

Grace Episcopal Church
Lexington, North Carolina

July / August 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.

Summertime

Summer in the Church is often quieter, slower, and more spacious — yet spiritually it is one of the richest seasons of the year. After the great celebrations of Easter and the Feast of Pentecost, we enter what the liturgical calendar calls “Ordinary Time,” marked by the color green. Green is the color of growth, of steady flourishing, of the patient work God does in us when life is not dramatic but faithful.

Throughout July and August, our Sunday readings invite us to walk with Jesus through His teaching ministry—parables that open the imagination, healings that restore, moments of compassion that soften the heart, and challenges that stretch us toward deeper faith. For example, in the Gospel on the first Sunday of July, Jesus invites us to “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30). Therefore, the coming weeks remind us that discipleship is shaped not only on the mountaintops but in the quiet, ordinary choices of each day — the small, steady steps that keep us close to Jesus. His yoke is not harsh or ill-fitting; it rests gently on the shoulders of those who walk with Him. And in that shared yoke, we discover again that His burden is light. And with longer days and gentler rhythms, we can listen more deeply, pray more intentionally, and reconnect with the simple gifts God places before us: creation in full bloom, time with family, shared meals, reading a good book, and the joy of gathering in worship even when many are traveling. Therefore, let’s take a minute and pray for those, including myself, who will be traveling this Summer.

“O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel [in particular _____]; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey’s end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*”



The Rev. Stephen Becker
Interim-Rector

America at 250: Seeking God's Mercy for Our Common Life

In my Summer newsletter article, I reflected on Jesus' promise: "Come to me, all you who are weary" (Matthew 11:28). This gracious invitation is extended to every believer, calling us into prayerful partnership with the One who has given His life for us. It is a summons to walk in His yoke, to share in His work, and to seek the extension of His Kingdom—allowing His life and light to penetrate the darkness that surrounds so many in our world.

When the Apostle Paul wrote his first letter to Timothy, he urged the Church to give priority to prayer, saying: "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior" (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

In the spirit of Paul's exhortation, we are called to lift our nation and its leaders before God in earnest prayer. One rich resource for this work is the *Prayers*

for *National Life* found on pages 820–823 in the *Book of Common Prayer*. These prayers teach us to give thanks for "this good land" and for the heritage we share as a people. They lead us to intercede for our nation—not with demands for unquestioned loyalty or exclusion, but with a humble desire that we might be "saved from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way." They call us to love our neighbors, to honor the dignity of every human being, and to resist any ideology that deepens division or diminishes compassion.

In these prayers, we ask God to "defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues," and to "endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government." Praying in this way, we seek to become a people drawn together for healing under the mercy of God—a people who pursue the welfare of all, trusting that God's grace is sufficient for every need. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Photos Needed!

I am excited to keep our church website and Facebook/Instagram pages going strong. I need your help collecting photos that show our Grace family together in community, worship, and service to others. When your groups gather, please take a couple of pictures that we can use to share both with each other and with potential guests who might browse our website or social media sites. You can text pictures to me at 336-408-0998 or email to:

kristi@gracelexingtonnc.org

Thanks!
Kristi Allred

Examples:

- Behind-the-scenes of altar guild & flower guild
- Dinner group gatherings
- Bible Study
- Social Hour
- Grace Food Ministries prep & serving
- Choir practice
- Choir of the willing (summer)
- Holly Roller in use
- Pisgah
- Pancake Supper prep
- Children/Youth Events
- Rector's Forum
- Parish Life events
- Music performances
- And more!

J2A News

Congratulations to our high school graduates Hadley Briggs and Ward Inabinett!

Our teens recently gathered to prepare meals for some folks on the Grace Church prayer list.

Chicken and rice casseroles, fresh watermelon and chocolate chip cookies were delivered by the teens, to rave reviews.

As one parishioner told us, he enjoyed the entire meal but ate the cookies first!

We are planning a few more gatherings this summer, including a visit to church members at Piedmont Crossing.



Children's Sunday School

The Children's Sunday School class enjoyed a wonderful pool party at the home of Donna and Richie Wiederhold on June 30th. The children had a great time playing Marco Polo, performing cannonballs, swimming, and jumping into the pool.

Parents and grandparents also enjoyed a time of fellowship, getting to know one another better in a relaxed and social atmosphere. Fr. Stephen joined in the fun as well, complete with his pink floating chair! It was a wonderful opportunity for him to spend time with the children and get to know them better outside of the usual Sunday morning setting.

We are grateful to Donna and Richie for their generous hospitality and for providing such a fun and memorable evening for our Grace families.



