



# Grace Notes

4th Quarter 2017

In this edition of Grace Notes, you'll see that we have refined the purpose of our newsletter. We aim to "go deep" on a topic and take a look back over the last three to four months to celebrate the ministry we've done together.

In this newsletter, we focus on our Vestry and organizational structure. (The Vestry is the lay leadership body elected by the members of the parish to serve for a three-year term. Along with the rector, they set a direction and set policies for the parish.)



You'll see a section for each of our nine "ministry areas" and an article submitted by the Vestry liaison responsible for each area. And each area, just like each person, has a role to play in helping us make manifest God's dream for us here in Haywood County.

The Vestry adopted three "missional priorities" to help focus our efforts over the last year. These priorities answer the question: "What are we doing together?" Here they are:

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

After our new Vestry is elected, at our annual meeting on December 3, we will go on retreat to discern if these will remain our priorities and maybe even begin a process to help us articulate our church's "core values," which will enable us to move more deeply from the "What we do" to "Why we do it."

It is my prayer and hope that as Grace Church becomes clearer on the "why" behind our ministries, we'll be able together to reflect more purely the "light that shines in the darkness," who is Jesus our Lord.

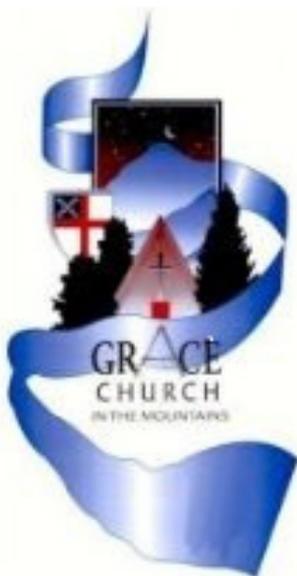
**Joslyn+**

# Electing New Spiritual Leaders for the Vestry of Grace Church

Each year at our annual meeting, members of Grace Church elect three new vestry embers to serve a three-year term to provide spiritual leadership for our parish. In addition to being passionate about mission and ministries of Grace Church, vestry members need to bring particular skills to ensure our parish thrives. Skills might include financial, organizational development, spiritual discernment, change management, community networking, and communications. To be eligible to serve, nominees must be confirmed Episcopalians and financial contributors to Grace Church for at least six months prior to the election and be able to participate in monthly vestry meetings (held the third Tuesday of each month) and the vestry retreat, usually held in late January.

A packet with the nominees will be distributed to all members no later than Tuesday, November 21, and the election will be held during the annual meeting from 9:15 to 10:15 on Sunday, December 3.

The nomination form is included here and must be turned into the church office by Sunday, November 19. A complete vestry job description is available on our website at [www.gracewaynesville.com](http://www.gracewaynesville.com)



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# Vestry Nomination Form (2017)

Nominations end on Sunday, November 19. Communication about the candidates will go out to the parish no later than Tuesday, November 21.

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination submitted by (if other than the nominee): \_\_\_\_\_

Email of person submitting nomination:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Has this person been notified of the nomination?  Yes  No

Questionnaire (to be filled out by nominee). If you are nominating another person, please do not answer the questions below. The nominee will be asked to fill out the form. Responses will be printed in the nomination packet that will be distributed prior to the Annual Meeting. Please keep answers under 100 words.

Why do you feel called to serve on the vestry of Grace Church?

Please describe your participation at Grace or in the community, indicating leadership experience that you think will be helpful for the vestry.

What is your vision for Grace Church in the next three years?

# Reports from Vestry Liasons

## Buildings & Grounds- Louisa Lunt Layweeders of the Greater Grace



Our rectory lawn and flower beds are in pristine condition under the care of Julie and Les Taylor. Dan Linker has eradicated poison ivy and planted six white native rhododendrons on the Miller St. bank, and on Monday's workday, we planted cotoneaster and bottle brush buckeyes on the bank. Welcome to our newest lay weeder, Valerie Gracie. We always seek volunteers to join the fun of beautifying our Grace grounds.

