

Grace Notes

- **WWW:** Our next book is *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans'. Join us on [Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.](#) in the parlor as we explore themes of faith, doubt, and grace through Evans's reflections on the sacraments. All women are welcome. Come as you are and bring a friend!
- 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.
- EYC Advent Party is [Sunday, December 7th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.](#)
- 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.
- **Offering Envelopes:** 2026 offering envelopes are now available for pickup in the cloister.
- **Poinsettia forms** are available for pickup in the cloister. These are due back to Nikki by [December 15th](#).
- **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.
- **Outreach** will meet today, [Sunday, December 7th](#) right after the 10:30 service.
- **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.
- **Christmas kids** items are due this Sunday.
- **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.

Those with birthdays this week

Bren Bowman
Scott Mattison
Kate Wilford
Sharon Dorsey
Noah Hand
Pam Herold
Debbie Hand
Lucy Bates
Connie Ormes
Greta Jacobsen
Louise Knisley
Bryan Harris

Baptismal Newbirth Day

07 May

10 April
01 January
15 March
23 December
21 April
03 October
07 April
13 February

Pledge Drive Week 8

2026: Pledged: \$344,687 Cards: 103
2025: Pledged: \$304,534 Cards: 94

Stewardship Report

As of 10/31/2025
YTD 2025 Revenue \$327,965
YTD 2025 Expenses \$353,299
YTD 2025 Deficit \$25,334

Expectant Parents

Parker and Caroline Bates
Brent and Kirri Kinley
Donovan and Erin Colman

Those with Baptismal Newbirth Days this week

David Burden 07 December
Sophia Kloeck 08 December
George Lidlow 09 December
Daryl Kress 10 December
Maddie Clark 12 December

THE GRACE CODE

- Scan or tap to visit:
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- New to Grace
 - Outreach giving
 - Facebook page
 - Family Promise

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.



Henry Ossawa Tanner circa 1900

THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE WILDERNESS

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

7 December 2025
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to Grace!

The Liturgy Begins on page 323

The Word of God

The Collect

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw
like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Psalm

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (*read responsively by half verse*)
Deus, iudicium

1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, *
who alone does wondrous deeds!

19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

The Second Lesson

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Gospel

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

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

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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: Cyndi Dougherty

Second Counter: Louis LeBrun

Lector: Annette Guiseppi-Elie

Intercessor: Kathe Harris

Chalice: Kathe Harris

Chalice 2: Annette Guiseppi-Elie

Church Opener: Drew Lavan