

One of the special customs of the season in which we find ourselves is the giving and receiving of gifts. Most of the gifts are tangible, wrapped in bright paper and adorned with a special bow and, perhaps, a card. Those of us who serve as your staff are cognizant of your generosity and gift-sharing every year at this time with the Christmas bonuses that we receive. We are most grateful for your thoughtfulness.

Other gifts can not be encapsulated in a brightly decorated box. They are offered in the context of time and our lives are made richer because of them. I have long been grateful for the space within our community of faith to "work out my own salvation." Some of my search has been considered in the extreme by some. Others keep pace with me as we move along. I really believe there are few places that would allow me to search, seek, and struggle with my faith understanding and then turn around and share with the larger group what light has broken through. I know that my statements and thoughts are not always accepted with agreement, but I still feel enabled to work with them, nonetheless. I hope you feel that Grace is a safe place where you can engage in your own efforts of working out your salvation. May it ever be a safe place where we encourage and journey with one another.

Perhaps the greatest gift we can ever receive is an ongoing, clearer understanding of what "Grace" really is. God meets us where we are, not where we need to be. God meets us at our own journeying points in life and receives us as we are.....regardless. We are accepted!!!

What a gift!

Prayer Requests

CONCERNS

Those who have lost loved ones: Family of Tom Wiberg, Family of John Marlin; Family of Don Shaver

Those who are sick: Daughter of Reponda Powell, Janice Berryhill, Kat Martin, JoAnn Grose; Amber Davis, Chris Shuford's Aunt Francis, Redallia Freeman, Glenda, a friend of Phyllis Munson, Miguel Angel Morillo, Tony Bellamy, Sue Walser, Suprena Tabor, Marian Grant, Fred Wilson, Jean Wilson, Sharon and Dennis Keller, Teresa Rimmer, Daniel Renegar, Mary Alice Woods, Jeff and Karen Coggins, Tressie and Allen Starrette, Ric Comer, Ernie Hendrix, Mary Ruth Godfrey, Anita Tuit and family, Gail Germain, John Munson's father, Anita Johnson, Barbara Robinson, Mary Jean Grose, Dr. Hanna Kutteh, Beecher and Mary Lee Grose, Don and Deborah Autrey-Cooke, Scott Cranfield, Bobby Long, Leisa Parks, Dalton Edwards

Those facing tough times: Faith Aiken, Dima Hanania and family, Robbie Harkey and family, Michael Teasley and family, Goodman family, those who are mentally ill, those who are affected by violence, those who are incarcerated, those dealing with addictions in our community and in our world: Children who are a part of the Guardian ad Litem program, local law enforcement officers and fire fighters

Those in the military: Greg West, Josh Wingfield, James Pulliam, Mark Staley, Adam Ivey, Warren Dilger, Austin Frutig, Zach Spoor, Mary Jane Johnson, Travis Clower, Logan Frutig, Nathan Myers, Caleb Sisk, Felix Martin, JJ Golden

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Church maintenance before Sunday:

Second Hour Helpers: This Sunday - Xochitl Yshel and Phyllis Rogers/John Koppelmeyer and Dawn Kavanaugh

Grace

www.gracestatesville.org

gracestatesville@gmail.com

December 14 - 21, 2014

Gary's cell - 704-682-1767

"If you want to know who you are, watch your feet. Because where your feet take you, that is who you are."

Frederick Buechner

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

Celebrations:

Birthdays: December 18 -

Sharon McDougall

19 - Marsha Angell

Nichole's brother graduated
from Appalachian

Concerns

Tom Wiberg's dad died on
Tuesday. A memorial service
will be held at a later time in
California.

Mary Ruth fell and broke her
wrist.

Hold tight Teri, David, Kirk and
Callie Campbell

Sarah Adams friend, Diane
Martin is facing ovarian
cancer.

Remember sister of Louise
Grose, Nancy Clark and
husband, Ed. This will be their
first Christmas without their
daughter.

Amy Hrabor has been
diagnosed with Stage 4
melanoma.

One of Nichole's former
students, Logan Elkins, 16
years old, suffered a stroke.
Madysen West is hospitalized
at Broughton Hospital. Hold
her tight.

WORDS OF GRACE

"Advent As the Underground
Church"

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 26-38

BUDGET

Needed year to date:

\$94,387.50

Received year to date:

\$93,497.55

Under budget: \$889.95

Weekly needs: \$1887.75

CALENDAR

Monday : 8pm - NA

Wednesday: 7pm - Choir
Rehearsal

Friday: 6pm - Blue Christmas
8pm - NA

Saturday, 1pm - Planting
daffodils at the church

Sunday: 10am - Sunday
School; 11am - Worship
(Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Wednesday, December 24,
6pm - Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25 -
Christmas Dinner at Fifth
Street and delivery of Meals
on Wheels

December 28 will be Student
Sunday

- We will be partnering with
Trinity Episcopal Church
on our Advent mission
project that will provide
packaged meals in
coordination with Stop
Hunger Now. Our goal is
\$1,500 that will be
matched with the same
amount from Trinity. We
will the raw supplies to
prepare packaged foods
to be sent out where
there is a need. After the
first of the year we will join
with Trinity in putting these
packaged meals
together.

- Join us for our third annual
Blue Christmas Service on
Friday, December 19 at
6pm..
- Our visual reminder for
Advent this year is "Cloth
for the Cradle". You will
be given a strip of cloth to
keep with you as a
reminder of the birth story.
Keep it with you at all

times – carry it in your
pocket, in your purse,
hang it with your keys. As
you see the cloth let it
remind you to prepare
yourself to welcome the
Christ Child.

On Christmas Eve, we will
bring our strips of cloth to
place on the manger. The
manger will be lined with
our thoughts, prayers and
preparations of the
advent season.

OUTREACH

ICM is in need of a variety of
canned food items

Fifth Street is in need of
coffee and sugar. New items
to be used for adult gifts are
also needed for Christmas.

Donations for Christmas
Dinner are also accepted.
Call 704-872-4045 for more
information.

Both agencies can benefit
from your financial support