

Grace Episcopal Church
Lexington, North Carolina

May / June 2026

The Grace Vine

Grace Episcopal Church

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

**The Rev. Stephen Becker,
Interim Rector**

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.

Mother's Day

Some years ago, when my mother was still living, she flew in from Washington, D.C. to visit and worship with us at the church I was serving in New Orleans. While at St. Paul's, she was introduced to one of the women's groups that hosted a party for her. After refreshments, one of the women asked my mother to share some childhood stories about me. And of all the stories she could have used, she chose to speak about an event that occurred between us when I was about four years old. It happened when I noticed that my mom was unhappy and upset about something. So I pulled on her apron and, looking up, said to her. "What's wrong, Mommy? You

look sad."

She said with tears in her eyes, "Mommy is just worried about something."

With deep concern, I looked straight into her eyes and said, "Mommy, don't worry. There's no need to worry. It doesn't do no good to worry, Mommy."

Evidently, the memory of that conversation, with the simple, sincere words I used, was something she never forgot. And she never let me forget them either.

What is fascinating about that story is that my mom told it back to me as an adult, especially when she was aware of the burdens and cares that troubled me.

Since my own words have come back to confront me, I've had to revisit them with greater maturity and a deeper self-awareness. I've learned that sincere and caring words, as helpful as they are, cannot by themselves silence worry. What I truly need is a living relationship with the Shepherd of my soul—the One who wants me to recognize that worry and doubt can slip in like the thieves and robbers Jesus warns about in John 10, seeking to steal, kill, and destroy the peace He promises. In that same discourse, Jesus declares, "I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved" (Jn. 10:9). In other words, He Himself is the doorway into a new and life-giving relationship with God. For He came "that we might have life, and have it more abundantly" (Jn. 10:10).

And so, when my old anxieties rise up, and my own words return to test me, I am learning to step again through that Gate—to entrust myself to the Shepherd who knows my name. In His presence, worry loses its power, and doubt is exposed for what it is: an intruder, not a companion. The abundant life He offers is not the absence of trouble but the steady assurance that, in Him, I am held, guarded, and led into peace that no thief can steal.



The Rev. Stephen Becker
Interim-Rector



YOU ARE INVITED TO GRACE'S
**ALL-CHURCH
BIRTHDAY PARTY!**



SUNDAY
MAY **17** 5:30-7:00
UNDERCROFT

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, & BIRTHDAY FUN FOR ALL AGES!

Ice Cream Sundae Bar - provided by the church.

POTLUCK FOODS:

Bring enough for 10-12 people to ensure there is plenty to go around!

- **Last Name A-F: Additional Desserts** (cookies, cupcakes, brownies, candy, etc.)
- **Last Name G-M: Savory Finger Foods** (sliders, meatballs, mini quiches, chicken nuggets, cheese & meat tray, cocktail sausages, cucumber sandwiches, etc.)
- **Last Name N-Z: Sides and Fresh Items** (salad, pasta salad, fruit salad, veggie trays, chips & dip, rolls, etc.)



*Did you have a birthay already this year? Are you having a birthday later this year?
Then this party is for you!
Let's have some fun and kick-off the summer season.*



Senior Ladies Luncheon
Thursday, May 14, 2026
Noon
in the Grace Church
Parish Hall

RSVP Cathy Riggan



*Give from
the heart.*

**Donate blood and
help save lives.**



**Grace Episcopal Church
Blood Drive**

The Undercroft
419 S. Main Street, Lexington

**Thursday, June 11TH
2:00pm-6:00pm**

Schedule your appointment today!

RedCrossBlood.org | Sponsor Code: Grace Episcopal



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App
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Annual Pisgah Camping Trip

Grace Church Annual Pisgah Camping Trip Tuesday, June 16 – Sunday, June 21, 2026

Lower Cove Creek Group Camp, Pisgah Ranger District,
Pisgah National Forest

You can find the registration form by going to the Grace Church website and scroll to the bottom of the page:

<https://gracelexingtonnc.org/parish-traditions/>

What is this Grace Church Annual Pisgah Camping Trip?

