

Annual Report 2023

Please see the slide show that accompanies this report for a visual record.

Prepared for the Annual Meeting – January 21, 2023 of

Grace Church in the Mountains, Waynesville, NC

Celebrating that Christ is all and in all by
Inviting ~ Seeking ~ Belonging ~ Serving ~ Reverencing God's Creation

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Senior Warden Report

As my year as senior warden draws to a close, I find that I'm filled with gratitude for the support received from all of you.

None of us knew how things would play out with Joslyn gone in 2023 for three months on her first sabbatical since coming to Grace. I'm pleased to say that I think "we done good" by exercising our inherent leadership skills and judgment.

I am especially thankful to Barbara Rowe for her leadership as junior warden, but there's nothing "junior" about Barbara. She truly served as a co-warden, shouldered a great deal of responsibility and participated in almost every discussion and decision. I couldn't have done it without her and know you are good hands with Barbara as senior warden in 2024.

I am grateful for the support of the rest of the vestry during 2023: Mariah Nehus, Kathie Johnson, Mary Lockey, Joyce Brooks, John Turley, Tracy Bahm, and Suzy LeClaire. Together we made some hard decisions, but what I remember most is all the laughter we shared.

The staff of Grace Church was very attentive and supportive, so I am very appreciative of our parish administrator, Andrea Croskery, and bookkeeper Judy Dykes. Our treasurers, Walt

Austin and Gary Roberts, played a big role in administering major capital expenditures such as the roof and fire alarm system as well as their regular duties of producing the monthly financial reports. Music director Ginny Moe seemed to single-handedly keep the music program alive and well, and was “instrumental” in helping with our search for a new music director. Deacon Carter was “our Joslyn” behind the scenes and spent a lot of time and energy on keeping things running seamlessly.

Our assisting priests, Earle Pratt and Orion Davis, along with Deacon Carter kept the worship side of things running well. Orion also provided a “listening ear” for me with several issues during the year and responded with the wisdom and guidance that I needed.

I also want to thank my husband, Robert Armour, for his patience and his willingness to have an absentee partner for much of 2023!

Many thanks to all the parishioners that said how well they thought things were going during Joslyn’s sabbatical. Please know the part every one of you played in making 2023 a success in another year of spiritual growth in our church. As we transition into new leadership on the staff and the vestry, I know we all thank God for our many blessings.

Very sincerely,
Laura Armour

Rector’s Report: “Renewed by Grace”

God has been faithful to us yet again. His goodness never fails.

Gratitude I was able to take an eleven-week sabbatical this summer with my family. We spent time at an Anabaptist Seminary called Semilla in Guatemala City for seven weeks; toured Guatemala for two weeks; and I spent 11 days alone in London. During my time away, I was inspired by the way God uses small churches to minister to local communities: I witnessed the power of an Anabaptist church in gang-controlled Zona Seis in Guatemala City whose parishioners are mainly former gang members; and a humble parish church in the Islington neighborhood of London with its weekly “Memory Café” for neighbors living in dementia. God also showed me so clearly the reality of evil, largely on a systemic level, and the harm it does to individuals (e.g., the Mayan Genocide in Guatemala and the many memorials to WWI soldiers throughout London). And I could see how God can be trusted to redeem innocent suffering for the shalom of the world.

Grace was well cared-for while I was away. Deacon Carter was phenomenal. Priest associates Earle Pratt, Orion Davis and Harriet Simmons were willing to share their time and pastoral gifts. The Vestry, and especially Sr. Warden Laura Armour, picked up extra duties. And our supply priest, Lisa Fischbeck, shared her enthusiasm about how God shapes us through liturgy, as well as her passion about the church's role in addressing the affordable housing shortage.

As part of the sabbatical grant from the Lilly Foundation, Grace participated in RenewalWorks, a national program to help us nurture spiritual growth in our parish. We'll be presenting a summary of what we learned and our next steps in early February. Seeing the leadership and varied gifts in the RenewalWorks team and their commitment to God's work in this place affirmed my sense of call to ministry at Grace.

