

## Living Stones, Building Grace

Hannah Palpant

The name *Grace* carries deep meaning for many of us. It's more than a word—it's a reminder of God's unearned favor and abiding love. For me, the name *Grace* is woven through my own family story: my grandmother was named *Grace*, my own name means *grace*, and my daughter, Evie's middle name is *Grace* as well. It is a word that reminds us of God's ongoing work in our lives with our communities that we call family and the generations that come after us.

When Evie was younger, she believed we attended *Grace Episcopal Church* simply because it shared her name. Though that made us smile, it also revealed something true—she felt a personal connection to this church and the grace it represents. That sense of belonging is what we all hope to nurture within our parish family: a place where the grace of God feels familiar, where every person is known, and where relationships are strengthened as we grow together in faith.

The image of *Living Stones* from 1 Peter 2:5 reminds us that God is shaping us into a spiritual house—strong, enduring, and alive. Each of us, as living stones, is being formed over time to reflect God's grace more fully. Together, we build something lasting: a church grounded in love, service, and the presence of Christ among us. This imagery of a Living Stone allows us to see something that is solid but is also shaped over time.

As we continue to build our shared life at *Grace*, may we remain open to how God is shaping us—through our prayers, our fellowship, and the giving of our time, talent, and treasure. Let us share the grace we have received and invite others to experience the same welcome and hope we find here.

Thank you for being part of this beloved community. I look forward to continuing our journey together—growing, serving, and building grace upon grace in our time, talent, and treasure.

Thank you for being a part of our community dinners as we connect, share our stories, and I'll look forward to furthering that with many of you this coming weekend.

Please remember that our Stewardship Ingathering Celebration is Sunday, November 16, 2025. We invite you to turn in your 2026 pledge cards on or before Ingathering Sunday, when we will offer to God our pledge cards at God's altar.

With gratitude,  
Hannah Palpant  
Stewardship team member