After 10 years of tending Grace Grounds, we are at a point where we can relax a bit in fairly weed-free grounds, BUT there's always the Miller St. bank as our ongoing project and the lower edges of the property as our next challenge. We're ticking along with scheduled workdays and gardeners working on their own time. I'm sure you've all noticed Christa Malone's welcoming riot of color "gracing" the patio area and under the sign.

Our most exciting news is that the amphitheater below the memorial garden back wall is just about complete. Our Mackey McKay and his R.C.F. company gave us a very special church rate to excavate the retaining wall and the two tiers of seating, and soon after, the Tuscola masonry students set to work under instructor Eric Sollie's guidance. They have now completed the two tiers of seating made from foundation stones of the 1874 church, laid flag stone, and built a fire pit. The final stage will be the installation of safety railings by the Tuscola welding students. You must go see this impressive accomplishment. When the project is finished, the Grace Giving Gardeners will treat the students to a weenie roast, but the first group to christen the space will be our youth with s'mores and cocoa around the fire pit. This will be a lovely entrance to the memorial garden, once it is landscaped and the grass is in, and it will serve as an educational, recreational, and spiritual space for Grace and the larger community.

The season is closing on our lovely Memorial Garden. Frost has killed many annuals, yet there is still beauty. The red bark Japanese maple is a show of color beside the pond. Our other Japanese maples have made their subtle changes as the temperature lowers. Leaves are everywhere giving bright splashes to the walkways. Take a stroll and enjoy the last of the fall beauty.



Many people have visited our Memorial Garden this year, church members and nonmembers alike. They visit the sites of loved ones, meditate and pray, or just stroll through to enjoy the beauty. We appreciate the compliments; it is a rewarding work. Thanks to all of you who have enjoyed our Memorial Garden, a beautiful outreach of Grace Church.

# Education/Formation-Rob Viau

## Children & Youth Formation Program Launched in September



When we baptize children, the church vows to “do all in our power to support these persons in their life in Christ.” Offering a formation program aimed at specific developmental stages in a child’s life is one fundamental way of fulfilling this vow.

With that in mind, the vestry adopted the following guiding principles for our work with children and youth:

- We support and equip adults called to minister to, for and with young children ensuring they have emotional and spiritual support, training, and material; trusting that teaching children can be a means for their own spiritual growth.
- We ensure that children and youth are in a safe, supervised, and caring environment at all times.
- We care for families with young children, youth and their families pastorally by showing genuine curiosity about their life, faith journeys, opportunities for and barriers to participation in Grace Church.
- We integrate the gifts of children and youth in our common life by engaging them in our most central act together, the liturgy, as well as other ministries of the church (e.g., outreach, fellowship).

# Education/Formation

On September 10, we launched our children and youth formation programs. Our first Sunday, we had 11 children divided into three different groups:

- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children ages 3 – 6. This curriculum emphasizes attending to the spiritual life already present in children and introducing them to developmentally appropriate images, work, and engagement with Scripture as well as practical skills for daily life. It draws heavily on Montessori pedagogical principles.
- Godly Play for children ages 7 – 10. This curriculum, also founded on Montessori principles emphasizes wonder and play as children engage the stories of our faith and meaning of our liturgical practices.

Our middle school & high school youth will be using the Journey to Adulthood curriculum, which addresses the “Four S’s” of Self, Spirituality, Society, and Sexuality. We will also plan monthly fellowship gatherings and occasional overnight retreats.

There is an African proverb that says “it takes a village to raise a child.” The development of this ministry has happened because parishioners have stepped forward with time, talent, treasure and a call by God to work in this ministry. Among those for whom we offer special thanks are Mary Hartman, Annelle Woggon, Teresa Heinz, Bill Collins, Karen Morris, Vicky Gribble, Linda Deeb, Donna Buckner, Paula Eachus and Louisa Lunt.

