

Reflections of Grace: Formation

2nd Quarter of 2018



Rector's Reflections



Spiritual Formation is one of my passions. I really enjoy preparing to facilitate conversations that open new avenues for people to connect with God, to find meaning in their lives, and to realize their place in the reconciling work of Christ in the world. Last year, two classes that I taught were particularly satisfying: Grief and Hope and the Corinthians Bible Study. The Grief and Hope class creates intentional space to “get real” about the pain of our losses but also to celebrate the gift of life with all its constraints and opportunities that furl out before us. The Corinthians Bible Study was gratifying, too. We took the time we needed to develop a more sophisticated understanding of Paul’s theology, beyond the sound-bites. As a group, we moved from a place of initial suspicion toward compassion and appreciation. I believe this kind of formation benefits us not only on an intellectual level (what was Paul all about?) but on the heart level, as we practiced being

curious about someone, listening to them and moving toward loving them.

As you’ll see in this newsletter, formation happens through many avenues at Grace Church. A tremendous joy for me in the last year has been watching our formation offerings for children expand and the adults who lead them meet Christ through the process of working with each other and befriending our children.

In 2009, our national church created a Charter for Lifelong Formation, which is posted on our website under the “learning tab.” It defines formation broadly: “Lifelong faith formation in The Episcopal Church is lifelong growth in the knowledge, service and love of God and is informed by scripture, tradition and reason.” Spiritual formation is a shared responsibility among the baptized, and it happens not only through our “official” programs and classes but also through outreach ministries, fellowship gatherings and even committee meetings.

I am open to new classes, approaches, bible studies and programs. Please come talk to me with any new ideas. I remain incredibly grateful to all those who have stepped forward as leaders in our formation

program, as well. All of us are on the journey being shaped into the “full stature of Christ,” as we say in our baptismal liturgy.

Joslyn+

Our Missional Priorities at Grace Church

- To grow in mutual love for one another specifically by improving our ability to communicate across difference.
- To develop a vibrant ministry to children, youth and young adults.
- To cultivate a culture of “welcoming” that engages each person’s spiritual gifts.

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Adult Spiritual Formation: Forums & Special Programs



The Adult Education Committee meets monthly on the first or second Tuesday from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. to plan the Sunday Adult Forums, which are offered between services from 9:15 and 10:15 a.m., and special Advent and Lenten programs. The committee welcomes everyone to attend the monthly meetings, to

suggest topics, to volunteer to present a topic or series, and to participate in the forums. Attendance on Sunday mornings varies between twenty-five and forty-five, depending on the season and topic.

The talents of our clergy, parishioners, and wider community help the committee to develop programs that meet the vestry-approved missional priorities. In addition, forum topics address the interests of the parishioners expressed in a round-table discussion in 2016: to learn about the ministries at Grace, explore different forms of spirituality, and study the Bible and church history. Several of the forums seemed especially relevant to committee members.

The parish wide book read of ***Sanctuary of the Spirit*** and follow-up forum discussions were a highlight for many people. According to Michael Lodico, the book and discussions “got us thinking together as a church community.” Paula Welling, who suggested the book and posted weekly guide questions on the Grace Facebook page, said that the forums “focused on reconciling our differences (walking together on a spiritual journey as people with differences) rather than attempting to resolve our difference (deciding which group which is right, and therefore is wrong). I believe our parishioners found this meaningful as we live in a culture currently struggling with differences which threaten to polarize us.” Finding the ***Sanctuary of the Spirit*** “especially meaningful,” Emily Chatfield-Lusto said, “I think we should incorporate a regular reading of a book every quarter or six months, just to get more people involved and reading the same teachings at the same time.”

While strongly encouraged but not assigned as a parish read, ***Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*** inspired a series of forums, which brought together experts from Grace Church and the community. To help parishioners be prepared for a good death, Brian Schaefer provided information about gathering the important legal documents, and Wells Greeley spoke about funeral plans. Dr. Michael Pass explained the role of hospice and palliative care and urged everyone to read the book. Patrick and Kathie Johnson presented a two-part series about ***Being Mortal***, covering aging and the issues that patients and their families need to consider and discuss to prepare for “a good life--all the way to the very end.” Emily Chatfield-Lusto thought “the sessions were hard for me but stimulating,” and Richard Ploch said they “were filled with helpful information.”

Kathie Johnson remarked, “My favorite programs usually have something to do with the community we live in and our interaction with that community. I enjoyed the Earth Day presentation and its emphasis on how we can change to help improve our world. I have also enjoyed the programs that have addressed any kind of Outreach, whether with Grace or the Episcopal Church in general.”

Some programs crossed generational boundaries. Nancy Armstrong described the history of prayer beads, including Anglican rosaries, and provided string, beads, and crosses so that everyone could make a set. John Zeller “enjoyed the fact that [Nancy] included history on other types of prayer items which led to the rosary. I enjoyed the hands-on creation of the rosary.” Bill Collins also connected the older parishioners with the children by kneeling beside a small table while presenting a Godly Play lesson about the liturgical calendar complete with colored blocks. Rob Viau admired “the way [Bill] got into his role as presenter and conveyed the information with clarity but also passion. I came away from that session proud that Grace has such dedicated instructors!”

In thinking about some of the forums focused on the Bible, Richard Ploch said, “I’ve particularly enjoyed the scripture studies led by Revs. Joslyn Schaefer and Orion Davis. They are both well prepared and have wonderful, insightful answers to the questions we bring.” Pamela Nolte-Viau found Susan Williams’ sessions on the Trinity Conference and deepening spirituality memorable: “The video excerpts of Richard Rohr, Cynthia Bourgeault, and William Young discussing how overcoming hardships can lead to personal transformation and a deeper connection with God were illuminating.” Occasionally, participants just gather around the tables and respond to a question or share stories. Emily Chatfield-Lusto finds, “the larger the group is for any presentation, the more varied the interaction becomes and the richer the learning.” Richard Ploch believes that these conversations have “brought me closer to my fellow members of Grace. This time together deepens my understanding and love of those with whom I worship.” In considering the variety of

forums offered, he said, “Our Grace Adult Forums continue to enlarge my understanding of the faith and how to make it visible in my life.”