It's a chance to spend time away from the hustle and bustle of life getting to know people of all ages a little deeper. Sharing meals, playing games, crafting, swimming, biking, singing and forming lifelong bonds.

The location is at a Primitive Group Camp in the Pisgah National Forest outside of Brevard, NC. The campground is gated and includes a beautiful meadow, amazing swimming holes, sliding rocks, hiking and biking trails and waterfalls to enjoy! It is about 3 ½ hours from Lexington.

The Pisgah Camping Trip is open to EVERYONE! Families, singles, infants, children, seniors, friendly dogs, former church members, friends of church members-anybody who wants or needs to get away to enjoy the mountains and the unique community that forms around this event. Most folks camp in tents or pop-up campers there is a freshwater

pump and toilets. For the less hardy (referred to as "WannaBees"), there is a Hampton Inn nearby & various VRBO/bed & breakfast rentals, too.

This is a "come when you can" event and campers are welcome to come for one night or all week long. Breakfast and lunch are on your own each day; then, for supper we all join together for a community meal each night. Daily activities are whatever you want them to be; we have a lot of information on nearby points of interest, including all types of hikes and mountain biking options or check with the Davidson River Ranger Station for local activities & sights to see. If you've never been and want more information please contact me, John Burke, (336) 337-2746, jrburke44@gmail.com.

Please submit the registration form to me by June 1st. Feel free to share this information with others you think may be interested.

Thanks, John



Men of Grace Pancake Supper

The Men of Grace Church hosted a successful 73rd Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 17, feeding hundreds with pancakes and famous homemade sausage. Thanks to all who volunteered and attended, especially Wes Allred who served as our new "trail boss" to lead this annual event. Proceeds have been donated to the following outreach ministries in our community:

- J. Smith Young YMCA
- Charles and Julia England Foundation
- Pastor's Pantry
- Davidson Medical Ministries
- Grace Food Ministries
- Meals on Wheels
- JLD Community Solutions

Youth Christian Formation

Sunday School News

K - 5th are using an Episcopal curriculum called *Weaving God's Promises*, a Christian education program for elementary-aged children. This comprehensive curriculum helps children build a strong foundation in the three essential elements of our faith—Christian education, worship, and service. Like the three legs of a stool, each element supports the others, helping our faith stand firm and grow strong.



During five weeks in February and March, we focused on learning about the Episcopal Church. The children enjoyed a scavenger hunt in the sanctuary and learned about the *Book of Common Prayer*,

Baptism, the Eucharist, and how each of us has a place in God's Church.



Each week, we use the lectionary and the stories heard in worship—whether from the readings or the Gospel—to guide our lessons. We read the story together and then complete an activity to reinforce its meaning.



Recently, we explored the story of Easter and held a special activity on the Saturday before Easter. The children dyed Easter eggs and created a Resurrection garden. After Easter, we talked about how Jesus is always with us—even though we cannot see Him.

In May, we will begin reading and learning from stories in the Book of Acts.



Sunday school will be offered while the Rector's Forum is ongoing.
The last Sunday School class will be on June 14th.

Youth News

The middle school and high school youth invite the congregation to join us at the stage Sunday, May 10th for the Outdoor Service.

In addition to the lessons and prayers, there will be some musical talent on display. Since it is Mother's Day, we will not have a social hour afterwards, realizing folks will want to take their mothers to lunch! Instead, please join us for some light refreshments at the picnic tables prior to the service.

Grace Episcopal Church

Outdoor Service

Sunday, May 10, 2026
10:30 am
at the stage behind the church

Please bring your fold-up chairs!

In case of rain, the service will be moved into the church



There will not be a picnic after the outdoor service as there has been in the past. We will celebrate a potluck dinner the following Sunday at the "All Church Birthday Party"

Spiritual Gifts

As we move further into the 21st century, powerful social forces are creating significant turbulence in our society and in the church. Many institutions are finding themselves unable to cope with the traditional tools and methods they have used in the past. The Church is one of those institutions. Martin Luther King once said, "We've got some difficult days ahead." This may be true for us, but even so, these days call for imagination, not resignation. They call for an imagination that only love and faith can produce.