Highlights God is acting mightily among us – forming and shaping us into his likeness. Sometimes this is noticeable! Often it is subtle, but we can trust it. I won't repeat what is already in this report, but simply lift up examples of how the Spirit is moving among us.

1. Our deepening relationship with the Bethel House family who are often unsheltered or recently sheltered people. What began as a weekly devotional that I offered beginning in 2020 has blossomed into tens of you offering lunch several times a month, an amazing Thanksgiving Meal, support for keeping folks relatively warm and clothed, and now an emerging transportation ministry.

I look forward to working with our Outreach ministries as we move toward “being with” more and more and away from “doing for.”

2. Celebration Circles – As our statistical report shows, several Grace members died this year. Others moved away. A special moment for me was the Celebration Circle we had for Diane & Bill Collins. Our nation is beginning to see an increase in death rates, as the large baby boomer generation ages. As a church community, God equips us with the faith, strength and support we need to abide each other's sadness and rely on each other's hope. I anticipate that Grace will deepen our collaboration with community partners like the Haywood End of Life Coalition to minister to ourselves and the broader community. An example of this collaboration is our dedicated downstairs room for the Coalition's programs.
3. Caring for our Property – A New Roof & Fire Alarm! It was humbling to see workmen safely put on our new metal roof and a relief to no longer worry about roof damage! We expect our roof to outlive all but the youngest of Grace Church's members...what a testimony of faith from “generation to generation.”

2024 will be a year of significant transition for us. After several years of faithful service Ginny Moe (Music Director) and Andrea Croskery (Parish Administrator) are retiring. On January 16, Sean Coughlin began his role as a fulltime employee in both administration and music roles.

This year, I plan to focus on developing lay leadership, guiding the expansion of our musical repertoire, implementing the prayerful insights and direction emerging from RenewalWorks, and discovering the beauty of “being with” in our Outreach and Congregational Care Ministries. Beyond Grace Church, I will be assisting the Diocese with Transition Ministry and pastoring the community through involvement with the Haywood End of Life Coalition, Haywood Christian Ministries, and Bethel House.

It is an honor to serve as your rector. Please keep praying for me, as I pray for you.

Faithfully,

Joslyn Ogden Schaefer+

Deacon's Report

As 2023 came to an end, I completed my second year as deacon at Grace Church. It was a rewarding and fulfilling year with a few new opportunities along the way.

I performed the Liturgical role of the deacon in the two Sunday morning services throughout the year. In addition, I assisted in special services, including funerals and several healing services. I also was honored to preach during Sunday services roughly every 4 to 5 weeks as assigned by the rector. I also gave the children's sermon several times.

My role in congregational care has included training and scheduling the Eucharistic Visitors during the year. I also made numerous calls and visits to homebound members of the congregation. I also maintain the Parish Prayer List.

In order to be up to date with what's going on in the Parish, I attended weekly staff meetings and most Vestry meetings. I have been able to offer several Sunday Forums.

In the wider church, I participated in monthly Deanery meetings as well as Diocesan Convention, Clergy retreat and Deacon meetings.

Preparing for the rector's sabbatical, I joined Joslyn in her weekly ministry to Bethel House. It turned out to be a very rewarding experience as I formed lasting relationships with the people and staff of Bethel House. I continued weekly devotions at Bethel House during Joslyn's absence, and, upon her return, we continue to share this ministry.

Along with the rector, I have been managing the Clergy Discretionary Fund. I meet weekly with people in need and dispense funds as we are able.

One of the highlights of the year was the establishment of the men's group, Men of Grace. Along with Fr. Earle Pratt, we held a men's retreat in June and have had monthly breakfast meetings consisting of

fellowship, prayer and service since then. Fifteen men attended the retreat and the number has grown to now over 20.

It is my great honor and privilege to serve as your deacon at Grace Church. I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to serve God in His church. It is my intent to continue in my role as long as the good Lord allows.