Children’s Spiritual Formation: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



In a traditional Sunday school, a teacher leads the class. In the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Christ is the only teacher followed by the trained catechist, (the adult). Grace Church has Godly Play for the older children, so it was a natural segue to offer the feeder program, the Atrium, for the younger age group, ages 3-6 years. Catechesis simply means instruction or guidance. Atrium is a term often used by artists describing their workspace. We use these terms deliberately to differentiate the child’s spiritual formation from their academic formation where terms like teacher and classroom are used. In the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, we are inviting children to recognize and celebrate their innate connection with God through the image of the Good Shepherd. Cultivating and exploring this connection is the child’s “work.”

The Atrium (located downstairs, the first room on the left) is the space designed to facilitate the experience of the Word by adults and the children. It is a place of work and prayer; of quiet and reflection. The Word is interpreted in Bible stories, in child-sized dioramas of these stories for the children to use, in the tracing of prayer words or coloring artwork, in songs of love, praise and thanksgiving. The children have a hands-on opportunity to set a prayer table, to use the dioramas to experience the Bible story, to sing, to say their own prayers, and to enjoy a calm and loving atmosphere where they can chose their “work.” Also, the child is encouraged to master practical life skills such as pouring water, cutting paper and pasting, sorting colors, caring for plants, while experiencing how to live in community by sharing, restoring their work to its proper place so another can use it, and learning to ask for help from each other or an adult in an appropriate manner. Each child choses their “work” and when they’re done with one activity, they restore the materials to their place and find another. Everything about the Atrium is deliberately and carefully planned to encourage each child’s spiritual and religious growth. . .including catechists Louisa Lunt and Paula Eachus as children of God. “We have the best job ever!” Paula said, “Their understanding of the Bible stories is amazing. They bring new life to the stories. Their joy is infectious.” Louisa agrees. “Each week we learn new ideas from them. Sometimes we all laugh. We hope they learn from us as well. Prayer time is special. Each child says who they are grateful for. Paula and I are truly grateful that Jesus blessed us with each one of them! Each Sunday is different, and we love it.”

Please note that training to serve as a Catechist is being offered this summer at the Cathedral of All Souls in Asheville. Contact the Rector to learn more and possibly sign-up. Your spirituality and connection with Good Shepherd will deepen through this formation!

Adult Spiritual Formation: EfM

The EfM (Education for Ministry) classes at Grace Church began three years ago. Mentor Jim Lynn has a twelve-year history with the program, beginning as a student. This is his third time to be mentor in the four-year program. "I continue to be inspired and awed by its ability to bring about the deep spirituality in everyone who is associated with it. Education for Ministry provides a forum for serious questions about our Christian beliefs," said Jim. "It's not that we gain certainty but that we are able to utilize the wisdom in the Bible along with our understanding of church history and the ideas offered by our fellow participants to comfortably wrestle with religious issues. We might not always solve that issue, but we are almost always finding better questions. And best of all, it happens in a loving, caring community of believers."

EfM recognizes the fact that lay persons face the difficult and often subtle task of interpreting the richness of the church's faith in a complex and confusing world. They need a theological education which supports their faith and teaches them to express that faith in day-to-day events. As the emphasis on lay ministry has grown, EfM has come to play an important role by providing a program that develops an informed and knowledgeable laity.

"As I look back over my three years in EfM, I am reminded of the familiar Ram Dass quote, 'We're all just walking each other home,'" said Mary Lockey. "For me, EfM has been a journey with a dear group of people whom I have come to love and respect. Our paths may be different, but we are journeying together towards a deeper understanding of God through our individual questions borne from our unique experiences. It is true for me that God speaks to us as much with new questions as with answers to old ones. EfM challenges me to examine the faith I inherited as a child. In some instances, my beliefs are undergoing a complete deconstruction, and are being replaced with new convictions that allow me to view scripture, worship, and ministry through a new lens.

An offering exclusive to the Episcopal church, the EfM program is preparation for the ministry to which we all are called. It is that vocation for which we pray: "And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord."

"EfM has been a weekly gathering for the past three years of old and new friends. This weekly gathering has opened my eyes to the vast and varied understandings of the Bible. It has allowed me to hear others' perspectives and to hear scripture and historical Christian events in new ways and through others' brokenness. But the most significant part of EfM is it has forced me to work through areas of my faith and to ask, contemplate and begin to form a personal theology which may not have been on my agenda at the time. I simply cannot express how important conversations of the type which take place in EfM are to one's spiritual path," said John Zeller.

Laura Armour said, "EfM is the antithesis of Facebook. You can't just say what you think and tune out everybody you disagree with. I was uncomfortable the first year discussing our different interpretations of the Bible. EfM certainly cracked open a window in my soul that I didn't know was closed. Now it doesn't matter that much what I agree or disagree with. What matters are these searching souls like me that I have grown to love."

Currently the EfM group consists of five students in their third year of the four-year study, one student in the second year, and two students in their first year. The group meets weekly for nine months and will be open for new students in the fall. The four-year program does not to be completed in consecutive years. The cost is \$375 per year and scholarships may be available.

Children's Spiritual Formation: Godly Play



Godly Play is for youth ages 7 - 11, a great age for discovering more about God and our relationship with our creator. Godly Play is based on a Montessori approach and allows the child to explore their faith through a story and play. Teachers guide the children through the story and then follow each story with a time of wondering: what part of the story did you like best? what is the most important part of the story? what part of the story is about you and if there is any part of the story that can be left out?

