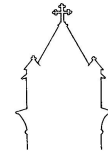




The Grace Vine



Grace Episcopal Church  
Lexington, North Carolina

December 2011



## FRAN MCKENDREE

Sponsored by:  
Faith & Arts Commission and the  
Northwest Region of the Diocese of NC

For more information on Fran McKendree  
visit his website at  
<http://www.franmckendree.com/bio.html>

### *Find the Quiet Center*

“Come and find the quiet center...give yourself the gift of an hour to reflect, to give thanks, sing and slow down. This gentle liturgy of song, poetry, prayer and silence is an oasis in this season of ‘overdoing.’”

Fran McKendree

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 11, 2011**

**7:00 pm**

**Grace Episcopal Church**

**Childcare provided**

## Sundays in Advent

### Advent I

Sunday November 27  
Make Advent Wreaths and  
Chrismons in the UC during  
Intergenerational Sunday School

### Advent II

Sunday December 4  
9:00 a.m. Rite I  
11:00 a.m. Rite II

### Advent III

Sunday December 11  
9:00 a.m. Rite I  
11:00 a.m. Rite II  
7:00 p.m. Fran McKendree  
"Find the Quiet Center"

### Advent IV

Sunday December 18  
9:00 a.m. Rite I  
Festival of Lessons & Music  
11:00 a.m.

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### Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24  
5:00 pm Family Service  
Children's Christmas Play

11:00 pm Christmas Eve service  
Eucharist with full Choir

### Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25  
11:00 in the Chapel

### Epiphany

Friday, January 6, 2012  
6:00 p.m. Dinner - Undercroft  
7:00 p.m. Service in Church

During the Epiphany service every-  
one is requested to bring boxes of  
macaroni and cheese as a donation  
to Pastor's Pantry.

## Grace Church Christmas Party

Saturday

December 10

6.00 - 9.00 p.m.

At the home of  
Will & Jane Blackerby  
4 Grimes Circle

Parishioners are asked to bring:

- ♦ *Hors d'oeuvre or dessert*
- ♦ *BYOB*
- ♦ *Non-perishable foods or cash for  
Pastor's Pantry*

*Parish Life will provide paper products, non-  
alcoholic drinks, and ice*

### Senior Ladies Luncheon

Christmas 2011

December 12, 2011

Noon

at the home of

Ellen Linder

505 Fairview Dr.

Ladies RSVP to Sandra Husted  
at 248-4934



*From the Rector*

Like many of you, I was introduced to the work of Wayne Muller when I read his most popular book, *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives*. I wanted to hear what else this exceptional thinker had to say, so I read his other books: *Legacy of the Heart: the Spiritual Advantages of a Painful Childhood*; *A Life of Being, Having, and Doing Enough*; *Learning to Pray: How We Find Heaven on Earth*; *How, Then, Shall We Live?: Four Simple Questions That Reveal the Beauty and Meaning of Our Lives*. I highly recommended *all* of these books!!

Later I discovered that Wayne offers individual spiritual direction and consultation, by phone and in person in Santa Fe. I contacted him by e-mail to inquire about meeting while I was on sabbatical. We exchanged questions and information, and agreed to three one-hour consultations by phone prior to my Santa Fe visit, and to meet in person for nine hours while Judy and I were in Santa Fe. We have concluded our conversations with two phone calls since I returned home.

Consulting with Wayne Muller was appealing for several reasons. I found keen intuition and clear thinking in all of his books. I felt like he would understand my questions and respond thoughtfully and empathically. I knew that his perspective on matters of faith and spirituality would be informed by his experience as a Harvard-trained clergyperson, psychotherapist, spiritual director, teacher, and consultant.

My hunches and assumptions about Wayne's competence, empathy, wisdom, and integrity were right on target. He came to our work well-trained and well-prepared, with an open mind shaped by a wealth of personal experience and years of working with others.

Rather than offer TMI (too much information) about myself, I will share some of the observations I heard from Wayne. Obviously these remarks were in response to my questions and quirks, so don't read too closely between the lines unless you are looking for TMI.

