

Reflections of Grace

3rd Quarter of 2018



Rector's Reflections



Stewardship is fundamentally a disposition toward the world, that is, how we understand ourselves and our life's purpose for the 70 years—or 80 if we are lucky—to paraphrase Psalm 90), that we circle the sun. The way we steward our minds, bodies and spirit—our time, talent and treasure—reveals our fundamental world view and values. Christian stewardship is not a “season” of the informal church year, not a fundraising campaign, and not a word that causes us to cringe. Rather, it is the primary way we enact our faith.

The world might say we are “self-made,” but our faith says each human being is created in the image of God.

The world might say that we are worth as much as our investment portfolio, but our faith says that we are precious in God's sight no matter what numbers appear on our bank statements.

The world might say, “The one with the most toys wins,” but our faith lifts up the paradox that the more we lose our lives for Christ's sake, the more we find the abundant life.

The theme of this newsletter is stewardship. The buildings and grounds of Grace Church, nestled in these ancient mountains, is just one of many places God gives us to steward. But, even more important than those, we are called to steward our friendships with one another, giving each other the gift of love, acceptance, and encouragement. Giving each other the gift of true listening and time. Giving each other the gift of being seen and cherished. In these ways and more, we become channels of the greatest gift of all – God's grace.

As you read through the newsletter, I hope you will be moved to give thanks to God for the many ways we are able to show God's loving kindness to one another, both here at Grace Church and beyond.

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.

Grace Church in the Mountains (Episcopal)
394 N. Haywood Street, Waynesville, NC 28786
(828) 456-6029 www.gracewaynesville.com

General email: admin@gracewaynesville.com

Rector’s email: rector@gracewaynesville.com

Treasurer /Bookkeeper: finance@gracewaynesville.com

Stewardship Education Program

The Stewardship Committee is embarking on the final year of an intentional Stewardship Education Program. The vestry and Stewardship Committee are committed to the importance of small group, face-to-face conversations to deepen the parish’s understanding of stewardship as part of Christian life. During each the three years, the committee has adopted a distinctive educational focus.

In 2016, we focused on the idea of proportional giving. What proportion of our time, talent, energy and treasure do we offer to God in our daily lives? We also emphasized the importance of caring for ourselves – stewarding the gift of ourselves as being foundational enabling us to then care for others.

In 2017, the focus was on how we prioritize, care for, and even sacrifice for the people and places we value most – family, neighborhoods, and friends.

In this final year, we will focus specifically on how we might share the resources God has given us to minister to one another and to the world, and the legacy we hope to leave behind.

We have asked each member of the parish to make a thoughtful and prayerful commitment about how they might give a portion of their time, their talents, and their treasure to support Grace Church in the coming year. Hence, we have used a “commitment card” for members to indicate their annual financial commitment and the commitments of their time and energy.

The committee and vestry understand that personal circumstances can change positively or negatively within a year altering what kind of giving is possible. We also recognize that financial giving is private

information and treat the financial portion of the commitment cards confidentially. Neither the Stewardship Committee members nor vestry see the actual amounts pledged. The time and talent portions are, of course, not so privileged, and our vestry has committed to ensuring that there is follow-up to every expression of interest in Grace Church's various ministries and committees.

We believe that a sign of our spiritual growth and trust in God is the growth in the proportion of our income that we entrust for God's work in the world: Every year we should—as much as we can—increase the degree to which we devote time, talent, and treasure to address the needs of our neighbors near and far. The vestry, on behalf of the parish, is modeling this by committing to give away proportionally more of our income each year to outreach ministries benefitting the neediest in our community.

IMPACT OF THE STEWARDSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAM

After two years of the Stewardship Education Committee, we can point to the following changes in the life of the parish:

1. We have seen increases in the amount pledged by approximately 25%.
2. Increases in the average pledge, from approximately \$1750 per year to almost \$2200.
3. A more systematic response to our congregation's offerings, thanks to the follow-through by our vestry.
4. An intentional focus on increasing transparency and clarity in the how Grace Church in the Mountains reports its finances.
5. A dedicated line in the parish budget for "Ministry Beyond the Parish," including both the annual diocesan assessment and funds distributed through our outreach ministries.

