

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Annual Report 2022

Annual Meeting on February 12, 2023

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2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Meeting
February 13, 2022

Recording available at
<https://youtube.com/live/IjOSA2JvoNAfeature=share>

Mother Susan opened the meeting with an introduction of The Gargoyles and their opening musical number.

Call to Order: The Annual Meeting was called to order at 11:30AM by The Rev. Susan R. Ironside with a prayer.

Mother Susan nominated Marilyn Musielski to be clerk of the annual meeting; it was approved by voice vote.

John Garde moved to waive the reading of the 2021 minutes and the motion was approved by voice vote.

Chris Wilde submitted the following candidates:

For Vestry:

3 year term:

Chris Hauck
Marilyn Musielski
Ed Nunn
Andy Yost

1 year unexpired term:

Mark Sacher

Convention delegates 2023:

John Garde
Allison Garde

Convention Alternate 2023:

Mike Kostial

Kathleen Hower submitted the following candidate:

Warden 2 year term:

Chris Wilde

The rector called for a vote, and the slate was approved unanimously.

Rector recognized outgoing Vestry Member Barbara Hughes for her outstanding work in Outreach.

Rector's Report highlights:

I celebrated my three year anniversary and am glad to continue to serve. We invested in Technology and thanks to our staff, especially Mike Kostial, deepened our use of our livestream capabilities.

We strengthened our community relationship with First Baptist church, particularly the food pantry in funding fresh food every week. I accepted an Invitation to be chaplain for the Borough Police and Firemen.

We did Stewardship in new ways with new forms of communication We have welcomed new members to Grace. Choirs, Sunday School, and fellowship groups have continued in new ways. They never stopped.

We welcomed Miss Kathryn MacManus who has been creatively leading our children's program. I want to thank the staff for their flexibility and professionalism.

St. Francis Day, outside with animals and children's choir, was beautiful. St. Nicholas was part of a family-friendly mass with outside reception and school choirs.

Father Asa has been a wonderful preacher, teacher and a key part of our pastoral care team.

Under our Bishop, we will be partnering more with other churches in the diocese. The clergy meets monthly and is identifying opportunities for shared worship done in Advent similar to one in Lent to give a richer experience. The churches can help each other.

Worship and pastoral care continue, following diocese guidelines. It doesn't look like we will go back to closing the church and being 100% online.

Looking ahead, there is still uncertainty, and an opportunity to think carefully about what God is calling us to do. We are committed to looking at Community Care, being public Christian witness, partnering with others on outreach, and also considering our properties and what we should do with them.

We'll need to rely on each other. We will try new things, some will work, some will not.

The Hallway renovation is underway, which will provide a more welcoming entrance to old and new parishioners. I feel hopeful and joyful about the future.

David Gates - Treasurer's Report.

(full set of slides available in the office and in the YouTube recording)

2021 budget was -132K, and Actual was \$74K. Non-recurring income was \$103K related to the PPE loan from the government to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

John Garde - Finance Committee Report

2022 budget forecasts a -\$60K deficit

Bruce Rudin - Endowment Status

Year end balance \$5.309K vs. \$4.382K with 15.4% performance.

Michael Pettite – Stewardship

Pledges projected for 2021 are \$477K vs target of \$450K. 2 to 1 pledges growing vs. flat. Terrific! Thank you to all for contributing to make Grace Amazing!

Q & A: none

Adjournment proposed, seconded and approved unanimously. Closed with prayer at 12:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Marilyn Musielski

Clerk of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting

The Rector's Report

The Reverend Susan R. Ironside

In so many ways, 2022 felt like a year of homecoming and return. There have been many moments of joy, when you can hear the sighs of relief echo in the nave. There have been challenges, too, as we have learned, and continue to learn, what our common life will be like on the other side of pandemic. We should be comforted by the fact that when our ancestors returned after the exile in Babylon, the return happened in several waves over many years, as the people worked out how they would serve God and each other after their time of trauma had ended. There were years of rebuilding and renewal, and our people experienced great joy despite the challenges.

As we emerge from the hardship we have faced, we carry with us joy and trauma, and like our ancestors before us, the return to our life and worship will be happening in waves and will keep happening for years to come. We should not be discouraged by this. Rather, we can find joy and meaning in working together to rebuild and renew our life together.

God blessed us in so many ways in 2022, and it is important to rejoice in God's action of renewal and rebuilding.

While the hallway renovation was messy and longer than anticipated, the result is breathtaking. Judy Jurgensen provided oversight and vision, and I am so thankful for the many hours she gave to this work, in addition to the already generous gift she gives us in her care for our Buildings and Grounds. The project was funded in part by the Kirby Foundation and in part by a bequest from the Staats family. It was designed by Studio 1200, and is a celebration of the amazing Grace that has carried us and will continue to hold us.

Before her death, our beloved Ginny Karl gave us a generous gift to rehabilitate our Memorial Garden, improving access and making it a more welcoming gathering place for those who come to visit. Work on that project has begun and we anticipate its completion this spring.

We celebrated the Paschal Triduum—the holy days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter with joy and devotion (and a fire alarm!) and it was especially meaningful to be able to be in person for our High Holy Days after two years of exile.

Many wonderful events returned with new vigor, like the Halloween Concert, Blue Christmas, and Octoberfest! And we started incorporating some of our pandemic innovations into our new schedule, like the outdoor Stations of the Cross and the St Nicholas Vigil Mass with Advent Party.

Our community and interfaith relations continue to be lifegiving for us. I take great joy in serving as Chaplain to the Madison Police Department, which has increased our visibility in the community.

I was invited to vest and participate at Fr. George's Anniversary Mass at St Vincent Martyr. We participated in Interfaith Prayers for the Longest Night, and prayer gatherings marking deaths from gun violence. Our partnership with First Baptist is such a blessing to us! We continue to sponsor the fresh food initiative and support Thanksgiving celebrations for families in the community. Our Food for Friends program continues to flourish and now lives in our newly renovated hallway space, serving as a constant reminder of Jesus' promise that when we look out for the vulnerable, we are serving him.

Our Diocesan relationships are dear to us. We partner with our sister parishes in the *Evelyn Underhill Region* to mark Advent and Lent together. And we gathered with them for a wonderful 12th Night Celebration. Bishop Hughes again chose Grace Church for the Renewal of Vows for the clergy of the Diocese, and it was wonderful to welcome back our friends from the Diocese of Newark after two years.

Underwear! Few things made me smile as widely as the massive collection of underwear that grew in the hallway for our *Undies for Advent* program. They were given to Morris County Jail, with overflow being sent to Nourish NJ, for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. One of the Wise Sages even brought underwear to lay at the manger of the Baby Jesus this year at our Christmas Eve pageant.

I give thanks to God for our Wardens, Chris and Kathleen, and our Vestry members. They love Jesus and they love this parish, and their work inspires me. I am thankful, too, for the work of the dedicated staff: Fr. Asa, Dr. Anne, Miss Kathryn, Mike Kostial, Susie Harris, Osh Khublall, and Sam Dixon, whose hard work and creativity is such a blessing to us. And I am thankful for each of our members, the Beloved of God, who choose to serve God alongside of us.

Most scholars agree that Psalm 126 was a song sung by the exiles when they returned from Babylon. And this winter it is my song, too.

*When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.*

*Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.*

*Then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."*

*The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.*

I am continually honored and happy to serve as your Rector. Faithfully, Susan+

The Wardens Report

Kathleen Hower & Chris Wilde

Year in Review

Nothing felt better than the early morning sunshine beaming down and warming our faces after propping our doors wide open on a sunny Sunday morning last spring and welcoming worshipers into our beautiful church! At this moment it feels like the worst of the pandemic is behind us and almost two solid years of restrictions are fading.

What a year it has been—filled with the chatter and laughter of new children running through the halls before choir practice, at youth activities and after church on Sunday. But there have also been times of mourning and sadness as we celebrated the lives of cherished parishioners with a somber farewell. While the sadness of those moments can be crushing, the love and support found within the walls of Grace are a gift from God that we are fortunate to share.

