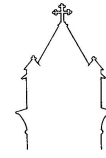




The Grace Vine



Grace Episcopal Church
Lexington, North Carolina

January 2012

Epiphany Service, Friday, January 6, 7:00

The Annual Feast of Lights or Epiphany service commemorates the arrival of the Wise Men. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to honor the Christ child Jesus.



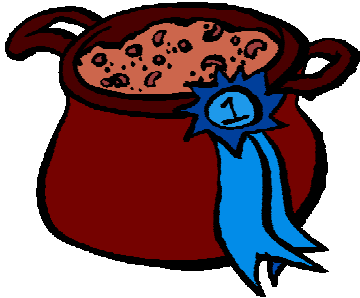
On January 6 the Feast of Lights service will depict symbolically through candles the spread of the light of Christ into the world.

During the Epiphany service everyone is invited to **bring boxes of Macaroni & Cheese as gifts to Pastor's Pantry.**

Join us for **supper before the Epiphany service at 6:00** in the Undercroft. A variety of soups, sandwiches, and dessert will be served (including vegetarian).

Do you think you have the best Chili recipe? Wanna prove it???

The Annual Chili Cook – off fundraiser for the Journey to Adulthood Youth Group is coming up. Past winners of the coveted “wooden spoon” award are:



- 2004 – Ed Jordan
- 2005 - Gayle Burke
- 2006 – Pen Philpott
- 2007 – Allen Ingram
- 2008 – Ed Jordan
- 2009 – Ed Huneycutt
- 2010 - Ed Huneycutt
- 2011 – Ed Jordan

If you would like to enter a large pot of your special chili, please contact Sims and Cathy Riggan to sign up. Rigganx4@lexcominc.net

J2A Chili Cook-off

*** Silent Auction* Fundraiser**

Sunday, January, 22, 2011

5:30 – 7:15 pm

Pay at the Door – \$5.00

Children under age 6 eat free

Come vote for your favorite Chili Cooker!!

And support our J2A Youth



Money raise will go toward a June Pilgrimage trip to Colorado and a Mission Trip with the Towel Ministry in July.

Adult Forum offerings for Winter – Spring 2012

January 8, 15, 22

Christianity

We've looked at Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism and Islam. Take a new look at Christianity. Facilitated by David Sink

Jan. 8: Video Presentation (the story of the Christian church)

Jan. 15: Introduction to the Christian faith, beliefs, and practices. Discussion of major tenets of the Christian faith.

Jan. 22: Brief overview of the major Christian denominations. Short video with discussion of major American denominations and the Eastern church.

January 29

Fun with Religious Symbols

Learn about our Christian Symbols as well as symbols from other religions. Have fun while learning their meanings by decorating with glitter, sequins and feathers. Why should the children have all the fun?

Susan Terrell and Sally Dodd will take the lead on this special art/fun day.

February 5, 12, 19

DVD on the Israeli/Palestine conflict

Facilitated by Shawn Hodge

March 4,11,18,25

To coincide with *Faith & the Arts March*, each Sunday in March four disciplines will be explored: writing, art, drama/dance and music.

April 1

"Why is this night different from all the other nights?"

Experience a Passover Seder Meal in the Commons Room

April 15, 22

Look at various ways of prayer

April 29, May 6, 13, 20

Book Study, to be determined

Two possibilities:

1. [Saving Jesus from the Church: How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus](#) by Robin R. Meyers and
2. [What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: A Guide to What Matters Most](#) by Martin Thielen

If you have a preference please let one of the members of the Adult Forum Planning Committee know – Susan Terrell, Shawn Hodge, Sally Dodd or David Sink.

Cremins Re-located to Columbarium

In anticipation of construction on the north side of the classroom and administration building, all cremains have been relocated from the original columbarium to the columbarium and meditation garden. We are grateful that each family graciously consented to this process, and we are grateful to those who provided for the original columbarium that has served Grace Church so well for many years.

From the Rector

I finally got around to reading a book I picked up this summer, *Healing Fiction*, by James Hillman, a depth psychologist, scholar, and prolific writer.

I will not drag you through a summary of the book's contents, but would like to reflect on the interesting title and the assumptions behind it. If we slow down long enough and ask ourselves about the beliefs and principles that energize and direct our lives, we make an interesting discovery: some of these beliefs and principles stand up well under careful scrutiny, and others do not.

Some of the assumptions that energize us and influence our choices are eternal principles that have served humankind well for millennia. And some of the beliefs we acquired as young people and have never questioned are, in fact, cultural fabrications, compelling but absolute fictions. In other words, in some cases, "we've been had."

