



# From the Rafters

Vol. VI  
Issue 12  
December  
2020

## Our Mission

We are a people rooted in worship, branching out into the world.

### Dear Church of the Resurrection Family,

My 96-year-old grandmother, Will Mary Pratt, often sends me prayers and articles that she saved and put inside her beloved *Book of Common Prayer*.

Grandmother and I have a very special relationship. In

October, I was able to celebrate communion with her. I asked if she wanted me to get her prayer book for her and she replied, "I don't need it, I know exactly what to say." We got the chalice and paten that she and my grandfather bought on one of their trips to Jerusalem, and we worshipped the Lord together. It was a moment that I will always remember!

Grandmother thinks of me as the keeper of her memories. Of her eight grandchildren, I am the one that often sits with her and listens to stories I have heard many times before. I am always grateful when I receive her wise words or prayers. I cherish them.

Advent is here, and oh what a time it is! This year, more than ever, we have an opportunity to really live into the Advent season, to wait, to prepare for the coming of baby Jesus. Below is one of the articles that my grandmother sent me, an Advent To-Do List. It was published in a newsletter when my dad was serving as Rector of Church of the Incarnation in West Point, Mississippi. I hope you will take these words to heart this Advent season. Prepare, wait and know that baby Jesus will be with us soon.

I love each and every one of you!

Love,

Mary Balfour+



### Advent To-Do List

- Find your Advent wreath and light the appropriate number of candles each day.
- Set up a creche set. Read the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Luke's Gospel out loud, either to yourself or to your family after the creche is completed.
- Find a quiet time and listen to your favorite Christmas music.
- Read or watch, Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.
- Wear an outlandish Christmas pin or tie.
- Wear purple at least once to celebrate Advent.
- Give someone special a gift of something that is precious to you.
- Honor someone special with a gift to the church in their name.
- Call an old friend.
- Say a prayer for each person to whom you sent a Christmas card.
- Take a friend, drive around, and look at the Christmas lights.
- Clean a corner of your house in preparation for the coming of Christ.
- Get real dressed up, even if you have no place to go.
- Give an anonymous gift.
- Smile at everyone you see on the street, no matter how you feel.
- Throw out all the stored-up anger you have accumulated over the past year.
- Invite a friend to attend Christmas Eve services.
- Take care of yourself.
- Love the Lord with all your heart.

## Keeping Advent

Advent is a sacred season, meant to be experienced with quiet, contemplative anticipation for the coming of Christ. Yet, if we aren't careful and intentional, our calendars will quickly fill up with other plans. We urge you to make your faith a priority. If you feel safe doing so, be a part of the worship, fellowship and giving programs at your church:



### Giving

> This year our **Advent fundraising** will go into our outreach budget. All donations marked "Advent" will support our mission partners including, among several others, Greater Greenwood United Ministry, GGUM.

> We are honored, as well, to have **"adopted" a client family from GGUM this year**. This family of a mother and two young boys have identified a few things they would appreciate receiving, and Mary Balfour has already done the shopping. If you want to support this family, you may send a check to the church designated for "adopted family."

> On December 13, as our Second Sunday Give, we invite everyone to take a **pooinsettia** and give it to another member of our congregation who is not able to attend church. Please contact Karen Whitfield for names and addresses.

> You may also donate towards our **Christmas decorations and music** in thanksgiving or memory of a loved one. Our suggested contribution is \$30. If you provide a name by December 20, we will be able to print in our Christmas Eve service bulletin.

### Worship and Fellowship

> On **December 6 at 5:30, EYC youth and families** are invited to gather at church for a few Advent projects. We will be wrapping gifts for our GGUM adopted family, completing an earlier project for the residents of the Pathway House and creating a special treat for our own congregation for Christmas Eve. It will be a busy evening!

> We will celebrate Advent with a special service of **Lessons and Carols on December 20 during the 10:30 service**, followed by a picnic lunch in the prayer garden. Please bring lunch with you.