WHAT TO EXPECT THIS FALL AND IN THE FUTURE

The 2018 Stewardship Education meetings will be taking place in October. The committee will do its best to provide options to meet everyone's schedule. Anyone who prefers not to attend a session may opt for an individual meeting with a committee member. In the event that a church member is unable to attend a session, a vestry member will follow up to ensure that the individual has an opportunity to participate in this year's stewardship program.

The Stewardship Committee includes the Rev. Orion Davis, the Rev. Harriet Simmons, Bill Simmons, Kent Clary, Laurel Destry, Kathleen Vogt, Michael Lodico, Crystal Clary (vestry liaison), and *ex officio* member, the Rev. Joslyn Schaefer. It is a sign of our church's health that we see rotation of committee members as an imperative. We will thus be looking for new members of the Stewardship Committee starting in 2019.

We look forward to another year of meaningful small group conversations about how stewardship is a way of life... a way that gives life to others... a way that gives thanks to God.

Michael Lodico

Wardens' Report

Our wonderful Rector Joslyn+ and your vestry have been very busy these past three months. Of course, you can read all the details in the vestry minutes (posted on the Thatcher Hall bulletin board plus on our Grace Church website), but here's the "Reader's Digest" version:

- Vestry was delighted to accept a non-restricted \$1500 gift from the Blair Family Foundation.
- We completed our Grace Church financial audit in August. Vestry will be reviewing and approving it at the September 18 meeting.
- With Louisa Lunt's resignation, Mary Lou Daily was chosen to fulfill the term ending on 12/31/18.
- We completed a draft of our new Grace Church By-laws while modeling the diocesan template and reviewing the by-laws of two similarly-sized parishes. Just a reminder, these draft by-laws and other important information can be found on the Grace website. If you desire to comment or contribute input, please share your thoughts with any vestry member during this period prior to final approval.

You will be pleased to learn that The Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer and your vestry are currently working together on several important topics:

- Our Adult Education Forum has begun sharing more about a major traveling art exhibit that Grace will be hosting next year: "Icons in Transformation." After careful research, your vestry reached a unanimous decision that sponsoring this large exhibit of contemporary iconography art will be a wonderful opportunity and a valuable gift to our greater community.
- The vestry intends to engage in a Mutual Ministry Review (MMR). This is a disciplined time of reflecting on the current dimensions of our parish life, examining the goals for the congregation, plus evaluating the roles and responsibilities of individuals working toward those goals. This review's purpose is to clarify objectives, thus focusing on specifics which can contribute to more effective ministry. An MMR consultant will facilitate this critical endeavor.
- Fred Deeb has agreed to serve as the Parish Treasurer for two years. Please consider whether you can share in our church leadership by volunteering to serve as Assistant Treasurer.
- Our interim Parish Administrator, Sarah Yeargin, intends to return to a college campus next semester. Thus, Joslyn+ is searching to hire a new administrator.
- In addition to regular vestry meetings each month, we held "work days" on August 5 and September 11. At these meetings, we discerned our organizational structure and implemented recommendations from our Financial Visioning Commission. These recommendations invite structural changes in the way we conduct parish business, ministries, and activities. Your vestry very seriously embraces the leadership role which you have entrusted to us. We value ALL input from each member of our Grace Family of Faith.

This is my last Senior Warden Report. Included in this "roll-off message," I feel compelled to share one personal experience that was particularly difficult. In the second quarter "Reflections of Grace" report, we shared "*The Vestry has authorized a task force to research options for a playground on our front lawn*" (the operative word being "research"), "*made of wooden structures and compatible with our current architecture.*" That initial newsletter announcement generated not a single response, the vestry continued its investigations, then further elaborated about this playground consideration during the second quarterly Adult Forum Vestry Communication Update. Following that meeting, the "playground issue" became a flash point for some parishioners, with much of the original message becoming distorted in the retelling (like in the telephone game). Some of the vehement responses aimed at individual vestry members were surprisingly nasty. While we may not always "like" each other, we are indeed called by our God to continue loving each other as members of His family on this journey of faith. Jesus implored us to be in community because that is HIS way to be among us. As my "rolling off" request, I ask you to pray with me for:

- healing all wounds,
- understanding for the nine diverse, intelligent, spiritual, and thoughtful church family members who are elected to be your Grace Vestry leaders,
- patience with one another as we grow and go about the Lord's work.