In the summer of 2017 I had to ask myself, 'I wonder if I can teach children's formation classes?' I had no experience teaching children since undergraduate school when I was an elementary education major for a couple of years," said Karen Morris. "I was a bit intimidated by the prospect of it but had an experienced group of leaders on our team with Donna Buckner, Bill Collins, Linda Deeb and Vicky Gribble. With prayerful support from above, I jumped in. As you can imagine, this can lead to good discussion and it also makes me as the teacher or door-keeper wonder, how I will answer those questions."

Donna Buckner said "Our Godly Play lessons are so powerful in teaching our children how to love God and how to love each other. Each week we learn a lesson from a Bible story in the New or Old Testament as we follow our Episcopal liturgy and seasons of faith. We also express our knowledge in supporting activities and we serve one another during our feast. As a teacher of Godly Play for over ten years, I can honestly say that I learn something new with each lesson that I experience. I believe that I can speak for all our teachers when I say that we are blessed with wonderful students who are interested, perceptive, and interactive and who make us better people."

"Listening and presenting the lessons leads to looking at the story with new eyes," said Karen. "As adults we've heard many of these stories over and over, but often there is a kernel of new information or revelation that I hadn't discovered before. Participating in Godly Play helps me discover God in a new way and renew and energize my faith journey. I look forward to the stories, discussion and play with our young friends each week that I am involved as I never know what new light will shine."

Adult Spiritual Formation: Pub Theology

"Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy"

--Benjamin Franklin. Actually, not so. It's complicated!

Once a month, usually on the second Thursday, a small group mainly consisting of Grace Church members gather at the Blue Ridge Beer Hub to drink beer, cider, water, or nothing at all, and talk about God for a few hours. Here is the formal description of the group:

Pub Theology is a group of spiritual and intellectual seekers—searchers. In the relaxed, comfortable setting of a pub (or café, or living room), we discuss God, the church, the history and

politics of religion, and all that falls within the embrace of the quest for truth. Our goal is non-judgmental inquiry; safe, fair, and open discussion of ideas that have puzzled and tested humans from the beginning of civilization. Pub Theology is a “great ideas” group that welcomes people of all faiths, or none.

All are welcome. Although ten to twelve is probably the ideal group size, a larger group would facilitate a split into two groups.

“You are NOT appropriate for this group if you think that there is ONE TRUTH, that you know what it is, and that your mission is to convert the rest of the group to your truth. We are ‘Seekers,’” said Rob Viau. “I first became aware of the national movement called Pub Theology several years ago when Pam and I were preparing to walk on the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Once a month we attended Camino meetings at the Biltmore REI, and afterward we would go to the Thirsty Monk for a beer. Our monthly meetings just happened to correspond with group meetings of mostly young people at a long table in the back. They seemed to be holding a very friendly, intelligent conversation about philosophy and theology. I asked the bar tender what was going on, and she handed me the index card announcing that evening’s topic for discussion, and on the back, some simple rules of respectful communication very similar to Grace Church’s ‘Communication Guidelines.’

“I later learned that Pub Theology is really a national/international movement, though mainly popular in the U.K. and U.S., and that the local branch at Thirsty Monk was sponsored by an Episcopal Church in Asheville. From that point on, I wanted to start a branch of Pub Theology in Waynesville affiliated with Grace in the Mountains. We have met once a month for about six months and have a fairly steady cohort of Grace Church members and a few affiliates/friends/relatives.”

Contact Rob at robert.viau@gcsu.edu or send him a message on Facebook to receive notices about Pub Theology. Rob updates the Pub Theology Facebook Group, so everyone interested receives regular announcements.

Youth Spiritual Formation: Rite 13



Rite 13 is for middle school and high school aged youth, ages 12 –16. The class began in September of last year and shares the meeting room across from the library with the Marthas. Rite 13 also schedules outings for the group in order to strengthen their bonds with shared activities.

“Working with children is always rewarding for me but to help a child draw closer to Christ is such a

powerful experience!” said Annelle Woggon. “The youth never seem to amaze me with their insight into scripture and daily life. Sharing a BIG and a BAD moment in their week to the group creates strong bonds throughout the group. Our closing Prayer time is the most powerful experience of the living Holy Spirit moving through our group bringing tears pouring down my cheeks.”

“What a joy it is to see our young people grow in leadership and faith. The Rite 13 class led one of the lessons (the Good Samaritan) for our Lenten program with insight and laughter,” said Mary Hartman. “They also exuberantly assisted with the Easter Egg Hunt. My spiritual growth has been enhanced by being reminded of the importance of being an enthusiastic and joyful Christian – thank you.”

Women’s Spiritual Formation: Sisters of Grace



Who are the Sisters of Grace and what do they do? This “Bible Study” group began over 15 years ago to study inspirational books with Biblical topics along with occasional traditional Bible studies. All are invited to join but most members belong to Grace Church. The groups meet on Thursday evenings in members’ homes. Everyone brings an appetizer to share. The first hour is dedicated to food, fellowship and sharing the event of the past week.

“We are famous for our ‘appetizers’ and here are some brief examples but know that they vary with the seasons,” said Mary Lou Daily. “Vicki makes the best soups. They are always healthy and include green leaves of some sort. We are often blessed with Jean’s original chicken salad recipe. Kathleen is known for her exotic mixed green salads, and I make unusual pasta salads. Betsy makes the best berry pies and Maureen’s chocolate chip cookies are a hit. Suzanne has the most original recipes made with ingredients from her garden and Lorelei often brings the best homemade pickles. Connie brings great assortments of fruit and Lee’s brie and crackers are a treat. Donna’s Mexican corn bread can’t be beaten especially with Cindy’s chili.”

