

Grace Church in the Mountains

2020* Annual Report

Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 10, 2021, 9:15 am via Zoom



394 N. Haywood Street, Waynesville, NC 28786

(828) 456-6029

www.gracewaynesville.com

[Facebook.com/GraceWaynesville](https://www.facebook.com/GraceWaynesville) • [@GraceChurchIM](https://www.instagram.com/GraceChurchIM)

****The Year We Inspired Hope Despite COVID-19****

Rector's Report

And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Romans 5:3 - 5

Well, this has been an incredible year. The reports from our strong, committed and passionate lay leadership speak volumes about our parish's ability to persevere through an unexpected and challenging year. God has graced us with the ability to "stay rooted and grounded in love" this year.

We've maintained a strong focus on our church's primary purpose which is to worship God. We've started a weekly lay-led Morning Prayer service on FaceBook at 9:00 am. We worshipped on our deck, under our tent, and at the fire pit...wherever we could safely gather. We've had to learn all kinds of new ways of being "together," relying on technology like FaceBook, YouTube, Zoom, the telephone (!), attempts with an FM radio transmitter, and the blessed US Postal service. We've huddled under gas heaters on our deck to praise God, have meetings, discuss the catechism and enjoy "pub theology." We also started a new fellowship group "Mid-Life Grace" for women to compliment other small groups like Sisters of Grace. Our youth group had its best year yet, as the kids were more available to gather and eager to get out of their homes to play, learn and serve together.

Our outreach ministries flow out of our worship. We gave away \$12,500 from our Operating budget to support our partners in non-profit ministry, including steady support for Pathways. We brought in \$16,500 in outside grants that directly benefited the needy among us. And the parish's support of my discretionary fund has enabled tremendous support to those in need -- including funding an educational pod for children in need.

But beyond money, you all have shown up to love and serve our neighbors as ourselves -- at Pathways, Food Distribution Events, baking candy roaster pies and

more. I'm especially proud of our deepening new ministry partnership with EACH (Ending Area Child Homelessness). We've provided free office space for them for about two years and this April we welcomed a family (single mom with three kids) into our former rectory, now named Grace House. December 13th was an incredible Sunday when we consecrated our 24/7 Pantry and our new playground in front of Grace House.

This year has been a hard one, too. Folks have struggled with isolation, grief, depression, and anxiety. Our hearts have ached together as we've listened to one another's stories about family members we can no longer hug, attended funerals with painfully low attendance limited by health precautions, and prayed one another through COVID-19. We've just plain missed seeing one another regularly, sharing meals, and singing hymns.

But we are here. We are faithful. And more importantly God is faithful. Unbelievably, we've welcomed 29 new members this year! Clearly, God continues to work in, through, and with us to accomplish his good purposes, and for this we are grateful.

Thanks be to God,

The Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer+



Wardens' Reports

I believe the year 2020 has been a challenge and also a time of grace and growth at our church. I am so grateful that we have continued to worship, learn, and help our community throughout this year.

Worship has certainly been different as we faced the challenges of being a viable and a safe place during the pandemic. Joslyn has been an incredible rector and pastor in guiding us through this journey. We have been able to continue to learn about God's word and love for us. Zoom, Facebook, the tent, and deck have all

helped this to happen. Also, our outreach to our neighbors continues to grow. Our parishioners continue to be financially supportive and committed to sharing their treasures, talents, and time.

Serving as a member of our vestry and as a warden has been a spiritual and a growth experience for me. Our vestry meetings always begin with devotion and prayer, which I believe help us to focus on our mission of leadership. Also, as a vestry we regularly pray for each member of the parish. Discerning God's will for our parish makes serving on our vestry so different than participating in a secular group. I will treasure this experience and I am grateful to our rector, our vestry, and our parish.

-- Mary Hartman, Senior Warden, 2020

As I look back to January, 2020, who could have predicted the year to come. With COVID dominating our lives, personally, financially and spiritually, we have all been affected in some manner. While our physical presence in Sunday morning worship have been altered, our commitment to Grace Church is as strong as ever. Each of you have committed in various ways to continue the presence of Grace Church in our community. Through financial giving or the giving of your time and talent, we have not faltered. Marcia and I are so thrilled to be a part of the Grace Church family and are so looking forward to in-person worship and activities.

