 9, 6:00

Brewer's Kettle - 6 E. 1st Ave., Lexington

Food provided; purchase your own beverage

**God didn't make us to "go it alone" or to be
without companions on our paths. Come have
fun, share conversation, and make friends!**

Questions/Contact:

Wes & Kristi Allred 336-479-7313

Logan & Leslie Sheets 210-794-4323

Melissa Helms 704-579-2345

Ed Kelaher, Grace Episcopal Church pastor
336-590-5787 (cell) 336-249-7211 (office)
gracechurch@gracelexingtonnc.org



Please consider donating a bag of individually wrapped Easter candy for our Easter Egg Hunt. Please bring candy to the church office before March 28th so we will have time to fill the plastic eggs.

Easter Egg Hunt – Sunday, March 31st after the 10:30 Easter Service. Weather permitting eggs will be hidden in the playground for 3rd grade and younger. Older children (4th – 5th grade) will meet in the courtyard. If weather is bad it will be held in the Education Building. Baskets available for those who do not have one.



Parishioners in the News

David Keyser Article Nationally Published

David Keyser is a man of many, many talents ranging from high tech capabilities to military strategy, to carpentry, to mechanics, to church leadership, and to his current decade-long vocation as a firefighter for the Salisbury Fire Department. He and Ashley are also key participants in our new Family Ministry initiative, together with their children Audrey, Shelby, and Levi.



Apparently, Dave is also steeped in the art of communications and human behavior. Not only is he assisting Grace Church in the development of a new updated website, but he has been honored recently by the national publication of a communications article about the vital calling of first responders to set aside emotions and egos in lifesaving settings.

Dave's article, titled *"First Due: The Art of Communication, Delivery and Confirmation"*, has been published by the prestigious Firehouse Magazine – the leading national publication serving firefighting services for more than 40 years. The publication is a primary resource to America's 1.2 million firefighting personnel and allied decision makers, chronicling the events and evolution of American fire services, together with resources to advance the expertise and effectiveness of its readership.

Congratulations David! God is using your gifts for the welfare of people everywhere, and Grace Church is honored to have you and all the Keyser Family among us.

Dave's article can be found through this link:

<https://www.firehouse.com/leadership/article/53095443/the-art-of-communication-delivery-and-confirmation-for-fire-service-leaders?fbclid=IwAR1XRm-ouUKUcvzIRGHCgWUe1IUvi2wM9m3DiA8wIHCedwRViigXv2PobZl>

Kristi Allred Honored by North Davidson Middle School

Kristi Allred has been named as the Support Staff Person of the Year by the North Davidson Middle School. To those aware of the amazing contributions she makes to the ministries of Grace Church, this is no surprise whatsoever.



Kristi is the School Library Media Coordinator at NDMS, following years in the classroom teaching 7th and 8th grade English Language Arts. She earned her Masters Degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of North Carolina Greensboro and her undergraduate degree from Elon University in Middle Grades Education.

Kristi and Wes are at the heart of so many of our church ministries, together with their children Chandler and Blair. We could not be more blessed by their presence among us.

Wes congratulated Kristi in a Facebook post shouting out, "We are SO proud of you, Babe!" Count the Grace Family in on that, too!

God bless you for your devotion to God's children and church, Kristi.

Our Grace Church Building and Grounds Initiatives



The church is the gathering of God's people. It is the Body of Christ. The people are themselves "the church". We are the heart, the hands, the feet, and the love of Jesus to the world. To equip us to be all that, God provides us with many individual and congregational spiritual gifts and talents as taught in the Bible, especially by the Apostle Paul. God also blesses us with the resources of our building and grounds, for which we give great thanks.

Our Vestry oversees our building and grounds, especially through the canonical authority of our Junior Warden, Marjorie Parker, who works closely with our Facilities Manager, John Taylor, and our Building and Grounds Committee. The Committee members include Henry Duquette, who is a Vestry member and our Assistant Junior Warden, Louie Cox, Julie Dayvault, Kathy Johnson, Robert Mack, and Richard Wolfe.

We are incredibly blessed by the faith, expertise, knowledge, and industry of these leaders. As a Junior Warden and Facilities Manager, Marjorie and John are so devoted, visionary, and hardworking that we could not ask for more. God has given us great gifts in them.



