

Grace Notes

- The **Music Ministry** at Grace Church is growing. Our choirs meet **Wednesdays** with Children's Choir at **5:15 p.m.** and Adult Choir at **6:15 p.m.**
- **Fiber, Friends, and Fellowship** meets every **Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall.
- The **Saints and Sinners dinner groups** will start up again this month. This is a great way for both newcomers and long-time parishioners to meet others within the parish. If you are interested in joining us this fall, please contact the church office or Debbie Hand at (316) 617-2409 or handrab@yahoo.com.
- If you would like to **donate to Family Promise**, scan the Grace QR Code.
- It's never too early to be thinking about breakfast, especially the **annual parish breakfast!** The breakfast will be held on **January 11th** before the annual meeting. Please be thinking about what you plan to bring! Let Kirri Kinley know by **January 4th** at (843) 384-5213 or kirrikinley@gmail.com. Thank you!! And Merry Christmas from the Grace Life committee.
- **Help us decorate the Christmas tree!** You are invited to bring an ornament to decorate the Christmas tree with before the Christmas Eve services. These ornaments will be collected when we take down the tree and available for you to pick up in early January, if you would like.
- **Finals Survival Bags** are available in the cloister. Students (of all ages), teachers, and school staff are invited to pick up a bag. We hope you have a great end to your semester!
- **Offering Envelopes:** 2026 offering envelopes are now available for pick up in the cloister.
- **Celebrate Grace's 175th** anniversary of being allowed into the Diocese, **Thursday, February 12th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** Reception following. Bishop Richards will be there, and we will have confirmations, receptions, and reaffirmations as part of the celebration.
- **Ready for a Leap of Faith?** Our next Episcopal Christianity Class begins **Sunday, December 28th at 9:15 a.m.** in the parish library. It is the last chance to prepare before the Bishop's February 12th visit. This class is for anyone interested in Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation, or to simply study the faith.
- **WWW** will meet this Tuesday at the home of Anne Cook for our Christmas social at 6:30 pm. Details are in the weekly WWW email. If anyone would like to join the group or needs more information, they can reach out to Beth Lollis at gracewomenwineandwisdom@gmail.com.
- **Breaking News:** A new photo directory is in the planning stage. If you would like to be a part of organizing, please contact Connie Pearce at conniepearce56@gmail.com
- **Daughters of the King (DOK)** is meeting **Monday, December 15th at 10:00 a.m.** in the parish hall. If you are thinking of joining or have questions, please join us. We will be discussing the Advent season.
- **Celebrate the Season** with a free Wednesday Night Feast on **Wednesday the 17th of December at 5:30 p.m.** Bring a donation for Family Promise if you want. Be sure to let us know you are coming by contacting the parish office by **Monday, December 15th.**
- **Year End Contributions:** Checks must be postmarked on or before **December 31st 2025.** Any checks received after 12-31-2025 will be posted to your 2026 statement.

- **Coats and Blankets for the King:** We are now collecting new or gently used coats and blankets for our community friends. Items may be brought to the Church.
- **WWW** is asking for YOUR help in our efforts to collect diapers, wipes, and feminine hygiene products support the Anderson County Diaper Bank. Donations may be placed in the cloister. We are grateful to **Louise Knisley** for coordinating collection and delivery on our behalf.
- **February 12th, 2026- 175th Anniversary Celebration/Bishop Daniel's visit-** Kirri Kinley/Grace Life is planning this upcoming celebration. If you would like to assist in the planning and execution of this celebration, please contact Kirri Kinley kirrikinley@gmail.com, 843-384-5213.

Those with birthdays this week

Lynne Prince
Cindy Baker
Annie Hughes
Randy Baker
Rebecca Dixon

Baptismal Newbirth Day

01 April
05 October
08 January

Those with Baptismal Newbirth Days this week

Connie Pearce 15 December

Pledge Drive Week 8

2026: Pledged: \$346,487 Cards: 106
2025: Pledged: \$313,234 Cards: 97

THE GRACE CODE

Scan or tap to visit:



- New to Grace
- Outreach giving
- Facebook page
- Family Promise

Stewardship Report

As of 10/31/2025

YTD 2025 Revenue \$327,965
YTD 2025 Expenses \$353,299
YTD 2025 Deficit \$25,334

Grace Episcopal Church

711 S. McDuffie St
Anderson, SC 29624
gracechurchanderson1851@gmail.com

(864) 225-8011

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:10 a.m. - 2:10 p.m.



Van Gogh 1890

THE FARMER WATTS

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

14 December 2025
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Grace!

The Liturgy Begins on page 323

The Word of God

The Collect

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!"

Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Psalm

Psalm 146:4-9 (*read responsively by half verse*)
Lauda, anima mea

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
**he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!**

The Second Lesson

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Holy Gospel

Priest: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.*

People: *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the

lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Priest: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

People: *Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed - page 326

Prayers of the People - page 328

Confession of Sin and Absolution - page 330

The Peace

Brief Announcements (three short bullet points, or preferably in Haiku format) 😊

The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer II - page 340

Post Communion Prayer - page 339

The Sending Forth - page 339

Those who serve

Vestry-in-Charge: Heiko Erlenkeuser

Second Counter: Henry Todd

Lector: Tony Guiseppi-Elie

Intercessor: Annette Guiseppi-Elie

Chalice: Annette Guiseppi-Elie

Chalice 2: Kathe Harris

Church Opener: Tab Bates