Another new program about to be launched that will serve “Youth of All Ages” is Pub Theology, which will target 20 somethings and beyond, within and outside our church and faith. Rob Viau defines Pub Theology as follows: “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.”

Pub Theology (PT) is a new program searching for truth across all faith systems. PT is not for people who think they know the truth already and want to convert others—PT is for searchers. It is also searching for a place and week day for meetings.

*These programs are new and need a lot of energy and attention to continue growing, so we ask for your continued prayers and support.*

# Youth Fellowship Gatherings

Splash Day: On August 20, Grace Church sent five youth (accompanied by two responsible adults, of course- Annelle Woggon and the rector) off to splash and play together with youth and adults across the diocese. They had a great time.

This was the first organized youth activity for Grace in quite a while, and it kicked off an effort for youth-centered fellowship about once a month and most importantly to build bonds of friendship and support among us.



Cherokee Elk Adventure: On September 17, four of our youth participated in a “hunt” to hear the elk bugle led by Robert Armour and organized by Mary Hartman. Our first stop was Paul’s Family Restaurant. This Cherokee restaurant is known for Indian Fry Bread Tacos and game meat. However, most of the kids enjoyed hamburgers. We then went to the Oconaluftee Visitor Center. The elusive elk were not there, but we enjoyed hiking, observing a snake, and visiting the resident pig. Robert suggested trying the Job Corps area – and it paid off! We saw more than thirty elk and heard the distinctive bugling. Much laughter and fellowship played an important role in our adventure. Many thanks to Robert and Laura Armour for providing the transportation and knowledge.

# Communications-Bill Collins

In our new and expanded communications effort, we have changed the focus of the monthly newsletter to a quarterly publication that be more thematic. It will serve as a way of looking back over the past quarter to report on what has happened in the various committees and underlying subcommittees of the vestry and consider how they have helped achieve the three missional priorities for Grace. There will no doubt be plenty of “grey areas” and we will work thru that on a case by case basis. As a rule, any date dependent information should be sent to Paula Brandt, our communications administrator, at the church office (gracewaynesville@msn.com) for inclusion in the weekly eNews update and/or the quarterly Guide to Grace. Those are now our forward-looking communications.

The monthly calendar and financial statement will be accessible from the website (gracewaynesville.com) that is also getting an update. Events that are not specifically sponsored and supported by the church should be sent to Paula Brandt for possible inclusion in the “Beyond our Doors” section of the weekly updates.

A maximum of two photos per article is still the rule for the newsletter. Additional photos can go on the Facebook site for everyone to enjoy.

Thanks for your patience as we improve and expand our communications efforts!

## Congregational Care- Linda Sexton

### Grief & Hope Class

This year, the rector offered two sessions of a four-week class called “Grief and Hope,” a daytime course in May and an evening course in September. These classes drew both community members and parishioners. In addition to learning about how we process loss psychologically and spiritually, class members were also invited to reflect on their personal losses and identify new avenues of hope through writing exercises, sharing in a small group, hymns and poetry. Perhaps most importantly, class members could pray for one another, support one another, and deepen their friendships. We anticipate this course being a regular offering at Grace Church.

# Congregational Care



## Yoga Retreat

On September 23, more than 20 people attended a yoga mini-retreat in Thatcher Hall.

Attendees ranged in age from 9 – 90. The three-hour session used movement, meditation, brainstorming and discussion to stretch ourselves with questions, open ourselves to answers, and support one another.

The course was taught by Chad Hallyburton, a yoga instructor in Sylva who gives classes at St. David's Episcopal Church, Cullowhee United Methodist Church, Jackson County Recreation Center, and outside by the river at East La Porte Park in Cullowhee.

Cards and schedules from local yoga studios were given out to those wishing to pursue the practice.

It was truly of Saturday morning full of faith, hope, love. . . and yoga!

# What's New in the Library: Book Reviews by Richard Ploch

To the trinity of women who enlighten my life (my wife, daughter, and rector), I have added admiration for three young women who have written books about the Christian life. All three books are now in our church library.

