



**Celebrating that Christ is all and in all by seeking, inviting, belonging,
serving and reverencing God's creation**

Church Energy Audit Completed

In 2011 Grace conducted its first energy audit with Waste Reduction Partners of Land of Sky Regional Council in Asheville. From their website: “Since 2000, WRP engineers and scientists have helped over 1,300 clients save \$36 million in utility costs while greatly enhancing environmental and energy management programs. Specialty services are available to any organization with a commitment to reducing waste and pursuing environmental excellence. The members of the WRP team are distinguished retired and volunteer engineers, architects dedicated to serving the Western North Carolina community.” The new energy audit report of October 12, 2021, contains important and useful information on ways to save energy use at Grace Church. The audit was conducted free of charge.

Bob Vogt, head of the Building & Grounds Committee, is submitting a report of recommendations to be phased in over time, as follows:

HVAC – When a unit needs to be replaced, we should always consider the highest efficiency unit available at the time and not simply base our decision on cost. The report notes the age of our current units, and it will not be long before they will need to be replaced with newer and more efficient units. One of the units is 25 years old.

Lighting – All tube lights are being replaced as needed with LED lights. This will be done room by room so there is lighting uniformity in brightness and color and of course will be done over time. Warm spectrum lights will be used throughout the church and in Thatcher Hall. Dimmable lights will allow for higher lumens as needed. LED bulbs continue to improve in quality and in cost savings.

Water – Our Sexton will place ½ gallon full water bottles in each of the toilet tanks to conserve water. A recommended valve change will also be considered.

Cleaning and paper products – In addition to the energy audit of the entire church facility, Creation Care scheduled a product audit from our supplier of cleaning and paper goods. It was determined that we are already purchasing Green Seal certified toilet paper, tissue, and paper towels. Our vendor, Champion Supply, will be providing a dispenser for more environmentally friendly chemicals for cleaning when we exhaust our current product supply.