When I think about everything that has happened inside the halls of Grace we all agree the new Hallway Project was one of the most exciting accomplishments of the year! We are so thankful for the work of Judy Jurgensen who together with Mother Susan and Nancy Dougherty (daughter of Lynn Gorman) corralled the contractors, Grace staff, and parishioners through the design, planning and construction of the new, clean and fresh welcoming space. Many visitors to Grace have commented on how inviting the entrance hall is, and the beauty of the illuminated *Chi Ro* at the end of the hallway beckoning them to the sanctuary.

Our program year started in September welcoming more and more kids to Children's Chapel. We are most grateful for the leadership of Kathryn McManus and her love of children and institutional knowledge of Grace. As we welcomed more of our groups back into Grace for their meetings in person, we have also been deliberate in restarting established programs, taking things slowly and working to make each new addition to the calendar a success without rushing into everything all at once.

Staff/Clergy

Our staff continues to be one of our greatest treasures. While a lot of visible work is done by the staff on Sundays, countless hours of behind-the-scenes work is what really makes Grace tick. Mother Susan, Father Asa, Dr. Anne Matlack, Kathryn McManus, Michael Kostial and Susie Harris provide a first-rate team committed to the success of our parish. During the year Mother Susan officiated two weddings, one offsite and one here at Grace on New Year's Eve. There were seven baptisms and ten funerals. We presented eight confirmands to the Bishop at Christ Church in Short Hills.

Outreach

Our Outreach effort's most visible work continues to be our Food for Friends program. Nieman Annex has been designated the Food for Friends pantry with permanent shelving to stock non-perishables and other items for donation to our Outreach partners, including Trinity Lutheran Church in Dover, First Baptist Church here in Madison (monetary only), St. Andrew's Church in Newark, the Military Assistance Pantry and North Porch Women & Infants Centers. This year we have also had specific drives for individual items such as peanut butter and the successful *Undies for Advent*, which gave over 700 pairs of underwear to the Morris County Correctional Facility. We also thank the Grace Confirmands, together with Melissa Waterstredt and Hilary Tabish, for bringing the Angel Tree back at Christmas. Parishioners could take gift tags off the tree and purchase the specified items for Christmas donation.

Our Outreach Committee funded cash donations totaling \$33,000 to over 25 outside organizations

ranging from Crossroads Camp and Retreat Center to RAMP refugee assistance program. We continue to donate a portion of all fundraisers to charitable organizations such as Madison Eagle Christmas Fund and North Porch Women and Children's Center. Grace also provided nearly \$90,000 to support our Diocese and the National Church. Mother Susan continues in her role as chaplain to the Madison Police Department and maintains a strong relationship with Rev. Dunn of the Madison Baptist Church as they continue to look for ways to collaborate in God's mission.

As we get further into 2023 stay tuned for the news from the new Outreach Vision Committee, which has been working to take a fresh look at Grace's outreach mission, and develop an intentional strategy for putting our time and talent to work helping the wider community and partnering with other organizations to lend strength to their efforts.

Buildings & Grounds

We are grateful to the B&G Committee for all the hard work it took to plan, design, construct and finance the renovation of the hallway and entrance to Grace Hall. The project was funded by the generosity of the Kirby Foundation, the Larry Taber fund and a generous bequest by the Staats family.

The next major project for 2023 is the renovation of the columbarium. A gift from our dear Ginny Karl is funding this work which will create a more accessible path and entry to the columbarium, along with updating the trees and plantings around the whole memorial garden.

In December, Grace was awarded a Kirby Foundation grant of \$25,000 to redesign and repave the masonry of the outside entrance to Grace Hall.

Routine maintenance jobs throughout the year included ceiling repairs, boiler maintenance and planning for masonry repairs to old stone and slate portions of our beautiful church. We are grateful to Mike Cullen, with assistance from Frank Nunn, for installing new cabinetry under the sink in the kitchen. While many other projects have been done behind the scenes without most people even noticing, they are essential in keeping our church

property in tip-top shape. Our B&G committee is first rate and they continue to do a masterful job staying on top of the challenging needs of repairing and renovating our church and grounds.

Vestry

In 2022 we welcomed Andy Yost, Mark Sacher and Chris Hauck to the Vestry, and we thanked Barbara Hughes for her time on Vestry as her term came to a close.

New committee work seeks to ensure Grace is meeting the needs of our parish and our community. The Outreach Vision Committee, led by Chris Hauck and with the help of Heidi Griffie, Stacy Wilde, Judy Honohan, Katie Harter, Peggy Oakes, Elizabeth Petite, Matt Palmer, Mark Kellstrom and Chris Cullen seeks to identify a long-term mission for outreach.

Community Care/Engagement led by Andy Yost seeks to help our Rector with pastoral care for both existing members and new members, as well as promote the engagement of members in parish life.

The Outreach Grants committee reviews requests and makes financial grants to over 25 organizations. Members include Ed Nunn, Marilyn Musielski, and Barbara Hughes.

Finances

We entered 2022 with a projected deficit of almost \$60,000 but by the end of the year, largely due to the support of our parish, we closed with a deficit almost half as much at \$32.6K. We saw strong Church Support (104% of budget) and were able to start getting our tenants closer to pre-Covid rental rates (114% of budget). Those two income sources drove most of the improvement we saw against our budget. Stewardship for 2023 has shown an improvement over recent years, but we still run behind what we really need in order to fully balance our budget.

Even in the face of difficult financial markets in 2022, our Endowment remains well funded largely due to the sale of Surrey Lane this past summer and the completion of a very generous bequest.

In September, we completed a key financial audit as required by the Diocese. (Thanks Randi Albiston and Wendy Nunn!). This audit helps the diocese understand the financial health and controls of individual churches and we use it to ensure our bookkeeping and accounting practices are reviewed and improved as needed.

You are encouraged to read the Financial Reports in the later pages to familiarize yourself with Grace's finances.

2023 – The year ahead

With the fading shadow of Covid still present in our lives, and the diminished impact on the general population, we still work to care for those more vulnerable in our parish family wearing masks as needed and staying at home if we are sick. Our online worship has continued to increase in viewership and our technical crew has trained more volunteers to assist with streaming worship on Sundays and other services including funerals.

We continue to look for ways to grow the church and increase the size of our congregation by bringing newcomers to Grace. As you can see from the detail and density of the following pages, there is much going on at Grace. We encourage you to use the Annual Report as a reference for now and throughout the year to familiarize yourself and further learn about the various aspects of our church community. Thank you all for your presence and all the many ways you serve our community. We are filled with the hope and possibility of propping doors wide open and seeing the light beams stream in.

The Associate's Report

The Reverend Asa David Coulson

In 2022 we have been blessed to see spiritual growth, expanded outreach, and enlarged instances of this community's lived out faith as we walk with God's help and leadership towards a renewed, and in many ways completely new, Grace Church.

It has been my honor to celebrate the sacrament of marriage with several couples as their priest, and to walk alongside several families as they accompanied loved ones at death during funeral

services this past year. Being able to baptize is always one of the most sacred moments in the life of a priest; I was deeply humbled to welcome three people into Christ's Body through this sacrament in 2022. Being able to bring the sacrament of Holy Communion again to those members of our community who are shut in, or who still feel unable to attend in person, have also been intimate moments. Praying, studying, and worshiping in this community has been an encouragement to me, and I've been honored to help lead in this parish with so many of you. On several occasions in 2022, I was also privileged to help lead at other parishes in our diocese and our neighboring dioceses, on behalf of Grace parish, when their rector needed to be away for emergency situations.