Sisters of Grace always open and close with prayer, often lifting up the needs of family and friends. This past year, the Sisters studied Richard Rohr’s *Divine Dance*. The discussions about this book were lively and varied. Sisters are a diverse group of women - independent thinkers who make for lively and rewarding discussions. “Let’s just say that everyone was not a fan of the book and some were glad when the book was completed and placed on the shelf!” said Mary Lou. “We are now studying and discussing the Book of Acts as it is being presented by the national Church’s “Good Book Club.”

Members move in and out of the group as their time and interests allow. The Sister of Grace are very close and enjoy the fact that they can share and trust our joys and sorrows with one another. “We consider ourselves blessed to be sisters in Christ and we value our time together,” said Mary Lou.

Contemplative Spiritual Formation: Grace Thomas Group

The Thomas Group is a contemplative practice group that began meeting on April 6, 2016. Sessions are held on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, 6:00-7:30 pm, in the church. Average attendance is 5-6 per session; currently, there are 9 participants attending with some regularity. The sessions are open to all in the Grace community, as well as to those “beyond the walls” who seek a Christian contemplative practice group. Information about the group is offered on [Wisdom Way of Knowing](#), under Communities of Practice.

Susan Williams was inspired to start the group after attending Cynthia Bourgeault's Wisdom School at Kanuga in November 2015. Susan said, “I first was exposed to the Gospel of Thomas at this school and was immediately drawn to the teachings of Jesus as presented not in a narrative way, as they are in the canonical gospels, but rather as sayings, directly from the Teacher. In addition, I found that being part of a spiritual community for this week-long school was a life changing experience, too wonderful not to be shared with others.”

The practice includes sacred chant, body prayer, 20 minutes of centering prayer, and a modified lectio divina for a group sharing—two logia are read each session. The Gospel of Thomas contains 114 logia. Emily Chatfield-Lusto said, “I am especially drawn to the “wisdom” and “mystical” bent of the Gospel of Thomas teachings. This approach resonates with my lifetime of Buddhism studies and meditation practices. I also like integrating meaningful practices from other faiths, finding the common denominators among faiths, and breaking down the barriers between human belief systems so we can more easily and less fearfully recognize God in each other. Our group is comprised of serious seekers—intelligent, lovely people who make this way of being natural and comfortable.”

Pam Nolte-Viau added, “As a relative newcomer to the practice of contemplative prayer and worship, I cherish the opportunity to learn from friends who have been immersed in the mystical traditions for decades. I love the peacefulness of our time together and the opportunity to engage sights, sounds, smells, and movement to explore multiple ways of learning about, knowing, and experiencing Jesus and God.”

Several participants have stated that having a community of practice is very helpful, and that the time together proves to be illuminating and meaningful. Most participants have a daily centering prayer practice and feel comfortable sharing aspects of their spiritual journey with one another, as well as enriched by one another's reflections upon and insights into the Gospel of Thomas teachings of Jesus. Susan, Emily, and Sara Tyburski recently attended a second Wisdom School at Kanuga, led by Cynthia Bourgeault. To explore more about that experience and about Christian contemplative practice in general, visit the website above. (wisdomwayofknowing.org.)

Vestry Reports

Wardens' Report

The vestry has approved a gift to the Episcopal Economic Development Fund of WNC (EEDF) of \$5410.26. We first heard of EEDF at our diocesan convention, and the entire vestry did its due diligence in a video conference with The Rev. Judith Whelchel who provided details of the fund and allowed vestry members to ask questions. Our gift “addresses issues of local and global poverty and institutional poverty through the infusion of concessionary loan capital in populations underserved and underfunded by mainstream lending institutions. EEDF targets the missional goals of Christian commitment to dismantle racism and eradicate poverty.” Fifty percent of the fund is focused on minority and rural populations in Western North Carolina and 50% on populations in the developing markets of Latin

America. The money given was interest earned by the Moorhead Trust, which can be spent only on outreach.

The vestry has authorized a task force to research options for a playground on our front lawn, intending it to serve as a welcome mat for families with young children. We envision that it would be open to the public, safe and long lasting, made of wooden structures and compatible with our current architecture. Details will be presented at our Pentecost Potluck on May 20 from 4 – 6 p.m.

The vestry also conditionally approved a proposal for the Building and Grounds Committee to proceed with replacing the Sacristy Roof which - despite being patched repeatedly - has been leaking and causing mold on the ceiling. Estimated cost for the replacement is \$7,000.

Finally, we have a vestry task force which is reviewing our by-laws and policies to make recommendations for changes and updates to the vestry as a whole. The vestry already passed an amendment to the by-laws which will allow absentee ballots beginning with our next annual meeting.

Your Wardens,
Bill Collins, Senior Warden
Paula Welling, Junior Warden

Reports from Vestry Liaisons

Administration & Treasury

Liaison, Crystal Clary - ctclary@charter.net

Staffing: Our cleaning service, Hallmark Cleaning, was contracted and began Easter Week. Peter continues to work on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 until noon. He is focusing on organizing and making an inventory of closets in Grace Church.

The Director of Music search is well underway and should have a name soon.

We are evaluating a new staffing model as we search for a Communications Administrator. A search is currently underway for a part-time, temporary Communications Administrator.

Financial Visioning *ad hoc* Committee: The committee has been charged by the Vestry with addressing four main areas for Grace Church in the Mountains. The group concluded its meetings the first week of May, after five meetings and will present its recommendations to the Vestry in early June.

The areas we have addressed:

- Recommending how to simplify day-to-day financial operations.
- Reviewing finance and stewardship related committees. This includes structure, purpose, composition, terms of service and leadership. One question to address: "Do we need to rotate committee chairs?"
- Developing financial priorities.
- Developing guiding principles for raising and spending money.

Topics that have been identified and addressed consist of making sure that we continue to have trust in the leadership of Grace Church (spiritual leadership, vestry, committee chairs), transparency of operations and debt paydown strategies.

Open communication is essential in this work, so you will be hearing more about it in the coming months.