First came *Searching for Sunday: Loving and Finding the Church* by Rachel Held Evans. Here's an excerpt on why those who came to adulthood in the past 20 years are leaving our churches or never found them in the first place. "Millennials aren't looking for a hipper Christianity," she writes. "We're looking for a truer Christianity. Like every generation before ours and every generation after, we're looking for Jesus – the same Jesus who can be found in the strange places he's always been found: in bread, in wine, in baptism, in the Word, in suffering, in community, and among the least of these. No coffee shops or fog machines required."

Ms. Evans grew up in a socially conservative, evangelical environment in Birmingham, Alabama and Dayton, Tennessee where she now lives. With her husband and young son, she attends an Episcopal church and is a frequently called-upon speaker on what will bring younger adults back to church. Her stories of reaffirming faith after the dreariness of scriptural hypocrisy are told through the sacraments. It's a good read for those wishing their kids and grandchildren were more active in church and for all at Grace who want to grow our church younger.

I next read *More Than Words: 10 Values for the Modern Family* by Erin Wathen. She begins with an encounter with a woman who found it surprising to find a minister of the gospel who is both female and was drinking a beer at Whole Foods when they met. After listening to Rev. Wathen describe her church and its programs of outreach and acceptance of people often not welcome in church, the woman told her where she was wrong and gave a lecture on family values. It launched Erin on a mission to write about the values of compassion, abundance, sabbath, nonviolence, joy, justice, community, forgiveness, equality, and authenticity in a refreshing way. If you pick up the book and see her humorous conclusion, you'll want to read it from the beginning.

# What's New in the Library

I found *Following the Red Bird* by Kate Rademacher when I sat down on a chair opposite the Religion and Spirituality shelf of books in Blue Ridge Books. The subtitle is “First steps into a life of faith.” Her story begins on the opposite political spectrum from Rachel Evans, having been raised by staunchly secular, liberal activist parents, and now married to a devout Buddhist. Kate Rademacher migrated as a young mother from a Unitarian Universalist church to an Episcopal baptism in Chapel Hill where she and her family live.

You can't put down a memoir that begins, “*Surrounded by three hundred parishioners, I sat in the front pew of the church, barefoot and in a long, floor-length white robe. It was the night before Easter. In twenty minutes, I would be baptized by full immersion, and I was twitching in my seat uncomfortably. It wasn't because I was having last minute doubts... No, it was more mundane. I'd had about five glasses of water at dinner, and now I really had to go to the bathroom. The Great Vigil before Easter is an extremely long service. (She finally got up while her little daughter played on the floor below the pew, crossed in front of the altar in a “half crouch,” and was absent for a few minutes.)*”

In a chapter late in the book called “Devotion,” she writes, “I was amazed to discover what was hidden from me in plain sight – that there is a whole other way of understanding the world and being in right relationship with it. The path involves eschewing the worldly concerns of praise, reputation, riches, comfort – and embracing a life of service and devotion.”

Throughout all three books, the personal stories are revealing and often humorous. I love to read stories of people coming to faith, and these three women amaze me with their writing gifts. Carol and I have purchased new copies of the books for our church library in memory and thanksgiving for our parents. And we give thanks for the dedicated work of our librarian Paula Welling. It's a beautiful place in our church to spend some quiet time.

If you would like to donate and/or review a book in our library, contact Paula Welling at [pmw02176@yahoo.com](mailto:pmw02176@yahoo.com).

# Fellowship - Linda Deeb

## ECW Supports Pathways' Moms & Kids Dorm



On Saturday, October 28, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of Grace Church voted to donate \$10,000 to the Pathways Center. After an initial recommendation by Mary Lou Daily, the ECW dedicated this generous donation to naming the trauma-informed playroom in the soon to be constructed Moms & Kids dorm on the Pathways campus. The ECW officially selected Pathways as the major mission focus, and will host numerous fundraising efforts throughout the year on behalf of the new Moms & Kids dorm. Plans are already in the works for a Cookie Walk fundraiser during the holidays next year and brainstorming is taking place for other events.