At Grace our Bible Study programs continued to flourish during 2022, moving back to offering both in-person, along with virtual, experiences. We examined some of the "difficult" passages of scripture in Lent; then during the season of Easter leading up to Pentecost, we walked through the Acts of the Apostles chapter by chapter. In Advent we sang some of the Advent Hymns by the Anglican priest Charles Wesley together, and studied the scriptures that influenced his works. Meeting on Wednesdays we had an average of 20 people participate each week, and around 30 different folks took part in the various Bible studies during the year.

Last year eight, confirmands completed their journey and were confirmed in May 2022 at Christ Church in Short Hills. Fourteen youth began the confirmation program in September 2022 and will be, God willing, confirmed in May 2023 at St. Paul's in Chatham. I am always impressed with the young people at Grace, both in their dedication to the requirements of the program and their honest and sincere quest to understand and live into their faith through the Episcopal Church. Other aspects of Grace Youth Ministry also began to come back to life in 2022. Youth Events for grades 6-12 were held monthly during the program year with an average attendance of 15 folks at each of the events. A new version of the Holy Week Youth Event returned this year, with over 35 young members of Grace involved. It had been our hope that we would take a delegation of

our young people at Grace Church to witness the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, and also participate in mission activities alongside other youth in our diocese and the larger church. However, due to a resurgence of COVID leading to a closure of the General Convention to guests, that trip had to be canceled.

In July 2023 we plan to take a group of 9-12 graders to the Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) with thousands of other Episcopal Youth. This will be the first time the event has been able to be held since 2018 - so parents reading this, mark your calendars now!

Working with Ms. Kathryn McManus, Ms. Elizabeth Monkemeier and several volunteers we held a wonderful Vacation Bible School this summer, with the majority of the activities taking place outdoors on our beautiful campus with children from the Grace community and other area congregations. Our twice monthly mid week services of Compline or Communion for kids and their families continued, and even returned with pizza baking in 2022! Our annual Sunday evening St. Francis Pet Blessing and St. Nicholas Advent Spectacular masses are always exciting and I am so glad to see these activities grow as the fellowship time following each is expanded. With the leadership of Mr. Han Huang and Mrs. Angela Finlay, we began a quarterly event for the tweens in our parish. Game nights, Christmas caroling, and outdoor s'mores were just a few of the fun events held to allow space for this united age group to connect in 2022.

Head Acolyte, Ms. Mia Melchior, completed her term in 2022, and passed off her leadership role to Ms. Lucy Waterstredt. Lucy joined fellow head acolyte Mr. Peter Munter and together they have helped us find worship leaders for our services in 2022, as we expanded some duties of the acolytes again. Mr. Charlie Jurgensen also joined as an adult support to this acolyte leadership team. Lucy and Peter continue to lead in the rebuilding of this program and we are all pleased with the addition of several new acolytes in the rotation.

I continue to be so thankful and impressed with the leadership of Mr. Geoff Brooks in our worship life at Grace Church. He is a pleasure to work alongside in his role as the Senior Verger. Geoff

and I continued to be blessed and honored to work with so many worship leaders who maintain weekday leadership of the Daily Office services via Zoom, as well as serving during the in person Holy Eucharist services on Sundays and other Holy Days. Working with Mrs. Judy Honohan and Ms. Melissa Honohan and the flower and altar guilds, which they lead, has also been a delight as we continued to build and expand our in person worship experience during the latter half of 2022.

During the summer, at the 2022 Diocesan Convention, I was re-appointed by our Bishop to serve as the Co-Chair of the Diocesan Youth Commission (DYC), and I continue in my role as a member of the Diocesan Council until 2024. I was also invited to serve as a chaplain on the leadership team at CrossRoads, our diocese camp and retreat center. I began the 'writing phase' of my dissertation project for my doctoral program at Drew University in 2022, focusing on the spirituality of pilgrimage found in our sacramental theology. In the summer of 2022, I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Queer Christian Fellowship (QCF), a ministry that advocates for the full inclusion and affirmation of LGBTQ+ persons in the life and leadership of the church. I also was honored to help lead an event for LGBTQ+ Christians and their allies held at Grace Church in September which was co-sponsored by QCF and Drew University.

I remain excited about the potential for our future at Grace Church. Giving thanks for this community and all that God has done through us in 2022, I endeavor with you in ongoing prayer and worship as we strive to live into the Kingdom of God on earth, as it is in Heaven.

Pax et Bonum, Father Asa

Altar, Flower & Wedding Guilds

Melissa Honohan & Judy Honohan

The return to live services and celebrations at Grace meant that the Altar Guild responsibilities continued to grow. Preparation for weekly services, candle filling and clean linens are the top priorities. Each of these tasks take only a short amount of time each week and volunteers ready for some short trainings are very welcome!

Regular duties of the Altar Guild include care for all sacred vessels, linens, vestments, brass, and silver which are all used in our services. The Guild monitors the supplies of wine, wafers, candles, and oil and cleans and maintains the areas surrounding the high altar, chapel, Baptistry and children's chapel. After a service of Holy Eucharist, the Altar Guild cleans up, removes all consecrated material, rinses out linens, and sets up the altar tray for the next service. Holidays such as Easter, Christmas, bishop visits, memorials, and baptisms call for additional planning and set-up. Altar Guild participates in all Sunday as well as other special services.

The Guild is currently seeking new volunteers to help the small crew currently doing the work. There are many resources to help train and support new Guild members, so there is no need to fear not knowing how to set-up for different services. This is a great opportunity for the youth of the church to join in behind the scenes. Many hands make light work...we look forward to welcoming you to Altar Guild. Please contact Melissa Honohan to get involved.

Examples of task-oriented ways to help include:

- Polishing brass and silver
- Transitioning the church to Lent decorations
- Washing and ironing small linens
- Counting wafers for services in bags of 50, we provide bags and wafers...all you need to do is count! This can be done at home very easily.

Flower Guild

On a weekly basis the guild members arrange flowers for the main altar. Arrangements and decorations are based on the Liturgical calendar and specific requests from Clergy. Members have the option of buying flowers of their choice or having them provided by J&M by noon on Fridays. Three times a year help from the whole group and parishioners is needed to decorate and clear for Thanksgiving, Christmas through Epiphany, and Easter weekend. During COVID we often used potted plants for simplicity but in 2022 returned to cut flower arrangements. Cut flowers on the altar provide a highly visible image for streamed services and are arranged with creativity and flair every week.

Each member of the guild learned from another member and new recruits are always welcome. You will be paired with an experienced arranger until you are comfortable on your own. Weekly arranging by an individual should come up about six to eight times a year. Please contact Judy Honohan at jhonohan@mac.com if you would like to know more.

Weddings at Grace may be simple or elaborate, but there are certain tasks that need to be carried out before, during and after the wedding. Attending the rehearsal, gatekeeping in the Narthex before the procession begins, and generally assisting the clergy with chancel setup are the duties of the Wedding Guild. In 2021, there were four weddings at Grace. Contact Judy Honohan if you would like to be a Wedding Coordinator.

Buildings & Grounds

Judy Jurgensen

This past year the Buildings & Grounds Committee completed the largest project that has been undertaken since the addition of Grace Hall, the lobby, and the classroom wing. The result is a complete updating of our hallways and library, featuring new lighting, flooring, painting, cabinetry and some wonderful graphics designed to “tell our story”. We are indebted to Nancy Dougherty, architect and owner of Studio 1200, and a team of very dedicated contractors who brought our vision to light.

With much of our building becoming a “construction zone” as this renovation took place, the B&G committee was limited in the number of other projects/repairs we could schedule in 2022. Undaunted, we still managed to accomplish:

- Repairs to the office, kitchen and exterior and interior lobby doors by Parent Door.
- Replacement of PVC piping and installation of new cabinetry for the kitchen triple sink.
- Installation of over one hundred protective strips on pew kneelers by Frank Nunn.
- Cleaning and buffing of terrazzo flooring in the church by Wilkstone Restoration

A project that will define our efforts as we move into 2023 is the re- design of our Memorial

Gardens. A very generous bequest by our beloved parishioner Ginny Karl has enabled us to hire Chester Design, a landscape architecture firm from Chatham, to develop a plan for the gardens and columbarium areas. The final drawings have been completed and the contractors are lined up to begin this spring. Ginny’s wishes and hopes for the project are all incorporated in these plans.