Columbarium Update

If you have visited the Columbarium recently, you may have noticed that several benches have been removed from the path along the back of the garden where the in-ground niches are located. Over time, these benches had sunk into the ground, making it increasingly difficult for people to get in and out of them. Upon removal it was noted that the bench legs had rotted secondary to previous drainage issues. The drainage issues have been addressed and

corrected; plans are underway to order replacement benches in the same style and teak wood. In the meantime, there are benches at the fountain and in the areas of the above ground niches which are very safe for seating while visiting the garden. We appreciate your patience as this problem is addressed; feel free to contact any member of our committee with questions or concerns.

Cathy Riggan

Thank you!

As I have now officially retired, I want to thank you for your kind words in person and for all the comments on Facebook. I truly enjoyed working at Grace Church.

For nine years, I served as the Parish Ministries Coordinator, a position that encompassed many different responsibilities during the time that The Rev. Tom King was our Rector. I needed to take time away from being the PMC to care for both my mother and my grandchildren.

After several conversations with Fr. Ed Kelaher, he offered me a more defined role focused on the website, social media, and Christian Education for the children of Grace. I started in August 2022.

Now it is time to pass this ministry to someone with fresh ideas and a strong understanding of today's ever-evolving world of social media. Having Kristi Allred take on this role is a tremendous gift to Grace Church, and I know she will do an outstanding job.

I will continue to be involved with our Sunday school program by organizing the curriculum and supporting our teachers as they share God's love with the children of Grace.

What I will miss most is working alongside Maureen, John, Fr. Ed, and Fr. Stephen. I will also miss the many conversations with parishioners who stopped by the office—moments filled with laughter, fellowship, and friendship that made each day special.

Although I am retired from my staff position, I remain a member of Grace and look forward to continuing to serve in a variety of ministries. Grace Church has been, and always will be, an important part of my life.

Thank you all for your support, encouragement, and friendship through the years. It has truly been a blessing.

Kathy Johnson



Grace Church welcomes
The Rev. Marion Sprott
Canon for Transitions
July 19



All are welcome!
Please join us.

Adult Forum
9:30, Parish Hall
Rev. Sprott will share about the rector search process and answer questions.

Holy Eucharist
10:30
Rev. Sprott will officiate our worship service.

FOLLOW US!



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GRACE CHURCH LEXINGTON NC

<https://gracelexingtonnc.org/>

Join the Summer Choir of the Willing!



Lead
worship
hymns!



No
Vestments!

No
Rehearsals,
just join in!



Prayer List

Adkins, Lou	Parishioner
Adkins, Mark	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 Kelahe
Bolstad, Sissy	Frances Garner's sister-in-law
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	Talmdage's son-in-law
Daw, Dylan	Friend
Dixon, Susan	Former Parishioner
Ewbank, Renee	Parishioner
Farley, Cathy	Friend of Patty & Ed
Finger, Phyllis	Friend of Frances Garner
Froehlich, Charlotte	Friend of Patty & Ed
Garland, Shana	Friend of Talmdage 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	Talmdage's sister-in-law
Hinton, Jennifer & Michael	Samantha Atkins' parents
Hodges, Chris	Parishioner
Holcomb, Bob	Donna Wiederhold's cousin
Jones, Marlene	Parishioner
Kelahe, Ed	Our Former Rector
Kent, Ray	Donna Wiederhold's brother
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
Reed, Cheryl	Judie's & Kathie's sister-in-law
Regan, Elizabeth	Josh Mathews' mother
Remsburg, Shirley	Parishioner
Rickert, Ellen	Shannon Jones' mother
Rojas, Jacklynn	M&L Cleckley's granddaughter
Saddler, Betty Jo	Parishioner
Salazaar, 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, Talmdage	Parishioner
Smith, Clyde	Friend of Bill Herndon
Smith, Martha Ellen	Parishioner
Sullivan, Sean	Friend of M & L Cleckley
Tarlton, Pat	Friend of Kathie Goodman
Touchton, Jackie	B. MacKinstry's sister
Tyndall, Brenda	Friend of K. Everhart
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

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

August Birthdays

Aug 5	Russ Johnson	Aug 26	Ward Inabinett
Aug 9	Julie Dayvault	Aug 28	Lynne Cleckley
Aug 11	Susan Terrell	Aug 28	Chuck Taylor
Aug 12	Walter Beeker	Aug 28	Ed Kelahe
Aug 18	Melissa Helms	Aug 30	Sandra Husted
Aug 20	Richie Wiederhold	Aug 31	Kat Danze