In Christ,

Deacon Carter Smith

~~~ Worship ~~~

Average Sunday Attendance ~ 144 in 2023; 124 in 2022; last year 112 in 2021

Worship is the most important thing we do as the gathered people of God. Liturgy is the “work of the people,” and each service is different and blessed by the particular folks who participate – whether in official roles like Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, Choir, Altar Guild, Chime Choir, Lectors, Intercessors or offering your time, attention and energy by being present. We give thanks for the leaders and schedulers of these essential ministries, including Natalie Bayless, Jack Geist, John Raines, and Mary Lockey.

We continue to offer two distinct liturgies each Sunday (8:00 am spoken and 10:30 am sung). Our acolyte ministry is holding steady, and family attendance especially the first Sunday of the month when we have a Children’s Sermon has become more consistent. Children and youth participate as lectors, acolytes, ringing chimes and serving as crucifer. We look forward to more intergenerational worship in 2024.

This year the Wednesday Noon Service continued to grow and now averages about 15 people each week. Once a month we enjoy a fellowship lunch following and thank those who prepare the meal.

The lay-led Taizé service the first Sunday of the month is also growing in attendance and sense of community. Thanks be to God!

We had a few special services this year including the Blessing of the Animals, Instructed Eucharist in the late summer, Liturgy of the Longest Night and an Episcopal Visitation by Bishop José in March.

We also purchased new, traditional Anglican choir robes through funds the Vestry made available from our Memorial, Honorarium and Thanksgiving reserve fund.

Music

Report from Virginia S Moe, Music Director

Instead of an “Annual” report for 2023, I am covering all my time as Music Director at Grace, because one of the exciting things happening is that I am retiring! Grace is a wonderful church, with a supportive and collegial rector and staff, cooperative and hard-working Adult Choir, Taizé Musicians, and Chime Choir, and a positive, creative, and helpful congregation. I will still be around, but will remember my time as your Music Director with great fondness. It has been meaningful and affirming.

I want to expand comments in three areas: the rebuilding of the Adult Choir after Covid, the advances in the Chime Choir, and the changes in the Music Program.

Covid was a hard time for the Adult Choir, but after two years of regularly gathering and singing for rehearsals and services, the choir is again making great music with each other and the congregation. We have sung substantive music, worked to lead the congregation on chanting, explored Grace’s communication guidelines, and socialized together. Our Adult Choir is reliable and dedicated, but is also a spirit filled group which loves the church. It has been an honor to serve with them.

Our small but mighty Chime Choir has matured as a music making group and as individual musicians. We have learned to play for services at least once a month (every service during Advent!) and we enjoy our time together. I am so proud of these people who have never played Chimes before and how well they support our services now!

Finally, I want to tell you how excited I am that Grace will have a new Music Director! This is such a good time to make a change, for me and for the church. As many of you know, my husband and I moved to Waynesville for family reasons, and were already retired. The part of my life which will change is that you will see me sitting in the congregation with my two little grandchildren, and I am thrilled to be able to do so. My short term as your Music Director meant I was always interim at Grace, and now the church will have a Music Director who is new and excited and at the beginning of a long-term relationship. New people have new ideas, and Grace Church is enthusiastic about trying new things, keeping what is valuable, and giving up without regret what does not work. This positive attitude encourages staff and they become stronger and through them, the church becomes more effective.

I know things will go well here, and I thank you for a wonderful four years as your Music Director.

In Christ’s Service,

Virginia (Ginny) Moe

Altar Guild

We are very thankful for the dedicated members of our Altar Guild. Nearly every service we have involves their prayerful attention to the altar beautifying it and enabling the community to receive Jesus’ real presence through the sacrament of Holy Communion.

We want to share our ministry with anyone interested in becoming a part of the Altar Guild. “We are the ones chosen to prepare for the meeting of the people with God,” (*Working Manual for Altar Guilds*, Dorothy Diggs). Please contact the church office, the Rector or Melanie Walt if you feel that you would like to learn more about serving in the Altar Guild. There will be training as needed. Each team usually serves once a month to set up for the services. We are very limited in our membership at this time, so please consider this ministry as the Altar Guild only is sustained by its members.