- Spiritual formation is a circular, life-long process, not a straight line with clear goal. It is gradual and unique for each person, despite the common themes often described in spiritual literature.
- It seems arrogant and grandiose for any of us to declare what is ontologically true, but it makes all the sense in the world to declare "what is true for me."
- Rumi's prayer: "God, nibble at me. Don't gobble me up."
- If you knew, felt, understood, believed without any doubt that you are a cherished, beloved child of God, what would you do? How would that affect your life?
- You are reading way too many books. You already have more knowledge than you will ever need – get a pen and notebook and start journaling. I want you to know as much about your own thoughts and feelings as you know about Kierkegaard and Paul Tillich.
- Take time to identify and reflect on the "moments of grace" in your life, those welcomed experiences that have shaped you and added to your life; and those really terrible, tough times that taught you things you really needed to know.
- Thinking that spiritual growth is a straight line where tomorrow is higher, better, farther along than today renders the present automatically inferior, not an acceptable place but a launching pad for tomorrow – which immediately becomes an inferior launching pad for the day after tomorrow.
- We all have "enduring vulnerabilities," those things that get in our way and complicate our life from time to time. We cannot outrun them or outgrow them. They will always pop up at times to interfere. The task is to know what they are and to recognize them when they intrude. And above all, don't give them the keys to the car!

Gratefully,  
Tom E. King

**Episcopal Relief and Development: Diocesan Convention Ingathering of Art and Crafts  
How Can You Help a Hurting World?**

**Thanks to those that brought items to sell last year and those that bought craft items from the ERD booth. Together, we raised enough money to buy nets that will provide protection for close to 1000 people.**

It is time to think of creating works of art for this year's up-coming Diocesan Convention. Diocesan ERD coordinator Reid Joyner and Kathy Gregg, spouse of Assistant Bishop William Gregg are asking folks to start now. Create some works of art to donate to the fund raiser, held each year at the ERD booth in the marketplace during convention.

Any person who would like to donate a work of art or handmade craft is invited to participate in this fundraiser.

**Examples of items that sold well last year are: knitted or crocheted items, small pottery items, hand or machine sewn items, quality crafts, matted or framed art photographs or prints, small wooden items, paintings, woven or hooked items, quilted items.**

Guidelines:

- **New for 2012: NO CHRISTMAS ITEMS OF ANY TYPE.** (Sorry, they do not sell in January)
- **Bring all donated items to the Episcopal Relief and Development booth at convention (located in the Marketplace near meeting space)**
- Donated items must include the artists name and contact information
- Items must be portable and handmade
- Quality is very important
- Price the items and bring them to Convention. If you are not coming to Convention, send them with someone who is attending.
- Donors should check at the ERD sales table at the end of convention. IF an item has not sold, it will be returned to the owner. All items not claimed by the end of convention will be retained by ERD and used for future fund raisers for ERD.
- Proceeds will be donated to *NetsforLife* to prevent Malaria.

In order to make this work, everyone is encouraged to visit the booth, purchase something or donate. Please let one of us know by January 1, 2012 if you are bringing items so we can have enough space. We will have more hanging and display space this year. Together, we can make a difference in the global fight against Malaria. Many hands and hearts together can truly work miracles.

Thank you in advance for your contributions and your prayers.

Reid Joyner : 704 .554 .6359 erd-nc@hotmail.com

Kathy Gregg: 704. 942 .7542 kgregg002@carolina.rr.com

**From the Vestry Person of the Month**

**Find Yourself...Find Your Congregation!!!** 

Ever since finding out this past January that I would be the December Vestry Person of the Month, I have spent many nights trying to come up with something profound to write about. I thought that I should share some of the lessons I have learned in my life, in hopes that it might help members both young and old. But then I decided that the GraceVine might not be the place for my life stories, and that I probably should stick to fiction and find a way to write something more relevant to our church family. So, as I have done numerous times, I got out my pictorial directory to help me think about my church family, and I realized that I only actually know a small portion of our congregation. Therefore, instead of writing an insightful story for the GraveVine, I decided to put a puzzle in this edition, hoping it would force everyone to think about the members that make up our congregation. If you have not noticed already, there is a Word Search on the next page that contains the last name of all of our current members (names are only listed once in the case of multiple families). Think about this chaotic grid of letters as the world we live in, and even though all of our members names are in there, we will not find each other unless we take time to look. If you are viewing this online, you will need to print a copy. While you are working the puzzle, I encourage you to refer to your pictorial directory if you do not know who the last name you are looking for belongs to. Maybe the next time you see that person at church you can stop them and say, "It took me 2 hours to find your name!". For families, maybe leave the GraceVine in a central area of your house like the kitchen table, so everyone can work on the puzzle in their spare time. Although I am sure every single member will work this puzzle to completion (ha!), I decided a small prize for those who complete it would be a good idea. Therefore, anyone who brings a completed puzzle to my house at 4 Grimes Circle on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> will receive free admission to the Annual Church Christmas Party! See you soon.

Will Blackerby



*From the Senior Warden . . .*

This Vestry year has absolutely flown by!! It is time now for a new 'class' to join us, and I say Welcome. The Vestry has been busy and will be busy this next year. The Vestry is comprised of people who represent the parish - talk to us!! That is the only way we can truly work for the church as a whole. Remember, the minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the undercroft so everyone can know what has been presented at each meeting.