> On **Christmas Eve at 5 PM**, we will hold a beautiful service of lights and music in the courtyard and the Nave, decorated with art created by our own congregation.

Let us keep Advent in a most meaningful way this year. We must work hard to end the year 2020 with joyful worship, giving and gratitude for the birth of Christ!

## Reflections on Home Communion and Spirit Gardens

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

- Greek Proverb

"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

- Warren Buffet

"On the last day of the world, I would want to plant a tree." - W. S. Merwin

Some weeks ago when the daylight lasted longer than it does today, I invited Mary Balfour to have Home Communion in my backyard. During the pandemic, I have missed my church family, but having communion outside in the back yard seemed like something I could do stress-free, and so I volunteered my yard for this service.

My part was easy. I positioned a small table where Mary Balfour could stand in front of the pergola, which was also in front of the water. The view is spectacular, and the pergola forms a centerpiece in the yard against the backdrop of water, an enchanting landscape configuration I could never have envisioned myself. I am thankful that many decades ago, long before I was even born, George and Thelma Cook had a vision for this place. They understood that "a man doesn't plant a tree for himself. He plants it for posterity" (Alexander Smith).



A long time ago in 1962, George and Thelma left all they had known in Georgia and made their way to Greenwood, SC. George had purchased a radio station, and the young couple had decided that Greenwood would become their forever home. Thelma had graduated from Georgia Tech and George from the University of Georgia. They were intellectual, sophisticated, and passionate – particularly about football although, clearly, their team loyalties was also a lifelong rivalry between the two. The Cooks found themselves in the newly emerging “Emerald City,” and the world was green and golden.

If you have been in the Resurrection Church family long enough, you may remember Thelma Cook. She was a member of the alter guild for decades, and Resurrection was one of her passions. Barbara Brock told me that Thelma had helped with the flowers in the Brock’s wedding, which had been held at Resurrection. In addition to Resurrection, Thelma was devoted to other subjects also— including her husband, George, her home and gardening, and their dog, “UGA.” George had clearly “won” in terms of the dog’s name, and they always had a bulldog as a beloved family member.

I never met Thelma in person, but Salley Hyatt has helped me see pictures of Thelma from old Resurrection Church Directories, and the pictures seemed “right” somehow, as if the pictures “matched” the images in my mind and heart of Thelma. In one picture, Thelma is in the Resurrection church kitchen, elbows propped on counter-top, looking contemplatively at something or someone in the distance. In another picture, she is standing outside on a sunny day with other members of “The Daughters of the King,” including sisters Marty and SuSu.

In 1962, Druid Hills, the neighborhood, did not yet exist, and the memory of the Dairy Farm that had once stood on those grounds was still fresh in the community’s memory. The first house built in the neighborhood (that would become Druid Hills) was the home of a well-known builder at the time, Bob Ulrich. It was the house where (one day) Kim and John Russell would live, directly beside the Cook’s house, which is the house where I now live.

George Cook, Thelma’s husband, was a famously social person, and it seemed he knew everyone in Greenwood. George and Thelma hosted countless parties at their home, and they were friends with Bob and learned he was developing a neighborhood. Bob agreed to build George and Thelma’s house, too, and Thelma carefully selected the lot, the one she felt was the premier lot in the development, because of the view of the water and the gardening potentials. In the house plans, she even included exterior buildings like a large green house and a boathouse. Between the Ulrich’s and the Cook’s, the two families had a breath-taking view of the 6-acre pond and nearly four acres of land between them, some of which was undeveloped woods. Like their spiritual progeny who would live in the house years later, the Cooks were nature enthusiasts and conservationists. They would routinely stock the pond with fish, and they delighted in sightings of red-shouldered hawks and white-tailed deer. There was even the once-in-a-lifetime sighting of a piebald fawn.