Everything today seems to be changing and doing so at an amazingly fast pace. One consequence of these changes is what we could call "contextual turbulence". By definition, turbulence is not smooth, predictable or orderly. Rather, it is chaotic and volatile. Instead of flowing smoothly and gently moving us along, turbulence buffets us, often changing direction without warning.

Turbulent forces require a different set of responses from us than smooth conditions do. This is illustrated by the challenges of flying. Smooth conditions allow pilots to fly on autopilot, which enables them to make fewer moment-by-moment decisions about course, airspeed, and altitude. But with turbulence, pilots must re-engage. The greater the turbulence, the greater the need for them to pay attention to the environment and make decisions.

As we face the days ahead for this congregation, we, too, must embark on a process of revisioning. And the weight of making some adjustments to our normal mode of operation calls us all to be reengaged in our vision and direction. This is the purpose of the rector's forum that I will be leading starting on May 17th. By focusing on spiritual gifts, we'll talk about how each person can discover their part in helping our church move toward a brighter future.



Rector's Forum

May 17–June 14, Fr. Stephen will lead a five-week Rector's Forum series on the Gifts of the Spirit.

The last day for the Rector's Forum and Sunday school will be June 14th. We will take the summer off and resume on Sunday, September 13th.

2026 so far...



Undercroft Kitchen Renovation Project

A major Capital Campaign project is scheduled to begin on May 18. During this time, the kitchen in the Undercroft will be closed for approximately 4–6 weeks and is expected to reopen no later than July 6.

We understand this will be an inconvenience for Grace Food Ministry and our parishioners, and we appreciate your patience as we complete these much-needed renovations. The undercroft will also be used for the storage of cabinets and appliances, and certain areas will be taped off for safety.

We hope this temporary disruption will not be too burdensome, and we appreciate your understanding as we work to improve our facilities for everyone.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me at johntw1962@yahoo.com.

Thank you, and may God bless you.

John Taylor

The Grace Episcopal Church Irrevocable Operating Endowment Trust

Dear Church Family,

For many years, our church has been blessed by the generosity of members who believed in sustaining our ministry for future generations. One of the most important tools for that long-term stability is **the Grace Episcopal Church Irrevocable Operating Endowment Trust**. This endowment allows gifts to be invested carefully, with the earnings used to support the mission and ministries of our church for decades to come.

As you consider how you might participate in this legacy of generosity, there are several meaningful ways to contribute to **the Grace Episcopal Church Irrevocable Operating Endowment Trust**:

1. Outright Gifts

Members may make a direct gift to **the Grace Episcopal Church Irrevocable Operating Endowment Trust** at any time. These gifts are invested immediately and begin supporting the long-term health of our church.

2. Memorial or Honorary Gifts

Many families choose to give in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion. These gifts create a lasting tribute that continues to bless others.

3. Planned or Estate Gifts

Some members choose to include the church or the Endowment Trust in their long-term plans. This can be done through:

- A bequest in a will
- Naming **the Grace Episcopal Church Irrevocable Operating Endowment Trust** as a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy
- Charitable trusts or other planned-giving instruments

These gifts allow you to make a lasting impact without affecting your current financial needs.

4. Gifts of Appreciated Assets

In some cases, members may choose to give stocks, mutual funds, or other appreciated assets. This can provide tax advantages while strengthening the endowment.

5. Legacy Commitments

If you have already included **the Grace Episcopal Church Irrevocable Operating Endowment Trust** in your estate or financial plans, we invite you to let us know. Your commitment encourages others and helps the church plan responsibly for the future.

INSTRUCTIONS: When making a gift of stock or money directly to **the Grace Episcopal Church Irrevocable Operating Endowment Trust**, you should make the transfer to Edward Jones Grace Episcopal Church account number 3782131514 for the purpose of investment into **the Grace Episcopal Church Irrevocable Endowment Trust**. The address of Edward Jones is 315 South Talbert Blvd., Lexington, NC 27292. The telephone number is (336) 224-5329.