~~~Congregational Care~~~

Purpose: To offer Christ's love and compassion to our parishioners especially in times of transition and/or crisis and seeks to invite other members of Grace to join them in the ministry of care. We do this through prayer, connection, listening, pragmatic support and sacramental ministry.

Congregational Care is often a quiet, behind-the-scenes ministry that makes a huge difference in our members' lives. The ministry is divided into three teams: visits and assistance; prayers, cards and calls; Eucharistic visits. We have also had a group of volunteers who agreed to prepare meals for individuals in crisis or transition. We also continued with the monthly fellowship lunches following our mid-week Wednesday service.

We hosted a workshop in March for the community about preparing for one's death logistically with support from Haywood Hospice, a local funeral home, and a local attorney in addition to resources available for funeral planning and our Memorial Garden. We also learned about Celebration Circles as an intentional way of celebrating transitions of our members, especially as they move or approach dying. We also offered a caregiving class that has now become a support group that meets regularly under the wise facilitation of Maureen Hunt.

We give thanks for the team of folks who offer confidential prayers, write cards, and stay connected with those in need.

The Congregational Care leadership team is Maureen Hunt, Pat Robinson, & Iris Durell. Deacon Carter plays an essential role with many visits and coordinating our Eucharistic Visitor team, *which made 70 visits this year.*

~~~ Parish Programs ~~~

Charge: Create welcoming spaces for all people to encounter “the loving, liberating, and life giving God” through study, storytelling, fellowship, and prayer.

Standing Committee Members: Standing Committee Members: Mariah Nehus, Kathie Johnson, Mary Lockey – Vestry liaisons Diana Bahm, Natalie Bayless, Lisa Hardeman, Georgia Raines, Theresa Riley, Gene Sloan, Susan Williams

Ministry Areas

Children & Youth Formation

Adult Formation

Library

Parish Life

Arts Ministry

Newcomers/Welcoming

Year in Review – Highlights

Formation

- ☐ Offered intriguing and varied Sunday Forum topics,
- ☐ Offered Bible studies and book studies,
- ☐ Increased lay-led studies (labyrinth walk in Lent and Advent book study)
- ☐ Continued partnership with FUMC for youth formation
- ☐ Purchased a new laptop to use for presentations.

Fellowship

- ☐ Fellowship activities included a chili cook-off, parish picnic, and greening of the church,
- ☐ Newcomers luncheons were held quarterly,
- ☐ Summer small groups were enjoyed by many,
- ☐ Children and youth attended a year-end celebration with FUMC at Lake Logan in May
- ☐ Men's group was started
- ☐ Writer's retreat, Men's group retreat and Mid-life women's retreat were well attended.

Arts Committee

- ☐ Bishop José consecrated the labyrinth
- ☐ Creative Expressions workshops offered on second and fourth Tuesdays of the month
- ☐ New icon purchased for Taizé
- ☐ New hanging system purchased to make use of the track lighting in the hallway for an exhibition space of parishioner art

Other Parish Life Groups:

Pub Theology continued to meet about once a month at Blue Ridge Beer Hub.

Daughters of the King (DOK)

"The Mission of the Order is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through Prayer, Service and Evangelism."

DOK ministries here at Grace includes support of the rector and parishioners through daily prayer, planning and hosting receptions following funeral services and the purchase and delivery of poinsettias to our homebound members. DOK meetings are open to anyone interested in joining the group.

Contact Joyce Brooks for more information, 828-734-5973 or missjwbrooks@gmail.com.

~~~ Outreach ~~~

Charge: To enable our hands to be God's hands in caring, comforting and advocating for God's people beyond our doors

Standing Committee Members: Standing Committee Members: Tracy Bahm (Vestry Liaison), Jim Dohms, Suzanne Leclair (Vestry Liaison), Alyson Nelson, Dana Smith, John Turley (Vestry Liaison), Pam Nolte-Viau, Sue Volgas

2023 was a year of reaffirmation of the traditional Grace Outreach Ministries, growth of two newer ministries, the start of a new ministry, and the beginnings of an effort to set Grace Outreach up to remain always relevant to the needs of people both locally, and outside Haywood County.