Thelma was enormously talented, and she shared her gifts with others –in gestures from orchestrating church alter flowers to assisting with weddings and preparing the church for seasonal festivities. I like to imagine that some of the greenery Thelma brought to church, at times, was from her garden. In another era, Thelma’s gardens were legendary in the Greenwood community, and she was active in Greenwood’s Unit 1 Garden Club for decades.

In 1970’s, the Cook’s gardens were so impressive that their Druid Hills home was a popular tourist attraction during the annual Festival of Flowers Home and Garden tour. There were the mounds of red canna bulbs, the ancient boxwoods, and the giant Oakleaf hydrangeas that stood watchfully like sentinels in the side yard. There was the famous violet azalea that Mrs. Cook, Thelma’s mother-in-law, had from the grave (through her will) insisted be moved from Georgia to Greenwood. The azalea was so large that it had to be brought to Greenwood on a flatbed truck. As Thelma told the story, they had to have someone dig a hole six-feet deep and six-feet wide in the

backyard to accommodate the violet azalea. Although dried out and lacking an adequate size root ball (from being dug up improperly), Thelma set up a complicated irrigation system for bringing the azalea back from the brink of death, and she was not embarrassed to say that she had prayed over the azalea, too: the azalea not only survived the traumatic relocation but also thrived.

My neighbor Charlie remembers those days well because he and his wife Susan were friends with George and Thelma, and they gardened and watched birds together. Charlie says that during the annual Festival of Flowers tour, Thelma would set up a table in the backyard, and people would gather under the shade canopy and talk for hours. Some would drive from miles away for the opportunity to see what wonderments awaited on the other side of that famed, wrought iron garden gate. Thelma and George were gregarious hosts, and the blue water was more like an enchanted reflection pool than pond for fishing.

It was an evening just like the ones Thelma and George shared with friends long ago, when Mary Balfour came for Home Communion, the kind of twilight where when one looks at the water, the reflection seems also a picture of the sky or the view of yesterday. My neighbors, John and Kim Russell, were there, along with Salley, Mary and Ashley Woodiwiss, and my children. Mary Balfour brought the bread and communion plates, and we read familiar prayers and shared aloud other prayers, too. We observed The Great Thanksgiving rituals, walking up to the table, one by one, to take our little porcelain plate back to our seat, partaking of the bread in silence. After the brief service, we talked informally with each other, from a safe distance, enjoying each other's company and admiring the beauty of the scene, the water, the fancy-leaf, red Japanese Maple that Thelma had planted for us so many seasons ago, long before she knew that we would ever be standing in the yard.

I felt peaceful and thankful, and the sun sank lower and lower on the other side of the house. I was standing near Mary Balfour and my son Colt, beside a potted container of Shasta Daisies that I had set out beside the table. To my surprise, an

unexpected guest appeared near the daisies, incredibly out of season but most welcome, a hummingbird. If Mary Balfour and Colt had not seen the visitor, too, I would have doubted the guest had been there at all. She seemed barely larger than a bee, with deep crimson and orange colors like autumn leaves. She was with us only a few moments, and then the three of us marveled at how mysterious to see a hummingbird at that time of day and season. For me, I feel the bird was one of those "spirit moments," an expression I have heard Mary Balfour say when describing moments of beauty and wonderment. To me, I felt that Thelma had, in some way, been with us for that special communion in her garden. I know she would have loved such an occasion.

I did not know Thelma in this lifetime, but I feel I know her in spirit, and sometimes when I am in the yard I feel her presence. I cannot "prove" my experience concretely; it is more an impression on my spirit. Sometimes when I am working in the yard and questioning where to plant a Shasta Daisy or a Limelight Hydrangea, subjects about which I have little understanding, the answers will come to me in ways I cannot explain reasonably— as if a loving, familiar gardener was always with me, assisting me from a distance.

~ Renee Love

P.S.

I would love to hear any recollections that you may have about George and Thelma. Please call, email, or write me: 864.396.3103 or [creneelove@gmail.com](mailto:creneelove@gmail.com) or 111 Yorke Drive, 29649.