Lastly, I want to thank Sam Dixon, our sexton, for making our lives so much easier with his concern for the upkeep of our building and his ever willingness to help with whatever projects arise. Welcome to the team Sam!

Members of the B&G committee include Mike Cullen, David Gates, John Garde, Judy Jurgensen, Ed Nunn and Mike Petite.

Children’s Ministry

Kathryn McManus

After a few years of craziness and creativity, Children’s Ministry is back in full swing. We are so thankful that we have begun building our programs back, bringing in new friends and new programs to support the Christian formation of Grace Church kids.

Sunday School: We are lucky to have turned Nieman Hall into Kids Central – all of our Godly Play Stories, craft supplies, Bibles, and more have been moved to Nieman Hall to create a Sunday School room where kids can go anytime to spend time with one another and with God. This room is also home to weekly Chapel Choir rehearsals on Friday afternoons with Miss Camille and Miss Linda. Come explore our room anytime!

Pizza Compline and Communion: On the first and third Wednesdays of the month, Father Asa and Dr. Anne lead Pizza Compline and Pizza Communion. These bedtime services are perfect for kids and families. We start at 6PM with pizza making in the kitchen, and then we have a service project or a craft before eating our pizza. After dinner, we have a short service with music. It is definitely a favorite service for many, and we would love to have you join us!

Monthly Parties: Each month we have a party to foster friendships among our Sunday School kids. They typically align with the nearest holiday, and

it includes dinner, a dessert, a craft, and some free play time in Nieman Hall. Parties are held on Friday evenings, so stay tuned for our upcoming parties over the next few months.

Christmas Pageant: We had a record-breaking 25 kids in our Christmas pageant this year, which is a huge jump after our very creative Covid Christmases. We rehearsed after church on Sundays for the month of December, and we had a dress rehearsal with catered dinner the week of Christmas. You can watch the replay of our Christmas pageant on Grace Church's YouTube channel!

Easter: Easter Sunday this year included a special Easter Sunday School and a big Easter Egg hunt at the Outdoor Altar. The Easter season started with a kids Ash Wednesday service, and Holy Week included a service on Maundy Thursday with foot washing.

Vacation Bible School: We had a blast at our "Food Truck Party" Vacation Bible School this year! 16 campers joined the festivities. We spent the week learning about some "yummy" Bible stories, including Jesus feeding 5,000 and the Manna and Quail. In addition to worshipping together for our VBS week, we collected 50 lunchboxes that were donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry. Special thank you to Father Asa, Elizabeth Monkemeier, Julian McManus, and Kristin McManus for leading our activity stations!

Circle of Women

Cindy Donough

The Circle of Women meet the last Tuesday of every month at 7pm. We began the year by meeting in the Grace Church Zoom Room, but by March we were meeting in Grace Hall with the doors open. During the warmer months we enjoyed each other's company on the terrace. The beginning of each meeting is spent catching up on the life events of the past month in the group. We share a bit of food and drink and Mother Susan poses a discussion question to the group. The group did not meet during the summer months or in December due to busy holiday schedules. A few new members have joined in meetings this year. All women of the parish are welcome! Questions? Contact Cindy Donough - cindy@donough.net

Communications & Technology

Mike Kostial

We continued to improve our livestream skills in the past year and welcomed Michael Petite to our team. This has allowed us to expand our livestream offering beyond Sundays and Major Feast Days, without overloading any one member of the team. We are excited to welcome Chris Cullen to the team this year and have a couple of other individuals who expressed interest. We also identified two potential improvements and are working on securing funding for their implementation.

Susie Harris continues to create visually appealing content and her seasonal themes have drawn much praise from the congregation.

2023 will be the year of challenge and opportunity as an I.T. related lease concludes and we begin the task of positioning Grace's I.T. infrastructure well into the future.

Flower Committee

Peggy Oakes

The Grace Church Flower Committee is comprised of volunteers who deliver altar flowers to those on our prayer list and to others on most Sundays during the year following the 10AM service.

We also have a team of volunteers who deliver the Christmas poinsettia plants and the Easter plants to those on the delivery list after each holiday.

A special thank you to everyone who volunteered to deliver flowers this past year!

Please contact me at (973) 377-1854 if you have any questions, or you may be interested in joining us for this rewarding church outreach.

Food For Friends

Barbara Hughes

Hunger Relief Outreach

Grace Church is proud to partner with the following organizations:

First Baptist Church of Madison, supporting their weekly food pantry by providing grocery cards, so that the volunteers at First Baptist can shop for and provide fresh food for their clients.

Military Assistance Pantry in Paterson, supporting this once a month pantry by donating food and toiletries for military families and veterans. The MAP is run by the Great Falls Rotary Foundation.

North Porch Women & Infants Center supporting their mission of providing critical supplies for babies and toddlers in need.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Newark, supporting their weekly lunch program by providing individually packaged food items which are distributed to individuals and families in Newark each Friday.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Dover, donating shelf stable food to their food pantry which supports families in Dover.

Many thanks to everyone who has donated. You are making a difference in people's lives.

Fundraisers

Judy Honohan

It was a year of partial return to more normal activities. We tried some new things and reexamined the possibilities of old things. While still under limitations on live events we held a Friday Night Pod/Families Feud in February using Zoom. There were some glitches and it is clearly a better event held in person. It was modestly attended by seven teams and \$263 was raised for St. Paul's CDC in support of their food and housing programs.

On Friday, May 6 as a celebration of Mother's Day we had a Just Ducky Shower for North Porch. All funds raised were directed to North Porch for Women and Children. There were baby shower related games for adults and children. At the end of the evening there was a confetti explosion to reveal the gender of the expected baby. It's a GIRL! Admission was a donation of a needed item and an additional \$700 was donated.

The biggest event was Oktoberfest, held on Saturday, October 22. It combined a social evening with an auction of baskets and donated items. Music was to be provided by juke box but that fell through at the last minute and was replaced by a sound system and Oktoberfest playlist. Kathleen Hower and Diane DuBrule to the rescue! Basket tickets were offered in two price

ranges based on basket value. While the baskets are fun and provide shopping bargains, once again the basket value far exceeded the value of sold tickets. The wine pull was quickly sold out and needed to be much larger. Michael Petite was a superb auctioneer in full lederhosen. Stacy Wilde and Cindy Donough with helpers worked magic to create a German Village in Grace Hall. Payment for purchases was simplified by Square and credit cards. Every auction paddle had a complete list of purchases and many buyers chose to add the cost of the service to their bill. Proceeds were about \$11,500.

For the second year we had a Tree of Light to honor and remember those we love. Following Evensong on December 18 the choir and congregation gathered around a cut tree in front of the main doors for a brief observation by Mother Susan before the "switch" was thrown. The tree was lovely and there was a simple reception with cookies, cocoa and mulled cider in the Narthex. Incredible winds and rain felled the tree during Christmas week but it was rescued and righted by a hardy team of parishioners. Better anchors in 2023! About \$4,000 was donated and each honoree name and donor were printed in a lovely booklet.

While a rummage sale remains a popular event there were several obstacles to having one in 2022. One third of the volunteers involved in 2018 are no longer available for various reasons. Aging volunteers are asked to move heavy tables and items for a full week to prepare for the sale. Lead organizers must be prepared to work up to 70 hours the week of the sale. The hall and library renovations with new flooring, paint and décor had to be considered. Conversion of Neiman Hall into Children's Chapel and Neiman Annex use for Food for Friends and North Porch also restricted space available.

Layweeders

Judy Jurgensen

On May 14, about a dozen parishioners gathered on the Church grounds to mulch, trim, weed, plant, and clear out underbrush. A few hours work brought the gardens back from their winter dormancy and got them ready for spring and summer. A brush truck donated by Hickory Tree Landscaping was helpful in removing the branches and underbrush from the property.