September Birthdays

Sep 3	Henry Duquette	Sep 9	Trinity Sheets
Sep 5	Linda Cox	Sep 10	Lynn Meeks
Sep 6	Karl Bolstad	Sep 10	Abby Gibby
Sep 6	Rosalie Masheke	Sep 12	Pat Black
Sep 7	Beth Burke	Sep 16	Doug Hartzog
Sep 7	Todd Parker	Sep 16	David Thomas
Sep 9	Mary Crump	Sep 27	Bill Herndon
Sep 9	Vickie Johnson	Sep 29	Cooper Petruzzi

Lay Leaders Schedule

Date	Lector	LEM	Intercessor	Acolytes	Ushers	Greeters
5-Jul-26 10:30	Neil Shepherd	Mary Matthews Staley Nance	Belvie Gilleland	Tucker	Bill Gilleland Doug Hartzog	Sandra Husted
12-Jul-26 10:30	Mary Bolstad	Louie Cox Tommy Black	Elizabeth Purdy	Merritt	Louie Cox Joe Wallace	Donna Wiederhold
19-Jul-26 10:30	Jim Nance	Miles Cleckley Karl Bolstad	Roberta Spencer	Chandler	Tommy Black Sims Riggan	Mary-Cameron Welborn
26-Jul-26 10:30	Tere Wagner	Pam Harvey Kathie Goodman	Marjorie Parker	Tanner	Wes Allred Chandler Allred	Frances Garner
2-Aug-26 10:30	Karl Bolstad	Mary Matthews Louie Cox	Judie Reed	Analise	Richard Wolfe Bill Gilleland	Penny Taylor
9-Aug-26 10:30	Belinda MacKinstry	Staley Nance Tommy Black	Belvie Gilleland	Tanner	Doug Hartzog Louie Cox	Sandra Husted
16-Aug-26 10:30	Mary Matthews	Karl Bolstad Pam Harvey	Elizabeth Purdy	Merritt	Joe Wallace Tommy Black	Donna Wiederhold
23-Aug-26 10:30	Penny Taylor	Kathie Goodman Mary Matthews	Staley Nance	Tucker	Sims Riggan Richard Wolfe	Mary-Cameron Welborn
30-Aug-26 10:30	Lynn Meeks	Staley Nance Karl Bolstad	Kathy Johnson	Anderson	Wes Allred Chandler Allred	Frances Garner
6-Sep-26 10:30	Sally Dodd	Louie Cox Miles Cleckley	Roberta Spencer		Bill Gilleland Doug Hartzog	Penny Taylor
13-Sep-26 10:30	Kathie Goodman	Tommy Black Staley Nance	Marjorie Parker		Louie Cox Joe Wallace	Sandra Husted
20-Sep-26 10:30	Neil Shepherd	Karl Bolstad Mary Matthews	Judie Reed		Tommy Black Richard Wolfe	Donna Wiederhold
27-Sep-26 10:30	Mary Bolstad	Pam Harvey Kathie Goodman	Belvie Gilleland		Sims Riggan Bill Gilleland	Mary-Cameron Welborn
4-Oct-26 10:30	Jim Nance	Louie Cox Tommy Black	Elizabeth Purdy		Wes Allred Chandler Allred	Frances Garner

Altar Guild	July 2026: Sally, Belvie, Kathie, Judie August 2026: Pam, Mimi, Frances, Carol, Renee K., Peggy September 2026: Sandra, Mary, Renee E.
Vestry Person of the Month for July 2026: Lynn Meeks	
Vestry Person of the Month for August 2026: Cathy Riggan	
Vestry Person of the Month for September 2026: Kristi Allred	

July / August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 28	22 29	23 30	24 1 JULY Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	25 2	26 3 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27 4 
5 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church	6 Columbarium Comm. Meeting 11:15 – Commons Room	7	8 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	9	10	11
12 10:30 am Rite 2 Service in the Church	13	14	15 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	16	17	18
19 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church with The Rev. Canon Marion Sprott	20	21	22 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	23	24	25
26 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church with The Rev. Ken Kroohs	27	28	29 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	30	31	1 AUGUST
Maureen on vacation						
2 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church	3	4	5 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	6	7	8
Maureen on vacation						
9 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church	10	11	12 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	13	14	15
16 10:30 am – Rite 2 Service in the Church	17	18	19 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	20	21	22
23 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church	24	25	26 Noon Prayer Service in the chapel	27	28	29
30 10:30 am - Rite 2 Service in the Church	31	1 SEPTEMBER	2	3	4	5

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