As I start my year as Senior Warden, I look forward to serving Grace Church and to be a part of such a wonderful and caring family. We will get through this crisis and to be able to build on our weaknesses and strengths. Thank you for your support and prayers. God Bless each of you.

-- Dale McDonald, Junior Warden



Music Ministry Report

My tenure at Grace began on Feb. 12, and what a year for your Rector and Music Director to begin to work together! The Covid-19 pandemic has naturally affected our music activities, but the Rector and Vestry, as well as the staff, choir, and congregation members have shown unwavering support for the ministry of music, and for me personally. Below are listed some of the many activities of the Music Ministry, but I also mention two non-music highlights.

The first is my gratitude for the amazing number of meaningful ongoing activities in addition to the many services at Grace. For the Marthas, the EACH office and housing, the Giving Garden, the Food Pantry, and for the many other programs which make a difference in our community, I am truly thankful to be a part of this church. Secondly, I offer a personal thanks for the welcome shown to my family. My husband, in-laws, and daughter have sung for services, both in person and online, and have regularly mentioned the meaningfulness of the services and the friendliness of the congregation. In addition, my husband, Tim, has been honored to work with congregation members to lead the online Morning Prayer services once a month.

The music ministry has continued efforts as possible. Both individuals and small groups have been creative about pandemic music at Grace, and the Vestry has generously extended specialized pandemic financial support which will continue to expand our music capabilities in the future. Several initiatives are listed below.

- Zoom Choir meetings from March until October
- Occasional physically distanced hymn singing under the tent
- Singing for a shut-in choir member and a nursing home
- Choir members leading hymn singing during services
- Production of pre-recorded music for online and live services using choir members and others
- Production of music for the Arts Committee “Inspiring Hope” Art Show

- Presentation of zoom formation classes on Handel's Messiah
- Vestry approval purchase of new electric piano and public address system
- Grant for new Audio/Visual equipment in the church
- Participation of choir and congregation members in music for Christmas Pageant and Lessons & Carols

In closing, I extend special thanks to our Rector and to our Church Administrator and Sexton who support all of us in untold ways.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Moe



Administration/Personnel/Staffing

In 2020, we hired Virginia (Ginny) Moe to direct our music ministry at Grace Church. We also hired a Sexton / Groundskeeper Tony Caldwell and eliminated contracts with our lawn and janitorial services. Andrea Croskery continued to excel in her role as Parish Administrator, which includes communication and bookkeeping responsibilities, as well as administrative support for the rector.

In June our deacon, the Rev. Bro. Ray Escott moved to Georgia. The Rev. Gaelyn Evangreene completed her curacy in June and now serves as rector of St. David's in Cullowhee.



Parish Life

Vestry Charge: To care for our parish community and welcome and incorporate newcomers and the ministry groups that fall within the committee's responsibility.

Our committee, with Vestry liaison Lauri SoJourney, began the year with our first meeting in February. Our plans were big and included monthly events. Needless

to say, by March most of our plans needed to be revisited. Thanks to our tent, our covered and screened-in porch, warmer weather, and Zoom we were able to adapt to our new way of life as a parish.

Unfortunately, our social gatherings like coffee hour, receptions, potluck meals, Summer Dinner Bunch, Parish Fair, Tablescapes luncheon, and Christmas Cookie Walk all had to be cancelled. We were able to Zoom Pub Theology, a coffee hour in August, Sisters of Grace, and other Grace meetings for those who had the necessary technology available. Other activities that took place on our campus were Wednesday small group luncheons, a picnic (and baptisms) at Lake Logan, small group meetings on our porch, Blessing of the Animals outside at our amphitheater and Pet Wall, small group exercise classes in Thatcher Hall, and wreath making on our downstairs patio.

Thanks to Sue Shirley and Marie Shaginaw, we also sponsored an art project which included everyone who wanted to “share Hope during Difficult Times” through art. The subsequent exhibit can be viewed on our web page or in our parish hallways; larger pieces are exhibited in Thatcher Hall. Our committee continues to brainstorm ways to welcome and include everyone in our Parish Life family.