It has been said dozens of times that John saves our church multiples of his salary every year, truly. Every day he goes beyond his job description to provide us with every sort of service we would otherwise pay for to contractors and service companies. This even includes technology considering how much John does for our computer, security, Zoom, and other digital systems. It is not exaggerating to suggest that

John provides \$50,000 a year in goods and services. Perhaps much more. How can we say "goods" and services? Because he pays a lot of money from his own pocket for all sorts of things the church needs and he will not accept reimbursement most times. Our people do not fully understand John's ministry and complete devotion. He is indispensable to our ministries.

Marjorie and John most recently have been working with our Building & Grounds Committee, our Vestry, and our Rector to create a vision for the renovation of our Parish Hall, its kitchen, and the connected stage area and bathrooms. The kitchen is non-functional for the most part and the water pipes are unsafe for water consumption. The two bathrooms there are non-functional as well. The overall composition of that part of our building is in its 1953 construction state. Complete renovation is necessary.

The process begins with the Vestry's responsibility and authority to lead us forward. Once a possible vision and proposed plan are assembled for presentation to our congregation, we will pray for further inspiration for insights, comments, expertise, and giving from our people.

Perhaps the Holy Spirit will move hearts to give so we can carry out the necessary construction. Perhaps we will need to await such funding. Either way, the Vestry will have done its part by responsibly and wisely studying the situation and proposing a way forward for future generations at Grace.



Musicians Needed



Conversations about playing music at church
are exciting!

It's time for some fun and serious thought
about it all.

Here are some great possibilities.

Having instruments and new Choir Members to
augment the ministry of our Director of Music and
Choir would be great – especially around Christmas,
Easter, Bishop visits, and special worship events.

*Do you play a brass, woodwind, or other instrument
to accompany our worship music?*

Having a fun and informal “praise band” would be
great – perhaps to provide music during parish
picnics, Vacation Bible School, outdoor worship
events, Pisgah camping trips, outdoor celebrations,
family ministry gatherings, youth group gatherings,
or even our annual Feast of Grace.

*Do you play guitar, keyboards, drums, brass,
woodwinds, harmonica, or other instruments to
accompany a praise band?*

Our music can be much more exciting and fun when
others join in.



Please contact our
Director of Music
Bill Herndon
to explore playing for
formal worship services.

rrbillhpt@gmail.com
336.823.9395

Please contact our
Senior Warden Wes Allred
to explore playing in a new
praise band.

Wes.Allred@gmail.com
336.479.7313



Both Bill and Wes have formal training and great
backgrounds in music performance, as well as
experience leading musicians in a variety of
settings.

The opportunities for fun and fulfillment
here are boundless!

Capital Giving Opportunities at Grace

We are taught that the Sacraments of the Church are outward and visible signs of the inward and spiritual grace God gives us. For example, water and words at Baptism are outward signs that inwardly bring the spiritual grace of the Holy Spirit and membership in the Family of God. Wonderful.

It is not a reach to say that many things have a “sacramental nature” about them although they are not one of the seven sacraments usually enumerated in the church.

One such outward and visible item is our physical church building together with its furnishings, which bring us all such inward and spiritual grace. Church members around the world usually have great affection for their church buildings, though some lament the poverty of their buildings.

Those who “love” their buildings need to be cautious as “church worshipping” can often be a trap that diminishes our glorious and proper God worshipping. You may have heard the clever line that churches are “hospitals for sinners and not museums for saints”. That’s a good reminder that churches are not museums to be preserved, but active buildings to be improved, updated, and advanced for the purposes of Christ’s Gospel mission. In that light, there is a proper place in our hearts for the precious gifts our Lord gives us in physical things used for our worship, ministries, and missions.

There are many ways we can all give financially to repair, restore, and renovate Grace Church for our current and future ministries. The list is long. But here below are three examples for us all to be thinking about. Perhaps some folks will be inspired



to give in amounts enabling improvements to be made right away. Perhaps many people will give a little bit each to make up what is needed. Perhaps we will fall short and many of the needed improvements will go unfunded and uncompleted. God knows already. Yet, God has already given us collectively all that we need, if only we will say our prayers and answer the Lord’s call to generosity.

AN EASY GOAL: A FLORAL COOLER FOR OUR NEW FLOWER GUILD MINISTRY

Our new Flower Guild is one of the most exciting ministries of the year! It was inspiring to see how quickly people responded to this ministry by either signing up to serve or by making a contribution for altar flowers for a Sunday.