Buildings & Grounds

Liaison, Louisa Lunt - louisa7349@aol.com

Lay Weeders of the Greater Grace Grounds (Mary Alice Lodico): The All Parish Grounds Day termed “a glorious success.”



On Saturday, April 28, twenty-three volunteers worked on the Grace grounds in a glorious example of dedication, fellowship and love for the church. The groups focused on three big projects and the Grace Giving Garden.

BAMBOO: Seven men worked for two hours cutting and hauling three massive mounds of bamboo to the street. These three mountains were created by Les Taylor who worked solo for more than 15 hours with a few hours of help from Mary Alice Lodico probably cut and dragged 500 bamboo trees from around the shed. This bamboo will be an on-going challenge, but Les and his crew made a good dent in those pesky trees. Please contact Les to aid in dragging the rest of the bamboo to the street and take any bamboo needed for any garden/home projects.

CLEARING WEEDS BELOW THE LOWER DRIVE: Julie Taylor headed up a group of five in pulling weeds from the lovely shade area cleared, again, by Les (and Julie Taylor). The boundary line between our property and the lot which is for sale below can now be seen.

LILY PATCH REDUCTION: A crew of seven dug lilies to reduce the footprint of the lily patch below the magnolia (too much weeding) and sowed the new bare area in grass seed. Melissa Van Noppen and others will pot Stella D'Oro and pale yellow lilies for sale at the fair.

GRACE GIVING GARDEN: Emily Chatfield-Lusto lead four parishioners in seeding bare spots in the lawn and weeding between the raised beds, the fields and around the fruit trees. Barbara Jo White swept and neatened the amphitheater. Mary Alice planted three geraniums on the patio for Bob the Birdbath Boy to enjoy.

Many thanks to all who participated, including Mary Lockey who single-handedly put a dent in the leaves on the Miller Street bank. Kudos to Melissa for the kitchen help, Bob Vogt for lunch, and for those who could not make it Saturday but gardened on their own time. It was a healthy, happy time to get to know several newcomers and to laugh over work and a meal.

The Memorial Garden (Jo Phelps): The Memorial Garden awakened to spring again. The crocuses and daffodils bloomed earlier, and the other perennials have stuck their heads up. The hostas can always be depended upon to show their greenery. The crabapple tree was in full bloom last month and the rose

bushes have budded. The work really begins now to get out the annuals and curtail the everlasting weeds. Mulch needs to go down and plants put in for summer blooming. The pond is up and running after having been cleaned. The walkways were pressure cleaned. Susan and Randy Williams have given a beautiful flame azalea to the Memorial Garden. The weather has not been cooperating for us to work in the garden this spring, but the volunteers shall prevail. Lately, so many loved ones returned to our garden. As each soul is laid to rest, we thank the Lord for the beauty that surrounds us. The Memorial Garden is always in need of helpers. To volunteer, please contact Jo Phelps at 452-2575.

Congregational Care

Liaison, Mary Hartman - mneedhamhartman@gmail.com

Daughters of the King (Betsy Stecher) The St. Teresa Chapter of Daughters of the King at Grace Church in the Mountains was pleased to welcome new member Mary Lou Daily in February.

Daughters of the King (DOK) is an international order of women who commit to a life of prayer, service and study. Although founded within the Episcopal Church, the order may now be found in Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches worldwide. Annual diocesan meetings and convocations of Province IV Daughters are ways to network and receive spiritual inspiration from Episcopal clergy who facilitate these sessions.

At Grace, our DOK members wear distinctive crosses and usually are most visible to parishioners when DOK provides receptions at funerals or memorial services for those in the congregation who have passed away. Deacon Ray Escott is our chapter chaplain. Any woman member of our parish would be most welcome at any of our meetings, held monthly on the second Saturday morning at 10:00 in the church library. Please contact Betsy Stecher or any other Daughter if you are interested or have questions.

Education/Formation

Liaison, Rob Viau - robert.viau@gcsu.edu

“Teach what thou dost know, lovingly!”
--Quintilian—

As the Vestry Liaison for Christian Education/Formation, I feel blessed to work with and for people of all ages and backgrounds who are so committed, caring, and loving, and who despite their differences of doctrine and value, come together as a faith community to share their experience, knowledge, and wisdom. And as a career educator, I am humbled to work with such gifted and loving teachers, facilitators, and “students.”

SCRIPTURE. REASON. TRADITION. These three cornerstones are foundational in our Anglican tradition, and all three are woven throughout our Christian Formation Programs from our Youth Programs up to the Adult Forums. We (perhaps a little arrogantly?) like to say that we Episcopalians don't have to check in our brains when we come through the church door! While many other denominations share our interest in education and focused, intelligent dialogue, I don't think very many possess our passion to learn, and to teach. If I were to name all the church members who have actively contributed to or participated in Grace in the Mountains' education ministry in the past 7 years Pam and I have lived here, the total might very well be half the congregation. We are truly blessed.

During the last quarter (February -April) we have been very busy organizing and presenting the variety of programs outlined below, providing opportunities for our parish to learn and share across our Missional Priorities! Whether holding focused discussions on some of our differences, working with our children and youth to learn “Christian basics,” or helping to provide a welcoming atmosphere for our own church

members or visitors, many talented and passionate church members have helped Grace grow into our mission and reach out to the community at large. The following areas fall under the embrace of Christian Education/Formation (see the organizational chart).

Adult Forum (Pam Nolte-Viau):



The Adult Formation Committee meets once a month to develop programs for the Adult Forum Hours. The past few months have provided a variety of programs that addressed several of our missional priorities. The Adult Formation Committee is always looking for new members! If you are interested in joining, please contact Pamela Nolte-Viau at pnolteviau@gmail.com.

Bible Book Study: In the past three months Rev. Joslyn has enriched the spiritual and intellectual life of



our parish with a series of discussions of the Bible, in particular Isaiah, Luke, and Acts. As a congregation we have followed along with the Diocesan studies of Luke and Acts on Wednesdays during Lent.