Every gift—large or small—helps ensure that our church remains strong, vibrant, and faithful for generations to come. If you would like more information about **the Grace Episcopal Church Irrevocable Operating Endowment Trust**, or if you would like to talk confidentially about giving options, please reach out to the church office or a member of the Endowment Committee.

Thank you for your continued generosity and for the love you show our church community.

Hispanic Awareness Initiative Moves Forward!

On Sunday, April 26, 2026, an energetic group met in the Parish Hall with Monica Belford, Director of Community Engagement at DDCC, and Consuelo (Chelo) Catalan Olea, instructor for the evening cosmetology classes at DDCC. (Atalia Cardenas was sick and unable to join us.)

We talked openly about the hopes and desires of our Hispanic neighbors, including community values, cultural differences, mistrust, fear, and the desire to be a part of a larger Lexington community.



Monica and Atalia, with Pluto

One of the greatest barriers that keeps our cultures divided is language. Most Spanish speakers in Lexington have a strong desire to learn better English. There is also a concern that their children maintain their Spanish language while they are also learning and practicing English in schools. In short, it is

essential for our Hispanic neighbors as well as Lexingtonians who speak fluent English to become at least conversationally bilingual!

Two upcoming opportunities will help us both:

HAIR AND CONVERSATION: On Tuesday, May 5 (which is also Cinco de Mayo), at 4:30 pm, several of us are visiting the cosmetology school's clinic for shampoos, cuts, coloring, whatever we desire (or don't desire). The costs for hair service is very low.

Our main purpose is to have conversations with the students to help them practice English as well as to begin building relationships. Our plan is not to go just one time but to make regular visits. All cosmetology students need to know English in order to pass certification exams, and, according to both Monica and Chelo, this is THE best way we can both help and begin to develop friendships. If you are interested in going on May 5, contact Barbara Presnell at bpresnel@gmail.com OR just show up between 4:30 and 6:30. Be sure to tell them you're from Grace Church).

CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH:

This summer, DDCC is offering a FREE conversational Spanish course. Designed especially for teachers to improve basic conversation with students, the course is open to anyone. It's a great opportunity to brush up on that high school Spanish, and to learn how to say more than "Hola" in grocery store lines and other everyday situations. Friendly greetings, says Chelo, are very much appreciated as are all attempts to help our Hispanic neighbors feel welcome. Most people ARE here legally, either with temporary permits or permanent status.

If you are interested in being involved with our Hispanic community—we don't know where this is going, but ideas are welcome!—please contact Barbara, Sandy, or any member of the Social Concerns Commission.

¡Muchas gracias!

Barbara Presnell

A poster for a "JOB SKILLS: BASIC SPANISH FOR EDUCATORS FREE CLASS". The poster is from Davidson-Davie Community College. It features a red and white color scheme. The text on the poster includes: "Learn essential Spanish phrases and vocabulary to better communicate with Spanish-speaking students and families, and create a more welcoming classroom environment." The dates are "June 8th - August 10th" and "Mondays, 8:30-10:00AM". It also mentions "Zoom and Online practice". There is a QR code and a small illustration of a teacher and a student. At the bottom, it says "To sign up, scan the QR code, go to <https://slate.to/b2dyym53> or text 'Spanish' to 336-753-3777".

