



**2017 ANNUAL REPORT**  
**of**  
**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**New Bedford, Massachusetts**



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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

As a Christian community, we seek to know, glorify, and serve God.

We do this through:

### **WORSHIP**

by using traditional and contemporary forms of liturgy with prayer and guidance;

### **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

by teaching the love of Jesus Christ through scripture, education,  
and daily life applications;

### **FELLOWSHIP**

by nurturing and supporting each other; and

### **OUTREACH**

by being Jesus' heart, voice, hands, and feet in our community and the world.

We invite you:

Whoever you are;

Wherever you are on your journey of faith;

Come to the table and receive the supper of the Lamb.

## **A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH**

*O God, our heavenly Father, graciously behold this congregation. Bind together its members with cords of friendliness and sympathy. Give us the vision of our common duty to Church and State and make us glad and strong in the doing of it. By all the memories of a great past, rouse us to hear the calls of the present. Grant wisdom, courage, and patience to our leaders, and fill us all with the spirit of loving service; that whatsoever we do in word or deed may be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, through whom we offer this our prayer.*

**Amen.**

## PAROCHIAL STATISTICS

Baptized Members: **661**                      Communicants: **496**  
Confirmation/Reception: **2**                      Baptisms: **7**  
Church School Enrollment: **30**                      Vacation Bible School Enrollment: **20**    Youth Group: **19**

## REGISTER OF CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist:                      Sundays: **148**                      Weekdays: **49**                      Private: **112**  
Other Services: **27**                      Marriages: **1**                      Burials: **21**                      Total Services: **358**  
Average Attendance: Saturday / Sunday Services: **195**  
Wednesday Morning Services: **13**

## THE VESTRY 2017

Senior Warden	Sharlene Begley
Junior Warden	Charles Capizano
Treasurer	Dana Sargent
Assistant Treasurer	Elizabeth Pye
Clerk	Diana Ukleja

### Vestrypersons

Term expires 2018: Michelle Luth, Len Boyce, Robbie Watkins, Sam St. Gelais  
Term expires 2019: Kristen Morgan, Scott Cook, Pat Nieman, Kate Towers  
Term expires 2020: John Evans, Nadine Gomes, Michael Goulart, Ryan Shea

## CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Christopher R. Morck, Rector	The Rev. Andrea Castner Wyatt, Assistant Rector <sup>1</sup>
Brian Roderick, Director of Music	Donna Pires, After School Program Director
Maggie Boyce, Youth Ministry Coordinator	Katie Driscoll, Parish Administrator
Melissa Botelho, Children's Minister <sup>2</sup>	Patrick Victor, Sexton
Liz Sullivan, Children's Ministry Coordinator <sup>3</sup>	

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 12, 2017

The Rev Chris Morck opened the meeting with prayer.  
Chris asked Betsy Pye, Clerk, if there was a quorum; yes.

Chris referred attendees to the Annual Report, published and available for a couple of weeks, and expressed his hope that everyone has read it. Chris welcomed anyone with additional

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<sup>1</sup> Rev Andrea served as Assistant Rector through April.

<sup>2</sup> Melissa served as Children's Minister through August.

<sup>3</sup> Liz joined us in December.

information to speak or anyone with questions about any part of the Annual Report to feel free to ask him, either during the meeting or after.

Chris asked for a motion to approve the minutes of 2016 Annual Meeting; Motion, Second, Approved (MSA)

Chris referred all to the slate prepared by the Nominating Committee, made up of outgoing Vestry members, Wardens and Rector. Copies of the Slate had been posted and published, and Chris read the names of the Vestry nominees. Chris read the nominees for other positions, acknowledging that there were openings for Deanery, Episcopal City Mission and Mission Hub representatives. Chris asked for nominations from floor; there being none, Chris asked for a motion to approve the Slate; MSA

Chris announced that Children's Minister Melissa Botelho is stepping down, though not immediately. She will complete the program year and stay through the summer and VBS. Grace Church is grateful for all that Melissa has accomplished and is actively looking for a person to fill the position. On March 19 there will be a meeting with Church School parents to discuss the impact of change and to prepare.

Chris remarked that, in the past, it was traditional that heads of commissions or those responsible for portions of the Annual Report would read them at the meeting. Instead, Chris welcomed any who would like to update the information in the report, or to amend the report, to address the Annual Meeting.

Fred Smialek spoke about the Trustees of Parish Funds and their responsibility to steward the funds amassed over the years. Fred explained the difference between Restricted and Unrestricted funds and the disbursement to Grace's operating budget. Investments, handled by Bank of America, are in the moderate risk market and are meeting moderate objectives.

The Budget for 2017 will be addressed in a special presentation later in the meeting.

Chris invited feedback on the Annual Report, during the Annual Meeting or at anytime, and asked for a motion to accept the Annual Report as written and place on file; MSA

Chris recognized outgoing Vestry members and thanked them for their service to Grace. The Commissioning of new and current Vestry members followed.

Assistant Rector Andrea Castner Wyatt spoke about the Youth program, identified at last year's Annual Meeting as a Long-Term Goal of the parish. Andrea reported that ten people were currently participating in a retreat at the Barbara Harris Camp; last week, a group of Middle School students participated in a retreat. A challenge the Youth program faces is having enough mentors to allow flexibility; when one is unavailable, is someone else able to step in?

Andrea hopes to build a team of mentors to support and nurture the formation of faith in our youth. Another goal is to make faith a lifelong endeavor, from cradle to grave.

Senior Warden Sharlene Begley reviewed the discussion at last year's Annual Meeting about the Long-Term Goals identified during the Priest-in-Charge Discernment process.

The goal for the Youth program was addressed by Andrea. A second goal is Incorporation, bringing new members as well as ourselves into an active role in the parish. Tools to advance this goal include a census of gifts, recruitment of new members, recognizing new attendees, new membership program. Sharlene suggested a broad focus, welcoming and ministering to all of us. Mary Lou Garrett suggested that, at the Peace, parishioners look for someone new to greet.

Outreach – it was suggested last year that Grace join the Homeless Network; Adopt-a-School; offer Spanish services. What we do offer are a vital Community Breakfast; Food Pantry; After School Program; ESOL classes; Sunset Social suppers; Rector's Discretionary Fund.

In addition, Tom Cabral reported that Laundry Love is receiving a \$4,000 grant from SouthCoast Health Systems, to offer health screenings during the event one Monday each month.