With love and for His sake,
Donna Buckner, Chairman



Buildings and Grounds

This is an advisory group to the Vestry.

Buildings and Grounds

This has been a most unusual year for Buildings and Grounds at Grace. But even with parishioners staying home or being under the tent, there were still needs to attend to. We are grateful that our new Sexton, Tony Caldwell, joined our staff. The slow times we have experienced gave him time to really get adjusted to the needs of Grace. We are also grateful for the involvement of Les Taylor who took over the needs of our grounds (Layweeder) and for Robert Armour saw to the needs of the Memorial Garden, and Crystal Clary who interfaced with the Vestry.

And we are grateful for a parishioner who was kind enough to donate an almost new riding mower, enabling us to replace our lawn service with our Sexton. 2020 is coming to a close and the pandemic will still be with us for a while. The Grace buildings and grounds have been maintained and will be ready for us all.

- Submitted by Bob Vogt

Grounds Report

On Feb 18, 2020 the Vestry decided “...to simplify our landscape with an eye toward greenspace and native plantings.” The aim was to reduce maintenance as there were fewer layweeder volunteers over the last few years. To adhere to pandemic restrictions, there were no calls for volunteers nor workdays.

Fortunately, the grounds were in good shape as 2020 started. Besides general upkeep, the priorities to reduce grounds maintenance for 2020 were to remove invasive plants, tackle overgrowth, eliminate planting new annuals, and relocating appropriate plants as needed.

- Submitted by Les Taylor

Memorial Garden

Planting of flowers in the Memorial Garden was scaled back somewhat this year due to COVID, but the beautiful roses and various other perennials were maintained weekly. A few changes included planting lenten roses, mountain laurel, and oak leaf hydrangeas. These should add different blooming periods for the garden. We moved a rhododendron to give it more space and cut back some vegetation for clearer viewing of the plaques of our loved ones. We decided to turn off the waterfall this winter for easier maintenance during a time when there are not as many visitors.

I want to especially thank Joann Herron for her many hours in maintaining the rose trimming and other tasks as well as Stephen Hattendorf for assistance when needed. I hope we honor Jo Phelps' vision of the Memorial Garden going forward.

If anyone is interested in helping in 2021, it will be appreciated, especially someone with a good back.



-Submitted by Robert Armour

I am very proud of how the Building and Grounds team has continued their important work during this difficult time. Thank you Bob, Les and Robert. Also, a big thank you to Dave Crowder and Brian Smith for assembling our playground.

Crystal Clary ~Vestry Liaison

The Bishop blesses our playground on 12/13/20.



Congregational Care

Note: This is a Rector's Committee, not a Vestry Committee. Therefore, it isn't "charged" by the Vestry.

Leadership: Maureen Hunt, Prayer & Card Coordinator; Joyce Brooks, Homebound Ministry Team Coordinator; Pam Davis, Chair

The **Congregational Care Team** consists of members of our parish who want to offer care to the members of our church family. If a member indicates an interest on the time and talent section of the stewardship card, a member of the Congregational Care Team will contact them. Opportunities to serve include: writing cards to members who are experiencing events needing support or joyful recognition, preparing meals for members in time of need and organizing dates and delivery of meals, visiting parishioners, and serving on "homebound ministry teams."

Pam Davis coordinated an effort in September and October to fill up the freezer with food for members in need.

All of our activities are under the guidance of the Rector. We depend on good communication between church members and the committee. We follow strict guidelines of privacy and respect.

The team is in need of active members. Please contact Pam Davis or the church office if you would like to know about opportunities to serve.

Eucharistic Visitors & Care for the Homebound

Scheduled by Kent Clary Coordinated by Joyce Brooks

We continued to take Eucharist to homebound members as permitted by CDC guidelines and the preferences of our homebound members. We also "dropped off" the Eucharist to folks leaving the elements and a service leaflet safely on door steps. With the help of the rector, this ministry remained strong despite the

challenges. We offered home Eucharists to 78 people through the course of the year, completing about 45 distinct visits. Active EV's this year included Kent Clary, Maureen Hunt, Stephen Hattendorf and Bob Stamabaugh.

Homebound Ministry also persevered with the support of folks like Clyde Austin, Ginger Lambeth who checked in regularly with some of our parishioners.