The new Guild needs about \$2,500 in start-up funds for a “floral cooler” and for a number of items and supplies. A floral cooler or refrigerator is not like the ones we have in our homes. The humidity settings and lighting are altogether different. About \$1,300 has been donated generously by excited parishioners so far. Please help us to reach our goal to provide a new cooler and equipment for our Guild.

A MEDIUM SIZED GOAL: THE RENOVATION OF OUR PARISH HALL WING

Our Parish Hall is part of our “Education and Administration Building” which was constructed in 1953. The office areas have been partially renovated over the last two years with more needed. However, our current focus is on our heavily utilized Parish Hall. Attached is its kitchen, which has become unusable, including its water system which is unfit for healthy water consumption. The plumbing needs urgent replacement, along with all cabinets and appliances. There is also a stage area, including two

(continued on next page)

Capital Giving Opportunities at Grace *(continued)*



bathrooms, all in need of updating or repurposing. Both bathrooms are completely non-functioning. Our Junior Warden, Facilities Manager, Building and Grounds Committee, and Vestry are about the business of

envisioning and planning renovations. Such renovations will no doubt cost more than \$100,000. Please say your prayers and see if God does not inspire a role for you in this generational effort to improve a vital part of Grace Church.

A LARGE SIZED GOAL: AN ELEVATOR FROM OUR CHURCH TO OUR UNDERCROFT

When our “new church” and undercroft were built around 1987-1988, an elevator was planned to carry people from the church to the undercroft and back.

Funding rendered the elevator impossible at the time. There is still a regular and understandable need for an elevator to be installed. Inquiries to have an elevator installed someplace inside our church have failed. There is not enough space in our stairwell to add one, and breaking through the floor somewhere is impractical and cost prohibitive. An exterior shaft needs to be constructed to allow for the width, structure, and foundation required by applicable codes. Such a project is loosely estimated to cost more than \$200,000, but it is something worthwhile and important. We would like to explore the possibility of a funding grant from a source sympathetic to non-profit buildings in need of disability or handicap provisions. Please say your prayers and see if God does not have a role for you in the management or funding of this very worthwhile project.



BIBLE STUDY GUIDE • STREAMING VIDEO
SIX SESSIONS

UNOFFENDABLE

BRANT HANSEN

HOW JUST ONE CHANGE CAN
MAKE ALL OF LIFE BETTER

**THURSDAYS IN
THE PARISH
HALL**
10:30 a.m.

**GRACE
WOMEN'S
BIBLE
STUDY**

JOIN US FOR A 6 WEEK STUDY.
YOU DO NOT NEED A BOOK;
COME, WATCH A VIDEO,
AND SHARE STORIES.

Grace is Blooming!

The spectacular floral arrangements for the Easter Sunday service mark the official beginning of the Grace Flower Guild ministry. A talented and enthusiastic group of volunteers has come together to ensure our altar is beautifully adorned each Sunday, and a number of parishioners have already made contributions in the amount of \$50 to honor loved ones with flower arrangements designed by these gifted folks. Your donation helps to cover the cost of flowers and supplies. Additionally, we have received generous contributions toward the purchase of a florist's cooler specifically designed to prolong the life of fresh flowers. Anything you can add to this fund will be a tremendous help!



We invite you to pick a Sunday soon to donate flowers in honor or memory of someone important in your life. The process for donating remains the same as in the past. Please contact Maureen in the church office to sign up. Give her the information as you'd like it to appear in the bulletin, and send your \$50 donation to Grace Church. You can be sure that Flower Guild members will create a beautiful offering on your behalf!

If you'd like to help spread joy through the beauty of God's creation, whether it's arranging flowers, sharing fresh flowers and foliage from your garden, or delivering small arrangements to homebound parishioners, please contact Staley Nance at sejnance@gmail.com.

Simple Carpentry Help Needed!

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EdKelaher@aol.com;
336-590-5787.



This just in...

An Update: Accounting Progress and Celebration!

The article below about the long, arduous, critical, and steadfast efforts of our financial team was written as a general report to our congregation.

On Monday, March 18 our Treasurer Lynn Meeks and Parish Administrator Maureen Tincher provided the following updated message of breakthrough, celebration, thanksgiving, and relief!