Facilities – Junior Warden Charles Capizano provided an update on the many projects in and around Grace. Charlie acknowledged the greater New Bedford community for its support, including Chase Farm Animal Hospital, Nye Lubricants and BayCoast Bank. Additional applications for sponsorships and grants are in the pipeline for Webster and Santander Banks.

Charlie reported that repointing will resume in the spring; the contractor is diagnosing the rest of the building. Some areas, like behind the organ loft, are buckling and the work there is not cosmetic but necessary. Likewise, the work on the belfry had to be done, even though it raised the costs of the project. Charlie stated that the Tower is completely paid for and, in a year, Grace will be in good shape.

Chris addressed the Long-Term Goal of Fiscal Responsibility with a Power Point presentation. (see separate document and following notes).

Chris Morck asked for a motion to approve the 2017 Budget; MSA.

Chris asked for a motion to adjourn; MSA

Rev. Andrea Castner Wyatt closed the meeting with prayer.

Betsy Pye, Clerk



## 2017 BUDGET DISCUSSION

[A power point presentation was made on the budget, which is not included here. The discussion of the budget is captured in the following notes.]

Using the Operating Budget History slide, Chris reminded the parish members present that, in the past, when the Annual Report included a balanced budget, many times there were actually deficits that were closed through use of Reserve Funds. Since 2009, only two years' budgets were truly balanced, and these were years when Grace was not fully staffed but rather had only one clergy person, or supply clergy were utilized.

As indicated in the slide, in 2015 the budget was balanced through use of TogetherNow / Pastoral Leadership funds. The 2016 budget will be balanced through a combination of Reserve and TogetherNow/Pastoral Leadership funds. 70% of TogetherNow funds are disbursed by the diocese to the parish and 65% of those funds go into the Pastoral Leadership fund. To date Grace has received \$140,000 from this fund. Once the 2015 and 2016 deficits are covered, the balance of these funds will be \$68,561, and we might expect at maximum another \$40,000 which could be disbursed. \$38,000 can be used in any year for ministerial personnel.

Chris reminded those in attendance that the Reserve Fund and the TogetherNow/Pastoral Leadership fund are not replenishable sources of monies. The good news is that Grace Church, unlike many other parishes, has a cushion, though this will be exhausted quickly at the current rate.

With the data on the next slide Chris addressed the Unrestricted Endowment and its impact on the Budget. For some years, Grace has drawn 5% of these funds to support the operation of the parish. With pledges and plate collections supporting 40% of the operating budget, the drawdown of endowment funds has helped us to make ends meet. The 5% draw is calculated on the average endowment balance over the previous 12 quarters (3 years). Significant events or changes will impact the endowment over time; the market disruption in 2008 was felt for some time afterward. More recently, a significant amount of money was withdrawn from the endowment to cover the costs of reconstruction of the lower level and the restoration of the tower.

Over two years, 2015 and 2016, a total of \$1.2 million was drawn down to pay capital expenses associated with the projects. As indicated on slide number 4, the impact of this withdrawal will affect the 5% drawn to support the budget, as the rolling average balances going forward will be reduced; the projected 5% draw in 2019 will be \$204,000, \$73,000 less than in 2015.

The news is not all bad ... thanks to the efforts of Charlie Capizano and others, Grace has received a \$10,000 grant from Nye Lubricants and a \$60,000 grant, payable over three years, from BayCoast Bank. Chase Farm Veterinary Hospital contributed \$25,000. There is a list of organizations that we will approach, and we have materials ready to go. What is needed are

contacts, the names of decision-makers with whom we can meet. Chris asked parishioners to share their contacts as a way to get a foot in the door. We also need a larger team willing to stick their necks out and ask for money. Chris stated that there are people in the community who have never stepped foot in Grace Church but who nevertheless believe in Grace.

Chris pointed out that the Episcopal Church Foundation does not recommend that a parish use its endowment for operating expenses. Grace has TogetherNow funds and Reserve funds that, together, total \$260,000; if we continue to use it, it will be gone by 2019.

Grace Church is facing challenges, but it is financially healthier than other parishes.

Attendance has dropped, but there may be many reasons for this and we will have a clearer picture once the dust settles, literally. The building has been under construction for a long time; with the scaffolding down and landscaping work set to begin, Grace now can face County Street again.

Proactive steps have been taken and will continue to be taken. Two years ago we knew we would have to draw funds from the endowment for capital expenses, though we did not know how much. A great deal of research into comparable parishes revealed that Grace was over-staffed and an assessment was in order. At the time there were three paid positions in the office totaling 75 hours per week: administrative, finance and a part-time assistant. Through retirement and restructuring, Grace went to a single paid administrative position of 35 hours per week and outsourced the payroll process for a savings of \$85,000.

Other changes included a reduction in the sexton's hours (\$4,750 savings) and a change in the audit process to one that is more affordable and diocesan-compliant (\$9,500 savings). Benefits for paid employees were reviewed and adjustments were made. Grace changed to a standard automated accounting system and has realized some savings as well. In addition, a decision was made to use the interest from the Money Market and Reserve Fund accounts as operating income (adding \$3,500).

Now, the office has been re-organized again; with the implementation of the new accounting software, a finance person with expertise in that program was contracted to assist with the transition from the old Shelby software and cleaned up the books. In her professional opinion, Grace's finances should take no more than 8 hours per week. We have outsourced the financial tasks to her at a non-profit rate and shifted the administrative position to 18 hours per week.

Katie Driscoll is in her second week, working Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 to noon and 1:00 to 3:00, and on Friday mornings, 9:00 to noon. These changes have resulted in saving an additional \$15,000. Total savings from the institution of these efficiencies is around \$120,000.

Chris stated that these changes should not impact our ministries. Other areas being reviewed

include the Diocesan Assessment, building efficiencies and green initiatives. Pledges are stagnant, though it is noted that many of Grace's long-time pledgers have passed away. We need to increase the number of pledges and ask individuals to increase the amount of their pledges.

There has been a noticeable dip in attendance that could affect pledges, but it is possible that a family, looking for a church, may have passed Grace by because of the construction. In addition, with all the fundraising for the Restoration Campaign, Stewardship ran an intentionally minimalist campaign. Chris reminded everyone that, if they use envelopes, it doesn't necessarily mean they are pledgers.

Grace is faced with challenges, including reduced income and increased expenses that we can't control. Continuing to cut expenses can be considered, but the next round of cuts could affect ministry. Continuing to draw on our endowed resources is not an option: Increasing income is necessary. Grace's pledge average is lower than the diocesan average – that is good – there is room for improvement.