Last Wednesday evening, a dedicated group of about twelve people completed their study of Weight of Mercy, a book written by Rev. Deb Richardson-Moore. I had the privilege of coordinating this study, and I would like to share some of what I learned.

Weight of Mercy is a chronicle of Deb's reflections on her first few years serving as the pastor of Triune Mercy Center in Greenville, SC. Triune is a non-denominational worshipping community in a challenged area of Greenville. Triune's story began in the early 1900s, and for decades it was a thriving neighborhood church. But for several reasons, its neighborhood declined economically and many of its members moved to other churches. A few stalwarts remained, but Triune ultimately became a satellite of Buncombe Street UMC. Triune held worship services regularly, but most of its work was service to the homeless and poor living on the streets of Greenville's west side.

Deb became Triune's pastor in August of 2005. Upon her first experience preaching there, Deb found "men carrying bedrolls and duffle bags. Several were stretched out full-length on the pews, sleeping off the crack and malt liquor from the night before. Others were staring at me, this middle-aged white woman from the suburbs coming to pastor the inner-city mission church where they ate hot meals and received groceries, got clean clothes and watched Sunday afternoon football on TV." Yet, over her 15 years of service, Deb's church became a place quite different. Through her perseverance and the generosity of many, Triune is now an independent church serving the haves and have-nots in a variety of miraculous ways. Deb retired last summer, and she joined our book study for its last meeting on December 2. We were honored by her presence.

Deb's reflections in Weight of Mercy reveal the

very essence of Matthew 25. Jesus' command – feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the prisoner – was and is practiced daily at Triune. Deb's stories provoked the full range of emotions – amazement and wonder, anger and frustration, disappointment and sorrow, joy and inspiration. Her stories also made us learn. If there is a single point encapsulating all I learned, it is this: Never assume you know anything about the stranger you encounter. For there are as many different reasons why someone is homeless as there are homeless people. If we want to help the homeless stranger, we must get to know him. We must first become a friend, and we must listen. As Deb reflected, all of the people who entered her office sought a listening ear first and foremost, even if the end of their story was a plea for money, food or clothes. A homeless man once told her, "Pastor, do you know the worst thing about being homeless? It isn't being cold or wet or hungry. The worst thing about being homeless is being looked right through."<sup>1</sup>

If you consider all the encounters Jesus had with the needy, you might notice that he did not simply hand over a few dollars or a bag of groceries. Jesus ate with them. Jesus transformed their lives entirely by knowing them. Why couldn't we do the same?

I hope that in 2021 Resurrection will have an opportunity to ponder that question deeply. How can we be a good Samaritan in our time and in our neighborhood? If you have ideas, please share them with me. I do not wish to spend a great deal of time just talking about it. Now is a time for action, and I want to do this work with you.

A common obstacle to knowing our homeless neighbors is fear. Being a woman, I'm often reminded that I must look out for my safety. I'm told I should feel no guilt over avoiding the needy stranger because he could be violent, under the influence of drugs that drive him to criminal behavior. Deb was once asked whether she was ever afraid while at Triune. Considering some of the stories she wrote about, I'd have expected the

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.triunemercy.org/sermons/Of%20Butterflies%20and%20Ripples.pdf>

response to be, “Every day!” But it wasn’t. Instead, she answered, “‘Not at all. Fear is the one thing I’ve never felt.’ And I knew exactly where that lack of fear came from – my dad. One of his most constant teachings was that fear should never rule our lives: ‘Are there nuts out there who want to hurt you?’ he’d ask. ‘Sure! But if you live your life expecting the next person you meet to be one, then they’ve already won.’” Deb was close to her father, and his influence enabled Deb to befriend the roughest of men, to listen to their stories and to see the face of Jesus in them.

Fear is an involuntary response, and there are times when fear keeps us safe. But allowing fear to keep us from knowing our neighbor runs directly counter to the gospel, to the example Jesus set for us. We must see the face of Jesus in the stranger first and let fear be only a response to an actual threat, and never an assumption. So let us begin that gospel work without fear, knowing full well that God is by our side.

