

# Mercy Ministry News

Grace Mills River | Summer 2020

## Greetings from the GMR Diaconate!

*We really miss face to face fellowship, worship, and interaction with our church family!*

I don't know about you but I am ready for things to get back to normal!! Praying every day for eradication of the coronavirus and

for our church leadership as they make decisions regarding how we gradually phase back in onsite activities. In the meantime, I hope everyone has been able to plug in to some of the various online activities that have been provided by staff and leadership.

*We want to reiterate some of the services available from the diaconate.*

We recognize that the impact of the shutdown on much of our economy has created many hardships. It is important to know that you are not alone and there are resources available

for help. You have a large church family that you can lean on. I am so grateful for the many people in our body who have registered as volunteers to help others on our Serving One Another database.

**Please tell the skills that you are willing to share on our "Serving One Another" form [HERE](#).**

Some of the tasks that people have volunteered for include: Shopping for groceries (including delivery), lawn care/landscaping, elder care, laundry, cooking/meal preparation, driving to appointments/church, encouragement cards/phone calls, outdoor adventure/hikes, pet care, computer skills, prayer, etc. We all can play a role in being "the hands and feet of Jesus" and witnessing to others through deeds.

*Please don't hesitate to ask for help if you need it.*

**You can fill out the Mercy Ministry Request form**

**[HERE](#).** You can also request help by emailing

[MercyMinistryGMR@gmail.com](mailto:MercyMinistryGMR@gmail.com) We have Ingles cards

available to help with grocery expenses, we have modified our financial assistance guidelines during the pandemic to expedite the process of providing financial support, and we have a prayer team that you can submit prayer requests by emailing [PrayForThisGMR@gmail.com](mailto:PrayForThisGMR@gmail.com). You can also participate in the Zoom prayer sessions offered Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. Details are available on the GMR website. In addition, to these services, the diaconate and staff have been reaching out to regular attenders via phone calls and emails to make sure that everyone in our church family knows that help is available. Our goal is that everyone will have a personal contact from someone at GMR. If you receive an email or a phone message from a deacon or staff member, please take the time to respond. We aren't meant or made to go through this alone.

*There is great strength in community. Please choose to be a part of it!*

Finally, I am very excited and grateful to share that we have a sizable group of deacons-in-training that have been actively working with the diaconate in providing support/service to our church body. They include Fran Li, Brad Greene, Bob Giles, Paul Shogren, Kem Van Voorhis, and Alan Larson. They are all at various stages of completing the training to become a deacon/deaconess. If you have an interest in becoming a deacon/deaconess please let myself, Amanda McLamb, or another deacon know. Stay healthy and stay strong!

Grace and Peace,

Greg Van Voorhis  
Diaconate Moderator



## Introducing some of our GMR Diaconate!



### WOODY DOTSON

My wife of almost 46 years, Becky, and I have attended Grace since 2005. I have served as a deacon for about 10 years. I served on the worship team for several years singing and playing my trumpet. For many years I was a professional musician in New York, playing my trumpet in many different types of bands and orchestras. I then changed hats 26 years ago and became a financial planner to make sure that the other side of my brain worked.

Being a deacon gives me much joy to have the chance to reach out to the wonderful people at Grace when they need someone to come alongside and pray, take food or clothes or some task that they need help with. I especially enjoy doing that shoulder to shoulder with my other brothers and sisters. I am a man who has been blessed by the loving prayers of the people of Grace and live to give testimony to answered prayer resulting from those faithful prayers they have offered on my behalf. That is what a church does!



### LIZ LOOP

I have attended Grace since 2012, and I have been a deaconess for two years. I enjoy working together with other deacons to love the Grace body well and help brighten their day.

In 2008 I got involved with Least of These, a ministry to the homeless community in Asheville, as a freshman at Montreat College. Over the years at Montreat I got more involved and took over the ministry as Director in 2011. Least of These mission is to share Christ's love to the homeless community of Asheville by providing food and clothes, loving encouragement and service through volunteers. We serve on Saturday mornings and during this pandemic we've been giving out grab and go bags with sandwiches, snack bags, Little Debbie's, fruit and hygiene kits! [www.leastoftheseasheville.com](http://www.leastoftheseasheville.com)

I also love being out in nature, listening to live music, exploring this culture of this beautiful area and hanging out with friends.



### DICK CUYLER

My wife, Sandra, and I have attended Grace Mills River for more than 20 years. To the best of my memory, I have been a deacon since 2004. I was drawn to Mercy Ministry and helping people who were in some kind of distress.

I am a semi-retired juggler, performer, and teacher. My background goes way back to acting and directing plus teaching those disciplines at Skidmore College and Binghamton University. My wife, Sandra, and I have three adult children who live in California, New York, and Massachusetts. We have two grandsons in their teens.

Sandra and I sure know that the Asheville area is THE place to be, whether there is a lot of rain, a corona virus that limits our moving about, but with a lot of souls (primarily at Grace) who continue to refresh us with our love of Jesus and the continual preaching of the gospel. There is no place we'd rather be! We are surely blessed.

Join our prayer team or send prayer requests to: [PrayForThisGMR@gmail.com](mailto:PrayForThisGMR@gmail.com)