Grace is busy every day, and filled with people. A long-term rental arrangement could be considered.

The last page of the presentation is labeled Good News and it is blank for a reason. Chris challenged the parish to think about how to fill it up.

Chris stated that he believes Grace can meet the challenge, can continue to grow in a sense of community and as a family, serving our neighbors as well as our selves. The challenges we face are an opportunity to invigorate, create vitality as well as an opportunity to steward, with time, talent and treasure, Grace Church. The Diocese recently released its Mission Strategy, the theme of which is Embrace Bold Change.

Chris acknowledged the tremendous work done on the physical Infrastructure of Grace and thanked Charlie Capizano and Sharlene Begley for their efforts.

Chris addressed a question, asked earlier, about attendance; there has been a great deal of attention spent on other goals, including the restoration of the lower level and the tower, which were priorities then but now are completed. First order issues can now be addressed and, in addition, Sharlene can now dedicate herself to doing more Senior Warden-like tasks, like offering retreats and other spiritual growth opportunities.

In response to a question, Chris stated that the balance of the Memorial Fund is \$12,000.

Addressing funds sent to the Diocese, Chris stated that of all the funds sent to the Diocese, a percentage comes back to the parish: TogetherNow funds the interns and grants and the

access to consultants that Grace has utilized in reorganizing its financial management, stewardship and other areas. The Diocese is a community of 180 parishes, all of which enjoy the same return and access.

In response to a question, Chris responded that there are no cost of living adjustments for ancillary employees.

## **2018 NOMINATION SLATE**

### **Officers**

Senior Warden	Sharlene Begley
Junior Warden	Charlie Green
Treasurer	Charlie Capizano
Assistant Treasurer	Elizabeth Pye
Clerk	Diana Ukleja

### **3 Year Vestry Term, 2018-2021 (four)**

1. Dana Sargent
2. Ruth Jolliffe
3. Kathy Ferreira
4. Judy Knox

### **1 Year Vestry Term, 2018-2019 (one)**

1. Roxanne Garcia

### **Convention Delegates (two)**

1. Anne Gundersen
2. Diana Ukleja

### **Convention Alternates (two)**

1. Mike Blais
2. Allen Decker

### **Deanery Representatives (five)**

1. Billy Boyce
2. Charlene Ryder
3. Claire Morck

### **Episcopal City Mission Representatives (two)**

1. Damian Montague
2. Maggie Boyce

**Mission Hub Representatives (two)**

**Inter-Church Council (one)**

1. Paula Cabral

**Teller (one)**

1. Norma Bossé

## **RECTOR ANNUAL REPORT**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As I was writing this report, I took a look through our bi-monthly Grace Notes newsletters from 2017.<sup>4</sup> So much has happened in the life of our church this last year! I am so grateful to have been a part of this with you, and it is astounding to think that we are now in our sixth year together. I am deeply grateful for our staff, our tremendous lay leadership, our parishioners, and the many friends of Grace. I am grateful for what you do in Jesus' name, and the grace and love expressed through it.

Rather than reiterate what already has been so well-documented in our newsletters and in this Annual Report, I want to highlight two areas which present opportunities in our life together. You may notice that I am uncharacteristically blunt, which should be taken as a sign of my deep care and affection for this community that I am so blessed to be among.

### *Attendance*

In many ways, our parish is in a healthy position. Our membership remains stable, and we continue to have the incredible privilege of welcoming new people into our congregation and the life of this community. Financially there are some positive indicators as well. I do believe that our relationships within the church are strong and, I pray, growing stronger as we continue to reach out to each other. These are all vital parts of true congregational well-being.

Parish health is much more than the "Average Sunday Attendance". It is obvious and undeniably true, though, that our Average Sunday Attendance (which is the yearly average of the attendance at all three weekend services) has gone down. Understandably, concern has

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<sup>4</sup> You can read the hard copies of past issues of our newsletter in the church office or access them online at <http://gracechurchnb.org/newsletters/>.

been expressed about the decline in attendance specifically at our 10am Sunday service (the 10am Wednesday, 5pm Saturday, and 8am Sunday services seem stable, if not growing slightly).

I do not think that this decline is about people generally being unhappy with the church (please do let me know if you feel that I am wrong). And with deep gratitude to our music and liturgical ministry, I know that the decline is not due to our worship not being carried out well!

One factor which I do believe is specific to Grace is the necessary and extensive (and very visible) reconstruction to our church building during the last two years. As one of Grace's neighbors commented to me sometime last year, "Oh, I am glad that the church is open again." She thought that the church had been closed for construction due to the scaffolding which covered the whole northwest face of the building.

If you feel that there are other reasons for the decline, specific to Grace, I would be most glad to hear your thoughts. (I'd be glad for your thoughts on growth as well!)

The decline in attendance also can be viewed within a trend that we share with most other congregations, Episcopalian or otherwise. There are several reasons for this, which I will not explore in depth now. But I'll offer a few examples.

- Sundays are not the "property" of Christian worship anymore. How many extracurricular youth (or adult) activities are scheduled on Sunday mornings now, as compared to the past? Or, even, how many road races are scheduled specifically on Sunday mornings in New Bedford and Fairhaven (at times even access to the church is blocked on a Sunday because of a race on County Street)?
- Churches, just like most voluntary organizations, are in the midst of declining numbers as people generally are less likely to join groups.
- It is no secret that many of us are not the every-Sunday parishioners that our parents or grandparents were. (Some have commented to me how they appreciate Grace all the more because they do not feel judged if they are not here every week.) In general, people who attend church do so less frequently than they used to and this directly affects average attendance.

This doesn't mean that we are resigned to numerical decline on Sundays. Not at all! I do think that we should look at why the decline is happening and think and pray together to creatively

address it.

This also is a propitious moment to highlight that we – meaning the whole Grace family – are primarily responsible for the vitality and numerical growth of this church. This was pointed out delicately during a vestry meeting that we had with Bishop Gayle Harris as she commented to us that, statistically, a far greater percentage of people come to, and stay at, a congregation because of the sense of welcome and community they feel from the congregants themselves.

Hospitality, kindness, and fellowship are the responsibility, the opportunity, the gift entrusted to each one of us at Grace. Your invitation, your welcome, your attitude and actions to everyone in our midst and those outside of our walls *directly* affect the growth and well-being of our parish.