Over the years I have had the privilege of sitting with a number of elderly people in their last hours and days. It is not unusual to hear such people mull over the maps they have followed, giving thanks for the ones that were true and dependable, and grieving the energy they invested in things that provided false assurance and a transient sense of security.

Around this time each year most of us get a burst of new energy: the new year seems to offer a chance to re-evaluate where we have been and to consider where we are going: to be more organized, to eat more healthy foods, to exercise more, to take on some tasks we have been putting off.

At the risk of sounding like a preacher, I invite all of us to use this "new year's" burst of energy as an opportunity to consider those assumptions which underlie our choices and actions – to consider which ones are good for the long haul and which ones distract us and keep us focused on things that have limited value.

Thank you for your support of the ministries of Grace Church during 2011, your financial contributions and your personal engagement with a variety of vital ministries. Watching "The Littlest Angel" on Christmas Eve with a church full of people, I was reminded of how fortunate we are to be part of this parish – from the littlest angel (and at least two who will be born in 2012), to the oldest angels in the family, and everyone in between.

Gratefully,
Tom E. King

*"Not everything that is faced can be changed.
But nothing can be changed until it is faced."
- James Baldwin*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP PREPARE MEALS AT THE CRISIS MINISTRY HOMELESS SHELTER

Grace Church sends volunteers on the first Monday of every month to feed residents at the homeless shelter. Due to several people moving or deciding to come off the list we have several openings that need to be filled.

Volunteers work together to come up with a menu, divide up the meal/duties and meet at the Shelter on East 1st Avenue between 6 and 6:30. The meal is served at 6:30 and after a bit of clean up you are on your way by 7:00.

Right now we need one more person for both June and July and two people for the month of August. If you would like to volunteer for this important ministry please contact Maureen at the church office, 249-7211.

As the shelter takes on more residents, the cost of preparing the meals goes up too. Ideally having 4 people/families for each month helps spread the cost and the preparation time.

Here we are in Epiphany; I do hope your Christmas was full of Peace, love, and celebrations!! May your 2012 also be full of Peace and love.

Many, many thanks to the retired Vestry people of 2011 - Louie Cox, Shawn Hodge, Lydia Mack (we WILL miss her instantaneous minutes but have a preliminary promise of them from someone else), and Dan Smith. A huge welcome to the new vestry 'class' - Mary Bolstad, Julie Dayvault, Sally Dodd, Lynne Meeks, and Penny Taylor. Yes, there are five because Julie is filling a vacated spot. So that gives us people who have never served on a vestry, some having served elsewhere, and some veterans here at Grace which is a really nice mix. NOW, gentlemen, we need some of you to agree to serve in the next years to create an even better mix for Grace Church!!

This last year was a year of consultations and planning. The new nursery area is, as you know, complete. The bids are in for the remaining construction in the administration and Sunday school areas. This phase is to create better accessibility in the safest way possible. However, everyone must remain alert to the physical changes during this process - areas may be blocked, there may be directional signs posted, etc. Please pay attention for any instructions, like parking areas and access to offices and meeting rooms. Growing pains will surely get in our way, but we can deal with it, and it will be so wonderful when this is done.

In the meantime, your Vestry will have the annual retreat in February (could not get reservations for January) and continue our studies in Beyond Business as Usual, Vestry Leadership Development. This helps explore the spirituality aspect of being a Vestry person who represents the Parish. However, there will still be plenty of nuts & bolts to sift through during the year.

I have enjoyed this last year as Senior Warden, even with some of the different aspects that 2011 presented, and look forward to this next year with even more eagerness. Being a part of Grace Church is important to me. I hope you have found where you 'fit'; if not, let us help you find an area where you would be comfortable serving - there are new 'openings' for this calendar year. The Church needs people to serve in highly visible, active roles, and just as importantly there are needs in quiet, behind-the-scenes areas.

New Year's Blessings and See you in church! *Kathie Goodman*



Congratulations, Kathy Young

Regular readers of Outdoor Woman Magazine have already discovered Kathy Young's wonderful article about fly fishing as a spiritual retreat entitled "The Love of Fly Fishing." If you have not read the article, you may find copies of this free publication at Lexington Drug and the Bob Timberlake Gallery. Congratulations to Kathy on her first publication, and for the magazine's invitation to contribute another article for future editions.