I certainly have mixed emotions about stepping out of this one-year Senior Warden commitment. While I will be glad to reclaim time to pursue other interests, I will sorely miss "being in the know" about the complex details which contribute to making Grace Church in the Mountains such a vibrant and dynamic faith community. I'll always cherish this blessing: working with our beloved Rector Joslyn+ plus the other vestry members you have chosen. It has been a great privilege, and I'm confident that each of you will continue to support your new Senior Warden in 2019. Your elected vestry is intensely serious about representing our wonderfully varied parish pulse and about striving to be the best possible partner to our rector. Please prayerfully evaluate and encourage competent candidates for the THREE new vestry positions which will be voted upon this November.

Thank you for your honest sharing and support. I love my Grace Church Family!

Bill Collins, Senior Warden

Paula Welling, Junior Warden

Reports from Vestry Liaisons

Administration & Treasury

Liaison: Crystal Clary - ctclary@charter.net

In early June, the *ad hoc* Financial Visioning Committee presented its recommendations to the vestry, based on its four-part charge:

- 1 – Develop guiding principles for raising & spending money
- 2 – Develop financial priorities
- 3 – Review and recommend changes to the finance- and stewardship-related committees
- 4 – Simplify day-to-day financial operations

While the vestry is continuing to work through the extensive recommendations, the first two paragraphs of the committee's report are particularly powerful and worth sharing as we enter into stewardship season:

Stewardship is about trust. Trust that God is the source of all good things. Trust that God provides the church with the resources it needs to accomplish God's mission through its members giving. Trust among church members and clergy who demonstrate a "foretaste" of God's Kingdom by offering a portion of their resources to pursue God's purpose in and through the particular ministries of a parish. And above all, our belief that God trusts us to be good stewards and grants us the gifts and graces required for the task.

With trust as the foundation, we propose three guiding principles for the parish's raising and spending of money: simplicity, transparency and flexibility. Each of these principles contributes to the others. We will be transparent, so that members can easily understand how their money is used for ministry. We will aim for simplicity, so that a variety of members can provide leadership in this area and easily understand our reports. Flexibility is important so that the elected parish leadership is able to direct resources as needs and priorities shift.

At the June vestry meeting, several recommendations were adopted and are recorded in the vestry minutes. In August, the vestry held a work day to think, simplify our committee structure, and develop

written purpose statements for committees, which were presented for feedback at the quarterly congregational meeting on August 28. In September, we will have an additional work day to continue to work through the *ad hoc* committee's recommendations.

Other administrative highlights from the last quarter include progress toward by-law revision (a draft of the proposed by-laws is on our website) and the completion of the annual audit. In the office, our interim Parish Administrator, Sarah Yeargin, will be leaving us in December. The Rector will begin a search to fill that position, which has expanded to include bookkeeping duties, in October.

The Treasurer's monthly reports are posted on the bulletin board alongside vestry minutes.

Buildings & Grounds

Liaison: Mary Lou Daily – mldaily7@gmail.com

It takes a village to fill a hole....

Since our Sexton, Peter Zinglensen, retired, the responsibilities of Buildings and Grounds has been redefined. It began with interviewing and securing a suitable cleaning service to take on the general cleaning of our building. However, that did not take care of all the other little things Peter seemed to handle with ease. There were light bulbs to change, toilets to plunge, rooms to tidy after meetings, Memorial Garden plaques to hang, and much more. To meet those needs, a B&G special task force was formed. This was not difficult because when asked, no one said no. When there is a special need, an email is sent to this group describing the task and how many volunteers are needed. It works because Grace Church members are always ready to help. Plague hanging in the Memorial Garden is now the responsibility of Kent Clary and Tom Sinagra. Changes to the church sign, which occur as our liturgical seasons change, will be done by Dale McDonald and Kent Clary. With all the rain, ground water was leaking into the choir room due to the dirt and mulch outside the choir windows being higher than the foundation. This is being addressed by Bill Collins. On September 1, all involved with Buildings and Grounds attended a committee meeting in order to meet some special requests from the vestry. We have been asked to obtain prices and offer solutions to make some of our doors more accessible with electric openers; to encourage those parishioners on Sundays, who are physically able, to leave front circle parking for those who have physical difficulties; and to consider some modifications to our kitchen. Solutions are being obtained to present to our next vestry meeting.