### *Finances*

A good portion of last year's Annual Meeting was taken to explain where we are financially and what has been done to bring us to a place of greater financial health. If you have not seen the PowerPoint presentation given at that meeting, read the summary of that discussion, or read the narrative which was in the 2017 March/April Grace Notes, *you need to do so*. They explain the past, present, and future of our finances, and this is the business of each one of us, in one way or another. If you would like copies, please ask me.

Because of the time and energy that has been devoted to our financial position in the last three years, we now are in the "black" financially. Thanks be to God. Beginning in 2015 through 2017, we pruned about \$240,000 from our annual expenses, largely—though not solely—from cuts in staffing. We are no longer running a yearly deficit and we have a balanced budget.

With this good news, we need to understand that we are in the "red" pastorally. Given existing parish ministry and seeing opportunities where new ministry could grow, we easily could keep two full-time clergy very busy. Even with a full-time priest and a wonderful group of devoted lay leaders, we now are running a deep "deficit" in ordained leadership to sustain and grow our ministry together. This will not be able to continue long-term without negatively affecting parish vitality.

To help address this, we are growing a fund for Pastoral Leadership through monies from the TogetherNow Campaign which is just ending and other generous donations. It is hoped that a combination of this fund and our annual budget will allow us to welcome a second fully-engaged assistant priest in the future.

The 2018 pledge campaign has seen some increased pledging, and that is a good sign. We also saw increases in response to last year's financial presentation. Our hope is that some who have finished their TogetherNow Campaign contributions, and even those who did not participate in that campaign, may explore increased giving to Grace.

I cannot stress enough how important it is for every family in our faith community to commit financially to the well-being of our parish through the support of the annual budget. *Our annual budget makes it possible for the ministries of Grace to function as they do and serve so many.*

Although it might not have the "feel good" sensation that donating directly to the outreach ministries has (like the Community Breakfast or Martha's Pantry), these very ministries *cannot exist* at Grace without the direct financial support of all of us to the church's annual operating expenses. I would be glad to explain this further for those who are interested.

We – meaning the whole Grace family – are primarily responsible for the financial viability of Grace, which enables our opportunities for ministry. For example, I tithe a percentage of my income. Tithing is an intentional decision not based on financial security, but rather from gratitude and God's call to do so. Regardless of each person or family's economic position, every one of us needs to intentionally discern how important this congregation is to us and our surrounding community, to evaluate our financial commitment to Grace, and to give *from the heart*. This makes our ministry together both vibrant and possible.

In closing, I cannot express enough how grateful I am for this community! We are so blessed with outstanding lay leadership and with so many who are willing to give of themselves to see God's goodness made real right here, offering up their time, talent, and treasure, serving one another and our wider community. I believe as well that there is so much more that God is going to do through our community, and there remain so many ways to get involved and engaged. Let us pray that this holy work continues. It is God doing it through us!

Gratefully,  
Chris +



## SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Rev Chris started his Annual Report with "Dear Sisters and Brothers" as he does with many of his writings. It serves to remind us of our relationship with each other. The Grace community is a family, one we have chosen to be part of as we work to meet God's call to us. A family is made up of many parts, each bringing their own gift to the table. I am grateful for all the gifts we bring to the table.

During the past year, we have faced challenges that have forced us to make difficult decisions in order to move forward in a responsible manner. In particular, we said good bye to Rev Andrea in the spring when we realized that we did not have the funding to continue to support a second full time clergy position. At the same time, we also recognized that we are not a one clergy parish. The work we are now doing, both within our own community and in the community beyond us demands the support of more than one full time clergy--as well as the support of all the rest of us. As Rev Chris said in his report, although this decision has eliminated the deficit in our Operating Budget, it has put us "in the red" pastorally. We cannot continue with only one clergy person, but our budget currently will not cover the cost of a second full time clergy without running a large deficit. As presented at Annual Meeting last year, we don't have the resources to cover such a deficit on a continuing basis. Now is the time to talk and plan how we are to move into the future with either a second full time clergy person or, at least, an additional part time clergy person. We need to understand that unless our Operating income increases dramatically, the budget will barely support a second clergy person on a half time basis. We have funds set aside from the Together Now campaign that could cover such costs for a year or so but I personally believe that we should be looking at a commitment of approximately three years with a second clergy, whether full or part time. How do we feel about whether a part time clergy would help us to do the work we want to be doing? I am extremely grateful to Rev Chris for the time and talent he gives to us, but he alone is not the answer. We have much work to do: Let's engage in conversation about how to get to where we want to be. I hope that you will all get actively engaged in this conversation and that sometime later next year we will be able to be joined on our journey by a second clergy person.

Our financial resources are pulled by many priorities. We have a magnificent old building as our home, but it demands much of our resources, both time and treasure. We need to find a balance between the priorities of our physical infrastructure and our personnel needs. I hope you will look at the Operating Budget for 2018 and see the commitment made by the Finance Committee and the Vestry in drafting and approving this budget. More funds than usual have been set aside for the physical campus, recognizing some of the work needed in 2018, including a new Chapel roof and work on or replacement of the sprinkler system. Also note the funds set aside to go into an equity fund to enhance the Together Now monies in order to be able to get out "out of the red" pastorally. We are in a unique position this year to do that since we have not budgeted for a second clergy person this year. Team Property has been asked to develop a five year plan for church maintenance/repairs and replacements. This will help us better budget in the future for the work we know needs to be done. We have the building blocks in

place to move forward on our finances but we each need to look within ourselves to determine if there is more we can do.

I am hopeful that this year we will be able to find ways to talk to each other in smaller groups and get input on the community's ideas on how to move forward. After last year's Annual Meeting I started "Coffee with the Senior Warden". These were held after each of the weekend services. The first round was well attended. I would like to continue them, please let me know if you find them helpful. Or maybe you can suggest a better forum for us to engage in conversation, on a regular basis.

I look forward to the challenges and opportunities in 2018. We will send Rev Chris off on sabbatical in late August and welcome him back in the new year. He will be missed but we are glad he has this opportunity for refreshment and renewal. How can we become refreshed and renewed this year?

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't express my gratitude to Charlie Capizano for everything he has done for Grace during these past four years as Jr Warden. Charlie has been fully dedicated to the challenges we have faced during this time, overseeing the rebuild of our tower and the lower level while carrying out the day-to-day responsibilities of the office. Charlie has brought boundless energy and resourcefulness to those tasks and many others he has tackled during his tenure. Although he is "retiring" as Jr Warden, he has agreed to remain an important part of the Grace team as he assumes the responsibilities of Treasurer. Thank you, Charlie, it has been a joy working with you!