The Missions of Grace Church are very much needed by the community and ourselves, and our individual spirituality can add much to the accomplishments of those missions. I applaud what we do, encourage everyone to be aware and to participate. The food brought in through December has been great!! Can we keep it up if we post specifics each week?? That seems to have worked well.

Look through Grace's Gift book for gifts that have a true meaning of missions - there are several wonderful choices there.

Many Blessings for each of you and your loved ones!! And see you in church,

Kathie G



**Tips from the ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP Commission** by Sandy Reynolds

Environmental Stewardship Commission

Being GREEN all year round is important, but we should also be environmentally aware around the holidays. There is perhaps no time of year where more waste is produced.



Some suggestions:

1. Instead of using metallic or glossy wrapping paper which are toxic when burned, consider using fabric bags or recycled paper, newspapers, old maps, blueprints, or kid's artwork that would make colorful and different WRAPPING.
2. Consider using baskets, flower pots, dishtowels or kitchen containers for "alternative" packaging items.
3. Use RECHARGEABLE batteries instead of regular ones for kid's gifts that are battery operated.
4. Use LED Christmas lights, they reduce energy consumption by 80-90%.
5. Use FRESH greenery instead of plastic.
6. Use old Christmas cards for GIFT TAGS.
7. Remember at all times of the year about 90% of energy used by your WASHING MACHINE goes to heat the water, for most loads a cold wash will suffice.

If and when possible SHOP LOCAL!! HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL !

**PRAYER LIST**

<b>Adkins, Mark</b>	Parishioner	<b>Kaley, Jeff</b>	Parishioner	<b>Phillips, Tommy</b>	Parishioner
<b>Beeker, Jo</b>	Parishioner	<b>Kepley-Lee, Becky</b>	Friend	<b>Philpott, Ben</b>	Parishioner
<b>Bell, Mary Lou</b>	Friend	<b>Linder, Larry</b>	Parishioner	<b>Powell, Cinnie</b>	Rick Mack's sister
<b>Bingham, Georganne</b>	Staley & Ed's mother	<b>Little, Ronda</b>	Friend	<b>Reynolds, Bob</b>	Friend
<b>Brown, Baylee</b>	Parishioner	<b>Long, Suzanne</b>	Jeff Kaley's mother	<b>Rojas, Jacklynn</b>	M&L Cleckley's granddaughter
<b>Brunner, Carey</b>	Friend	<b>Lopp, Mildred</b>	Friend	<b>Russell, Margaret</b>	Frances & Rhonda's sister
<b>Buttke, Norma</b>	Friend	<b>Lowe, Hun</b>	Friend	<b>Sheets, Suzy</b>	Parishioner
<b>Carter, Wilson</b>	Former Rector	<b>Marsh, Polly</b>	Jane Grimes' mother	<b>Stoner, Marianna</b>	Former Parishioner
<b>Cecil, Charm</b>	Friend	<b>Mauzé, Ben</b>	Friend	<b>Thomas, Elrene</b>	Parishioner
<b>Clodfelter, Joan</b>	Parishioner	<b>May, Carol</b>	Parishioner	<b>Wagner, Mike</b>	Parishioner
<b>Cook, Luke</b>	Bob & Sandy's grandson	<b>Michael, Molly</b>	Talmadge's cousin	<b>Williams, Aaron</b>	A. Gilleland Williams' husband
<b>Faulkner, Christy Clark</b>	Friend	<b>Moser, Rebecca</b>	Parishioner	<b>Young, Chip</b>	Friend
<b>Hodgin, Sue</b>	Parishioner	<b>Newber, Anne</b>	Former Parishioner	<b>Younts, Marty</b>	Former Parishioner
<b>Johnson, Vici Schofield</b>	Friend	<b>Orren, Faye</b>	Friend		

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

<b>Dec 1</b>	<b>Martha Ellen Smith</b>	<b>Dec 18</b>	<b>Carol May</b>	<b>Dec 29</b>	<b>Barry Wardle</b>
<b>Dec 1</b>	<b>Jason Hayes</b>	<b>Dec 20</b>	<b>Owen Miller</b>	<b>Dec 29</b>	<b>Tori Johnson</b>
<b>Dec 5</b>	<b>Mary Matthews</b>	<b>Dec 23</b>	<b>Carol Jordan</b>	<b>Dec 29</b>	<b>Fisher Welborn</b>
<b>Dec 8</b>	<b>Shannon Jones</b>	<b>Dec 25</b>	<b>Sam Harris</b>	<b>Dec 30</b>	<b>Patrick Miller</b>
<b>Dec 12</b>	<b>Rebecca Moser</b>	<b>Dec 25</b>	<b>Louie Cox</b>	<b>Dec 31</b>	<b>Claudia Russell</b>
<b>Dec 16</b>	<b>Judy King</b>	<b>Dec 27</b>	<b>Martha Johnson</b>		