Food Pantries

Our indoor food pantry served an average of 96 households and 231 individuals in 2023, a significant increase from 2022. The outdoor food pantry saw steady use throughout the year. A new refrigerator was purchased with the financial assistance of Building and Grounds.

Finding enough food to keep the food pantries stocked was a challenge this year due to difficulties MANNA has had in sourcing food. A core group of our pantry volunteers worked hard to find alternative sources by building community partnerships with Pathways, Haywood Christian Ministries and First United Methodist Church. The managers at Food Lion and Ingles generously donated some of their holiday boxes and bags and 25 volunteers from Grace and Grocery Outlet filled 500 bags.

Pathways

During 2023, we prepared evening meals for Pathways on 14 different dates. Each night, we prepared meals for approximately 80 people, mostly Pathways residents and staff, but also included some take-away meals for walk-ups.

As in recent years, the Outreach budget also supported the Pathways mission with a \$3,000 donation.



Bethel House

The Bethel House ministry, which was noted as a “pilot project” in the 2022 annual report came into its own in the past year thanks to the support of over 50 people from Grace and the financial support of the Outreach budget. In addition to serving 52 weekly meals, we purchased and donated sleeping bags, tents, heaters and backpacks to support people from Bethel House who are unsheltered. We provided and served a special Thanksgiving meal to 67 people and helped serve and shared the Christmas Day meal with 30.

Childhood Literacy

Anna’s Books donated over 6,000 books to local teachers, libraries, food pantries and free libraries and found a permanent home at Maple Grove UMC.

New connections were established with free book distributors, Promising Pages in Charlotte, the POP Project in Asheville, and a couple schools in Florida looking for places to “re-home” books.

The Marthas

The Marthas met weekly throughout 2023 providing knitted and crocheted items to many groups and people in need. This past year they incorporated a devotional-discussion into their meeting format as a way to “better understand each other and to mature in our spirituality.”

In 2023, they provided 35 stockings to Bethel House which contained handmade hats, personal hygiene items, hand and foot warmers, and various treats, as well as a note which read “You are Loved.” A crocheted afghan was raffled off by the Marthas and raised \$712 for outreach this year.

Beyond our local community, the Marthas made and sent 39 caps to the Ukraine with the Culps this December.

Medical Loan Closet

The Grace Medical Loan Closet, a new ministry housed in the garage, was started to help Grace parishioners and their families obtain needed medical equipment for recovery. Items will include wheelchairs, portable toilets, canes, walkers, etc.

In 2024 the GMLC will move out of the Outreach standing committee and will operate under Congregational Care.

Creation Care/Grace Giving Garden

The Creation Care/Grace Giving Garden ministry focused on educating the parish and the community about our obligation to be good stewards of nature by leading Sunday forums, hosting education events for youth, growing vegetables for the food pantry, planting native shrubs on Daffodil Lane, removing invasive plant species on the church campus and replaced them with natives.

The committee applied for and was awarded a \$1,000 grant for sacred grounds from Interfaith Power and Light.

In 2024 the Creation Care/Grace Giving Garden ministry will move to the Admin standing committee. They look forward to offering an Eco-Fair for the whole community on Saturday,

Aug 17, 2024 .



One-off Projects

The committee responded to requests to provide financial resources and/or volunteers for various one day, or “one-off” events or projects that included the FUMC Turkey Jam, the FUMC Back to School Event, and the Bags of Hope project.

Other Donations

This category represents a place where we can make donations to both local and international groups and charities as they arise. At the end of the year, a donation was made to the International Rescue Committee.