Sharlene Begley, Senior Warden

## **JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT**

As I leave the position of your Junior Warden, the past four years have been a "journey of faith" for me and for our parish. Collectively, we had confidence, conviction and hope as we worked to keep this sacred building intact as a place to do God's work.

A constant theme stated over and over by those who partnered with us was amazement and gratitude; amazement at the dedication of this parish to maintain its historic presence in the community, and gratitude that Grace was willing to sacrifice and work to accomplish this.

What we have done together, and it was together, is a tribute to all in the parish, from those who committed our resources from the endowment, those who generously donated financially in support of the effort, those who dedicated hours of their time to advise in numerous meetings, those who expressed fortitude and encouragement, to those who recorded with technology the progress, and to all who readily did what was asked. Faith comes before the result, the possession of what is hoped for. We have a beautiful tower, a new administrative and youth area and a welcoming narthex. We are almost there.

This year and the coming years will require us to strive toward the completion of the two tiers

of projects outlined at our past annual meetings. With the four sides of the church re-pointed, the restoration campaign will come to a close, BUT that does not mean that everything is completed. We need to address the roofs of the chapel and other areas that need repair and replacement to “seal” the building. The fire suppression system needs attention; this has been discussed in previous reports. The vestry recently approved a contract to replace the air conditioning unit in the church school area which at this point is non-operational. The work will occur in the spring taking advantage of a very attractive low bid. The exterior of Grace House will need re-pointing in the near future. The wooden ramp leading to the library is in poor condition and does not meet the code for handicapped accessibility. These are only some of the “immediate” concerns, and Team Property has prepared a specific list of recommendations which was presented to the vestry at the December meeting.

While we have worked to support the “physical” foundation of the parish, we will also need to focus and to work on strengthening the financial and human components of this foundation. Additional streams of revenue must be obtained from a variety of sources. We have already rented space to the YMCA for a valuable youth program; this must continue. Our space is too valuable to “give away”. We are in the process of developing a model for remuneration for use of our facilities. The generosity of the parish to the restoration was really the envy of the community; in fact it has been expressed by many that Grace is one of the few, if not the only parish, that could have done what we have done, while maintaining our commitment to those who depend upon us. This generosity needs to flow into our general operating budget; we sometimes overlook the mundane, while focusing on the highly visible. We have met many challenges: fortitude has and will bring us through others.

Personally, I would like to express my profound gratitude to all who have made these four years easier, my family and my Grace family. We are fortunate to have steady, thoughtful leadership. Faith will keep us on the journey, wherever it takes us, together.

Charlie Capizano, Junior Warden

## HIGHLIGHTS OF VESTRY ACTIONS

Minutes of previous meetings and financial reports were accepted.

**January 25, 2017:** The Vestry amended the slate of officers to substitute Mike Goulart for Jen Clarke as a new Vestry member and revised the 2017 budget to reflect the costs of accounting support and delete payroll services.

**February 22, 2017:** The Vestry approved spending from the restoration funds for the new Phoenix banner and for repairs to the outdoor signboard

**March 29, 2017:** The Vestry preapproved 2017 expenditures, for the designated purposes, from the following Grace Church Equity funds within stated parameters:

Laundry Love	Bittersweet Bazaar	Restoration Fund
Pilgrimage	Community Breakfast	Youth Program
	Organist/Continuing Education	

**April 26, 2017:** The Vestry accepted the reassignment of the donation of \$7500 for needlepoint kneelers to the restoration fund, and accepted the contract as outlined in the proposal of Avant Gardens dated April 16, 2017 to install the landscaping at the front (West) of the church.

**May 31, 2017:** The Vestry expressed their appreciation for all that the Reverend Andrea Castner Wyatt brought to Grace during her ministry with us and affirmed their gratitude to the wardens for the faithful and engaged way they have shepherded this church during this season of transition in the life of the parish. They approved the expenditure of \$1500 from the Memorial Fund for the repair of the handbells.

**June 21, 2017:** The Vestry met but there were no significant votes. The Vestry does not meet in July.

**August 30, 2017:** The Vestry approved the Deanery Sending Serving grant to support our Community Breakfast; the application to the diocese for a grant to fund the Rector's sabbatical, due to run from September through December 2018; and the facilities agreement with Old Colony YMCA. The facilities agreement, through which Grace would serve as a home base for the YMCA's Adolescent Stabilization Program, was approved pending clarification with the diocese.

A Nominating Committee consisting of the exiting Vestry members, Len Boyce, Michelle Luth, Sam St. Gelais, Robbie Watkins, the Rector and the Wardens was created; and the e-vote approval of the Personnel Manual earlier this month was affirmed.

**September 27, 2017:** The Vestry agreed to allow beer and wine to be served at the Bazaar Preview event on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and at the Top of the Hill reunion scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>.

A gift of \$3000 was accepted from St. Aidan's, and was set aside to support outreach programs.

The Vestry approved the use of \$468.17 from the Outreach Equity Fund to cover a portion of the expense for the food at the Beyond the Pew program, the balance to be covered from the Miscellaneous account. Transfer of the remaining \$1004.54 from the GASSP Entry Floor Equity Fund towards costs to strip and refinish the flooring in the GASSP area was approved, with concern for the cost for the work to be performed.

**October 22, 2017:** The Vestry met with Bishop Gayle; no formal business was conducted.

**November 15, 2017:** The Vestry approved spending \$2700 from the Restoration fund for the relighting of the west face of the church. The 2018 budget was approved with an expected update for treatment of the Bazaar, which will be moved to the Transfers area of the Operating Budget income to facilitate preparation of the Parochial Report.

The Vestry agreed to apply the Personnel Policy restriction on rollover of paid time off (PTO) as of 2018 and to compensate for 2017 unused PTO. Excess payroll funds are available in this year's budget.

**December 20, 2017:** The Vestry accepted the Nomination Slate for the Annual Meeting, scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Several positions remain vacant, for which nominations may be made from the floor.

The Vestry approved acceptance of the lowest bid of \$23,200 to replace the air conditioning in the church school area, with source of funding to be determined.

The GASSP budget for 2018 was approved as amended.

Diana Ukleja, Clerk

## **ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild was reorganized in 2016 by unanimous consent.

The Mission of the Grace Church Altar Guild is:

To prepare for the worship of the Church as directed by the clergy; to provide for suitable furnishing and decoration of the Altar, and to take due and reverent care of its appointments; and to care for the font.<sup>5</sup>

The ideals and general rules governing the Altar Guild:<sup>6</sup>

Participation of equal status on the basis of inclination, talents, ability with consideration for traditional weekend rotation of existing members.