## December Ministries Schedule

	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 24 Eve of the Nativity 5 p.m. & 11 p.m.	December 25 Christmas Day 11 a.m. Chapel
<b>Lector</b>	9: Charlie Matthews 11: Barbara Presnell	9: Belinda MacKinstry 11: David Sink	9: Sally Dodd 11: Shawn Hodge	5: Karl Bolstad 11: Steve Harvey	Volunteer needed
<b>LEM</b>	Kathie Goodman	Karl Bolstad	David Sink	5: Mary Matthews 11: Patricia Wardle	n/a
<b>Intercessor</b>	Belvie Gilleland	Wes Allred	David Sink	5: Lydia Mack	n/a
<b>Acolytes</b>	Neusom Parker Josey Parker Sydney Parker	Harrison Everhart Tori Johnson Cole Riggan	Alex Franklin Coleman Hayes Emerson Hayes	Andrew D. Blake I. Parker M.	n/a
<b>Ushers</b>	Barry Wardle Louie Cox	Terry Reynolds Richard Wolfe	RB Smith Patrick Miller	5: John Taylor Richard Thomas 11: Joe Wallace Art Burkhardt	n/a
<b>Greeters</b>	Jane Blackerby Bett Hargrave	Jane & Will Blackerby	Jane Grimes Carrie Ingram	5: Lydia Mack Nancy Mack 11: Page Onorato Charlie Matthews	n/a
<b>Nursery</b>	Beth Burke	Shannon Jones	Elizabeth Inabinett	n/a	n/a
<b>Social Hour</b>	Mary Cameron & Brent Welborn	Clarice & Henry Surratt	David & Belinda Thomas	n/a	n/a
<b>Sunday Lunch</b>	Morgan Family	G & L O'Shea Mary Cameron Welborn	Burke Family Michael Kepley	n/a	Nancy Sink David Sink
<b>Flowers</b>	Bert & Carol May	OPEN	OPEN	n/a	Debbie & Mike Egan
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Page Onorato, Dale Burr, Linda Cox, Frances Garner, Virginia Hartzog, Pam Harvey, Chris Hodges, Renee Kaley, Talmadge Silversides, Peggy Walser				

**Crisis Ministry Meal** — December 5: J2A Youth

**Food Pantry:** Needed

**Recycling:** Barry & Patricia Wardle

\*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.

OCTOBER 2011	
BUDGET	25,120.17
INCOME	22,554.53
EXPENSES	23,371.42
OVER/UNDER	(816.89)

YEAR-TO-DATE 2011		
<b>Budget</b>	251,201.70	83.3% of year
<b>Income<sup>1</sup></b>	245,489.10	81.4% of budget
<b>Expenses</b>	256,971.80	85.2% of budget
<b>Over/(Under) (11,482.70)</b>		
<b><sup>1</sup> Does not include \$7,266.68 pre-pd. pledges.</b>		

## Calendar of Events

- Dec 1 7:00 pm Arts Academy at Grace Fundraising Committee meeting in the Commons Room  
Dec 6 10:00 am Wreath Making Workshop at Tom's Creek Nursery  
Dec 7 6:30 pm Wardens meet in the Commons Room  
Dec 10 6:00 pm Parish Christmas Party at the home of Jane & Will Blackerby  
Dec 11 7:00 pm Fran McKendree "Find the Quiet Center" in the church nave.  
Dec 12 5:00 pm Social Concerns Commission meeting in the Commons Room  
Dec 13 7:00 pm Arts Academy at Grace piano recital in the church  
Dec 15 7:00 pm Vestry meeting  
Dec 19 7:00 pm Arts Academy at Grace violin recital in the church  
Dec 21 J2A Christmas Party  
Dec 22 10:00 am "The Greening of the Church" decorating for Christmas  
Dec 24 5:00 pm Eve of the Nativity—Family Service/Children's Play  
11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with full choir  
Dec 25 11:00 am Rite 1 Service in the Chapel—no Sunday School or Rite 2 service

### Outside Groups Using Facilities:

Bible Workbench Bible Study – Meets every Wednesday 1:15 pm  
Midweek Healing Service – every Wednesday at 12:10 pm in the Chapel

Dec 13 7:00 pm  
Democratic Women - CR

Dec 20 5:30 pm  
Habitat for Humanity - UC

Al-Anon  
every Thursday at 8:00 pm - UC

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