Children/Youth: The numbers of children and youth who attend are, in general, on the rise, and we hope to do everything in our power to continue that trend. We are truly blessed with dedicated and passionate teachers at all levels who are eager for new students. Rev. Joslyn instructed our youth in the Stations of the Cross during Passion Week.

Children constructed Pascal Candles and enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt (30 kids!) organized by Vicki Gribble. Youth involvement during Passion Week was excellent.

The subcommittee under Mary Hartman's leadership has planned several intergenerational programs outside of the Adult Forum hour, probably on Saturdays, and will continue to brainstorm on ways to connect a wide range of parish members in programs involving our youth.

Some of the formation activities planned for the near future, include:

- June 3 – Picnic at the Sextons' Farm. The plans include picnicking, fishing, socializing, animal petting and celebrating the end of a wonderful Christian Formation Year!
- Children's Chapel - Madison (our wonderful summer intern) will lead, assisted by parent(s).
- Summer "Bible School" – possibly two or three evenings followed by a Saturday adventure
- End of Summer (or Beginning of School) Celebration at Lake Logan

Blair Bishop and Dan Linker are taking on leadership roles in establishing a Boy Scout Troup at Grace! The process is well underway. We are hoping that a Boy Scout troop will attract children (and their parents) to Grace.

Contemplative (Susan Williams): The Thomas Group meets twice a month for 1 ½ hours. The group meditates and reflects on the non-canonical Gospel of Thomas in the peaceful setting of the Grace Church sanctuary, with candle light and spiritual music.

EfM (Jim Lynn): The Education for Ministry group will break for the summer at the end of May and resume this fall. New students are welcome.

Library (Paula Welling): The church library is an extremely useful resource for our parish. Before Paula, the library was mainly a meeting room. Not so anymore. In keeping with the church liturgical calendar, the library recently had a "featured titles" display of Lent and Easter books.

Small Groups, Deck Discussions, Graceful Conversations, Pub Theology: Special programs led by Rev. Orion Davis should be resuming soon, thankfully. And Pub Theology is fully launched.

Grace in the Mountains is truly blessed to have a rector, vestry, committee chairs, and teachers dedicated to bringing us closer as a faith community and reaching outside our campus to the community at large.

Hospitality/Fellowship

Liaison, Linda Deeb – l.deeb@charter.net

Super Bowl and Chili Cook-off Party: This fun, well attended event was held February 4 in Thatcher Hall. There were seven delicious chili entries. Alyson Nelson won the best chili 2018 Blue Ribbon award with her entry, Texas style chili- no beans. "A good time was had by all."



The Fellowship Committee hosted three coffee hours on Easter Sunday. The decorations made by Louisa Lunt were beautiful. About 30 children hunted for Easter eggs in our Memorial Garden. Upcoming Fellowship events are Mother's Day, Father's Day, and our Pentecost Pot Luck dinner celebration May 20 from 4-6 p.m. If you are interested in joining the Fellowship Committee, please contact Linda Deeb at email l.deeb@charter.net "We have lots of FUN."

The Men of Grace (KG Watson): The February Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper hosted by the Men of Grace was a great success. Lots of pancakes were made and eaten. The Men of Grace and the ECW had breakfast together on March 3 and learned more about homelessness in Haywood County. There was an excellent discussion of Pathways' services, and the event was well attended.



The Men of Grace bought an AED emergency cardiac device for Grace Church. The AED is located in the parlor. Training for the use of the AED device was given in three separate sessions in April.

The Men of Grace continue to meet on the first Saturday of each month in Thatcher Hall at 9 a.m. to enjoy a full breakfast and lively conversation. Men who attend the church and friends are welcome; no reservations are required.

Sew Gracefully meets on Saturday mornings in the Martha's room across from the library and is open to all who want to learn how to quilt. If you are already a quilter, there many projects to share quilted gifts with others. This very industrious group makes soft "prayer squares" that Rev. Joslyn provides to our ill and hospitalized parishioners. This group is working towards raffle items for the 2018 Grace Church Fair. Come join this group of happy quilters.

The Welcoming Committee (Paula Welling) A newcomer meet-up in February at Bocelli's was well attended. Next meet-up is planned for May. The Welcoming Committee had their first "Noontime Noshing"

on April 16 with six people attending. Noontime Noshing will meet the third Monday of each month, 11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. in Thatcher Hall (or on the deck as weather permits). All are welcome to bring packed or take out lunches and enjoy good fellowship while eating together.

Paula encourages everyone to wear nametags during church, coffee hour, and any church functions. Nametags may be made in the narthex or those who prefer the professionally made nametags may order them through parishioner Al Fortney. “Be welcoming to all- please don’t be shy about introducing yourself to anyone you don’t know”, said Paula.

Outreach

Liaison, Linda Sexton - lindasextonvestry@gmail.com

Grace Giving Garden (Emily Chatfield Lusto): Spring inclined to swing between winter and summer this year so Grace Giving Gardeners resisted urges to plant too early. The February focus was gaining



new volunteers and meeting with them to plan growing season activities. Volunteer numbers have increased and four—Carl Matthews and son Carlos Davis, Leslie Leathers, and Darden Yerkes—have joined Mary Alice Lodico, Jim Geenen, and Emily Chatfield-Lusto as much needed core team members. In addition, Madison Owen Grace’s 2018 summer intern will be helping in the garden this summer.

Late winter plans are unfolding. Many other planning meetings in February, March and April helped outline and solidify our teaching goals with young people, finalize this summer’s projects with children from the Pigeon Multicultural Community Center and Meridian Health Center and similar teaching plans with other groups, and make inroads into bringing new community groups into the garden for the first time.

New groups include Blair Bishop and area Cub Scouts as well as a group of young teens from the First United Methodist Church in Waynesville. Hopes are high for the return of teen volunteers from Camp Henry and Camp Hope, so stay tuned on those activities. (Please see the last issue of the newsletter for a list of the groups who garden with us.)

