

The Grace Vine



Grace Episcopal Church
Lexington, North Carolina

November 2009

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 22

9:45 a.m. - Undercroft

Breakfast served

Parishioners from both the 9:00 and 11:00 service
are asked to come together
for Breakfast, Fellowship, and the Annual Meeting.

We will welcome new members to our congregation; receive written reports from the commissions of the church; thank the three vestry members who have served these last three years: Kristi Allred, Karl Bolstad and Bill Keesler; along with one year member, Will Blackerby, and vote for four new vestry members.

The vestry nominees are: Will Blackerby, Julie Dayvault, Scott Hoffmann, Michael Kepley, Belinda MacKinstry, Penny Taylor, and Patricia Wardle.

Poinsettias for the Season



It is once again time to place your orders for poinsettias to decorate the church. These are 6" plants with wrap and bow.

The deadline for orders will be Wednesday, November 18, 2009.

The price is \$10.00.

Please call the church office or sign up on the sheets provided in the narthex of the church and chapel.

Spaghetti Supper

Sunday November 15

5:00 - 6:30 pm - Undercroft

Tickets: Adults \$6.00

Children age 4-11 \$4.00

Children under age 3 eat free

Please support the J2A Youth

Take-out available

The annual parish-wide Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, at the Homestead historic home across the street from the church, beginning at 6:00 and concluding at 9:00. We had a great crowd last year, and we hope the earlier starting time will allow even more people to attend. Please bring canned goods and/or cash donations for Pastor's Pantry. Recommended donations include: boxes of individually sized packets of oatmeal or grits, rice, instant mashed potatoes, canned vegetables and fruits, canned meat and tuna, condensed milk, crackers and other snacks, and soap. We are grateful to Norma & Arlin Buttke, our hosts, for their gracious hospitality. Norma is President of the Pastor's Pantry board; your donation to Pastor's Pantry is one way of saying "thanks" by supporting a ministry that is especially important to her. If you are bringing folks who have difficulty walking, please pull into the gravel driveway at the front of the house to let them off, and then move your car to the church parking lot.



**Citizens for C.H.A.N.G.E. – Public Assembly
You are invited!**

For the past several months an ad hoc group of local citizens from several neighborhoods and congregations has been meeting to consider whether or not to organize a formal effort to evaluate the needs of our community and to pursue efforts to initiate changes recommended by the evaluation.

The next step in the discernment process is a public assembly on November 17 (7:00 pm) at Files Chapel Baptist Church on Dixie Street. If you would like to know more about this effort, you are invited to participate in the assembly. At this point Davidson County does not have a formal chapter of C.H.A.N.G.E. (Communities Helping All Neighbors Gain Empowerment) – the assembly and various orientation sessions are designed to give local citizens the information they need to determine their level of interest. This is the first public gathering of this type; it will begin promptly at 7:00 pm and will conclude promptly at 8:30, or a few minutes early.

A dozen members of Grace Church have been involved in this discernment process, and would like to invite other members of the congregation to participate in this informational meeting to learn about the sponsoring organization and about opportunities to make a constructive difference in Davidson County. For more information, contact Hugo Hodgins (hhh3@triad.rr.com) or Anne Rives (arives1@triad.rr.com).



Bill Keesler
Executive Director
336-249-8824

P. O. Box 2051
Lexington, NC 27293
pastorspantry@lexcominc.net

September 22, 2009

Men of the Church
Grace Episcopal Church
419 South Main Street
Lexington, NC 27292

Dear Fellow Men of the Church,

Or should I say Fellows of the Church?

Thank you very much for your \$1,000 contribution this month to Pastor's Pantry. Your gift will feed one of the 285 needy senior adult households we serve in Davidson County for 10 months. Every month we provide client households with about \$100 worth of groceries (nonperishable canned and packaged foods plus fresh produce, frozen meat, and bread). Your contribution is especially valuable because our client list grows longer as the Great Recession continues.

What also means a lot to me is that this gift comes from my church, my Men of the Church group, and the great 56-year-old tradition of the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and the money it raises for local relief. I was (clumsily) at my waiter's post this past February and will be again this coming February. Isn't it appropriate that so many people eat so much so that, among other things, others without enough food will not go hungry? Many thanks to "Assistant Trail Boss" Richard Thomas, David Inabinett, and anyone else with input in the decision by Men of the Church to assist Pastor's Pantry.