Others including Adele Novotney, Iris Durell, Betsy Stecher, Helen Howey, the Rev. Earle Pratt, Jim & Jan Treston, Natalie Bayless, Phyllis Watson, Crystal Clary, Diane Collins, and Mary Beth Dorgan offered prayers, cards and calls to members in need.

Daughters of the King

St Teresa of Avila is the chapter of The Daughters of the King at Grace Church. We are an Order of the Episcopal Church dedicated to prayer and service to the church. Our vows are to pray, serve, and evangelize. We pray daily for the people on our prayer list. Christ is the center of our life and work.

Longtime parishioner Betty Miner moved to East Tennessee, and Jo Phelps moved to South Carolina.

The DOK met occasionally due to the pandemic, including celebrating Eucharist together on the Deck. Our current president is Mary Lou Daily.



Education

Vestry Charge: *To grow in the knowledge, service and love of God as followers of Christ informed by Scripture, Reason and Tradition.*

During 2021 we were challenged to offer meaningful educational opportunities without our familiar and comfortable face to face format. Zoom became a

consistent part of offering our programs and as allowed we were able to include face to face opportunities outdoors, socially distanced and with face coverings.

Our Children's Programs started off the year as usual with Children's Chapel, but as the virus intervened we migrated to a Sunday morning zoom format. A new curriculum from Storymakers provided video support and a magazine to coincide with the Bible story. There was a focus on fun and artwork too. We also hosted family events like the Story and S'more by the fire pit and Advent Wreath making. Friday afternoon Story Time was instituted in November.

Adult Forums covered a multitude of topics - some individual and some series which included: racial reconciliation, dementia, centering prayer, and wrapping up with an Advent Series on Handel's Messiah. We even had a live walk through of the Grace Giving Garden. Pub Theology continued on throughout the year and we had a summer program Coffee and Catechism. In December we also sponsored a workshop by Braver Angels to help us bridge the communication divide.

Lectionary Bible Study has been an ongoing part of our spiritual development. Education for Ministry (EFM) continued through the Spring and celebrated the graduations of Joyce Brooks, and John & Derrick Zeller. The 24-week Disciples Bible Study persevere and transitioned from in-person to Zoom. Over 25 parishioners participated in this walk through the entire Old and New Testaments, a real highlight in the year for many who participated.

Special thanks to all who have worked so diligently this year to support our educational opportunities. We were blessed to have a Duke Seminary student with us to lead our racial reconciliation programs during the summer, Lydia Potapenko. Our tireless Rector, Joslyn led many of these programs and spurred the committee's creativity. Orion led the Coffee and Catechism programs, Pam and Rob Viau hosted Pub Theology, and Mike Shirley led the Lectionary Bible Study. Thanks to the many other presenters who enriched our lives by giving their time this year: Sarah Mims Yeargin, Emily Chatfield- Lusto, Susan

Williams, Pat Robinson, Michael Lodico, Kathleen Vogt, Asia Clarke, Marie Shaginaw, Barbara Jo White, Becki Hale, Laura Armour, Diane Collins and Lauri Sojourner. It truly takes a village. Join us!

Committee Chair,
Karen Morris



Finance

An Advisory Committee to the Vestry

This year the Finance team expanded to include Walt Austin (who will serve as Treasurer for 2021). We thank Sandy Curtis who served a two-year term as Treasurer. Melanie Walt, the wardens and treasures consistently attended monthly meetings.

Highlights:

- **The inventory team continued to complete its work.**
- **We made it possible to submit Endowment donations online.**
- **We provided education and encouragement about online giving.**
- **We monitored spending and income, providing monthly updates in the eNews.**
- **Marlene Hyatt coordinated an internal audit. Team members included Bill Simmons, Peter Nurse, Michael Lodico, Chas Lawrence and Dale McDonad.**

A balanced budget approved for the 2020 year, has been maintained and is currently on track to meet expectations. The 2021 budget was approved on January 6, 2020 by the Vestry. See appendix for the 2020 draft financial report and 2021 Budget.



Stewardship

Note: This is a Rector's Committee, not a Vestry Committee. Therefore, it isn't "charged" by the Vestry.