All are called "Sacristans"; the hierarchical titles Directress, Subdirectress, Subdirector, Chairperson will no longer be used.

There is no set number of members, no age or sex limitation to membership. Any member may help with training new members. Patience, understanding and recognition of physical or temporal limitations are required of all members. No rules are written in stone; when in doubt common sense should govern.

Weekend prep may be done on Friday or Saturday, at members' discretion and mutual agreement.

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<sup>5</sup> Retained from the rescinded 1976 Bylaws; Article 1, paragraph 1, 2 and 4

<sup>6</sup> Passed unanimously at the March 19, 2016 meeting of the Altar Guild

All members are invited to help on any Sunday or Wednesday that they are present, and may trade and substitute for others by prior arrangement as needed.

A notebook will be kept in the sacristy to record changes in procedures or as reminders. Any member who is first informed may enter the information as briefly as possible, in this notebook, for any member to consult when setting up. Temporary changes for a specific week would be posted with "post its" on the notebook, to be discarded after time affected elapses.

If supplies are needed, all are invited to inform the sacristan who does the ordering.

Budget submission and monitoring will be the responsibility of the sacristan who volunteers as treasurer, the sacristan ordering supplies, with one other member who may be interested in helping with this. The committee will meet approximately four times a year to monitor expenses and to submit the budget.

Problems should be worked out by the members among themselves, only major questions or problems being referred to the Rector's consideration.

Periodic meetings of the members of the Altar Guild will take place at least once a year when called by the Rector. Meetings for a specific purpose may be requested of the Rector as a need may arise.

Recognition of members of the Altar Guild and commissioning of new members of the Altar Guild will be scheduled on the rota and take place on a Sunday, in the same way that members of other guilds and organizations are done during the year.

The Altar Guild is in need of new members; anyone interested in the details of liturgical preparation, please contact one of the clergy. The existing members are thanked for their loyal service to the guild.

Jerré Croteau, Sacristan

## **BITTERSWEET BAZAAR**

After months of planning and an abundance of support on the day of the 2017 Bittersweet Bazaar, November 4, 2017, \$11,815.00 was raised. Fund disbursements will be approved by the Vestry on January 31, 2018 and announced at the Annual Meeting on February 11, 2018. While many hands helped on the day of the Bazaar, support during the week leading up to the Bazaar was less than needed. At the coffee hour hosted by the Bazaar co-chairs and volunteers on January 14, 2018, there was a recognition that it may be time to think out-of-the-box as we move forward in planning the 2018 Bazaar, to recreate it as an event that may be more appropriate for folks of all ages, or to even possibly split it up into two smaller events. Whatever changes may happen will be discussed as the 2018 Bittersweet Bazaar is planned. Many, many thanks to all who donated items, baked goods, made handcrafted treasures, helped in the kitchen, and came and supported the Bazaar! Special thanks to:

**Mark Jeffrey** – for his untiring efforts in finding treasures and gems to include in the Silent Auction.

**ECW** – for bringing the most delicious cakes, pastries, and breads to be sold!

**Kathy Ferreira** – for her planning and coordination in preparing and serving a most excellent lunch.

**Jean Brown** and the **Youth of Grace** for keeping the lunch crowd happy and well-served.

**Diane and Jim Doe** – for soliciting items for and organizing the Chinese Auction.

**Pam Souza and the Jewelry Table Crew** – for their enthusiasm and fresh eyes in displaying and promoting their wares.

**Zelinda Douhan** – for her ability and know-how in publicizing the event.

**Michael Jodoin** – for his help in unpacking, sorting, and organizing Grandma's Attic. In addition, Michael and his partner John Masson are responsible for turning donated auto memorabilia into a \$2,000.00 windfall thanks to their expertise and Ebay!

**Claudia Settele** – for her coordination and selling the handmade and holiday crafts.

**Eric Jaikes, Brenda and Andy Sylvia** – for their coordinating and selling the delicious Grace Market items.

**Heather Bernardo** – for organizing and selling the fair trade and international items.

Betsy Pye and Trish Morck  
2017 Bittersweet Bazaar co-chairs

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The church school currently includes children age 3 through grade 5. We use a combination of two published church school curriculums. Preschool through grade 3 are using the Holy Moly curriculum. Holy Moly captures the imagination of kids by bringing the Bible to life. Kids walk away from class excitedly retelling the stories they just learned and eagerly awaiting what's next. With Holy Moly kids learn to Discover, Relate, Connect, and Create.

Grades 4 and 5 use Holy Moly's big sister Connect. With Connect, tweens revisit the Bible's greatest stories, uncover major biblical themes, and discover how the Bible relates to their own lives. It's Bible-centered Sunday school with just enough quirky tween humor to get them hooked. In Connect the kids learn by Seeing, Exploring, and Making.

We also use Godly play in the classroom, for special children's services and during children's chapel. Godly Play teaches children the art of using Christian language - parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action - helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

Beyond the classroom the children are involved in monthly children's liturgy where they write prayers, participate in the offertory by presenting the food for the food pantry, and have an up-close view of how we prepare to come to the table for communion. The weeks in between the

children meet in children's chapel to explore the message of the gospel. Several times during the year special services are held especially for our children. These services include Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and the Christmas Eve Crèche service. Don't forget our annual Advent pageant, which has been adapted from Godly Play. The children show us the way to Bethlehem and we are invited to bring our gifts to the baby Jesus.

During Vacation Bible School this summer we learned that everyone is a hero. At Hero Central VBS children were able to "Discover their strength in God!" The Bible tells us to "Do good! Seek peace and go after it!" (Psalm 34:14b) and that's just what we did during the week of August 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Each day 20 children, their youth crew leaders, and adult volunteers explored God word through music, crafts, games, snack, science, and bible stories.

Day 1 we learned that God's heroes have HEART! (1 Samuel 16:1-12)

Day 2 we learned that God's heroes have COURAGE! (1 Samuel 25)

Day 3 We learned that God's heroes have WISDOM! (Luke 2:41-52)

Day 4 We learned that God's heroes have HOPE! (Matthew 4:23-5:12)

Day 5 We learned that God's heroes have POWER! (Acts 2:1-41)

Thank you also to the amazing Youth of Grace, all of our adult volunteers, Bittersweet Bazaar for their generous donation, and everyone who contributed to a wonderful week Hero Central.