Grace Church and its members have been tremendously helpful to Pastor's Pantry since I became executive director six months ago, donating not only money but also food, grocery bags, and egg cartons. I feel tremendously supported by my own church.

Gratefully,

Bill Keesler
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Rosalind Baker

Charles Blount,
Vice President

Norma Buttke,
President

Joe Craver

Brenda Houser

Marci Jackson

Evelyn Kepley

Chad Kirkendall

Sharon Mickey

Matthew O'Bryant

Richard Perryman,
Treasurer

Cathy Publicover

Sotia Seng

Zachary Sink

Kathly Sashoreba,
Secretary

Lucie Zimmerman

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
PASTORS PANTRY**

Pastor's Pantry's "busy season" is upon them!

Volunteers are needed to help in a variety of ways:

- Staff the desk in the lobby
- Process donated food
- Fill bags with groceries
- Oversee the Angel Tree, which contains cards with names of clients for gifts.

Hours are flexible – one or two hours at a time on a regular or irregular basis.

Whatever works best for your schedule – your help will be greatly appreciated.

**Pantry Hours:
8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Monday through Friday**

Contact Bill Keesler,
executive director,
at 249-8824
or email:

pastorspantry@lexcominc.net

Eco-Friendly Thanksgiving

Submitted by Belinda Thomas

Thanksgiving Day is loaded with tradition, so why not start a new tradition in your family by making Thanksgiving an eco-friendly celebration from start to finish?

Here are some tips to help you capture the spirit of the original Thanksgiving by making your holiday celebration eco-friendly. An eco-friendly Thanksgiving will enrich your family's holiday experience, because you will know that you have reduced your impact on the environment. That is something for which everyone can be thankful.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- To make your Thanksgiving celebration as eco-friendly as possible, start with the three R's of conservation: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.
- Reduce the amount of waste you produce by buying only as much as you need and choosing products that come in packaging that can be recycled.
- Carry reusable bags when you do your shopping, and use cloth napkins that can be washed and used again.
- Recycle paper, and all plastic, glass and aluminum containers. If you don't already have a compost bin, use your Thanksgiving fruit and vegetable trimmings to start one. The compost will enrich the soil in your garden next spring.

Buy and Eat Locally Grown Food

Buying only locally grown food is one good way to have an eco-friendly Thanksgiving. Locally grown food is good for your table, your health and the environment. Locally grown food tastes better than food that has to be grown and packaged for maximum shelf life, and it requires less fuel to reach store shelves. Locally grown food also contributes more to your local economy, supporting local farmers as well as local merchants.

Make Your Meal Organic

Organic fruits, vegetables and grains are grown without chemical pesticides and fertilizers; organic meat is produced without antibiotics and artificial hormones. The result is food that is better for your health and good for the environment. Organic farming also produces higher yields, increases soil fertility, prevents erosion, and is more cost-effective for farmers.

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated near the Atlantic Ocean abundant with fresh fish and seafood; consider a main entrée of sustainable wild-caught fish or shellfish. Buy an organic free-range or sustainable turkey from your favorite natural or organic food store. Tip: place order early!

Celebrate at Home

Thanksgiving weekend is one of the heaviest for highway travel in the United States. This year, why not reduce global warming and improve air quality by lowering your auto emissions at the same time that you lower your family's stress level? Skip the stressful holiday travel and celebrate an eco-friendly Thanksgiving at home.

Travel Smart. If you must go over the river and through the woods, there are still ways to have an eco-friendly Thanksgiving. If you drive, use less fuel and lower your emissions by making sure your car is in good working order and your tires are properly inflated. If possible, carpool to reduce the number of cars on the road and lower the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to air pollution and global warming.

If you fly, consider purchasing carbon credits to offset your portion of the carbon dioxide emissions generated by your flight. A typical long-haul flight produces nearly four tons of carbon dioxide.