Thanks to all the volunteers, headed by Marilyn Musielski!

Men's Book Group

Bruce Rudin

During the year we met 12 times. Six of the eleven members are Grace Church parishioners, and we average about eight men per meeting. We are now alternating meetings at our various houses with wonderful refreshments in addition to stimulating conversation about the books and other topics. Once a year we try to meet at a restaurant.

We read the following book in 2022:

January – *On The Wings of Eagles* by Ken Follett

February – *The Code Breaker* by Walter Isaacson

March - *The Complete Maus* by Art Spiegelman

April – *Our Magnificent Bastard Tongue* by
John McWhorter

May – *The Brothers* by Steven Kinzer

June – *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by
Taylor Jenkins Reid

July – *Cod* by Mark Kurlansky

August – *Wastelands* by Corban Addison

September – *The Violin Conspiracy* by
Brendan Slocumb

October – *Seeking Authenticity* by
Walter Cummins

November – cancelled

December – *Judgement at Nuremberg* by
Abby Mann

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Bruce Rudin at brucedora@verizon.net.

Men's Gathering

Geoff Brooks

In the fall of 2022 a monthly Men's Gathering was instituted, meeting in the church library on the second Tuesday of each month, to share in conversation, fellowship and prayer. To get the ball rolling, the group began by taking the lead from Bishop Curry and touching on the Seven Practices in The Way of Love, delving into one each month (so far we have covered Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship and Bless). We take turns leading the monthly discussion where everyone is encouraged to contribute. To date our gatherings have seen participation by 10-12 men each month, but we certainly have room for more if anyone is interested. We will finish the seven practices in February (Go) and March (Rest), before determining the next theme for a series of further monthly discussions that will hopefully be both thought-provoking and spiritual.

Music Ministries

Dr. Anne Matlack

The Choirs and concerts are really starting to feel vibrant and "normal" again, a new tenor on the staff energizes the Gargoyles, and new kids join. We sent our organ scholar Henry off to college, but not until Dr. Anne got some massive R & R making and hearing music in the Balkans and Germany in the summer. The Adult Choir continues to sustain us from Sunday to Sunday and holy days and Evensongs. Some behind the scenes but important things were the completion of some organ re-leathering projects and sending out the bells for a 15-year refurbishment (after their workout during the pandemic!).

By the winter of 2022 we enjoyed emerging from pandemic with more participation of our choirs, and careful navigation of Omicron with masked singing in the winter. A very exciting step forward was an all-treble live Evensong in February. The choristers were very excited to take the lead and

sing in the choir stalls, and Children's choir assistant Camille and head chorister Claire even got to serve as cantors. Adults and Gargoyles gave a Lenten Evensong and returned to their Lenten discipline of chanting Compline on Thursdays. Former gargoyles and tenor Mark Kellstrom came back to help Dr. Anne and the guys and was a life-saver!

Friday Lenten organ recitals, which have been a feature of Grace Church since being founded by Helen Thomas in the 1950s, returned weekly, and are also livestreamed and available on YouTube:

March 11 – Pingry School Strings)

March 19 – Anne Matlack, organ; a celebration of women composers

March 25 Helen Thomas Memorial concert with Patricia Ruggles; Magnificats and more

April 1 – Anne Matlack, Lenten works

April 8 – Henry Marinovic, organ scholar

Holy week was full of wonderful music and a well-attended triduum, culminating in the Taize Easter Vigil. With the Easter season we also added back more congregational singing. It was so exciting to have our full brass and timpani back on Easter Day, and to do a big combined anthem where the younger trebles got the sense of older singers supporting them in a festive combined anthem.

April saw the return of Chamber Music for Charity: Merynda Adams, harp, (Dr. Anne making an organ appearance) and a good amount of money raised for the Madison Food Pantry.

The Daughters of Zion and Gargoyles were able to appear on "Solace for the Soul" with Patricia Ruggles in May, including a rendition of the Ukrainian Nation Anthem.

After hosting a send-off concert for Harmonium's Balkan Tour, Dr. Anne left July in the capable hands of Henry at the organ, and Elizabeth Monkemeier doing Bible School music.

In the fall, we were thrilled to add tenor Paul Salierno to our staff. His strong voice and cheerful spirit have energized adults and teens alike. "Miss Camille" and "Miss Linda" continued Chapel Choir for a small but dedicated few who suddenly grew to a dozen little angels and shepherds for the Pageant! I want to thank Bill Meyer for his piano playing during Sunday School and Sandy Mathews for

donating a lovely new piano to Neiman Hall when she moved from Madison. We make good use of this in our Compline for Kids services twice a month as well, where the singing is robust!

The fall focused on two big events: celebrating the 150th birthday of Ralph "Rafe" Vaughan Williams, and preparing fun music for the Halloween concert. Vaughan Williams was celebrated in church on October 9, and with a special hymnsing collaborating with local churches, especially St. George's Maplewood, and birthday cake with the composer's picture! This literally "put us on the map" www.rscm.org.uk/whats-on/in-every-corner-sing/ of RSCM churches celebrating.

The Halloween concert has had a rare 3 year hiatus, so we were very excited to bring it back to a full house, PLUS a well-watched livestream, and a collaboration with both Harmonium and the New Jersey Youth Chorus.

The adults followed with a more serious Evensong for All Saints, which went so well that we all decided to try to apply for another British cathedral residency—stay tuned!

The Gargoyles and Daughters of Zion sang a well-received program for Madison's Holiday Art's Festival.

I was incredibly proud of the adult choir and choristers who sang Vivaldi's Magnificat with String Orchestra for our Advent Evensong. Christmas services were back to "normal" with lots and lots of congregation and young singers at the "Pageant Service"—but all up in the front, so they could be livestreamed and do double duty in the cast—which I really like! Our 9PM service of adults, teens and alumni was blessed with oboe and viola as well. Christmas morning being a Sunday is always a blessing for me, and we had a strong showing including a dozen young choristers, some of whom also sang in the pageant!

One thing I started when I had time in lockdown that I have managed to keep up is my blog. Please have a look if you want to

know more about our rich and varied music, or what is new in the choir room every week!
<https://annematlack.wordpress.com/>

Thanks to the many others that contribute on their instruments, especially Erik Donough (sax, trumpet, flute, whatever you need...), and Teddy Love oboe. Thanks to all our volunteer singers and their parents and families and our leaders Head Choristers Elisabeth Wielandy, Henri Wielandy, Charlie Love and Luke Deane, and music librarian Cray Brooks!

Soli Deo Gloria! -Anne

North Porch

Stacy Wilde, North Porch board member

North Porch Women and Infants Centers is named for the "tradition of extending assistance to needy families by placing gifts for them on the North Porch of a church, so that the recipients could remain anonymous." [Carson Remig, Grace Church Annual Report, 2003] North Porch has been an outreach partner of Grace Church for over 25 years!

In 2022, Grace continued to provide sustaining donations of supplies to the Dover center, which then could be dispersed to other North Porch centers as needed. North Porch operates three full-service centers in Newark, Jersey City, and Dover, and two satellite centers in Morristown and Hackettstown. Plans are underway to reopen a fourth full-service center in the Paterson area.

Diapers, wipes, formula, baby food and cereal, baby toiletries and gently used clothing (sizes infant-5T) are collected in the Nieman Annex. Almost weekly, they are delivered to Dover, where they are sorted, inventoried, and dated, ready to be shared with the young mothers in need. Mothers (and fathers!) are referred to North Porch by social service agencies and religious organizations for one week's supply of the above essentials. They may visit every two months as needed.

Post-Covid, center coordinators are once again meeting with the families in person and help however else they can.