"Finding the Quiet Center," with Fran McKendree

Thanks to financial sponsorship from the Northwest Region of the Diocese and the Faith and the Arts Commission of Grace Church we welcomed composer and musician Fran McKendree to help us observe the Third Sunday of Advent with an intimate and contemplative service on December 11. In addition to our own members, we welcomed guests from other churches who heard about this quiet service the previous year and came to participate.

Schedule of Food Collection for Pastor's Pantry for the year 2012

Each month during the year the congregation is asked to bring specific food items for Pastor's Pantry. Reminders will come in the weekly Grace Notes, monthly *GraceVine*, and Sunday bulletins. There is also a bulletin board in the Undercroft that has the items listed as reminders.

For the month of January parishioners are asked to bring boxes of Macaroni & Cheese. Collection will begin at the Epiphany service on Friday, January 6, 2012. After the Wise Men have brought their gifts the congregation will be invited to bring their gifts of Macaroni & Cheese to the altar.

Collection boxes in both the narthex of the Church and Chapel are ready to receive the food items on Sunday mornings.

January - Macaroni & Cheese



February - Cans of Soup

March - Boxes of individually packaged Oatmeal

April - Cans of Vegetables

May - Canned Tuna

June - Hamburger Helper

July - Grits – boxes of individual serving size packets

August - Instant Mashed Potatoes

September - Dry Beans

October - Canned Pasta (Ravioli, Spaghetti, etc)

November - Dry Pasta/Pasta Sauce

December - Canned Meat (Chicken, Ham, Beef)

Fellowship Dinner Groups

New Fellowship Groups will be formed in January

Fellowship Dinner Groups are a great way to meet and talk with people from Grace Church. These are people you see in church on Sunday mornings, or church activities, but may not know very well. People interested in joining a group should contact the church. Once names are gathered they will be randomly "pulled out of a hat" and groups with about 10 people will be made.

Each group will decide how they want their group to work; pot luck meals, or the host/hostess will provide the food, etc. Some people like to have people gather in their living rooms to eat and chat together there. Others will have room around their dining room table for a meal. It doesn't matter the "how" it's done, but the "why" it's done - to get to know one another.

If you would like to have your name added to the "hat", email Kathy Johnson at kathygracepmc@gmail.com or call the church office at 249-7211. You will be contacted by email which group you are in; the first name listed will be the convener for the group.

Handsome "New" Chair in Commons Room

The favorite Commons Room chair with many years of worn upholstery has disappeared. In its place you will find a newly upholstered chair that looks just like the old one except for the handsome new fabric. Our thanks to Elrene Thomas for this generous gift. The chair looks great and sits like a dream.

Arts Academy Grant from Lexington Area Community Foundation

The Lexington Area Community Foundation has awarded the Arts Academy at Grace a grant of \$500. These funds will provide scholarship assistance for qualified students who are enrolled in music and arts classes. The Arts Academy is committed to providing high quality instruction for its students, and to making its resources available to a wide cross-section of the community. NOTE: Watch your email and/or US Mail box for a special edition of the *GraveVine* featuring the arts at Grace Church. The arts are alive and well at Grace, spiritually nurturing people of all ages.

Grace Church Receives \$5,000 "Green Grant" for HVAC

The North Carolina Episcopal Church Foundation, in conjunction with the Diocese of North Carolina, has awarded Grace Church a grant of \$5,000 to assist with the cost of upgrading heating and air conditioning units in the classroom and administrative building, as part of the construction process which is about to begin. When the work is completed the large outdoor unit behind the black lattice will be replaced with a smaller unit behind an attractive facade. Indoors, the Commons Room will have its own thermostat; likewise, the church office will have its own thermostat, and the office shared by Bonnie and Kathy will have its own thermostat. The three classrooms at the end of the hall will remain on the current HVAC unit and thermostat. This upgraded and "zoned" configuration will increase efficiency and save on energy consumption and cost.

Four Round Green Tablecloths Missing

Last January we received an anonymous donation to purchase 12 round forest green tablecloths for use in the Undercroft. We are missing 4 of these tablecloths. If you brought the tablecloths home to wash, please return them to the church.