Prayer List

Adkins, Lou	Parishioner
Adkins, Mark	Fred & Lou's son
Asebes, Ella	B & W MacKinstry's granddaughter
Beard, Bob	Friend of Staley Nance
Billings, Louise	Carol Jordan's mother
Blalock, Tom	Friend of Ed & Patty Kelaher
Bolstad, Sissy	Frances Garner's sister-in-law
Boyd, Judy	Friend of Kathie Goodman
Brandon, Alice	Leslie Sheets' great niece
Broch, Lynne	Fran Moore's sister
Buckheit, Jack	Tere Wagner's grandson
Burke, Gayle	Parishioner
Byers, Seraphina	Mimi & Henry's granddaughter
Cleckley, Lynne	Parishioner
Clodfelter, Jim	Joan's son
Cook, Bob	Former Rector
Cox, Linda	Parishioner
Crump, Wesley	Mary's son
Davila, Chris	Talmadge's son-in-law
Daw, Dylan	Friend
Dixon, Susan	Former Parishioner
Ewbank, Renee	Parishioner
Farley, Cathy	Friend of Patty & Ed
Froehlich, Charlotte	Friend of Patty & Ed
Garland, Shana	Friend of Talmadge Silversides
Grieff, David	Jordan's grandfather
Griffin, Lilly	Marjorie Parker's great niece
Hall, Jimmy	Wyvonne Robertson's brother
Hanna, George	K. Everhart's brother
Hinkle, Nancy	Talmadge's sister-in-law
Hinton, Jennifer & Michael	Samantha Atkins' parents
Hodges, Chris	Parishioner
Holcomb, Bob	Donna Wiederhold's cousin
Jones, Marlene	Parishioner
Kelaher, Ed	Our Former Rector
Kent, Ray	Donna Wiederhold's brother
Lightfoot, Lisa	Friend of Frances Garner
MacKinstry, Warren	Parishioner
Mason, Debbie	Pam Harvey's sister-in-law
McKenzie, Kate	Kathy Young's granddaughter
Miller, Arnold	Friend of Frances Garner
Moore, Sherry Boatright	Friend of Penny Taylor
Mott, Angela	Elizabeth Purdy's sister
Peoples, Walker	K & R Johnson's grandson
Plott, Gabby	Friend of Judie Reed
Rickert, Ellen	Shannon Jones' mother
Rojas, Jacklynn	M&L Cleckley's granddaughter
Saddler, Betty Jo	Parishioner
Salazar, Jacob	Friend of Kathie Goodman
Sanabria, Lucas	Ed & Patty's grandson
Santolla, Lynn	Friend of M & T Parker
Sheets, Suzy	Parishioner
Shepherd, Lisa	Neil's sister
Sills, Carol	B. MacKinstry's niece
Silversides, Talmadge	Parishioner
Sink, Robin	Parishioner

Smith, Clyde	Friend of Bill Herndon
Smith, Martha Ellen	Parishioner
Sprinkle, Austen	Friend of Kathie Goodman
Stillwell, Jenny Hedrick	Friend of Kathie Goodman
Sullivan, Sean	Friend of M & L Cleckley
Touchton, Jackie	B. MacKinstry's sister
Tyndall, Brenda	Friend of K. Everhart
Van Dyke, Perry Grimes	Friend
Wallace, Sandy	Joe's brother
Wardle, Barry	Parishioner
Williams, Flynn	B & B Gilleland's grandson
Wylie, Paul	Friend of Logan Sheets
Young, Charlotte	Carolyn Wolfe's sister

Those while Traveling (or living abroad)

Briana Cantrall	Friend of Kathie Goodman
Cameron Klass	Martha Ellen's granddaughter
Julia Klass	Martha Ellen's granddaughter
Josey Parker	M & T Parker's daughter
Barry Shapiro	Friend of Pam Harvey

May Birthdays

May 4	Tere Wagner	May 20	Walt Reynolds
May 5	John Everhart	May 25	Marjorie Parker
May 7	Neil Shepherd	May 26	Mary Bolstad
May 10	Hadley Briggs	May 26	Jack Briggs
May 12	Thompson Miller	May 26	Jim Burke
May 12	Leslie Sheets	May 26	Wyvonne Robertson
May 13	Staley Nance	May 26	Mary Williams
May 14	Joe Wallace	May 27	Mark Petruzzi
May 15	Laurie Briggs	May 31	Wayne Alley
May 19	Elizabeth Purdy		

June Birthdays

Jun 5	Chandler Allred	Jun 22	Mike Johnson
Jun 8	Wes Allred	Jun 27	Carolyn Wolfe
Jun 18	Mimi Duquette	Jun 30	Joan Clodfelter
Jun 18	Fran Moore	Jun 30	Patty Kelaher
Jun 21	Eddie Masheke		