Out in the garden, two workdays have come and gone. Early plantings of spring greens, peas and potatoes are in the ground. Strawberries, transplanted last fall, are up. Rhubarb has been transplanted and the ornamental perennials, scattered around the garden are reappearing. New butterfly-pollinator beds are taking shape and the first was seeded with the parish on Rogation Sunday. Three deteriorating wood raised beds are due to be replaced this summer. GGG facilitators had hoped to replace these with stone beds but are using wood—for now. For this reason, the raised beds will come apart in July so most of the summer’s teaching activities will take place in the lower field beds this year.

Other ongoing spring projects included filling in uneven ground and reseeding grass to make the outlying areas surrounding the garden beds easier to walk and more attractive. Building a stone ornamental perennial bed that will border the new amphitheater is underway, as well. Next month will see summer groups choosing their beds for the season and familiar signs will appear.

Finally, as announced in church and local news, Grace Church received the Governor’s Award for Volunteer Service, brought about in part by the nomination of LifeSpan staff member and GGG volunteer, Michael Dodson. As Michael noted, “The more time I spent in the garden, the more I learned about the outreach that Grace Church facilitates for the community.” GGG volunteers think it’s a joy to receive an award for simply living into our mission and extend their open invitation: “Join us in the garden for a few minutes or an hour. Join us as we teach and garden, or simply come sit and enjoy the beauty. All are welcome.”

Worship/Liturgy

Liaison, Kenneth Ratcliffe - kratcliffe@lakejunaluska.com



We have had a very busy three months full of wonderful worship services here at Grace Church. Lent began with a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner followed by burning of palm branches outside in the Memorial Garden. Ash Wednesday featured two moving imposition of Ashes services. On the evening of March 18, we had a service of repentance and healing from sexual violence.

Holy Week at Grace began with Palm Sunday as we processed from Thatcher Hall with palm branches into the sanctuary and read the Passion of Christ. On Holy Wednesday, members of Grace attended a Tenebrae service hosted by St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. The word "Tenebrae" means darkness or shadows. The service featured the gradual extinguishing of candles until only one light, symbolizing Christ, remained. The Maundy Thursday eucharist service featured foot washing and stripping of the altar. On Good Friday morning, members of Grace joined other area churches in a Cross Walk down Main Street pausing for prayer and scripture readings. In the afternoon, Joslyn led the children of Grace through the stations of the cross and making Paschal candles. Easter morning began bright and early with our first ever Easter Vigil celebration which began in the Grace Giving Garden. Hopefully, this service will increase in popularity in the years to come! Our 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Easter services were extremely moving, joyful, and well attended.

Eucharistic Ministers Needed & Training Scheduled: Eucharistic Ministers proclaim the Good News of God's forgiveness and promise of new life in Christ through the sacred act of administering the chalice at Communion. We'd like to have teams of 12 to serve on a monthly basis at either the 8:00 a.m. or the 10:30 a.m. service. Please speak to the rector about discerning whether this ministry might be right for you. Mandatory training for current and future EM's is available on Saturday, May 12 at 9:00 am, as we are making a few changes to simplify the flow.

Newcomers' Corner (by Susan Williams)

Katherine Jennings



When asked what drew her to Grace Church, Katherine responded, “Definitely Joslyn. I had visited last year when she first came to the church, and I was blown away by her. She is so dynamic and so sweet.” Katherine has previously lived in Little Switzerland, near Boone, but she now lives full-time in Waynesville. Because her two grown children and her four grandchildren all live near Orlando, Florida, Katherine visits them often. She prefers the mountain weather and coolness to Florida heat, but she enjoys spending time with her still young grandchildren. Her adopted dachshund, Milo, and her cat live with Katherine, who recently lost a beloved golden retriever. Katherine, a retired special needs teacher, describes her passion this way: “I’ve always worked with the ‘underbelly’ of society—people who are homeless or don’t have enough to eat. I am surprised at how much poverty there is here. My heart especially goes out to women, some of them young, caring for children, and not having the basics to do so.” Katherine is

training to be a substitute in the Grace Food Pantry, and she said, “I know this is something I will really enjoy doing.”

John and Derrick Zeller



The Zellers began attending Grace Church when they decided they wanted a church closer to home, which is Maggie Valley. In addition, they have been participating in the Education for Ministry program at Grace and have both completed the third year of a four-year study program. Previously, John and Derrick attended the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Mars Hill, about a 1 ½ hour drive away. “We want to participate more in various ministries, so being closer to home gives us more time to do that,” said John. As chairman of the board of the Church of the Advocate in Asheville, John is

committed to ministry there in setting the service each Sunday, and he also preaches once every quarter. Derrick and John are both active in ministering to the homeless population. John said, “Helping others overall is important to me, whether they be homeless persons, seniors—I want to share what I’m blessed with among others.” Derrick said, “I am definitely passionate about my faith and attending church. I also love to sing and to write. I am planning to work on earning a bachelor’s degree in communications and to study journalism.” John is a postulant in the Anglican Order of Preachers, or the Dominicans, which traces its spiritual heritage to St. Dominic in the 13th century.

Derrick and John have four dogs and two cats. Derrick said, “Our smallest dog, Rascal, goes with me everywhere.” Derrick is close to his family in Madison County, and John remains close to several adult children whom he fostered years ago. John’s father, sister, and nieces are important to him, and he said, “I am very close to people, in general.” The couple is devoted to one another, and they share many aspects of their faith life and service in the world.