Members of the ECW and Grace Church have supported Pathways from its inception by cooking dinner for residents, providing drivers for special resident appointments, gardening, etc. We are aware of the urgent need for emergency shelter, particularly for Moms with Kids. Nationally, the current homeless population consists of 40-50% families, and the numbers in Haywood County reflect those statistics. With the closing of The Lodge to build the upcoming Publix, there are very few options for homeless families in our area. The situation has reached a critical level and Pathways is moving forward with plans to construct a two-story dormitory on its campus that will aid up to 10 families for up to 6 months respectively. The modular structure is expected to be completed in 6-8 months and will cost approximately \$625,000.

“This shelter for Moms & Kids has been a dream I have had for many years” said Edwina Costley. “We are blessed to be a part of this project.”

# Finance - Jim Moore

## Budget Revision

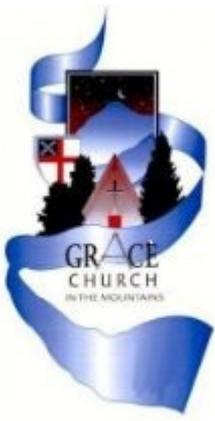
This summer the rector, treasurer and Finance Committee reformatted the parish budget to make it easier to understand and follow. The parish was able to see this new format at the Adult Forum presented by the vestry on October 1 and will be distributed again at our annual meeting at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, December 3. As much as possible, we wanted our budget to align with how we are organized in terms of our “ministry areas.” We want parishioners and vestry members to be able to use the budget and financial reports as important tools to assess how we steward the many resources God has granted us. We want to ensure that we use the parish’s resources toward the fulfillment of our missional priorities, which we intentionally and collectively discern. Our financial reports are posted on the bulletin board in Thatcher Hall and are presented at every vestry meeting, which are open to any parishioners to attend. They can also be found on our website: [gracewaynesville.com](http://gracewaynesville.com).

## Stewardship

In early October, Grace Church conducted a series of stewardship education gatherings, led by Fr. Orion Davis, one of our assisting priests. In addition of Fr. Orion, the Stewardship Education Committee includes Rev. Harriet Simmons, Bill Simmons, Laurel Destry, Kathleen Vogt, Kent Clary, Michael Lodico, and Senior Warden Jim Moore. They have completed year two of a three-year commitment.

The gatherings were intended to promote prayerful reflection on how we expend our time, talents, and treasure to promote the work of God and the church. Attendees received commitment cards. The intended outcomes are first of all, an inventory of the ministries that Grace Church members wish to involve themselves in, including outreach, worship, administrative support, Christian formation for all ages, fellowship, and work on buildings and grounds. Data from the commitment cards are compiled and shared with vestry members and committee leaders in order to enlist enthusiastic workers throughout 2018. The second purpose is for the vestry to have a solid basis for its financial planning for 2018. If you missed the gatherings and would like to find out more about what stewardship means in the Grace Church in the Mountains community, please feel free to contact the rector or a member of the vestry.

# Liturgy-Donna Buckner



The liturgy at Grace Church is what unites us and reminds us of our deepest identity as God's children and deepest purpose to bear Christ's light in the world.

For the second-half of ordinary time in the liturgical year, September through November, we introduced worship booklets that can be reused most Sundays.

Because our liturgy for this season draws from resources throughout the world-wide Anglican Communion, we needed the flexibility that this format provides.

Additionally, the booklets are "user-friendly" for those who might be joining us who aren't familiar with the Book of Common Prayer.

As our parish seeks to become more inclusive, we offered the option of praying the Lord's Prayer in English or Spanish. While this could sound a little chaotic, it was also showed our sincere intention to welcome all to God's table and was maybe reminiscent of the first Pentecost! We have had two special liturgies this fall. In September, we offered a "Recovery Eucharist" in which we integrated the 12-steps into our regular liturgy. Many remarked on how powerful this service was for them.