In addition to collecting supplies for North

Porch, Grace Church also provides grant money to assist with operational costs. In June, Grace hosted a fun baby shower to collect supplies and learn more about the agency from the North Porch director, Cynthia Moricz deTeco. In December, Grace designated half of the Christmas offering to North Porch. Throughout the year, parishioners also have made baby blankets, hats, and booties as special gifts. Thank you! Thank you! to everyone who has helped in any of these ways to make a young family's life a little bit brighter!

If you have any questions, or are interested in volunteering beyond providing supplies, please talk to Stacy Wilde or Cray Brooks. AND, please plan to attend the Mother's Day "Just Ducky" baby shower in May!

nourish.NJ (*Community Soup Kitchen*)

Heidi Griffie

nourish.NJ is thankful to the Grace community for supporting our mission to combat hunger, homelessness, and poverty. In 2022 the demand for our food, housing, employment, and case management services increased by 30%. At a time when rapidly increasing food costs and inflation are making it more difficult for families to make ends meet, financial contributions allow us to:

- Ensure that everyone can obtain fresh and healthy food, 365 days a year.
- Assist our guests experiencing homelessness with access to safe housing options.
- Deliver meals and other needed items to our guests who are elderly or experiencing illness.
- Support bi-lingual case-management services so that language barriers do not prevent people from being able to address medical issues and meet basic needs.

In 2023 nourish.NJ will be expanding our reach to other communities and will be opening a new building in Victory Gardens this Spring. All of our Morristown meals and services will remain as is. Our new building will allow us to:

- Prepare/distribute twice the number of meals.
- Launch an in-house Vocational Training Program.
- Expand our Housing Program.

- Offer one-on-one Mental Health Counseling in English and Spanish.
- Continue to partner with local school districts.
- Expand our Immigration Services.
- Expand our Youth Services.

Thank you Grace Community for your support, you are helping us to Change Lives and Fuel Futures!

If you are interested in coming to volunteer onsite, please reach out to Heidi Griffie to register for our next orientation session: heidi@nourishnj.org

Office Angels

Peggy Oakes

The Grace Church Office Angels are a group of parishioners that assisted with various office functions prior to the pandemic. While a number of those activities no longer take place, we are exploring new ways we can engage our team of Angels going forward.

If you are interested in joining our team please feel free to contact me at (973) 0377-1854.

Many thanks! Peggy Oakes

Outreach Committee

Barbara Hughes

Grace Episcopal Church has a long history of providing financial gifts, subsidies and grants to many social programs and organizations throughout the world and within the Diocese. Outreach ministry at Grace Episcopal Church continues to have a positive impact on the lives of many. Thank you to the members of the committee and the entire parish for their continued support of Grace's outreach activities.

It is the objective of the Outreach Committee to make grants to local, regional and national causes that may have a connection with Grace parishioners and the diocese. During 2022 most of our grants were local as the demand for services from food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters continued to remain strong. The goal of the committee is to continue providing grants to these worthy causes. If any parishioners are aware of social programs that may be interested in applying for such grants, please direct them to someone on the Outreach Committee.

2022 Outreach Gift Recipients

World and National

- Seaman's Church Institute-pastoral care for Mariners.
- Episcopal Preaching Foundation-improving, supporting and enhancing the level of preaching in the Episcopal Church.
- St. Luke's-Afghan School Project-pen pal program.

Diocese and Regional

- Apostles House-homeless shelter, food pantry, advocacy.
- Church of the Good Shepherd Wantage-food pantry.
- Community of St. John Baptist-Good Shepherd Home.
- Faith Kitchen-soup kitchen.
- Family Promise of Morris County –emergency shelter / food for families.
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church– food pantry - South Orange.
- Madison Eagle Christmas Fund-annual support.
- Madison Volunteer Ambulance Dept.-annual support.
- North Porch-formula, diapers, baby food drop in centers.
- "RAMP" Refugee Assistance Morris County
- St. Paul's CDC-food pantry.
- St. Andrews Episcopal Church Newark-lunch program support.
- Table of Hope, Morristown – food pantry.
- Trinity Lutheran –food pantry in Dover.

Youth

- Crossroads Camp & Retreat-spiritual retreat center.
- Diocese of Newark Prison Ministry –mentoring programs.
- Haven of Hope for Kids-retreat center for terminally ill children.
- Project Community Pride-counseling program for youth at risk.

Total Gifts paid 2022=\$33,500

Tenant Relations

Ed Nunn

Our tenant programs have all survived through the pandemic and are all actively trying to grow their programs.

Madison Co-Op and Rainbow Montessori occupy the lower level of our Church and The Center for Evaluation and Counseling occupies Hayes House.

We continue to rent parking space to our neighbor, Adams Dental, for her staff to utilize during the week.

Our tenants provide us with much needed revenue, and we invest considerable time and resources to ensure that we are able to provide the best environment for their programs to succeed.

We as a parish are asked to keep these programs in mind, and help spread the word to family, friends and the wider community in order to help them grow their programs, which will in turn benefit Grace Church!

Welcoming

Peggy Potter

While Grace Church never shut down during the pandemic, much of the past two years has been spent worshipping and meeting remotely, so this has been an exciting time to prop the doors wide open again and see new faces join us in worship.

Welcome information is available to newcomers both in the Narthex and the hallway racks near the choir room, and we strive to greet any new faces with a welcome and an invitation to coffee hour. We have received several Welcome Cards in the office this year from new visitors and they receive a call from our rector or a warden within the week to say hello and help them understand what Grace can offer.

We hosted the annual Ministries Fair in September for the first time since 2019 and showcased all the various ministries of the church, with a chairperson or representative on hand with a clipboard to sign up interested volunteers or answer questions.

Andy and Cali Yost graciously hosted a reception for parents of school aged families and a gathering of college age/young adults in late August to reinvigorate the fellowship for these segments of our parish.

We coordinated a table at Bottle Hill Day in October to share our ministry with the community at large and had Grace shopping bags and information to give away. Thank you to Melissa Waterstredt & Hilary Tabish and all the volunteers who represented Grace that day.

What can you do to help? If you see a new face, please greet them and make them feel at home, with an invitation to coffee hour or to meet the rector or priest. If you have a family member or friend in another part of the country invite them to our YouTube channel to worship with you remotely on a Sunday morning or for a live streamed event. It is a great way to have grandparents see their grandkids sing in the choir. There are so many ways to welcome new faces to Grace and we can all help out.

West African Missionary Outreach

Kit Cone

The West African Missionary Outreach began in 1958, when parishioner Kit Cone joined the long-term volunteer staff of Holy Cross Mission in Bolahun, Liberia, run by the Order of the Holy Cross. The Missionary Fund does not receive financial support from the Grace Church budget, and depends on individual donations. In addition to financial support, parishioners and other donors, including diocesan clergy, have traveled to Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire as short-term volunteers (under three months) in schools, hospitals, churches, village clinics, and other mission facilities, and for construction and repair projects.

In 2022, this ministry sent \$1,000 to the Holy Cross Mission schools in Bolahun. The West African Missionary Outreach assists a big scholarship program in Liberia, run by a Liberian priest, The Rev. Abby Flemister. Twelve Liberian students are attending St. Andrew's Episcopal School in the Liberian town of Mbaloma through Grace's financial support.

In 2022 this Grace outreach project contributed \$1,100 to Global Health Ministries, an ELCA charity which sends medical supplies and equipment to Phebe Hospital in Suakoko and Curran Hospital in Zorzor; Kit has worked as a long-term volunteer at both of these hospitals.

The West African Missionary Outreach underwrote \$500 in 2022 for an adult literacy program run by an American secular charity, Friends of Liberia.