~ Elizabeth Floyd

**Altar Arrangements:**

**December 6 – Advent greenery:** In memory of Ralph and Margaret Longley and Christian and Alma Fiske, parents and grandparents of Christine Jayne.

**December 13 – Advent greenery:** In memory of Simons Ravenel Lucas, Anna Natalie Bettis Lucas, Elizabeth Simons Lucas Burns, Howard L. Burns, James C. and Maude Burns, Simons Lucas Chase, Mary Elizabeth and James Padgett, Jane Jeter, Virginia Self and William Aubrea McDaniel, Jr. by Anna and James Padgett and Family.

**December 20 – Advent greenery:** To the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for her family by Sue Moore.

**December 24 – Christmas Eve – Thursday:** Open to all Parishioners.

**December 25 – Christmas Day – Friday:** Open to all Parishioners.

**December 27 - Sunday:** Open to all Parishioners

**The Presence Candle** is given in loving memory of Marty's grandparents, Jessie and Leon Brandt and Myra and Otis Whitten by Marty and John Cobb.

**Parish Connections...**

- Music **Donna Brooks**  
992-3738  
[dbrooks@nctv.com](mailto:dbrooks@nctv.com)
- Altar Guild **Noonie Fennell**  
223-7769  
[cfennell@nctv.com](mailto:cfennell@nctv.com)
- Acolytes **Norm and Roxy Fawcett**  
227-3421  
[fawcett@nctv.com](mailto:fawcett@nctv.com)
- Christian Formation **Elizabeth Floyd**  
223-5426  
[elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org](mailto:elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org)
- Daughters of the King **Marty Cobb**  
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[martycobb@hotmail.com](mailto:martycobb@hotmail.com)
- Episcopal Church Women **Susu Wallace**  
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- Readers/EMs/Ushers **Denise Brown**  
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- Giving Records **Lindsey Farver**  
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- Columbarium **Joe Fennell & Dean Faden**  
[jdfennell@nctv.com](mailto:jdfennell@nctv.com)  
[dfaden@hotmail.com](mailto:dfaden@hotmail.com)
- CO3R Tutoring **Elizabeth Floyd**  
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[elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org](mailto:elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org)
- Online Directory **Jo Ann Brewer**  
941-7199/[joannbrewersc@gmail.com](mailto:joannbrewersc@gmail.com)

## RESURRECTION CELEBRATES WITH YOU

### Birthdays

01 – Eric Gonzales  
 01 – Anna Bettis Padgett  
 03 – Andrew Hodges  
 04 – Virginia Glenn Donaghy  
 05 – Pat DeYoung  
 05 – Terry Varas  
 06 – Meisha Cobb  
 06 – Susie Hinkel  
 06 – Emma Jones  
 07 – Katherine McDevitt  
 10 – Michael Floyd  
 10 – Riley Floyd  
 10 – Lee Roper  
 11 – Gray Putnam  
 13 – John Tennis  
 14 – Kevin Whitehead  
 15 – Laura Shealy

16 – Elizabeth Padgett  
 17 – Murray Dunlap  
 17 – Karen Whitfield  
 19 – Ashley Woodiwiss  
 20 – Mary Joe Ferguson  
 22 – Lucas McMillan  
 22 – Frank Wideman  
 23 – Jim Nazzaro  
 26 – Abney Wallace  
 27 – Charles Ferguson  
 27 – Jimmy Jones  
 27 – Becky McDaniel  
 28 – Janet Munns  
 30 – Buster Brooks

### Anniversaries

16 – Joanne and Tom Hochheimer  
 16 – Ginger and Charles Long  
 18 – Mary and Jim Bright  
 20 – Edie and Buster Brooks  
 21 – Dean and Albert Faden  
 22 – Robin and Jeff Lanford  
 27 – Hope and John Scurry  
 27 – Leslie and Chuck McDonnell  
 28 – Rita and Peter Marshall  
 28 – Summer and Archie Booker  
 29 – Marilyn and James Gobble  
 30 – Judy and John Park  
 30 – Shana Southard-Dobbs and Ben Dobbs