Plant a Tree

Trees absorb carbon dioxide—a greenhouse gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect and global warming—and give off oxygen in return. Planting one tree may not seem to matter much in the face of global climate change, but small things do matter. In one year, the average tree absorbs roughly 26 pounds of carbon dioxide and returns enough oxygen to supply a family of four.

Green Thanksgiving Decorating Tips

Here are some simple, earth-friendly, and money saving ways to decorate your home for the holiday. Bring the beauty of the harvest season indoors with gourds, colored corn, or nuts place in a basket to display the decorations.

Take a nature walk and gather signs of the season from your own local environment to create a simple but beautiful nature's harvest centerpiece. Gather found items: pine cones, colored leaves, seed pods, sea shells, colorful leaves, or dried flowers. Place your nature's treasures in vases or clear bowls accented with a pretty raffia ribbon for a pleasing and naturally green centerpiece.

Use soy candles for holiday lighting, make sure you keep flames away from little ones and use basic fire safety precautions.

For an extra touch fill a glass bowl with water and flower petals or seasonal grains, such as colorful corns and place a pillar candle in the center.

With a few simple supplies and a little imagination, you can make great eco-friendly Thanksgiving decorations with children and have a lot of fun in the process. Colored construction paper can be cut or folded into simple Pilgrim, turkey and harvest decorations. Later, the paper can be recycled.

http://environment.about.com/od/greenthanksgiving/tp/ef_thanksgiving.htm

Dear Friends at Grace,

The month of November is upon us. It is perhaps my favorite month of the year. As a child and teenager I welcomed the change in seasons and I still do. There was a chill in the air to replace the long hot summer days. Even though we were back in school, friendships were renewed once again and life was good. Some of my fondest memories are of all day backyard football and basketball games. Saturdays were for hunting with friends and relatives until you were exhausted. Often a stroll through the woods alone with your dog would be enough to make you happy. I remember the smell of wood burning fireplaces wafting through the neighborhood, the sights and smell of the changing leaves and of course the knowledge that I would always return to the warmth and security of a happy home.

All of these memories lead me to the fact that Thanksgiving has long been my favorite holiday of the year. It is and has always been a quieter and more relaxing holiday than others. There is no rushing and worrying about gifts to buy, but a time of reflection and a time to give thanks for all that we have been blessed with. I cherished the family reunions with more food than anyone needs yet eating until we were literally stuffed to the point of being uncomfortable. We at Grace are truly blessed in many ways. As we approach this holiday season let us remember to pause and give thanks to God and to remember to pray for and help those in need. Remember those who are lucky to get one good meal a week. Sharing our blessings with others is what it's all about and we will certainly reap the rewards many times over. I thank each and every one of you for all you do and remember that our work is never done.

Yours in Christ, Tommy Younts

Financial Support Provided

At the October meeting of the Social Concerns Commission, the committee reviewed three grant requests from agencies in our community. In keeping with our commitment to work for the improvement of healthcare in our community, the commission allocated \$10,000 to Positive Wellness Alliance and \$4,000 to Davidson Medical Ministries Clinic. We also provided \$1,200 in assistance to Pastor's Pantry, which will feed one senior for an entire year.

These agencies provide critical services which address the health and wellness issues of diverse and underserved populations in our area, and we are pleased to be able to provide much needed financial support. We believe the contribution of Grace Church will have a significant impact.

Financial Update as of September 30, 2009

	<u>September 2009</u>	<u>Year-to-date</u>	
Budget	\$ 24,475.41	\$220,278	75%
Income	17,438.94	*192,909	65.4%
Expenses	**27,658.72	217,140	73.9%
Over/(Under)	\$(10,219.78)	\$(25,050)	

*Does not include \$12,856 in prepaid pledges.

**Includes ~ \$3,080 Annual Seminary Support,
\$3,000 One-time Arts Discovery transfer
\$3,000 Annual Audit
\$600 Office expense (offset by donation)

THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

Greetings from the children and staff of The Children's School. We are enjoying the more moderate fall weather and the many changes observed in nature. Each season brings many opportunities for hands-on lessons as we learn about the beauty and wonders surrounding us in *God's Beautiful World*. Each child is encouraged to bring in "finds" to share with our classes like woolly worms, nuts, special leaves, rocks and other "critters." These treasures set up the most wonderful discussions and "teachable moments" for us. It is so special to watch children as they grow cognitively, socially and spiritually. I have shared with you recently how privileged we as a staff are to share in the wonder of the development of our precious children and how grateful I am to you for continuing to provide this special place for children in our community. Indeed, The Children's School is a special place for children and parents as we strive to assist and support them during this special yet often challenging economic time.