We are SO EXCITED! We just ran our adjusted and corrected financials for the church and we are in an AWESOME POSITION! It just feels so, so good! We are in the positive, we are ahead of the ballgame, and things could not feel any better for us today. Everything balances! You can see numbers from one side of our ledger to the other and understand that we are balanced and in great order. Our audits are in order and we have a new day at hand! We just had to share this because it has all been so very heavy on our minds and hearts for so long.

Thank you and congratulations to our amazing and devoted financial team!

What a great gift and service you have given us all.

Well done good and faithful servants!

Our Financial Accounting Champions

Our Vestry has been grappling valiantly with accounting and financial management challenges for several years. There have been so many diligent and strenuous efforts to get our records and reporting exact and excellent. *Finally, we have victoriously arrived!*

About a year ago, our Parish Administrator **Maureen Tincher** was given the additional duty of the oversight of our bookkeeping, bill paying, and much more. This was a huge add-on to her already robust job description. About that same time, **Lynn Meeks and Thompson Miller** were appointed by the Vestry as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Added to their ranks was **Kelly Zalinsky**, a truly exceptional financial management and bookkeeping professional who simply has a heart for our parish from past efforts with us.

These four devoted and talented people have immersed themselves into our records for many months, painstakingly going over every entry for the last few years. Corrections, adjustments, and new ways of bookkeeping have been implemented, with

corresponding audits obtained as required by Canons of the Episcopal Church.

We can now say, with great celebration and thanksgiving, that our bookkeeping and accounting systems and records are excellent, and truly better than they have been in the past few years. The amounts of effort, diligence, frustration, and persistence required to achieve this accomplishment are beyond calculation. The task at the outset was overwhelming and daunting, yet it is now completed.

Grace Church owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Lynn, Thompson, Maureen, and Kelly – although their humility and servant-like characters consistently bring them to deflect such attention or reward. What they have done together is essential for the integrity and wholesomeness of our church management and future, and their accomplishment cannot be understated.

***THANK YOU, LYNN, THOMPSON,
MAUREEN, AND KELLY!***

A Matching Gift Opportunity for the African American Cemetery Fund

Grace Church is privileged to be an encouraging partner with the leaders of our African American church community who are seeking a permanent and inspiring monument at the “African American Section” or “Slave Burial Site” of the Lexington City Cemetery. This cemetery section contains the remains of 32 people who were anonymously buried there by “slave owners” during the 19th Century.

Our congregation joins in the recognition of the iniquity, sinfulness, and sadness of these historical circumstances and the need to bring love and healing to so many. Our hearts are given over to support, encourage, and love our African American neighbors, who are nobly striving to honor so many of their ancestors.

As children of God, those buried there are our ancestors, too.

The leaders of the monument effort are local high school coach, Mr. Tyrone Terry, and The Rev. Dr. Arnetta Beverly of St. Stephen United Methodist Church. They estimate the need of at least \$10,000 to have a proper and beautiful monument constructed.

***Today, a wonderful opportunity and challenge are placed before us
by a most generous and anonymous parishioner!***

Here's the situation. Our congregation had generously contributed \$2,800 to the cemetery fund, until this inspired parishioner came forward to **MATCH** that amount, doubling our gift to \$5,600!

However, the full match offer is \$3,500, which leaves \$700 unfulfilled until others might be inspired to give. If we give the full match amount, our total gift would be at least \$7,000 of the \$10,000 estimate needed. If we exceed the match, we will simply add your gift to the total love offering provided.

Please make your donation to **“Grace Church”** marked for the Cemetery Fund, which will be forwarded to St. Stephen Church for the new monument.



THANK YOU, GRACE CHURCH, for your boundless generosity and love for all our brothers and sisters of the Lexington Community!

Here is a link with much more information:

<https://www.davidsonlocal.com/news/community-announcement-discussion-slanted-on-historic-african-american-section-f-city-cemetery>

February 20 Vestry Meeting

Prayer for Wisdom, Guidance, and Grace: Rev. Ed Kelaher opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Welcoming of Our 2024-2025 Vestry:

Wes Allred, Karl Bolstad, Dan Briggs, Bright Carter, Sally Dodd, Henry Duquette, Melissa Helms, Mary Matthews, Thompson Miller, Marjorie Parker, Leslie Sheets, Marilyn Taylor

The Oath of Office for New Vestry Members: Ed administered the Oath of Office to Melissa Helms, Mary Matthews, and Leslie Sheets. The order of ceremony is attached to the minutes.