Ginger and Walt Lambeth



The Lambeths recently transferred their membership from the Cathedral of St. Phillip in Atlanta, where they worshipped for 40 years. They bought a vacation home in Sylva in 1993 and have visited the mountains every year since then. With their two youngest grandchildren now in Asheville, Walt and Ginger wanted to be closer to them, so they moved to an apartment in Waynesville after retiring from Atlanta. “I would drive by Grace Church and thought it was such a sweet little church, and then I heard about Joslyn,” said Ginger. “We like everything about Grace—the intimacy of a small church, compared to the cathedral in Atlanta, and the people are so

friendly,” she added.

Walt grew up in eastern North Carolina, and as a child his family visited the mountains. “I have always loved the mountains and the outdoors. That is a lot of why we ended up here, instead of the beach or somewhere else,” said Walt. “Ever since I was a kid, I have enjoyed hiking and camping.” Ginger said, “I love flower gardening, church, and being with family. I also like to read. Throw in a little cooking, and that’s what I’m all about.” Walt added, “And the cooking is really good!” The Lambeths have three grown children and four granddaughters. One daughter and son-in-law live in New Orleans; their son and his two daughters live in San Mateo, California; and their other daughter and son-in-law are in Asheville with their two young daughters. Walt and Ginger share their home with Abby, their beloved border collie, who will turn 16 in May. Walt said, “At our place in Sylva, you can see the Plott Balsams, and Abby will just sit there and gaze at them. She loves the mountains, too.”

Bill Pace



Bill described himself as a “reformed Catholic” who prefers the Episcopal Church and found his way to Grace Church after mentioning this to some folks in the area. He had been attending St. Margaret’s in Maggie Valley, but has for the last four months or so found a church home at Grace. A Vietnam veteran who served in the Marines Corps, Bill is very active with a variety of services to veterans, and he is an American Legion Chaplain who serves a South Carolina group. Bill has ridden his motorcycle for many cross-country charity rides, and he works for veterans at various Stand Down events. From the National and Community Service website:

“The term ‘Stand Down’ comes from times of war, when exhausted soldiers requiring brief periods of rest were removed from field combat to a safe, secure place. Veterans experiencing homelessness still live in conditions that mimic combat situations, living on the streets and often near exhaustion, without the services they need to survive. A Stand Down Event provides the access to services that will help veterans get to a safer and more secure place.”

Bill explained his passion for working with veterans this way: “You know what’s greater than going to heaven? Taking someone with you!” He also enjoys playing a little golf and follows Clemson football, and he is meeting new people in the community. Via Jim Geenen and Kathie Johnson, Haywood Gleaners is an organization Bill is joining. He is taking a leadership role in coordinating gleaning efforts with the Manna produce pod, based at Haywood Christian Ministries. “Grace is a really nice parish, and I look forward to settling in and finding more opportunities to volunteer,” said Bill. He added, “There are three kinds of people in the world—those who watch what happens, those who make things happen, and those who don’t know what’s happening. I have always been one of those to make things happen.” Bill enjoys walking his recently adopted Chinese black pug, Buggy, and he stays in touch with his three children and grandchildren, especially with his “free spirit” daughter Abby and his son Chris. He said, “I have had a very good life—I thank the Lord, and if I were to go tonight, I can’t complain.”

Adele Novotney



Adele, who is a Methodist minister, has always felt comfortable with Episcopal liturgy, going back to her college days. She said, “I even sang in the National Cathedral back in 1977 with my college choir.” Two members of Grace Church invited Adele to attend services, and she has since found the church to be “a good size---small enough to get to meet people easily.” Adele’s husband, Andy, was a Jesuit priest, and they recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. Andy is currently in placement for dementia at Haywood House. Adele has worked in child protective services in this area for a number of years, and she is an experienced caregiver on many fronts.

“I’ve had a lifelong interest in spiritual formation,” Adele said, “and I have a deep passion for pastoral care.” When she was completing seminary, hymnals were being revised in the Methodist and Episcopal Churches, and having been a voice major in college, Adele was interested in the changes to worship and liturgy. She said, “I am enjoying attending Grace,” and she stated that having members of diverse backgrounds is good for a church community.

Adele said that she and Andy were both only children, and they never had children of their own. Sharing the house with Adele are their four cats, all rescues, named Phoenix, Opus, Sterling, and Pangur Bán. The latter is a white cat named after a ninth century Irish poem, written by an anonymous Irish



Benedictine monk. Adele said she calls him her “bucket cat,” and that she had decided if she ever got a white cat to name him after the monk’s cat.

Pat Robinson

Pat grew up in the Lutheran Church, but she said, “My father was an Episcopalian, and I would go to church with him whenever I visited him. His church in Iowa was so involved and caring at the time of his death, that I knew I wanted to find a church like that one day.” Pat’s first visit to Grace was in January, shortly after she had retired and moved to Waynesville from Dubai. She said, “Everyone was so friendly and welcoming, and Joslyn’s sermon was wonderful!” Pat spent the last eleven years working in the Middle East, and she helped start a private university for women, in addition to advising women in other all-female universities in the region. She had friends in Dubai who had visited Waynesville, so Pat also visited the area and decided this would be a good place to retire. “I live alone,” she said, “with nieces and nephews scattered about, and there wasn’t just one place I could move to and be near all of them. So I chose a place where they could come and visit me.” Pat has always enjoyed traveling and likes to understand other cultures. She also likes music. “I’m a want-to-be fiddle player,” she said. The environment is an important concern for Pat, and she also wants to be part of “a dynamic community.” Pat said, “I love the community feeling of Waynesville and of Grace Church.” Pat brought with her from Dubai her “desert cat,” a cat who was going to be left by a friend who was leaving the area. “I didn’t want to leave him in a shelter there, so I brought him to the mountains with me. He’s never seen squirrels before, so he has a good time watching all the activity from the window.”

In Memoriam

“May light perpetual shine upon them.”

We pray for the following parishioners who have died this year and all those who grieve: Spring Allen, David Crocker, Rachel McKay, Ava Miller & Mary Elizabeth Staiger.



(Note: A photo of Ava Miller was not available.)