Then on October 8, we celebrated the Feast of St. Francis with the Blessing of the Animals. The service was in the church due to rainy weather, and we gave hearty thanks to the Creator for the many ways animals enrich our lives.

In terms of our music, we are seeking to expand our hymn repertoire, building on the strong foundation of the 1982 Hymnal. We have used various resources from The Episcopal Church including Lift Every Voice, Voices Found and Wonder, Love and Praise. The choir also welcomed Jessica Nash as a "choir intern" to serve as a section leader. Jessica is a student at Western Carolina University. The purpose of this trial internship is to provide professionally-trained support for our choir and to expose a young adult to the musical and liturgical traditions of The Episcopal Church. The vestry will decide whether or not the parish will financially support this position beyond December in the upcoming budgeting process.

## 2017 Grace Church Parish Fair Grants

The Parish Fair Committee, the Outreach Committee and the vestry would like you to know exactly how our \$17,175 Parish Fair proceeds were distributed. The following recipients are all non-profit organizations in Haywood County:

Big Brothers - Big Sisters ([bbbswnc.org/big-brothers-big-sisters-haywood](http://bbbswnc.org/big-brothers-big-sisters-haywood))  
\$1,000 for one-on-one mentoring to 60 children.

Clothes to Kids ([clothestokids.org](http://clothestokids.org))  
\$1,000 for 72 pairs of pants for children (\$14/pair average).

Community Kitchen ([cantoncommunitykitchen.org](http://cantoncommunitykitchen.org))  
\$500 for offsetting additional costs of increasing programs/classes; allow additional funds for the purchase of food items for the soup kitchen and food box program.

Fines Creek Community Association ([finescreek.org](http://finescreek.org))  
\$500 for Supporting MANNA Pantry providing food assistance for 75+ families.

Good Samaritan Clinic of Haywood County ([gschaywood.org](http://gschaywood.org))  
\$1,500 for providing at least 123 mental health sessions for uninsured and underserved adults.

Haywood Christian Ministries ([haywoodministry.org](http://haywoodministry.org))  
\$2,275 for purchasing food for clients and to paying for utility assistance, rental assistance, and prescription assistance.

Haywood Pathways Center ([haywoodpathwayscenter.org](http://haywoodpathwayscenter.org))  
\$1,000 for helping with case management program of relief, rehabilitation & development.

KARE (Kids Advocacy Resource Effort) ([karehouse.org](http://karehouse.org))  
\$500 for replenishing and expanding lending library.

Mountain Mediation Services ([mountainmediation.org](http://mountainmediation.org))  
\$1,000 for assisting students in developing skills to deal with bullying behavior and school conflicts.

Mountain Projects ([mountainprojects.org](http://mountainprojects.org))

\$1,000 for Self Sufficiency Fund to fulfill unmet needs brought to their attention.

Mountain Projects - Circles of Hope ([circleshc.org](http://circleshc.org))

\$1,000 for providing meals for 6 families (\$22/week each) during 15-week training course.

Mountain Projects - Haywood County Senior Resource Center ([haywoodseniors.org](http://haywoodseniors.org))

\$1,000 for financing 100 case of Ensure.t

No Boundaries: Integrated Services for Independent Living

\$500 for diabetic supplies and blood pressure monitors.

Pigeon Community Multicultural Development Center

([facebook.com/pigeon.communitycenter](https://facebook.com/pigeon.communitycenter))

\$1,000 for funding assistance for After School Program (ASP) for children ages 6-14 and stipends for the after-school staff.

REACH (Resource Education Assistance Counseling Housing) ([reachofhaywood.org](http://reachofhaywood.org))

\$750 for extending services of elder abuse and \$750 for offsetting cost at shelter.

Region A Partnership for Children (RAPC) ([regionakids.org](http://regionakids.org))

\$350 for purchasing age, developing & culturally appropriate books for children ages birth to five; books will be placed in the Haywood Co. Health Dept & Dept of Social Services waiting room.