During the month of November, we will offer school logo apparel. Some of you have showed an interest in ordering items in the past. If you would like to order a shirt, sweatshirt, apron or other items, please see Jane or you can request an order form in the office from Maureen. We will need to receive completed order forms with payment on or before November 19.

I hope as we move through November towards Thanksgiving we will all ponder the many blessings that are ours in life. Grace Church is a special community of faith that I am most thankful for. Thank you for blessing Lexington and Davidson County with so many vibrant ministries and most especially ministering to children and families through The Children's School.



Respectfully yours, Jane Wall-Blackwell

From the Rector

Several years ago the church received a generous bequest from the estate of Blanche (Penny) Byerly. After lengthy consideration, the vestry decided to place these funds in an unrestricted endowment, and to use a portion of the fund each year to serve ministries above and beyond the capacity of the operating budget.

Each year 4% of the fund is withdrawn and used as follows: 50% for ministry outreach beyond the parish; 20% for ongoing maintenance needs beyond the operating budget; and 30% to assist with the congregation's share of diocesan ministries. The 4% figure was recommended to the vestry by the fund's account manager, and is based on many years of experience by hundreds of charitable foundations. For the first few years the fund was earning far more than 4%, and is gradually coming back after a period of significant losses. The 4% allocation does two things: it provides charitable funds each year, whether investment experience has been good or bad, and over time it allows the fund to grow despite annual withdrawals.

As you will see elsewhere in the GraceVine, the Social Ministries Commission has awarded three important grants to local ministries. Funding for these grants came from the Byerly Fund allocations for 2008 and 2009.

In a recent survey of the congregation, healthcare and hunger were identified as priorities. The Social Ministries Commission has been careful and thorough in researching the needs and resources of the community, and has directed these funds as you recommended. Positive Wellness Alliance, Davidson Medical Ministries, and Pastor's Pantry are doing exceptional work, and are to be commended for their contributions to the community. Grace Church, the Social Ministries Commission, and the late Penny Byerly are to be commended as well for generously supporting these vital ministries.

Years ago someone confronted a famous preacher, saying "I quit going to church. All I ever heard was give, give, give. I got tired of it and quit coming." The minister replied, "Well, you're right. That's the message. Always has been. Always will be: give, give, give. That, my friend, is what it's all about."

Tom E. King



Faith & the Arts Committee presents:

Gospel Singing at Grace

The Kelly Sisters

Sunday, November 22—5:00 PM

Grace Episcopal Church

Performance is free and open to the public.



Additional performance by Emmanuel Baptist Church Adult Liturgical Dance Ministry.

The Kelly Sisters, Terry, Michelle, Cynthia, and LaTricia, began their singing careers in Illinois. Their father, a Methodist minister, encouraged them to join the youth choir at their church. Terry was the first sister to move to Winston-Salem, and the three other sisters followed her there.

Cynthia, the third sister, performed at the Stained Glass Playhouse in the 2009 production of *Mahalia*. LaTricia, the youngest, is an evangelist at the House of Faith and a musician; Michele, the second oldest, is a Certified Nursing Assistant; and Terry, the oldest, is a hair stylist and pianist at Shiloh Baptist Church.

The Kelly Sisters sang recently at Ephesus Seventh Day Adventist Church, Shiloh Baptist Church, and Goler Metropolitan AME Zion Church in Winston-Salem. They will be singing at Grace Episcopal Church in Lexington on November 22, 2009. This program is free to the public. Donations will be accepted.