Nominations of Candidates and the Election of Vestry Officers for 2024-2025:

- a. **Senior Warden:** Wes Allred, appointed by the Rector
- b. **Junior Warden:** Marjorie Parker, nominated by Henry Duquette, elected by Vestry
- c. **Asst Junior Warden:** Henry Duquette, nominated by Bright Carter, elected by Vestry
- d. **Treasurer:** Lynn Meeks, nominated by Henry Duquette, elected by the Vestry
- e. **Assistant Treasurer:** Thompson Miller, nominated by Mary Matthews, elected by Vestry
- f. **Vestry Clerk:** Sally Dodd, nominated by Thompson Miller, elected by Vestry
- g. **Asst Vestry Clerk:** Mary Matthews, nominated by Sally Dodd, elected by Vestry

The Minutes of the January 2024 Meeting: Karl Bolstad made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Marjorie Parker seconded the motion and the Vestry approved the minutes.

Treasurer's Report, Lynn Meeks, 2023-2024 Treasurer, presented by Thompson Miller, 2023-2024 Asst Treasurer: The financial books are looking good. Maureen Tincher, the Parish Administrator, has accepted the day to day responsibility for the books. Very thorough and helpful assistance has been provided by Kelly Zalinsky, who will continue in that role. Thompson made a motion that Grace Church pay Kelly up to \$600 per month for her assistance. Henry Duquette seconded the motion and the Vestry approved it.

Open Discussion, Envisioning, and Inspirations of our New Vestry: Discussions included the need to streamline the Grace Church website. The Vestry needs to develop a priority list of areas and items that need attention. All Vestry members signed up for Vestry Member of the Month and Commission and Committee Liaison positions. The Lists are attached to the minutes. The Vestry needs to find a date for a retreat to address, among other thing, developing a handbook

The Senior Warden's Report: Wes Allred had nothing new to report.

The Junior Warden's Report: Marjorie Parker reported that skateboarders are again a problem on the stairs and walkways. Railings will be installed on the front of the church between the arches. We had a security check of the campus. The Cassidy House remains unsettled due internal family stresses. John Taylor does great things with our facilities.

The Rector's Report: Grace Church members gave \$5,600 to the memorial for the slave burial site in the city cemetery. The By-Laws that were approved by the congregation will be sent to the diocese and must be signed by the Clerk.

Old or New Business to be Presented to the Vestry: Karl Bolstad, liaison to the Arts Academy, reported that they were still investigating the financial situation. Sally Dodd, liaison to Parish Life, reported that the Parish Life Commission has undergone a reorganization with responsibilities reassigned. The reorganization chart is attached to the minutes. During Lent, Social Hour has no volunteers due to the Lenten Dinners. Consequently Bright Carter and her family volunteered to provide social hour on February 25 and March 17. Melissa Helms volunteered along with her son, David, to provide social hour on March 3, 10 and 24.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment: Ed closed with a prayer. Henry moved to adjourn and Mary Matthews seconded the motion. The Vestry adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted: Sally Dodd, Clerk of the Vestry