The biggest Grace Church Missionary Fund project in recent decades has been the Goll Farm School at Suakoko, a village in the rain forest of central Liberia. The Rev. Prince T. Wreh, a Liberian priest who has worked closely with Kit Cone for more than 30 years, and his wife, Relhetta, organized and built the school starting in 2011. The Grace Church West African Missionary Fund raised \$15,400 to build and equip the school. Since construction, this fund has raised more than \$34,000 for scholarships. Nearly all of the 265 pupils depend on scholarships, at \$250 per student for the academic year. A tax-deductible donation may be made by writing a check to Grace Church, with "Goll Farm School" on the memo line.
~ Kit Cone

Women of Grace Book Group

Joan Nolan & Judy Honohan

Women's Book Group met monthly (usually) on the third Monday at 7:00 in the evening. We met either at Grace or on the front porch at Judy Honohan's when the weather cooperated. We mourned the passing of Dora Monserrate who was an avid and insightful reader. The group membership is thirteen with an average of 7-9 in attendance each month. We continue to mix fiction and non-fiction reading, and hold discussions as we enjoy a glass of wine and treats! We took off the months of August and December.

Books read in 2022:

Fiction-*Klara and the Sun, The Night Watchman, The Four Winds, The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo, Transcendent Kingdom, Sweetness of Water*

Non-fiction-*The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty, River of the Gods, Outliers, Braiding Sweetgrass*

Planned for 2023: Full list yet to be determined
Fiction-*The Mission House*
Non-fiction- *Finding Me*

For more information contact Judy Honohan:
jhonohan@mac.com

Women's Centering Prayer Group

Paula Roper

Women's Meditation and Centering Prayer met in person most Wednesdays during 2022. We began our year with Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*. In her writings Armstrong asks questions about how to develop the "Compassion muscle" and why there are so many conflicts if the goal of many religions is compassion. In the Spring we meditated on the words from *The Cloud of Unknowing*, an anonymous fourteenth century document of advice to spiritual seekers. We spent the fall with the words of Thomas á Kempis, and *The Imitation of Christ*. We were all amazed at the modern concepts captured in the 1400s. We have a core group of six women who try to meet regularly, and a few more who participate in our Prayer Group Text Chain. Women are welcome to join the group. Contact Paula Roper to be added to the e-mail list: paularoper143@gmail.com

Worship Leaders & Vergers

Geoff Brooks

The worship schedule in 2022 returned to a full year with a full complement of weekly worship services and most of the liturgical fanfare (think Easter and Christmas Eve) that our parish enjoyed pre-pandemic. And our dedicated cadre of 30+ worship leaders and vergers did a wonderful job as always of contributing to the grace and spiritual quality of that worship experience. With a standard weekly schedule of three Morning Prayer services on Zoom and three Sunday services at the church (not to mention special Lenten, Advent and other holiday services), the group filled eleven weekly roles serving as officiants, lectors, intercessors, chalice bearers, liturgical assistants and vergers. Many thanks to all those who serve to enhance our collective parish worship life!

Youth Ministry

See Associate's Report

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Stewardship—2022

Michael Petite

The Annual Report and Annual Meeting are important items on the church calendar. They provide us an opportunity to look back on our performance, communicate our results, and align on a shared vision for the future. As one of the primary revenue sources Grace Church depends on to fill our lives and the lives of those in our community with Grace, Stewardship is a deserving and important function for this scrutiny.

Our 2023 Stewardship campaign was facing a different set of headwinds than in years past. The separation due to illness was replaced by record inflation levels that sent the price of everyday essentials to new heights. In an effort to balance that with the recent shortfalls between our church revenue and expenses, our goal was to more broadly engage our parish community, rather than ask for increases in pledges during challenging financial times. To accomplish this, the Stewardship team began reaching out to almost every member of the parish who had given in the past 3 years, inviting them to pledge to help us reach our goal of \$550K.

Our results were mixed. Our total raised as of 1/30/23 was \$488K, which is in line with our total raised last year but well short of our goal.

The primary drivers of this performance, both positive and negative were:

- An increase in average pledge from \$3,019 to \$3,273, an increase of 8%.
- A decrease in pledge units from 162 to 149, a decrease of 8%

As a result, the stewardship committee has submitted a target number of \$488K to the finance committee for use in budget planning purposes. Our hope is this number will serve as a conservative base and provide upside for growth. That said, we will continue to operate in a deficit this year as our giving falls short of where it needs to be to support the church.

Going forward we will continue our effort of engagement, partnering with the Community Care team to ensure that we are connecting with our parishioners year round, not just during Stewardship season, to be sure we're there to support them when they need us. This, paired with a continued concerted effort to grow the size of our parish, are the clearest paths to closing the gap between our stewardship goals and our performance.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Stewardship chair a second time. While our results are not as positive as last year's, I believe as I always have that understanding the facts and taking positive action from them is our responsibility as a vestry and as a parish to continue to position our church for the future.

Pledges Received for 2023—Thank You!

Lauren Ackland	Rob & Heather Fraser	Bill & Anne Meyer
Nancy Adamczyk	Philip Gaffney & Linda Cameron	John & Dot Mitchell
Scott & Randi Albiston	John & Allison Garde	Douglas & Janet Molstad
Eve Albiston	David & Nancy Gates	Barb & Monty Montague
Joy Albiston	Peter & Andrea Gilhuley	Mike & Anne Marie Muldoon
Joyce Alexander	Patrick & Heidi Griffee	Peter Munter & Kathleen Hower
Cynthia & Joe Barilla	Jeanne Guempel	Marilyn Musielski
Madeline & Daniel Baulig	Scot & Nancy Guempel	Kirk & Sue Nixon
Curt & Mayan Beaudouin	Doug & Katie Harter	Joan Nolan
Greg & Laura Bendelius	Christopher Hauck	Nancy Nubel
Ruth Bennett	Steve Hauge	Ed & Wendy Nunn
Bruce & Diane Bensley	Sydney & Timothy Hirsch	Kirk & Peggy Oakes
David & Wendy Berg	Melissa Honohan	Peter & Kelly Ostberg
Sue Bien	Tom & Judy Honohan	Matt Palmer
Stephen & Karen Blount	Marie Hopkins	David & Missy Partridge
Andy & Leigh Bolt	Mark & Beth Hopkins	Michael & Elizabeth Petite
Anne Bolt	Han Huang & Patricia Northrop	Paul & Sandra Petrell
Mariam Bora	Jim & Barbara Hughes	Ruth Portella
Nancy Boucher	Timothy Hussey	Don Post & Jackie Lauria
Linda Bowden	Robert Hymas II	Peggy Potter
Suzanne Bowles	Susan Ironside & Andrew Moore	Doris Purdy
Mike & Linda Bronco	Ted & Karen Jamer	Michael & Eleanor Rawitz
Geoffrey & Crary Brooks	Thomas H. Judd	Crary Reynolds
Betsy Brown	Charlie & Judy Jurgensen	Bill & Carol Rice
Michael & Lou Ann Bugg	Ginny Karl	Franklin Ritt
Mark & Laura Burgess	Bill Keevauffer	Nancy Roddy
Dennis & Evelyn Callahan	Helen King	Mary & Al Rooney
Austin & Rachel Camporin	Michael Kostial	Janet Ross
Gene Carpenter	Bob & Bonnie Layton	Bruce Rudin
Chris & Melissa Ciolino	David & Kelly Leach	Patty Ruggles
Ken Cole & Rosemarie Collingwood-Cole	Robert & Mary Frances Leamer	Mark Sacher
Peter and Vanessa Cole	Paul & Laura Lemaire	Mary & Doug Schaenen
Kit Cone	Norman & Martha Lewis	Pete & Ellis Siedem
Ted & Tish Corvino	Maureen Link	Rich & Cindy Steffens
Asa Coulson	David & Mary Lloyd	Jeffrey & Christa Stewart
Mike & Chris Cullen	Ginger Maione	Ethne Swartz
Jennifer & Aaron Daley	Donald & Alberta Marcy	Hugh Symonds
Bruce & Wendy Davies	Steven & Jessica Margosian	Douglas & Hilary Tabish
Philip & Ruth Deane	Robert & Karen Martin	James & Ruth Tranberg
Paul DelaCruz & Christine McIntyre	Jonathan & Susan Massey	Evangeline & Scott Tross
Georgeann DiGiovanni	Anne Matlack & Jabez Van Cleef	Han-Hsien Tuan
Erik & Cindy Donough	Mary & John McBride	Robert & Jennifer Vessecchia
Mary Doody	Kevin & Joanne McCarthy	Scott & Melissa Waterstredt
Diane Du Brule	Judith McClellan	Stephan & Raia Wielandy
Laurie & Rob Ehrbar	Beth & Tucker McKeever	Chris & Stacy Wilde
John & Angela Finlay	Michael & Marthe McLinden	Miller Wood
Lee Anne Forbes	Kathryn McManus	Andy & Cali Yost
	Bill & Katy McSorley	Marco & Susan Zarbin