Western Economic Development Organization ([westerneconomicdevelopment.org](http://westerneconomicdevelopment.org))

\$550 for assisting more low-income individuals by providing payment for their GED Tests and providing payment to Haywood Community College for any vocational trade certificate program.

Haywood Spay and Neuter ([haywoodspayneuter.com](http://haywoodspayneuter.com))

\$1,000 for supporting of free pit bulls' sterilization, rabies vaccination & microchip as well as ALTERnate Transport Program helping pets to & from clinic when owners have no transportation.

# Outreach



Valerie Gracie stands by the bin donated by Grace Church

In October , Grace Church in the Mountains chose to shower **Clothes to Kids** with a bounty of underwear and money. The over 90 pairs of underwear helped replenish the many pairs of underwear that go out weekly. The shop gives out up to 300 pair a month during the back-to-school and fall season

# Welcome to our New Members in 2017

Grace Church has been blessed by several new members this year. We've gotten to know each other through classes, informal weeknight meet-ups, and in our Sunday gatherings. Parishioner Susan Williams will continue to interview our new members, and we'll publish that information in both our quarterly newsletters and our weekly eNews on a flexible basis.

We welcome Kenneth Ratcliffe & Annelle Woggon; Martha S. Bradley; Lynda Self; Dale & Marcia McDonald; Jack Geist; Gekxy Hernandez; Michael, Valerie & Kristian Gracie; Donna & John Culp; Karen Morris; Timothy Hussey; Lauri SoJourney; Travis Zach; Gracie, Daniel & Jack Yeargin; Bob Peebles; plus, Owen & Oliver Hill.

And there are few more in the process to become official members: Barbara Jo White, Walt & Ginger Lambeth, and Bill Pace.

We welcome you in the name of Christ and offer you our prayers, support and our friendship. May your lives and ours be the richer for our common life in Christ.

## Welcome, Newcomer Tim Hussey



Tim grew up Catholic and has known several Episcopalians, so he was familiar with the Episcopal Church and its liturgy. “I went on the Grace Church website and noticed that you had a new rector. I met with Joslyn, and really, that’s how I was drawn to the church.” Tim says that he is passionate about dreamwork and the eucharist. “I am also passionate about trying to embody through my work [as a therapist and a spiritual director] a sense of ministry.” People and creatures who are near and dear to Tim’s heart are “especially my wife, Julie” and the couple’s two cats and two dogs. Tim also has three grown children—a daughter in Florida, a son in the Coast Guard in Key West and a son in the Army in Kuwait.

# Shepherding- Paula Welling

We are richly blessed by the continuous stream of new faces we see at our Sunday services!

Each one known and deeply loved by God.

Each one drawn here by God.

Each one part of God's mission here.

Our third Missional Priority is, "To cultivate a culture of welcoming that engages each person's spiritual gifts."

We, like most Episcopal churches, probably think we are very friendly. Those of us who find close friends and a sense of purpose here are experiencing Grace Church in the Mountains as a very friendly place. But that very sense of connectedness among us can feel like a "closed group" to newcomers as we circle up with our friends at coffee hour rather than focusing on welcoming and engaging those we don't yet know.

So please help newcomers feel included:

- Wear your nametag to the service and to coffee hour, to make it easier for us to call each other by name.
- Introduce yourself to people you don't know, invite them to coffee hour, and engage them in conversation there.

A formal (relatively) organized program of shepherding is a new thing for Grace Church. If you feel called to help, please contact Paula Welling (828.246.0644; pmw02176@yahoo.com).

We have a need for:

- Greeters at 10:30 services – friendly, outgoing folks to welcome those who come into our church, with a special focus on newcomers, and to encourage us all to wear our nametags.
- A Nametag Coordinator – this is a quiet, behind-the-scenes task of keeping the nametag supplies stocked and in order.

We all are beloved by God.

We all belong here together.

Welcome!