Prayer List

Adkins, Lou	Parishioner
Adkins, Mark	Fred & Lou's son
Amon, Amanda	Rick Mack's sister
Asebes, Ella	B & W MacKinstry's granddaughter
Bralkowski, Rhonda	Parishioner
Brandon, Alice & family	Leslie Sheets' great niece
Branscomb, Susan	Grace Member
Burke, Gayle	Parishioner
Burkhart, Artie	Parishioner
Byers, Seraphina	Mimi & Henry's granddaughter
Campbell, Jean	John Taylor's sister
Cleckley, Lynne	Parishioner
Clifton, Melissa	Friend of Wyvonne Robertson
Clippard, John	Friend of Penny Taylor
Clodfelter, Joan	Parishioner
Clodfelter, Linda	Joan's daughter-in-law
Curia, Morgan	Former Parishioner
DiRenzo, Dan	Friend of D & R Wiederhold
Dixon, Susan	Former Parishioner
Dube, Kim	M & H Duquette's niece
Ewbank, Renee	Parishioner
Farley, Cathy	Friend of Ed & Patty
Gallen, Jenny	Friend of Teri Wagner
Garland, Shana	Friend of Talmadge Silversides
Grimes, Jane	Parishioner
Hanna, George	K. Everhart's brother
Hare, Rob	Penny Taylor's brother
Harris, Kristen	Friend of Staley Nance
Hinkle, Nancy	Talmadge's sister-in-law
Hodges, Chris	Parishioner
Huntley, Jahiya	Friend of Glenn Sheets
Hutchins, Greg	Friend of Riggan family
Johnson, Tanya	Friend of Staley Nance
Kearley, Chris	Friend of Penny Taylor
Lee, Cara	Friend
MacKinstry, Warren	Parishioner
Marr, Liz	Friend of Ed & Patty Kelaher
Mason, Debbie	Pam Harvey's sister-in-law
Mayse, Martha & Drew	Friends of V & R Spencer
McKenzie, Kate	Kathy Young's granddaughter
Mitchell, Roan	Friend
Moore, Dan & Fran	Parishioners
Myers, Chocolate	Friend of Katherine Everhart
Palmer, Howard	Friend of Beth Burke
Plott, Gabby	Friend of Judie Reed
Plummer, Pat	Parishioner
Robert, Libby	B. MacKinstry's sister-in-law
Rojas, Jacklynn	M&L Cleckley's granddaughter
Ryals, Christine	Friend of Katherine Everhart
Sanabria, Lucas	Ed & Patty's grandson
Santolla, Lynn	Friend of M & T Parker
Schoepfel, Larry	R & D Wiederhold's brother-in-law
Sheets, Suzy	Parishioner
Short, Patty	Friend of Penny Taylor

Silversides, Talmadge	Parishioner
Smith, Martha Ellen	Parishioner
Todd, Debbie	Friend of Bill Gilleland
Touchton, Jackie	B. MacKinstry's sister
Tyndall, Brenda	Friend of K. Everhart
Van Dyke, Perry Grimes	Friend
Williams, Flynn	B & B Gilleland's grandson
Williams, Mary & Jay	Parishioners
Wylie, Paul	Friend of Logan Sheets
Young, Charlotte	Carolyn Wolfe's sister

Those while Traveling

Josey Parker	M & T Parker's daughter
Cameron Klass	Martha Ellen's granddaughter
Julia Klass	Martha Ellen's granddaughter
Cole Riggan	Cathy & Sims' son

March Birthdays

Mar 3	Kristi Allred
Mar 6	Becky Jo Davis
Mar 8	Analise Petruzzi
Mar 11	Bryce Jones
Mar 12	Sims Riggan
Mar 16	David Inabinett
Mar 18	Kathie Goodman
Mar 23	Jim Nance
Mar 23	Erik Petruzzi
Mar 26	Robin Sink
Mar 27	Chris Hodges
Mar 27	Bob Husted

April Birthdays










Apr 4	Chris Chuchacz Ward
Apr 7	Nancy Mack
Apr 8	Barbara Presnell
Apr 10	Peggy Walser
Apr 12	Warren MacKinstry
Apr 13	Jordan Grieff
Apr 15	David Jones
Apr 15	Max Walser
Apr 18	John Taylor
Apr 20	Tanner Sheets
Apr 20	Annabell Smith
Apr 23	Cathy Riggan
Apr 25	Anna Hayes
Apr 25	Dakota Lamb
Apr 30	Josh Mathews
Apr 30	Glenn Sheets