**Your prayers are asked for these members of our parish and members of our immediate families:** Audine Bergman, Denise Brown, Evan Clay, Bruce Craven, Carol Dean, Cynthia Dougherty, Bobby Ellerbe, Joe Fennell, Charlie and Mary Joe Ferguson, Howard Hammett, Nan Hines, Chris Jayne, Nicholas Kent, Rebecca Long, Bart McGuire, Nancy Miller, Erich Normandía, Betty Perrault, Domer Ridings, Elsie Speer, Terry Wynne (Lou Wynne's brother), Winnie Bolle (Fr. Stephen Bolle's stepmother), Trey Booker (Archie and Summer Booker's son), Jerry Carver (Diana Carver's dad), Linda Criswell (Paul Criswell's sister), Olive Daggett (Beth Wood's nephew), Carrie Davidson (Helen and Jim Nazzaro's daughter), Carolyn Devore (Dyan Webb's sister), Hazel Hammett (Connie Hammett's mother), Caroline Reiger James (Julie Rieger's daughter), Jeanette Little (Adrian Little's mom), Jennifer Love (Renee Love's sister), Linda Love (Renee Love's mother), Elliot Norton (Karen and Bill Bright's nephew), Kurt Penney (Bacon family member), Mason Shirley, Brad Thomas (Libby & Henry Cary family), Lee Van Zandt (Mary Balfour's cousin), Anne Cheshire Wideman (Frank Wideman's sister) and Wallace Pouncey (John Maschoff's uncle).

**And for these persons:** The Brown Family (Mary Jo Tolbert's caregivers), Carol Cauthren (Laura Shealy's friend), Ed Cleary (Shirley Walker's friend), Craig Loner (friend of George Rush), the Seymour Family and Brenda Weems.

**Those in our nation's service:** Will Carroll, Aaron Crowe, Cameron Roberts, Grant Roberts, Trip Wash and Noah Woodiwiss.

Please send additions/deletions to the prayer list or family news and prayer concerns to Denise at [denise@episcopalgreenwood.org](mailto:denise@episcopalgreenwood.org) or call 223-5426.

Including the church in your will ensures its life into the future and offers your witness to generations that follow.

***We give thanks for your giving, which makes the ministry of Resurrection possible!***

	<b>Pledges (Actual)</b>	<b>Pledges (Budgeted)</b>	<b>Unpledged/Plate (Actual)</b>	<b>Unpledged/Plate (Budgeted)</b>	<b>Expenses (Actual)</b>	<b>Expenses (Budgeted)</b>
<b>Last Month</b>	<b>\$28,009</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$1,422</b>	<b>\$1,675</b>	<b>\$21,892</b>	<b>\$32,290</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$326,430</b>	<b>\$318,000</b>	<b>\$19,252</b>	<b>\$18,275</b>	<b>\$297,079</b>	<b>\$356,495</b>



*From the Rafters*

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# Church of the Resurrection

## **Vestry Members**

Cecily Hughes, Senior Warden  
Walker Moore, Junior Warden  
Adrian Little, Vestry Clerk  
Summer Booker  
Jo Ann Brewer  
Reva Long Davis  
David Dougherty  
Rick Green  
Bill McCabe  
Perrin Roper

Shana Southard-Dobbs  
Susu Wallace  
Lou Wynne  
John Scurry, Treasurer  
Abney Wallace, Assistant Treasurer

## **Clergy and Staff**

Mary Balfour Dunlap, Rector  
Donna Brooks, Organist/Choir Director  
Denise A. Brown, Administrative Assistant  
Elizabeth Floyd, Associate Lay Minister for Families  
and Outreach  
Lindsey Farver, Financial Contractor