Outreach Visioning Task Force

The Outreach Visioning Task Force, which was charged by the Vestry at the end of 2022, met four times during the year and led a parish wide forum to solicit input from the congregation on how to keep our Outreach ministries relevant and attuned to community needs over time. A draft guidelines document was written which was vetted by the Outreach Committee for possible revisions. This document will be considered for approval at the last meeting of the 2023 Vestry.

~~~ Administration ~~~

Charge: To Oversee parishwide stewardship of our resources: grounds, buildings, IT infrastructure, and finances (which includes developing and monitoring budgets and meeting reporting requirements and overseeing the endowment)

Standing Committee Members: Walt Austin, Michael Boss, Gary Roberts, Judy Dykes, Frank Guida, David Nedved, Marlene Hyatt, Kent Clary; and vestry liaisons Joyce Brooks, Barbara Rowe, and Laura Armour

The specific areas of ministry include the audit team, stewardship, endowment, staffing, collection counters, check-signers, memorial garden, pet wall, lay weeders, handy-person projects, overseeing vendor & maintenance contracts, and IT infrastructure.

I. BUILDING

Improved Security

- Changed code on front door, which will now be done annually
- Added motion detector lighting around Memorial Garden and patio
- Rekeyed all perimeter doors to the building
- Created a Key Policy and Sign-out Form
- Cleaned all front porch light fixtures & replaced bulbs
- Replaced bulbs on lights on front stone wall
- Installed a fire alarm system

Fixes / Repairs

- Purchased a new refrigerator for the Pantry

- Repaired and painted the exterior wall outside Thatcher Hall
- Replaced the roof and gutters on the Sanctuary
- Stained the ceiling in Sacristy and under eaves on Miller St.
- Sanded and stained wood arch at Narthex entrance
- Repaired chain-link fence damaged in storm
- Fixed sink disposal on/off button
- Fixed ice maker
- Oversaw roof and fire alarm installation!



II. GROUNDS

- Purchased new flags
- Organized a small group of volunteers to regularly weed-eat labyrinth
- Organized a Grounds Clean-up Day in the spring and fall

Grace House

- Sealed the flashing around the chimney
- Obtained an estimate on replacing all windows which is planned for 2024

Memorial Garden

- Created a Visioning Task Force to research/recommend changes to the landscape design for ease in care



III. ADMINISTRATION

- The annual stewardship campaign yielded 113 donations of time and talent and pledges totaling a little over \$382,000 at the end of the year.
- The following policies were revised for clarity and to meet our changing needs:
 - Memorial Garden Policy and Application
 - Facilities Usage Policy & Application
 - Parish Wide Appeals Policy & Application
 - Gifts, Honors, & Memorials Policy
- The new roof & fire alarm system was funded by two sources:
 - A loan from United Community bank which was reduced by \$28,211 in 2023, leaving a balance of \$81,360.
 - An interest free loan from the diocese for \$25,000 was reduced to \$19,583.
- A bequest totaling approximately \$55,000 from the estate of Jean T Hodge was deposited in the General Endowment Fund (90% = \$49,888) and the Vestry Reserve (10% = \$5303).
- An external audit for the year 2021 and an internal audit for 2022 were completed and submitted to the diocese.
- Michael Boss was elected Treasurer
- Judy Dykes was employed as bookkeeper
- Sean Coughlin hired as Parish Administrator/Music Director
- Donated motorcycle yielded funds of \$15,800
- Endowment Awareness Campaign conducted in May
- Training sessions held to educate parishioners on using A/V equipment
- Began using vestry members (VPOD- Vestry Person of the Day) to open/close church each Sunday
- Began using a composting service to collect all food and paper waste that will be processed into nutritious soil rather than going to the landfill.

Report from our Parish Administrator

This year has seen some changes. The reception desk has been staffed by faithful volunteers: Gene Sloan, Lisa Hardeman, Lynn Smith, Terry Guida, Betsy Stecher and Kathryn Church. Lisa had to leave in the Fall because of health issues and Kathryn has stepped into the usual Wednesday role. Terry and Betsy have been invaluable as subs as needed. These volunteers are generally kept busy doing tasks to help free up the paid staff for other aspects of running the office at Grace. We really couldn't do it without them!

Lynn Smith continues to do Sunday collection data entry each week as well helping enter the Time & Talent data during the Stewardship season.

A new computer was bought for the Parish Admin at the end of 2022. The old computer was refurbished by her husband and is now ready to be used by the Monday Pantry staff to place Manna orders. The larger monitor of that computer was put to good use by the new bookkeeper, Judy Dykes.

Judy, a member of the parish, received bookkeeping training from the Parish Administrator, who had been filling the role of bookkeeper since joining the staff in 2019. Most of the training took place during the Summer which coincided with Rev. Schaefer's sabbatical. Judy is maintaining and improving the SOP of that role and we are very grateful!

Deacon Carter moved into the corner office during the Rector's sabbatical to help oversee the RDF funds and be more available to other staff. That office was being used occasionally by other clergy and by parishioners for spiritual counseling. When collection counting takes place on a day other than Sunday, the office is also used. The 2022 audit team used this area for "staging" this year as well.

While still acting as bookkeeper, the Parish Admin was the conduit for information sent piecemeal to the outside audit team for the 2021 audit. This was generally done using an electronic, online system of the CPA's choosing, *Suralink*.

Some furniture was rearranged to help accommodate the needs of the new bookkeeper. We are looking forward to having the office walls repainted soon or at least before the new Admin joins the team. Plans for training the new Admin are in place. They will also be trained to pay bills, enter payroll and other small bookkeeping tasks so that the bookkeeper will have coverage while away on vacation, etc. The bookkeeper is also to be trained with tasks that will help the Admin while they are away from the office.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed, appreciated, valued my time here at Grace, getting to know all of you and coming to a better understanding of myself. I wish you all godspeed in your continued life together.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Croskery, Parish Administrator