Kid's JAM (Jesus and a movie) at Grace, fellowship for our youngest parishioners, continues to be wildly successful. We meet 2-3 times a year and have an attendance of 15-20 children per event. We enjoy fabulous lunches, fun games and crafts, and the care and supervision of all our volunteers. Thank You!

We would like to thank our Grace Church family for their unending love and support of the children of Grace.

Melissa Botelho, Children's Minister

## **COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**

In 2017, the Community Breakfast program took part in the following activities:

- Provided a weekly hot meal and coffee in a safe, secure and friendly environment.
- Distribution of clothing (including winter clothing drives) through donations and youth group
- Distribution of toiletry kits (both through the youth group and through the Carbone church grant)
- Winter clothing drive sponsored by the Blais family and the Boy Scouts
- Distribution of baked goods (courtesy of Stop and Shop) on a weekly basis



- Connecting our breakfast attendees with information on resources throughout New Bedford (i.e. New Bedford Street Sheets), as well as other events happening through Grace Episcopal Church (i.e. Food Pantry and Laundry Love)
- Distribution of wooden crosses, prayer cards and bibles (on request); one-on-one prayers (on request) and communicating with our customers about the various church services offered at Grace, including special events like the annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the community
- Expansion of dedicated volunteers (including non-church members) who participate both monthly and when possible (around weekend work schedules, and other activities)
- Expansion of core volunteers who participate several times a month throughout the year

In 2018, the Community Breakfast program is looking to build on its current activities by:

- Providing our customers with additional access to spiritual resources, so that we can continue to feed not only the body and mind, but also the soul.
- Encouraging our customers to check out one of our church services.
- Mentoring our customers, being there to listen to them and their point of view, each week
- Recruiting new volunteers who have never volunteered at the Community Breakfast

Jim McKay, for the Community Breakfast Team

## **EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN**

### **of Grace Episcopal Church, New Bedford**

In accord with Vestry instructions of 12/21/2013, the Grace Episcopal Church Women's (ECW) organization reports the following disbursements made this past calendar year to our five (5) fields of service, as agreed upon and voted by the ECW members at the 12/21/2017 meeting:

PARISH            \$300.00 – Grace After School & Summer Program  
                       \$300.00 – Grace Episcopal Church Restoration Fund

COMMUNITY    \$300.00 – Neediest Families Fund  
                       \$300.00 – SouthCoast Breast Center  
                       \$300.00 – Humane Society & Shelter SouthCoast  
                       \$300.00 -- SHARE Foundation, Inc.\* (at U-Mass/Dartmouth)<sup>7</sup>  
                       \$300.00 – PAACA<sup>8</sup>

DIOCESE        \$500.00 – Diocesan Youth Leadership Academy<sup>9</sup>

NATION         \$300.00 – Rosebud Episcopal Mission

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<sup>7</sup> SHARE = Society for Human Advancement through Rehabilitative Engineering, Inc.

<sup>8</sup> PAACA = Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction

<sup>9</sup> Previously Approved and Distributed

WORLD           \$300.00 – Society of St. Margaret for work in Haiti  
                      \$300.00 – Episcopal Relief & Development – Gifts of Life:  
  to Purchase 2 Goats and 1 Flock of Chickens

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TOTAL           \$3,500.00

In addition, in 2017 ECW contributed \$50.00 to the Grace Church Memorial Fund in memory of Joyce Bancroft, a deceased member. Lastly, a total of \$678.97 was expended in 2017 for miscellaneous expenses: dues to the Council of Women’s Organizations and 2 camperships for children, Sunshine Cards to members, ECW programs, postage and bookkeeping supplies.

This organization has been in existence for many years and recent membership has remained fairly steady. New members are actively recruited. ECW meets four times a year -- in March, May, October, and December -- for lunch and a program. In March, Melinda Ventura of The Humane Society & Shelter SouthCoast described the history of the local humane society and how her agency operates today. Alicia Porter, a speaker from the Buzzards Bay Coalition, addressed the May meeting, telling about the on-going work of the coalition and the many opportunities the public can enjoy through their aegis in the out-of-doors. In October we hosted Dr. Lester Cory from SHARE Foundation, Inc. to enlighten us about the wonderful work they do on behalf of disabled individuals. Then, in December a musical duet by Katherine Brum on violin and Matthew Souza on guitar entertained us with wonderful seasonal music.

Each member pays for her own lunch and we offer the program presenters a donation of \$100 for their favorite charity. Our meetings provide a venue for socializing, education, and participating in service projects. This last year members purchased and donated toilet articles for women in shelters and hats, gloves, and mittens for patrons of Martha’s Food Pantry. Delicious home baked goods were solicited and provided by members for the church’s annual Bittersweet Bazaar; ECW members staffed the table throughout the day. Additionally, members hosted a Sunday morning Coffee Hour for the parish in November, contributing fruits, cheese, crackers and home-baked pastries.

Currently the following individuals serve as officers of ECW:

Co-Presidents: Priscilla Guillemette and Janet Miranda  
Secretary: Norma L. Bosse                   Assistant Secretary: Janice Baker  
Treasurer: Harriet Shaw                   Assistant Treasurer: Judy Knox

Priscilla Guillemette and Janet Miranda  
Co-Presidents

## **EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS**

Our Rector and the congregation send us forth on our Eucharistic visitations saying "I send you forth bearing these holy gifts; that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup." This takes place at the altar prior to the postcommunion prayer as the Eucharistic Visitors are handed the Consecrated Elements by the Celebrant.

Our Eucharistic Visitors are licensed and trained by the Diocese of Massachusetts and take the Consecrated Elements following a Celebration of the Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present. Our licensed Eucharistic Visitors are Pat Buckles, Louise Kelly, Pauline Roderiques, Charlene Ryder, Joan Swain and Brenda Sylvia.

We meet quarterly to share our thoughts and feelings on our visitations and to discern where our ministry is leading us. Our ministry reaches out to our parishioners and friends of Grace who are unable to attend services.

The Eucharist is also taken to members who are hospitalized. One hundred twelve private Eucharist Services were shared with members of our parish family. In addition to the Eucharist services, thirty-six pastoral care visits were made to parishioners and friends of Grace Church.

Ministration at the Time of Death, Funeral Services and Cemetery Committals were offered during 2017 for twenty-three members and friends of our parish family, including Dolores Thomas, Ronald Parkinson, Norma Ryder, Kimball Baker, Jr., Deolinda Correia, Alvin Mandly, Mildred Beck, Noel Simpson, Hilmar Gundersen, Hubert St. Pierre, Elizabeth Lebeau, Stephen Chase, Marion Jones, Ronald Foley, Sr., Anne Wiley, Alice Spencer, Carl Krueger, Martha Reed, Henry Souza, Joyce Bancroft, Mark Messier, Natalie Phillips and Gerald Huston. May the souls of God's faithful servants departed rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them.