If you would like to join the B&G task force to meet the physical needs of our church, please email Bob Vogt, B&G Chair, at rsvogt@swbell.net. Participation in meeting any specific needs will be entirely up to you at the time of the request.

The Memorial Garden (Jo Phelps):

The "memorial gardeners" worked busily this spring to put down mulch on the whole garden and trying to find a solution to the low water in the pond. The new pump is working great. Because of the work involved with dahlias, we tried lantana this year and they are doing very nicely, along with the additional cypress shrubs. The mandevilla have thrived for several years and new ones were added. The crab apple seems to have recovered. The goal is color in the garden for each season of the year. Abundant rain has been hard on some of the plants.

A flame azalea was donated to the garden by the Williams family in memory of Randy's father. Sidewalks were pressure washed in the spring. Volunteers try to work in the garden every other week. As usual, more volunteers are needed, especially with Dan and Peter gone and Bob Tope about to leave. Thank heavens for them and Robert Armour, Joanne Heron, and Melissa Van Noppen. Kent Clary has also

come on board. The garden continues to be a place not only for burial but prayer and meditation. It is surprising to see the number of visitors in the garden, and the gate is always unlocked.

Several of our beloved have been laid to rest in the garden this year. Burial spaces have been sold. To keep expenses low, no paid help has been used this year to build up a reserve, but paid help may be required next year for heavy work. Actual expense this year is about \$1200. Payment for plaques is a wash. Next year, due to some necessary repairs, it could run around \$2,000, disregarding unexpected problems.

Congregational Care

Liaison: Mary Hartman - mneedhamhartman@gmail.com

The Congregational Care Committee, led by Pam Davis, continued to send cards, provide food, and pray. The group met June 20 to prepare more than 35 meals that were then placed in our freezer and made available to parishioners who are in a situation that makes meal preparation a challenge.

The Daughters of the King, led by Betsy Stecher, have enriched our parish in many ways including their dedication to prayer and the beautiful funeral receptions that they have provided. The DOK meetings, held on the second Saturday of each month, are open to any interested church women.

Education/Formation

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

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's education ministry in the past seven years Pam and I have lived here, the total might very well be half the congregation. We are truly blessed.

During the last quarter (May to August) we were 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:

Adult Forum Program. Under the leadership of Pamela Nolte-Viau, the Adult Formation Committee meets once a month to develop programs for the Adult Forum Hours. The past few months provided a variety of programs that addressed several of our missional priorities.

The Adult Forum Committee discussed holding meetings after the second service, maybe during lunch, or perhaps on another day to further our conversation on topics begun in an adult forum, or to tackle “edgier” topics on social issues that accord with the National Church’s mission to bring Jesus into the streets.

Please Note: 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. The committee is also interested in a rotation of leadership! Again, contact Pam.

Icons in Transformation. You will soon begin to learn more and more about an exciting traveling exhibit coming to Grace in the Mountains in April 2019. See <http://iconssd.com>. The *ad hoc* committee chaired by Rob Viau is in the process of being formed. Icons in Transformation will be a MAJOR undertaking for Grace Church in the Mountains. In addition to broadening and deepening our understanding of the history of icons and their function in meditation and prayer, the exhibit will have the potential to raise money for church activities or outreach.

Bible Study. The Adult Education Committee has worked to encourage Bible studies and will always continue to do so as part of the committee’s mission and in support of our Missional Priorities.

Children/Youth. During the summer months we have not held classes for our children and youth, but that does not mean that we have been idle! Plans are well underway for the coming church school year, plus we have begun planning for older pre-confirmation youth in the widely acclaimed and highly respected program called Journey 2 Adulthood (J2A), which provides Christian education for young adults in their mid-teens. Rev. Orion Davis, who has much experience with the J2A Program, will be taking a leading role, and the instructors who have committed to this program (Mary Lockey, Rob Viau, and Karley Wells) are excited to get started in the coming weeks. The J2A Program will succeed only if we have a “critical mass” of youth who regularly attend, AND parents who are truly committed to getting their kids to class!