July Birthdays

Jul 3	Fred McIntyre	Jul 18	Sally Dodd
Jul 6	Frances Garner	Jul 19	Marlene Jones
Jul 8	Bright Carter	Jul 23	Anderson Carter
Jul 9	Renee Kaley	Jul 25	Gail Rogers
Jul 12	Grayson Carter	Jul 29	Mike Hodges
Jul 12	Merritt Carter	Jul 30	Ed Jordan
Jul 17	Allen Robertson	Jul 30	Sara-Beth Testerman

Lay Leaders Schedule

Date	Lector	LEM	Intercessor	Acolytes	Ushers	Greeters
3-May-26 10:30	Jim Nance	Karl Bolstad Kathie Goodman	Judie Reed	Fisher Tanner Tucker	Doug Hartzog Richard Wolfe	Donna Wiederhold
10-May-26 10:30	Tere Wagner	Mary Matthews Staley Nance	Staley Nance	Jack Chandler Merritt	Bill Gilleland Tommy Black	Mary-Cameron Welborn
17-May-26 10:30	Karl Bolstad	Louie Cox Tommy Black	Elizabeth Purdy	Hadley Ward Analise	Sims Riggan Joe Wallace	Frances Garner
24-May-26 10:30	Belinda MacKinstry	Miles Cleckley Karl Bolstad	Judie Reed	Chandler Tanner Tucker	Wes Allred Chandler Allred	Penny Taylor
31-May-26 Pentecost 10:30	Mary Matthews	Pam Harvey Kathie Goodman	Staley Nance	Anderson Merritt Fisher	Louie Cox Doug Hartzog	Sandra Husted
7-Jun-26 Trinity Sunday 10:30	Penny Taylor	Mary Matthews Louie Cox	Elizabeth Purdy		Richard Wolfe Bill Gilleland	Donna Wiederhold

Altar Guild May 2026: Pam, Mimi, Frances, Carol, Renee K., Peggy
 June 2026: Sandra, Marlene, Mary, Renee E.
 July 2026: Sally, Belvie, Kathie, Judie

Vestry Person of the Month for May 2026: Chuck Taylor
Vestry Person of the Month for June 2026: Neil Shepherd
Vestry Person of the Month for July 2026: Lynn Meeks

New Lay Leaders Schedule is currently being worked on. Watch your email for a new list soon!

Goodbye Ed and Patty...Godspeed



May / June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 MAY	2
3 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church with The Rev. Ken Kroohs	4	5 2:00 pm - CR Faith & the Arts Comm. Meeting	6 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	7 10:30 am – PH Women’s Bible Study	8	9
10 Mother’s Day!  Outdoor Service Sunday, May, 10, 2026 10:30 am at the stage behind the church and behind your fellowship hall at the stage behind the church and behind your fellowship hall	11	12	13 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	14 12:00 pm - PH Senior Ladies Luncheon	15	16
17 10:30 am Rite 2 Service in the Church  YOU ARE INVITED TO GRACE'S ALL-CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY! SUNDAY MAY 17 5:30-7:00 UNDERCROFT	18	19	20 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	21	22	23
24 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church	25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  MEMORIAL DAY	26	27 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	28	29	30
31 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church	1 JUNE	2	3 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	7	5	6
7 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church	8	9	10 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	11  Give from the heart. Donate blood and help save lives. Grace Episcopal Church Blood Drive The Undercroft 499 E. 1st Street, Lexington Thursday, June 11 th 2:00pm-6:00pm	12	13
14 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church -Last Sunday School -Last Rector’s Forum for summer	15	16	17 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	18	19	20
			Pisgah Camping			
21 Father’s Day! 10:30 am – Morning Prayer in the Church  Pisgah Camping	22	23	24 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	25	26	27
28 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church	29	30	1 JULY Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	2	3 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	4  HAPPY 4 th OF JULY
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Remember, if you will be conducting a meeting at Grace Church, you need to contact the church office to reserve a space! Email Maureen at gracechurch@gracelexingtonnc.org