November Ministries Schedule

	Nov 1	Nov 8	Nov 15	Nov 22	Nov 29
Lector	9: Jan Morgan 11: Bill Keesler	9: Belinda MacKinstry 11: Mary Bolstad	9: Jane Bowser 11: Dale Burr	9: Mary Matthews 11: Lynn Meeks	9: Sally Dodd 11: Gray Davis
Eucharistic Minister	Staley Nance	Jane Bowser	Marty Younts	Hugo Hodgins	Karl Bolstad
Intercessor	Lydia Mack	Kristi Allred	Joe Wallace	Anne Newber	Kathy Johnson
Acolytes	Alex Franklin Rachel Dilley David Wolfe	Andrew Dilley Cole Riggan Sydney Parker	Jeff Kaley Coleman Hayes Emerson Hayes	Tyler Everhart Harrison Everhart Josey Parker	Grayson Hodge Marshall Hodge David Wolfe
Ushers	Louie Cox Art Burkhart	Doug Hartzog Bert May	Bill Keesler Joe Wallace	Richard Thomas Jay Williams	Tom Black R. B. Smith
Greeters	Susan Terrell Lydia Mack	Gray & Mary Davis	Page Onorato Bett Hargrave	Ed & Diane Huneycutt	Ben & Deirdre Philpott
Nursery	Carolyn Wolfe	Cameron Miller	Pam Alley	Mary Cameron Welborn	Beth Burke
Social Hour	Beth & John Burke	Pam & Steve Harvey	Barbara Presnell Bill Keesler	Cameron & Patrick Miller	Clarice & Henry Surratt
Lunch Helpers	Debbie & Mike Egan	Mary Bolstad	Carol Jordan	David & Marlene Jones	John & Beth Burke
Flowers	Sims & Cathy Riggan	OPEN	Claudia Russell & Marlene Jones	Sally & Towers Dodd	Fred McIntyre & Sons
Altar Guild	Jane Bowser, Jane Grimes, Em DeLapp, Sally Dodd, Kathie Goodman, Shawn Hodge, Lynn Meeks, Becky Moser, Mary Williams, Patricia Wardle, Belinda Thomas				

Crisis Ministry Meal—November 2: Carol Jordan, Jeri Burkhart, Kathy Johnson, Diane Huneycutt

Vestry Person of the Month: Tommy Younts

Food Pantry: Lisa Timberlake

Recycling: John Burke

First Sunday Loose Offering: November 1—Thompson Home

*If you are unable to serve on the assigned Sunday, please secure a substitute and notify the church office by Wednesday noon prior to the Sunday you are assigned.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 1	Bennie Wagner	November 12	Ben Terrell	November 21	Nancy Sink
November 2	Patsy Miller	November 14	Barbara Beck	November 21	Christina Wyatt
November 2	Suzy Sheets	November 15	Harrison Everhart	November 26	Robert Mack
November 3	Dan Moore	November 18	Sydney Parker	November 28	Beth DeLapp
November 3	Evelyn Harris	November 19	Julia Leonard	November 28	Rob Timberlake
November 4	Walt Lindsey	November 19	Myra Spilman	November 29	Patricia Wardle
November 5	Gayle Burke	November 20	Dave Morgan	November 30	Talmadge Silversides
November 8	Ellen Linder	November 20	Katherine Everhart		

Calendar of Events

- Nov 1 2:00 pm CROP Walk starting at First Baptist Church
 Nov 11 6:30 pm Wardens Meeting in the CR
 Nov 14 6:00 pm Visitors and Newcomer's Gathering
 Nov 15 5:00 pm J2A Spaghetti Supper in the UC
 Nov 18 6:00 pm Environmental Stewardship Comm. Meeting in the CR
 Nov 19 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting in the CR
 Nov 22 9:45 am Congregational Meeting
 5:00 pm The Kelly Sisters Gospel Singing in the Church
 Nov 29 9:45 am Make your own Advent Wreaths in the UC
- Nov 3,5,10,12,17,19 3:30 pm G.R.A.C.E. Girls Meet in the UC
 Nov 30 6:00 pm G.R.A.C.E. Girls "Giving Back"
- Nov 2 & 9 6:30 pm Servant Leadership Course in the CR

Outside Groups Using Facilities:

- Nov 2 5:30 pm
Habitat for Humanity - UC
- Nov 9 6:00 pm &
Charity League—UC
- Nov 10 7:00 pm
Democratic Women of DC - UC
- Al-Anon
every Thursday at 8:00 pm - UC