EfM. After taking the summer off, EfM resumes under the leadership of Jim Lynn with three students in the fourth and final year and two students in their third year.

Library. Paula Welling continues to build our church library into an extremely useful resource for our parish. Before Paula, the Library was mainly a meeting room. Not so anymore.

Small Groups, Deck Discussions, Pub Theology. Orion has held three lively and well-attended sessions of Deck Discussions during this period. Pub Theology has continued to offer an outlet for those interested in conversations on church history, theology, philosophy, etc.

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

News from the Fellowship Committee:

- Men of Grace continue to meet at 9 a.m. the first Saturday of each month for breakfast and conversation.
- The Welcoming Committee, hosted by Paula Welling, continues to hold Noontime Noshings on the third Monday of each month. Paula also hosts Newcomer meet-ups with the next happening to occur in September.
- First Friday Potluck Dinners continued in September at the home of Annelle and Kenneth Ratcliffe. There was not a First Friday in August due to the Summer Dinner Bunch meetings. September's First Friday also served as an informal Sunday School "back to school" celebration.
- Sumer Dinner Bunch dinners will continue through September 2018.
- Graceful Hikers—as you know—continue to hike.
- The Marthas meet every Thursday from 10 a.m. until 12 noon or 1 p.m. followed by lunch out. There are 8-12 active members working on squares for afghans. Paula Welling has been working on a plastic grocery bag sleeping mat for the homeless. The Marthas group welcomes new members regardless of their skill level, and their interest can be quilting, knitting, or sewing.
- The Sew Graceful group has 7-8 members that meet on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 or 3 p.m. Currently the Sew Graceful group is working on the 2019 Grace Church Fair raffle quilt that should be finished by March 2019. The quilt will be a queen-sized, blue batik. Raffle tickets will go on sale May 2019.
- Besides the Tablescapes luncheon held September 8, the ECW is planning a "Cookie Walk" Christmas event December 8 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. This event is for church and community members to purchase homemade cookies for holiday giving and serving. Members of the church will be asked to make many dozens of cookies for the sale. This will be our first annual event. We are looking forward to having lots and lots of fun doing this event.

Outreach

Liaison: Linda Sexton- lindasextonvestry@gmail.com

How did we spend our summer? Striving to be Christ's hands in our community was our goal. We supported the hard work of the Grace Giving Garden through money and in some cases, hands-on work. We also supported the ongoing Pathways program with meals and with a pledge of regular monetary support. As always, the Pantry supports our community with food and a warm welcome. We participated in a study of outreach ministry in other churches and our own biblical directives on being mindful of the needs of others. We are participating in the United Way Day of Caring this fall under the leadership of Jim Geenen. Last but not least, the fair money and grant application study continues with recommendation to the vestry. Your Outreach Committee is a busy group of people.

Newcomers' Corner

Ralph Andrew and Lynda Self



Lynda transferred her membership to Grace from Christ & St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Norfolk, Virginia. Ralph grew up as a Quaker, and he said, "I was drawn to Grace in 2017 by the rector and the inclusive feeling and nature of the church. It is supportive of women's rights, human rights, and community outreach programs like Pathways, the Gleaners, and the Food Pantry, all of which are consistent with my Quaker background. I love the feeling that it is truly one large family of believers." Before Joslyn's arrival, Lynda and Ralph had previously visited the church off and on, and

they were encouraged by Melanie Walt and Don Haynes, whom they met playing duplicate bridge, to continue considering Grace as their church home.

One of Lynda's primary interests is literature, as she taught high school and college English in Norfolk, her former home. She also enjoys gardening and playing duplicate bridge, which is how she and Ralph met. Lynda's sister and brother-in-law, Ginger and Walt Lambeth, recently retired to Waynesville and joined Grace Church, and the two couples enjoy spending time together.