March/April Ministries Schedule

	Mar 24 Palm Sunday 10:30	Mar 28 Maundy Thurs 7:00 pm	Mar 29 Good Friday 12:00 pm	Mar 31 Easter Sunday 10:30	Apr 7 10:30	Apr 14 10:30	Apr 21 10:30	Apr 28 10:30	May 5 10:30	May 12 10:30
Lector	Sally Dodd	Mary Bolstad	2 Lectors needed	Kathie Goodman	Belinda MacKinstry	Mary Bolstad	Kristi Allred	Lynn Meeks		
Intercessor	Melissa Helms	Melissa Helms	n/a	Staley Nance	Elizabeth Purdy	Kristi Allred	Melissa Helms	Judie Reed		
LEM	Mary M Tommy B	Karl B Kathie G	n/a	Pam H Karl B	Kathie G Mary M	Tommy Black Pam Harvey	Karl Bolstad Kathie Goodman	Mary Matthews Pam Harvey		
Acolytes	Hadley Tanner Fisher	David Thayer NEED MORE	n/a	Anderson Merritt Jack	Kate Ward Analise	Erik Cooper Tanner	Ward Kate Fisher	Lyndon Hadley Jack	Anderson Chandler Merritt	Kate Hadley Fisher
Ushers	Bill Gilleland Sims Riggan	NEEDED	n/a	Wes Allred Chandler	Richard Wolfe Tommy Black	Bill Gilleland Doug Hartzog	Joe Wallace Sims Riggan	Wes Allred Chandler Allred		
Greeter	Frances Garner	NEEDED	n/a	Sandra Husted	Penny Taylor	Melissa & David	Barbara Presnell	Sandy Reynolds		
Flowers	n/a	n/a	n/a	Chris & Mike Hodges	Mary & Karl Bolstad	The Wolfe Family	The Keyser Family	NEEDED	NEEDED	NEEDED
Social Hour	Melissa & David	n/a	n/a	M & K Bolstad Sally Dodd S & J Nance	Frances Garner	Kathie Goodman Judie Reed	Nancy & Rick Mack	S Reynolds S Dodd B Presnell	Lynn Meeks Max Leonard	S Husted Sunday School
Altar Guild	March: Patty Kelaher, Sally Dodd, Belvie Gilleland, Kathie Goodman, Lynn Meeks, Mary Williams April: Pam Harvey, Mimi Duquette, Frances Garner, Carol Jordan, Renee Kaley, Peggy Walser May: Sandra Husted, Mary Matthews., Sandy Reynolds, Marlene Jones, Linda Cox									
Homeless Shelter Meals: New Volunteers are needed!! At this time, groups can deliver the food to the shelter and leave. It is your decision to stay and serve, but it is not necessary. Please plan to provide for approximately 65 people. April: Melissa Helms, MORE NEEDED May: NEEDED TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE										
Vestry Person of the Month for March: Karl Bolstad Vestry Person of the Month for April: Mary Matthews Vestry Person of the Month for May: Sally Dodd										

March / April 2024

Find us on
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
17 9:00 am CR <i>Spring Book Study</i> 9:30 am PH <i>Rector's Forum</i> 10:30 Worship - Rite 1 	18	19 6:30 pm Finance Meeting & 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting -Parish Hall-  6:00-8:00 pm CR	20 12:00 pm Chapel Wednesday Noon Prayer	21 Women's Bible Study 10:30 - 12:00 CR "Un-Off-End-Able" PH Diocesan Council Meeting	22	23
24 9:00 am CR <i>Spring Book Study</i> 9:30 am PH <i>Rector's Forum</i> 10:30 Worship - Rite 1 Procession to Town Square after service 	25	26  6:00-8:00 pm CR	27 12:00 pm Chapel Wednesday Noon Prayer	28  7:00 pm service in the church	29 Church Office Closed  Noon - Rite 1 service in the chapel	30
31 10:30 Worship - Rite 2 	1 Church Office Closed	2  6:00-8:00 pm CR	3 12:00 pm Chapel Wednesday Noon Prayer with Rite 1 Eucharist	4 Women's Bible Study 10:30 - 12:00 CR "Un-Off-End-Able"	5	6
7	8	9  6:00-8:00 pm CR	10 12:00 pm Chapel Wednesday Noon Prayer 6:00 pm CR Messy Church meeting	11	12	13
14	15	16  6:00-8:00 pm CR	17 12:00 pm Chapel Wednesday Noon Prayer	18 12 pm PH Senior Ladies Luncheon	19	20
21	22	23	24 12:00 pm Chapel Wednesday Noon Prayer	25	26	27
28	29	30	1 12:00 pm Chapel Wednesday Noon Prayer with Rite 1 Eucharist	2	3	4

Remember, if you will be conducting a meeting at Grace Church, you need to contact the church office to reserve a space! Email or call Maureen at (336) 249-7211
gracechurch@gracelexingtonnc.org

CR = Commons Room Commons Room Activities
 PH = Parish Hall Parish Hall Activities
 UC = Undercroft Undercroft Activities