~~~ Membership Statistics ~~~

Average Sunday Attendance 144 (last year 124)

Christmas Eve & Day Attendance 300 (last year 249)

Easter Attendance 228 (last year 245)

Baptisms (4):

Margaret Fite

Dylan Carr

Sam Spence

Chloe Elizabeth Medda

Confirmations/Receptions (14):

Rachel Carr

Hill Champion

Donna Weaver

David Ferguson

Margaret Fite

Elise Greenberg

Emilee (Em) Nidiffer

Patty Coulter

Liza Ely

Patrick Johnson

Rina Steffel

Tom Steffel

Samantha (Sam) Spence

Dylan Carr

Burials / Committals (13):

Charlotte Dickinson

Margaret Donahue

Evelyn Overman

Helen Howey

Ralph Andrew

Donald Keith Haynes

Nancy Lehman Haynes

William C. Cook (non-member)

Becky Lindman (non-member)

Carol Ann Lans

Jean Zeiner Taliaferro

Peter Alvin Welling

Joel Gibert

Other Deaths of Members (1):

Susie Williams

New Members (30):

Pamela Floyd

David Floyd

Donna Weaver

Hill Champion

Em Nidiffer

Donald Eckler

Margaret Fite

Kim Kranker

Mike Kranker

Rachel Carr

Liza Ely

Elise Greenberg

Tom Steffel

Rina Steffel

Dylan Carr

Sam Spence

Chloe Medda

Yvette Keel

Lynne Oswald

Kathryn Church

Susan Lavelle

Victor Dingus

Jackie Dingus

Tom Lasley

Sue Hilson

Doyle Hilson

Sarah Risch

Alex Coimbre

Debbie Joyce

Alan Joyce

Reactivated Members: 0

People moved to inactive status: 0

Transfers-Out: 0

Treasurer's Report Addendum: *Please note this contains figures that reflect our best understanding as of 1/08/2024. The final year-end treasurer report will be approved by the Vestry likely at the February 2024 Meeting. Similarly, the 2024 Operating Budget has not yet been approved by the Vestry, but we anticipate it being approved in January. In April, we will have another parish-wide meeting to provide approved figures.*