Contemplative Prayer – every Tuesday noon – 1:00 pm in the Chapel
 Midweek Healing Service – every Wednesday at 12:10 pm in the Chapel

Bible Workbench Bible Study – Meets every Wednesday 1:00 pm in CR
 Choir Practice—every Wednesday at 7:15 pm in the Choir Room

PRAYER LIST

Adkins, Mark	Parishioner	Mack, Lynn	Parishioner
Beeker, Boyd	Parishioner	Marsh, Polly	Jane Grimes' mother
Blackwell, Madeline	Jane's daughter	May, Carol	Parishioner
Briggs, Gerald	Friend	McCarthy, Jennings	Pam Daniel's daughter
Brown, Baylee	Parishioner	Newber, Anne	Parishioner
Cook, Luke	Bob & Sandy's grandson	Phillips, Tommy	Parishioner
Dressler, Chris	Parishioner	Philpott, Ben	Parishioner
Ferguson, Annette	Friend	Poole, Becky	Friend
Grimes, Jane	Parishioner	Powell, Cinnie	Rick Mack's sister
Hampton, Vaunice	Myra Spilman's sister	Senter, Dorlis	Robin Senter's mother
Hodgin, Sue	Parishioner	Sheets, Suzy	Parishioner
Kepley-Lee, Becky	Friend	Spilman, Myra	Parishioner
Linder, Larry	Parishioner	Thomas, Elrene	Parishioner
Logan, James	Nancy Mack's father	Wagner, Mike	Parishioner
Long, Suzanne	Jeff Kaley's mother	Younts, Marty	Parishioner
Lund, Cavelle	Parishioner		



Journey To Adulthood Christmas Tree Sale Fundraiser

The J2A group of Grace Church will be taking part in a Christmas tree sale fundraiser. The trees will be fresh cut No. 1 quality Fraser Fir. Our goal is to sell 100 trees!! **All proceeds will go the Grace Church Youth.**

Orders will be taken by all J2A members until November 22.

The sale price of the trees will be: 6'-7' tree - \$50.00 7'-8' tree - \$60.00

The pick-up dates will be Saturday, December 5th from 8:00 am—5:00 pm, and Sunday, December 6th from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm, at the church. Deliveries can be made for an extra cost and will only be for in-town customers.

Please help us support our youth program by telling your friends and family about this sale. This is a major fundraiser so we would like to have a large participation by the parish members.

Please fill out this form and return it to any J2A member or leader. Checks should be made payable to Grace Church J2A.

Thank you so much for helping support our youth!

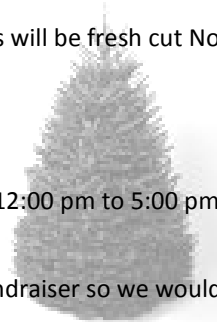
NAME _____

PHONE _____ or _____

ADDRESS (for delivery only) _____

- 6'-7' Premium Fraser Fir—\$50.00
 7'-8' Premium Fraser Fir—\$60.00
 Delivery—\$10.00

Make checks payable to Grace Church J2A



Women of Grace

Wreath Making Workshop

Toms Creek Farm and Nursery

Saturday, November 28, 10:00-Noon

OR

Tuesday, December 1, 10:00 – Noon



If you participated last year you will remember the plethora of wreath materials and instruction available, and it was a wonderful fellowship opportunity as well. If there is enough interest everyone can have lunch together at a restaurant in Denton.

To receive the discounted price of \$25, reservations need to be made before November 6. Please contact Sandra Husted or Kathy Johnson if you are interested in attending one of these dates.

Check out their website for photos of wreaths.

http://www.toms creek.com/Toms_Creek_Nursery_%26_Landscaping/Wreath_Workshop.html



November 29 – First Sunday of Advent Intergenerational Sunday School

Meet in the Undercroft at 9:45 to make your own Advent Wreath. This year clear plastic dishes filled with oasis will be used for the wreaths. Fresh greenery, candles and candle holders will also be provided.

If you have greenery around your house, please bring some to share

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