Ralph said, "I am passionate about Haywood Habitat (I build twice a week), baseball (a rabid Asheville Tourists fan), and church outreach work—including my previous service on multiple medical missions to the Dominican Republic." Ralph is also working with new member Bill Pace on a new service of Haywood Gleaners to provide deliveries of free produce from Manna's produce pod to local groups in need of fresh food. Ralph has three grown children and six grandchildren, and he said, "Lynda and I have planned a visit this summer to see everyone in Alaska, Wisconsin, and Washington, D.C."

Sandy Curtis



Sandy, who is from Chattanooga, had been visiting Waynesville as a vacation spot since 2012, and she decided to retire and move here permanently. Sandy said, "I had been visiting area churches, and some friends from home were in town for a visit with me. They commented on what a pretty church Grace was. I had attended an Episcopal church in Chattanooga before, so I thought, why not?" The following weekend, Sandy came to church. "I met Joslyn and really liked her. Everyone was so warm and friendly. I hadn't had that experience at the other churches in town I had visited. Joslyn called me the following week, and I decided to join the church. I've met so many wonderful people at Grace."

Yardwork and golf are two outdoor activities that Sandy enjoys. She said, "I have found a great community here of golf friends. I also love my pets, my cat and my dog, and I support local animal organizations like Sarge's." Sandy volunteers twice a month in the church office, and she also is offering expertise and assistance with finances and the software involved. Sandy's

daughter Amanda lives with her husband in Roswell, Georgia, along with their 9-month-old daughter, and Sandy visits as often as she can. Sandy said of her granddaughter Kaley and family, "They are the center of my existence."

The Dudley Family



Scott and Lucy moved to Waynesville about a year ago with daughter, Edie, who turned three in June. Their second daughter, Mary Kate, was born September 6. "We both grew up in the Episcopal Church," Lucy said, "and we wanted our kids to have the kind of community and tradition we experienced." The couple met while working at an Episcopal Church camp the summer after their freshman year. They grew up in the Atlanta area, and Lucy said, "I grew up in a huge Atlanta church with so many kids at every grade level in Sunday School classes. But I'm realizing that I like a small church. We felt so welcome when we first visited Grace. Everyone was so kind to us, and we felt like we were being

called to be part of this community." Scott said, "I enjoy helping others. I work in human resources and have always worked in non-profits. I've been inspired by the Grace Church community, especially the Grace Giving Garden and cooking at Pathways."

Lucy has previously taught in elementary school, but she is now a stay-home mom. "I'm passionate about raising babies," Lucy said, "and being in community with other moms is so important. Edie loves coming to church and being in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Whenever we drive by, she'll say, 'Look, Mommy, there's my church!' Edie feels very loved and supported at Grace." Scott enjoys fly fishing, backpacking, and camping, and he added, "Lucy and I are big music fans." The couple's parents live in Georgia, but they visit often. Lucy enjoys her friend group of fellow moms, and Scott likes to spend time with his fishing friends. "The mountain brook trout is an inspiring animal to me, when I think about the fact that these native fish were here when the Cherokee people were living here, and even before them," Scott said.

Earle & Valerie Pratt



Valerie and Earle tell the story of how they chose Grace Church as their spiritual home and as a result, Waynesville, as their retirement home base: "We were exploring the area," Valerie said, "and we had just said we wonder where the local Episcopal Church is, and right then, we saw the sign on the lawn of Grace Church. We stopped in for a visit, and there were people working on the fair (this was last July.) Everyone was so friendly, and we got to meet Joslyn also." Earle added, "We found out there was a noon service, so we went, and then asked Joslyn to join us for lunch after the service. During our lunch, we discovered that Joslyn had

attended the same divinity school (Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA) that I had gone to, and that gave us a really nice connection." Valerie and Earle returned that Sunday and found that Grace Church felt like home. Valerie described herself as a "cradle Episcopalian" who grew up in Manhattan. Earle was raised a Roman Catholic, but he said, "I fell away from the church in grad school and became

very critical of it.” He explained further that a series of events and contacts led him to explore the Episcopal church, and ultimately, to enter seminary. Even then, his original intention was not to become a priest, but his journey led to the priesthood ultimately, in addition to his becoming a psychotherapist. The Pratts chose Waynesville as their retirement home, in part, because of finding their way to Grace Church. They moved from a rural area near Crystal River, Florida, and they are currently building a home.