PRAYER LIST

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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan 1	Belvie Gilleland	Jan 11	Shawn Hodge	Jan 18	Ed Timberlake
Jan 1	Thomas Manning	Jan 11	Cameron Miller	Jan 21	Miles Cleckley
Jan 1	Glenn Wyatt	Jan 12	Will Burke	Jan 24	Fred Adkins
Jan 2	Marisa Jones	Jan 14	Pam Alley	Jan 25	Mary Cameron Welborn
Jan 4	Mike Wagner	Jan 16	Rhonda Bralkowski	Jan 26	Bebe Briggs
Jan 8	Michael Kepley	Jan 16	Eric Thomas	Jan 29	Rachel Ingram
Jan 9	Penny Taylor	Jan 18	Robert Leonard	Jan 30	Richard Wolfe

January Ministries Schedule

	January 1	January 6 Epiphany	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
Lector	11:00 service in the chapel n/a	7:00 pm Clarice Surratt Ed Huneycutt Mary Matthews Barbara Presnell	9: Nicole Morgan 11: Jim Nance	9: Page Onorato 11: Russ Johnson	9: Jan Morgan 11: Nancy Mack	9: Charlie Matthews 11: Lynn Meeks
LEM	n/a	n/a	Kathie Goodman	Karl Bolstad	David Sink	Clarice Surratt
Intercessor	n/a	n/a	Joe Wallace	Annabell Wolfe	Penny Taylor	Kristi Allred
Acolytes	n/a	Harrison Everhart Emerson Hayes Blake Inabinett	Alex Franklin Parker Miler Sydney Parker	Marshall Hodge Miles Stoner Cole Riggan	Tori Johnson Coleman Hayes Jack Burke	Josey Parker Sydney Parker Emerson Hayes
Ushers	n/a	Bill Goodman Bill Gilleland	Sims Riggan Tommy Black	John Burke Allen Ingram	Dan Moore Ed Huneycutt	Larry Linder Bert May
Greeters	n/a	n/a	Patrick Miller K. Everhart	Sandra Husted Larry Linder	needed	Patricia & Barry Wardle
Nursery	n/a	n/a	Cameron Miller	Lydia Mack	Mary Cameron Welborn	Beth Burke
Social Hour	n/a	n/a	Barbara Presnell Bill Keesler	Penny & John Taylor	Mary & Karl Bolstad	Frances & David Garner
Sunday Lunch	Nancy Sink David Sink	n/a	Page Onorato Sandra Husted	Inabinett Family	Riggan Family Lydia Mack	Miller Family
Flowers	Lynn & Doug Meeks	n/a	Bill Keesler & Barbara Presnell	Gray & Mary Davis	Dan & Sarah Smith	Ed & Carol Jordan
Altar Guild:	Mary Williams, Jane Grimes, Sally Dodd, Kathie Goodman, Shawn Hodge, Lynn Meeks, Belinda Thomas, Patricia Wardle					

Crisis Ministry Meal — **Jan. 2:** The Hodge Family, Debbie Davis, Julie Dayvault
Feb. 6: Sandra Husted, Mike & Debbie Egan, Jane & Will Blackerby, Libby & Glenn O'Shea
Mar. 5: Martha Ellen Smith, Larry Linder, Sally Lang, David & Belinda Thomas, Penny & John Taylor

Food Pantry: Kristi Allred

Recycling: Barry & Patricia Wardle

Vestry Person of the Month: Kathie Goodman

*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 2011	
BUDGET	25,120.17
INCOME	20,746.59
EXPENSES	20,668.85
OVER/UNDER	77.74

YEAR-TO-DATE 2011		
Budget	276,321.87	91.7% of year
Income¹	266,235.69	88.3% of budget
Expenses	277,640.65	92.1% of budget
Over/(Under) (11,404.96)		
¹ Does not include \$2,400.00 pre-pd. pledges.		

Calendar of Events

- Jan 1 11:00 am One Service Only: Rite 2 service in the chapel
Jan 2 Church Office closed for New Year holiday
Jan 6 7:00 pm Epiphany Service in the church, 6:00 pm dinner in the undercroft
Jan 8 11:00 am Baptism & Rite 2 Service in the church
Jan 9 5:00 pm Social Concerns Commission meeting in the Commons Room
Jan 10 5:00 pm Environmental Stewardship Commission meeting in the Commons Room
Jan 11 6:30 pm Wardens meet in the Commons Room
Jan 16 Church Office closed for MLK holiday
Jan 19 5:30 pm Parish Life Commission meeting in the Commons Room
Jan 19 7:00 pm Vestry meeting
Jan 20-21 Diocesan Convention
Jan 22 5:30 pm J2A Chili Cook-Off in the undercroft
- Jan 24,26,31 4:00 –5:45 pm G.R.A.C.E. Girls meet in the Undercroft

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

Outside Groups Using Facilities:

Jan 9 6:30 pm
Charity League of Lexington

Jan 10 7:00 pm
Democratic Women - CR

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

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