Leadership: Rector, Vestry, & Treasurer

For the second year in a row, the Vestry elected to take responsibility for our Annual Stewardship campaign: Inspiring Hope. The Vestry attended a workshop led by the Rev. Orion Davis and wrote personal letters to their prayer partners. The Vestry continued to abide by the Stewardship statement adopted in 2019.

As the Vestry of Grace, we **believe** God provides all things, both spiritual and material.

We **commit** to:

- Pray
- Hold household conversations about Christian stewardship
- Give proportionally
- Increase the percentage of the parish's budget for outreach
- Conserve and care for the church's resources

We **invite** the people of Grace Church to:

- Recognize all the ways God has blessed your life and the gifts you have received
- Reflect on your gifts and talents
- Give back to God through Grace Church that which you can give with a grateful heart

Personalized letters were sent to the Parish in October that included a 2021 Commitment card with opportunities for members to give of time, talent and treasure. The members' offerings were consecrated on All Saints Sunday. We are grateful for every response, each one an offering to God and sign of our gratitude.



Outreach

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

Food Pantry – Our pantry continues to offer nutritious food to our neighbors in need from 10 – 11 weekday mornings. Covid has necessitated changes in how we physically interact with our clients; during warmer months we served them outside under the deck, now that it's cold, we have them enter through the long hallway near the community room, as 10 people can socially distance while staying warm. Our great excitement in December was Bishop Jose's blessing of our new Little Grace Pantry at the bottom of the back driveway, which now serves our neighbors 24/7.

Grace Giving Garden – See separate report below.

Grace House / EACH – The building formerly known as our rectory now houses a family transitioning out of homelessness. They are supported by EACH (Ending Area Childhood Homelessness) and a circle of Grace members who surround them in love and offer practical assistance. The mom, Sara Reece, has completed most of her CNA coursework (while working full-time as a single mother of 3!) and now can look for a better paying job. Janine Geenen coordinated this ministry and parishioner Barbara Rowe took the lead in providing a learning “pod” for Trinity and Greylin, the school-age children. Asia Clarke provided speech therapy and offered StoryTime; Steven Hattendorf played games with the kids; Kara Melius serves as the family's budget coach. Barbara also took charge of furnishing the Grace House and preparing it for the family's move-in in early April. Trinity, the oldest child, was able to attend Camp Henry on the grounds of Grace Church.

Parish Fair – Our annual fair was not held this summer because of Covid, but we encouraged parishioners to donate directly to local charities such as REACH,

Haywood Christian Ministries, and Open Door/Second Blessing. And our big fair tent was repurposed as a safe outdoor worship space during warm months.

Grants to support and expand our Ministries: Mary Lou Daily and our Rector wrote and received grants for over \$16,500 from Resourceful Communities / The Conservation Fund, WNC Bridge Foundation and the Community Foundation of NC. These monies were used to build our 24/7 Food Pantry, supply additional food for our pantry and support unsheltered individuals so they could receive low-barrier, emergency shelter in partnership with Open Door and provide food for the unsheltered.

Pathways Monthly Dinners – Our cook team for the Pathways dinners is small (in order to socially distance in the Pathways kitchen) but mighty, and has continued to prepare and serve dinners for the Pathways residents.

Community Advocacy – We have participated in, and supported with food donations and a banner, food box distributions at the Pigeon Center, First United Methodist Church, and other places in our community, including a large one for Thanksgiving. And supported the local Great by Eight initiative, to provide books to young children who may not have their own books at home. Eight wears old, third grade, is when kids transition from learning to read to reading to learn, so a child who is not reading well by then falls behind.

Parishioner Diane Collins coordinated a warming ways clothing drive this Fall, and the Martahs continued to knit and share shawls, hats, and scarves for those who were cold or in any other need.

Thanks to all for a wonderful and productive year of Outreach.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paula Welling, Chair

Grace Giving Garden

Nature never did betray the heart that loved her. - William Wordsworth 1798

In light of the pandemic, our 2020 focus turned from educating toward high production of crops for the pantry. As most of us stayed close to home, our attendance on gardening days was high.