Valerie enjoys designing clothes, cooking, and gardening, and she described herself as “a homebody.” She said, “I take classes in different techniques, working with different fabrics, which I love. Right now, it’s Japanese kimono silk.” Valerie described her two cats: “Mo is a Norwegian Forest cat, very large and hairy, and my special cat is Coco, who is a tortoiseshell. When she was a kitten, she was kind of wild, but she would become calm when I sang to her. She loves living in the mountains, and after Earle, she is my special being.” Earle said, “I like teaching and preaching. I also like meditation and the mystical side of Christianity. Seminary was the three greatest years of my life. I went not to be a priest as much as to follow my spiritual journey.” Earle said that Valerie is of central importance to him in his life today, and that there are also many clergy and teachers he has met and learned from, as Earle said, “who believed in me.” Earle added, “I feel very close to and love Jesus, in my everyday life. I think that Jesus is how God shows himself to us.”

Darden Yerkes



Darden said, “I grew up as, what do you call it—a cradle Episcopalian. I was living in Clyde and visited the Episcopal church in Canton, and though I very much liked the priest, there just wasn’t much going on besides church on Sundays.” She explained that she had heard Grace Church was getting a new rector, “young and female,” and Darden decided to make attending church regularly her Lenten commitment. She began on Ash Wednesday, and she said, “My intention was simply to duck out the side door after the service, but when we passed the peace, I was sitting beside Paula and Peter Welling. Paula took my hand and said, ‘I don’t know you, I’m Paula, and this is Peter.’ I appreciated how welcoming they were that first time I came.”

Darden recalled the church of her parents, which she described as “High Church.” She said, “I remember when the Episcopal Church first began passing the peace, and everyone would look straight ahead. Now it’s all hand shaking and hugging. During coffee hour at Grace, everyone reaches out, which is really nice, as we can be in our little boxes sometimes.” Darden loves horses and gardening, and she volunteers with the Grace Giving Garden. She also enjoys exercising and chocolate and has two dogs and a cat. Darden’s sister, Elisabeth, and brother, Damon, along with her Aunt Catherine, are important people in her life. Darden added, “My parents are no longer with me, but their influence is with me every day.”

Jim & Jan Treston

Jim and Jan Treston joined the parish this spring. While both hail from Michigan originally, they first “retired” to Florida before making North Carolina their home. Jan sings in the choir, and Jim is serving on the Buildings and Grounds Committee. We look forward to getting to know them in the months to come!

In Gratitude

2018 Parish Fair



Thanks to everyone who made the 2018 Grace Church Fair a success. Fair day was a beautiful time of fellowship. This year's Fair provided the Grace Church Outreach Committee \$ 12,692.30 for distribution to charitable organizations in Haywood County. Left over items not sold at this year's Fair were given to Haywood Christian Ministries.

2018 Summer Bible School



Grace's first Summer Bible School was held August 1 – 4. The theme was "Growing with Grace: Eating Well for Ourselves, our Neighbors, and our Planet." The faith based-curriculum was open to the community to ages 3 – 99+!

Tablescapes



The annual Tablescapes luncheon was held on Saturday, September 8. The women of Grace and their friends enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, a catered lunch served by the men of Grace, and an inspirational program presented by Terry Painter of Different Drummer Pottery. All proceeds from the luncheon benefited Haywood Pathways Center.



Special recognition was given to Melissa Van Noppen for 37 years of service in the Grace kitchen, as Melissa turns her kitchen duties over to Linda Deeb.

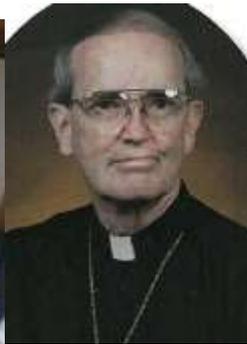
Special recognition was posthumously given to Spring Allen and Rachel McKay, who supported Tablesapes during their many years as members of Grace.



In Memoriam



Phil Heinz



Jim McElrath