Fund Summary

	12.31.22 Balance	Additions	Uses	Internal Transfers	12.31.23 Balance
Regular Funds					
* Operating Fund	94,864	44,684	-	(47,002)	92,546
Vestry Reserve	21,711	53,687	(8,985)	(24,539)	41,874
* Clergy Discretionary	8,250	27,646	(21,759)		14,137
* Memorial, Honor & Thanksgiving	24,858	12,168	(9,826)		27,200
Grace House	4,070	15,455	(359)	(16,286)	2,880
TOTAL	153,753	153,640	(40,928)	(87,828)	178,637
Endowment Fund				12,160	
Roof and Alarm Fund				75,668	
				(87,828)	
* Endowment Funds - Year End Balances					
General	149,604				
Outreach	159,484				
Capital	17,001				
Total Endowment Funds	326,088				

Operating Fund

	2023 Budget	2023 % of Total	2023 Projected	2024 Proposed Budget	2023 % of Total
Pledge Receipts	392,359	87.6%	363,583	384,363	87.3%
Non-Pledge Receipts	55,437	12.4%	115,826	55,961	12.7%
Total Operating Income	447,796	100.0%	479,409	440,324	100.0%
Diocesan Assessment (Outreach)	39,774	8.9%	39,774	46,639	10.6%
Ministry Beyond the Parish (Outreach)	19,050	4.3%	17,108	11,015	2.5%
Parish Programs	24,150	5.4%	19,445	24,835	5.6%
Pastoral	161,554	36.1%	158,594	148,451	33.7%
Worship	37,692	8.4%	38,692	38,120	8.7%
Administration	71,388	15.9%	71,422	81,580	18.5%
Buildings & Grounds	82,812	18.5%	78,314	82,438	18.7%
Debt Service on Loans	11,376	2.5%	11,376	7,246	1.6%
Total Operating Expenses	447,796	100.0%	434,725	440,324	100.0%
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	-		44,684	-	

Stewardship – *Renewed by Grace*

	2023 Projected	2024 Budget (Proposed)
Total Pledge Receipts	\$ 363,582	\$ 384,243
Total Number of Pledges	125	129
Average Pledge Amount	\$ 2,909	\$ 2,979
# of Increased Pledges	47	45
# of Decreased Pledges	23	13
# of No Change	30	47
# of New Pledges	25	24
# of Pledges not Renewed	18	20
Total Income	\$ 479,358	\$ 440,324
Pledge Receipts as a % of Total Income	76%	87%

Stewardship – *Renewed by Grace*

Pledge Amount	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024
\$1-\$999	39	24	28	24	\$ 15,770
\$1,000-\$1,999	35	34	31	31	\$ 40,095
\$2,000-\$3,499	23	31	29	30	\$ 74,884
\$3,500-\$4,999	17	16	14	26	\$ 103,880
> \$5,000	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>\$ 149,614</u>
	<u>128</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>\$ 384,243</u>

Outreach - *Ministry Beyond the Parish*

	2022		2023
Total	\$ 129,384	Total	\$ 95,194
Operating Budget	13,100	Operating Budget	19,050
Diocesan Assessment	37,856	Diocesan Assessment	39,774
Clergy Discretionary Fund	48,289	Clergy Discretionary Fund	21,759
Tablescapes	4,948	Tablescapes	5,847
Parish Fair	13,000	Cookie Walk	2,400
Bomb Tech Fund Raiser	7,891	Prior Year Operating Surplus	6,364
Prior Year Operating Surplus	4,300	<i>Future Youth Mission Trip - \$3,364</i>	
		<i>Episcopal Relief & Development - \$1,000</i>	
		<i>Pigeon Center - \$1,000</i>	
		<i>Big Brothers, Big Sisters - \$1,000</i>	

Roof and Fire Alarm Capital Projects - 2023

Project Costs		Source of Funds	
Sanctuary Roof	\$ 123,562	Portion of 2022 Operating Surplus	\$ 10,159
Fire Alarm	35,300	Grace House Fund	16,286
Total	\$ 158,862	Insurance Proceeds	49,222
		2023 Operating Budget	11,376
		Borrowing	71,818
		Total	\$ 158,862
Loan Balances			
Diocese of WNC	\$ 19,583	<i>Funding, less borrowing</i>	\$ 87,044
United Community Bank	81,360		
Total	\$ 100,943		