Investment Committee

Bruce Rudin

Investment Committee Members:

Bruce Rudin-Chair, Dave Gates-Treasurer, John Garde, Andy Bolt, Ed Nunn

We were at the mercy of the stock market last year. The Endowment is primarily invested in the DIT (Diocesan Investment Trust set up by The Newark Diocese) run by TIAA. Overall in 2022 the Endowment had a loss of (16.5%) as compared to the 2021 gain of 15.4%. The loss in our Endowment was due primarily to the plummeting stock market caused by inflation as well as slow growth and delivery of merchandise. The DIT funds at year end represented 70.3% in equities and 26.7% fixed income with the remainder of 3.0% invested in cash at Merrill Lynch.

At Merrill Lynch \$121,516 is kept in cash for usage in addition to \$31,956 in an ETF. The Merrill Lynch collateralized account was closed and funds moved to the regular Endowment when we paid down the loan from Lakeland bank.

The value of the Grace Church Endowment decreased from Dec 31, 2021 of \$5,309,069 to Dec 31, 2022 of \$4,996,441. As you can see from the table below the portfolio loss was (16.45 %) for a total real loss of (\$873,599) compared to a gain in 2021 of \$673,327. In 2022 \$140,150 was withdrawn from this fund to support Grace Church’s operating expenses and Taber Fund usage. Additionally, \$155,816 as added from donations and \$545,305 from the sale of the Surry Lane property.

The S&P lost (18.11%) for the year. The committee uses a benchmark of a combination of 95% Vanguard Balanced Index, plus 5% Vanguard Prime Money Market which lost (16.36%) as compared to the Endowment loss of (16.45%).

The Taber Estate Funds are accounted separately for income and expenditures. The funds are co-mingled with all other Endowment Funds and receive a prorated share of income and appreciation.

Grace Episcopal Church Endowment Fund

Detailed Holdings Report
12/31/2022

Equity Blend

DIT Equity Fund

DIT Karl Memorial Fund

DIT Surry Lane

Total Large Cap Blend

Fixed Income

DIT Fixed Income Fund

DIT Karl Memorial Fund

DIT Surry Lane

Vanguard Short Term Corporate ETF

Total Fixed Income

Cash

Cash - ML

Total Cash+Cash Equivalents

Account	Mkt Value	Weight
DIT	\$3,064,019	61.3%
DIT Karl	\$99,898	2.0%
DIT Surry	\$349,610	7.0%
	\$3,513,527	70.3%
DIT	\$1,088,109	21.8%
DIT Karl	\$53,633	1.1%
DIT Surry	\$187,700	3.8%
ML	\$31,956	0.6%
	\$1,361,398	27.2%
ML	\$121,516	2.4%
	\$121,516	2.4%

Total Account Value (sum of sectors)

\$4,996,441

100.0%

TIAA continues to monitor the DIT portfolio with regard to changing market conditions. Our committee makes changes only necessary to achieve our stated long-term goals and Vestry guidelines. The committee submits quarterly status reports to both the Vestry and Finance Committee.

Grace Episcopal Church Endowment Fund
Annual Performance Report

	<u>12/31/2022</u>	<u>12/31/2021</u>	<u>12/31/2020</u>	<u>12/31/2019</u>
Ending Balance Per Account Statements				
Merrill Collateral Account	\$0	\$164,361	\$164,646	\$162,732
Merrill	\$153,472	\$131,175	\$131,315	\$96,447
Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT)	4,842,969	5,013,533	4,086,370	3,863,769
Total	4,996,441	5,309,069	4,382,331	4,122,948
Ending Value current period	\$4,996,441	\$5,309,069	\$4,382,331	\$4,122,948
add back cash outflows - ML	685,455	200,150	165,215	340,180
subtract cash inflows - ML	(545,305)	(200,000)	(200,000)	200,000
add back cash outflow - ML Collateral	129,952	0	0	0
subtract cash inflows - ML Collateral	(129,952)	0	0	0
add back cash outflows- DIT	0	200,000	200,000	(200,000)
subtract cash inflows - DIT	(701,121)	(453,561)	0	0
Ending Value for Performance	\$4,435,470	\$5,055,658	\$4,547,546	\$4,463,128
Beginning Value (prior year ending value)	\$5,309,069	\$4,382,331	\$4,122,948	\$3,737,278
Annual Performance	-16.45%	15.36%	10.30%	19.42%
Annual Cash flow: (inflow)/outflow of the endowment	(\$560,971)	(\$253,411)	\$165,215	\$340,180
Rolling five year cash (inflows)/outflows	(\$58,772)	\$598,268	\$1,063,478	\$1,005,563
Yearly Gains (Losses)	(\$873,599)	\$673,326	\$424,598	\$725,850
One Year Performance - Benchmark	-16.36%	17.16%	17.16%	13.20%
Five year Performance - Benchmark	3.29%	10.90%	10.90%	9.68%
Five year Performance - Endowment	5.35%	8.30%	8.30%	6.33%
Ten year Performance - Endowment	4.84%	7.14%	7.14%	7.24%
Five year Performance - S&P 500	9.42%	18.47%	16.90%	13.68%

Finance Committee

Andy Bolt

The Finance Committee monitors the finances of the parish. The Committee works with the parish bookkeeper and the Treasurer on financial activities and reviewing the income, expenses, capital expenditures and funding activity. The Committee makes recommendations to the Vestry throughout the year on financial matters affecting the parish.

Members of the Finance Committee include the Clergy, Wardens, Treasurer, Chairman of the Investment Committee, John Garde and Ed Nunn.

2022 Balance Sheet

	\$ Thousands	YE 2021	YE 2022
Assets			
Cash and Equivalent		206	364
Endowment Cash and Securities		5309	4996
Other Assets		25	3
Total Assets		5540	5363
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable		44	18
Loans Payable		91	0
Prepaid Accounts		69	74
Other		3	12
Total		207	104
Fund Balances		5333	5259
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances		5540	5363

2023 Preliminary Budget

		2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Draft Budget
Income				
Pledge Income		461	479	485
Other Church Support		60	63	64
Fund Raisers		39	19	22
Occupancy / Other		85	99	106
Endowment Transfer		167	188	180
Total Income		812	849	857
Expenses				
Personnel		508	532	550
B&G Operations		129	124	136
Diocesan Share		83	88	88
Office Expenses		68	68	70
Outreach Committee Gifts		34	32	34
Inreach / Other / Search		50	38	40
Total Expenses		871	882	917
Surplus / Deficit		-60	-33	-60

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Reverend Susan R. Ironside, *Rector*

The Reverend Asa David Coulson, *Associate*

Kit Cone, *Senior Verger Emeritus*

Geoff Brooks, *Senior Verger*

Peter Munter & Lucy Waterstredt, *Head Acolytes*

Dr. Anne Matlack, D.M.A., *Organist & Director of Choirs*

Linda Bowden, *Chapel Choir*

Camille Bourland, *Children's Choirs*

Paul Salierno, *Gargoyles Director*

Luke Deane, Charlie Love, Elisabeth Wielandy & Henri Wielandy, *Head Choristers*

Kathryn McManus, *Director of Children's Ministries*

Michael Kostial, *Parish Administrator*

Susie Harris, *Communications*

Osh Khublall, *Bookkeeper*

Sam Dixon, *Sexton*