We were able to:

- * put up a large garden sign on a wooden frame to the right of the walk leading into the garden, design a logo for the sign, flyer, and business cards
- * become a certified Monarch WayStation, Million Pollinator Garden, and Garden for Wildlife with in-garden signs for each
- * work in the garden with a group of First United Methodist Church youth for three days in June
- * organize a composting presentation, with the help of expert Debra Shaw, for a group from the Western North Carolina Climate Action Coalition
- * host a movie night to view the *Biggest Little Farm* in Thatcher Hall
- * attend (six of us) a conference in Black Mountain offered by Creation Care Alliance
- * grow in abundance beans, okra, sweet potatoes, greens and candy roaster squash for our pantry
- * give away 60+ candy roaster squash pies to pantry guests, church staff, the EACH staff & the Grace House family, the Open Door food truck and isolated members of our parish
- * conduct a virtual tour of the garden for our Sunday Forum on October 25

Expenditures: approximately \$300

Volunteers: 35 indicated an interest and 15 were actively involved

Vision heading toward 2021:

- * along with the future rain garden, to become a venue for groups seeking to practice Creation Care - for example camp & church youth groups, scouts, ecological groups
- * to be an oasis of sustainable practices and reach out to connect with community agencies which forward the health of our planet and its creatures

- * to involve our own Grace children and youth in stewarding God's creation
- * to continue to provide produce for the pantry and increase efforts to connect with the food insecure in order to know and tend to their needs
- * to host an all-parish cookout celebrating post-Covid

-- Submitted by Mary Alice Lodico



Statistics for 2020

After March 15, we had virtual services, then in-person services with limited attendance under our tent or on our deck, drive-through communion, extra Eucharistic Visits. After Christmas Day, we returned to all virtual services. The older "average Sunday attendance" metrics are insufficient to capture our ministry impact this year.

Baptisms

Hoyt Plemmons
Kaladain Carpenter

Marriages

Douglas Staiger & Shiela Pirrone
Eleanor Schmitmery & John Morris

Confirmation/Reception

Pat Robinson (at St. David's, Cullowhee)

Deaths & Burials (* = inactive or non-member)

Dorothy Reid
Betty Shore
Ben Thrower
Carole Mary Goad*
Ken Roach

Transfers Out / Moved to Inactive

Prescott & Louisa Lunt
Jo Phelps
John & Connie Mozelewski

Bill Pace

New Members

John & Janet Turley

Kara Melius & BJ Minturn

Iris Durell

Christian, Pam, Olivia, Caroline, & Thomas Boggiano

Gary & Teresa Roberts

Pamela Vaughen

Marie Shaginaw

Megan Carpenter and her son Kaladin

Hanley, Tiffany & Hoyt Plemmons

Jessica, Brice & Anna LeFiles

Walter Denning

Martha Coats

Caroline Denwood & David Nedved

Margaret Violet

Kim Campbell

Sally Hagel

Appendix A: 2020 Financial Report Summary and 2021 Budget

Revenues	2019 FY Actual Revenue and Expenses	2020 FY Revenue and Expense Budget	2020 FY Actual Revenue and Expenses 12/31/2020	2021 FY Proposed Revenue and Expense Budget
Pledged Income	278,651	301,182	321,888	314,076.00
Projected New Pledges	6,920	7,500	0*	13,448.00
Loose Plate Offerings	36,500	36,500	26,179	32,061.00
Grace House	16,531	8,000	10,000	0.00
Facilities Use	2,070	2,500	2,240	2,240.00
Miscellaneous	14,036	4,500	7,147	7,147.00
Total Revenue	354,708	360,182	367,454	368,972.00
Operating Expenses				
Diocesan Assessment	29,489	29,499	32,256	35,589
Ministry Beyond the Parish	10,737	12,500	12,414	12,500
Parish Programs:				
Parish Life	3,996	7,350	2,796	3,555
Education	10,457	10,950	3,448	4,481
Pastoral	136,019	151,456	137,602	177,490
Worship	23,847	25,610	21,326	26,316
Administration	59,964	60,675	52,209	59,826
Buildings and Grounds	79,019	58,229	52,510	49,209
Total Operating Expenses	353,528	356,269	314,561	368,966
Increase (decrease) in operating fund	1,180	3,913	52,893	6
*This was not tracked in 2020. Instead, new pledges went into pledges.				













