After many years of being a faithful Eucharistic Visitor, Zelinda Douhan has stepped down from this ministry. We thank her for her time, care, and visits to our shut-ins.

It is a joy for all of us to share the Eucharist with our shut-ins. If you know someone who could benefit from this ministry, please let us know so we can add them to our list by contacting Charlene or our Rector.

Charlene N. Ryder, Coordinator

## **FOOD AND FAITH**

The Women's Group at Grace has morphed into a more inclusive group with a focus on living out our faith with respect to the food we purchase and prepare. From Biblical times until now,

gathering together over food has been an essential part of community building and of telling our shared and sacred stories.

Taking the time and trouble, where possible, to use fair trade products, to support local farmers, to prepare more for ourselves than we purchase, to eat more simply ... all these things move us toward that goal, as does every meal we share with family or friends.

Several meetings included outdoor activities ... a saltmarsh walk in South Dartmouth and a tour of the Round the Bend Farm, also in South Dartmouth.

The Southcoast Mission Hub has made Food and Faith a focus this year; they held an initial meeting in April and hosted the meeting at the Round the Bend Farm in December so that interested groups—of whom we were one of many represented—mapped the physical and human assets available to support this effort. Steve Matthews, the Mission Hub Director, will give two sermons on this subject at Grace in 2018.

Local produce was used for homemade snacks and lunch at the December Quiet Day. We hope to continue this practice for other shared meals in the new year.

Diana Ukleja and Trish Morck for the Food and Faith Team

## **GRACE AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAM**

Grace Church sponsors a caring and productive After School and Summer Program for children ages 5-14 years of age. We are licensed for 39 children.

We are a self-supporting program by way of many resources as follows: Private pay, P.A.C.E. Vouchers, donations, grants and fund raisers. The average of private paying students is 60%.

To keep costs at a minimum, we receive a “free” snack program during the school year and both lunch and snack during the summer through the New Bedford School System. We also shop with The Greater Boston Foodbank.

We currently contract with Cross Transit Bus Company to pick up children from school and also provide transportation at the end of day to return students home. (We currently serve 8 schools). Our Group Leader/Site Coordinator is Brittany Dutton and the Group Leader Assistant is Brianna Pires.

This year we received monies from the Bazaar \$1,000.00, Celtic Cross \$2,000 and private donations totaling \$425.00

After School Advisory Board Members: Robin Lopes (Our Nurse), Jean Brown, Dana Sargent,

Paul Sylvia, David King, Judy Knox, Melissa Botelho, and Chairperson Janet Doe. We would also like to thank the office and clergy for their support.

Our hours of operation during the School Year are from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. During vacation time or when school is closed, our hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Please feel free to contact Donna L. Pires @ 508-961-1622 with any questions.

Donna L. Pires, Program Director

## **LAUNDRY LOVE**

Laundry Love Community Outreach, which serves the poor and homeless in our community, continues to flourish. The last Monday of every month we take over the E Z Clean Laundry Center on Summer Street in New Bedford.

- In 2017 we served 501 guests, about the same as in 2016.
- Our guests processed 922 loads of laundry, an increase of 12%.
- On average, each month 42 guests do 77 loads of laundry at a cost of \$450 for the washes, with an estimate of \$52 for supplies, supported by 24 hours of volunteer effort.
- Southcoast Health has sent their Wellness Van several times this year, to offer checkups to our guests.
- For the second year, we participated in the New Bedford Connect program, held in October at the New Bedford YMCA, to connect homeless people to available programs.

We have applied for funds from several organizations and received a generous grant from Southcoast Health Systems again in 2017. We have also received House of Mercy grants from the Mount Hope / Buzzards Bay Deanery. Additional funds were provided by the Grace Church Bittersweet Bazaar and by First Federal Credit Union, as well as individual donations from members of the congregation. We are most grateful for your support.

Additional hands are always welcome. Please speak to any member of the committee if you'd like to pitch in! In addition to the chair, the committee includes Marilyn Saint-Aubin, Tom Cabral, Chuck Cotter, Judy Knox and Diana Ukleja.

Travis Bowie, Chair

## **LAY LITURGICAL MINISTER & ACOLYTE GUILD USHERS' & GREETERS' GUILDS**

At the end of 2017 the Lay Liturgical Minister and Acolyte Guilds are composed of 37 active acolytes, as well as an additional 6 who serve on a limited basis; 23 Eucharistic Ministers, and 5 subdeacons; 5 of the above are Licensed Worship Leaders. There are also 25 Lectors, most of whom are also either Acolytes or Eucharistic Ministers. The grand total of Lay Ministers in all categories is 64. (There are many ministers who appear in more than one category; these are only counted once in the grand total.) Those Lay Minister licenses that were due for renewal in December were renewed with the diocese and requests for new licenses for those who had been trained in the last year were submitted. In addition, within the allied guilds, there are currently 15 Ushers and 26 Greeters. There have been several resignations. There have been 6 new members of the guilds trained and commissioned this year.

Assistant Verger Charlene Ryder and Verger's Assistants Michael Doe, William Boyce, Seaver Boyce, Kimberly Doe and Damien Montague ably continued in their rôles. The Verger is greatly aided by their organizational skills and devotion to duty

Several Lead Acolyte Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers have gone on inactive or semi-active status as they are now in college; they continue to serve a few times a year when home. Four new acolytes were trained, and several lectors or Eucharistic Ministers joined the guild.

Acolytes who consistently have shown leadership ability, participated in training and helped the younger acolytes, have mastered the more difficult functions and have good attendance records are designated *Lead Acolytes*; there are currently 21 active Lead Acolytes.

The Acolyte Guild continues to enjoy the cooperation and support of the Director of Music, the Children's Minister, the Youth and Children's Coordinators, and Acolyte parents, thus reducing scheduling conflicts and facilitating training for those children and young adults who belong to more than one guild or entity.

An article has been submitted and published in "Grace Notes" outlining and describing details of the liturgy for the next two months as well as explaining liturgical traditions and/or innovations here at Grace and within the Church in general. The liturgical bulletin board and outside noticeboard have been maintained so that liturgical services and other meetings and events are posted within the parish in a timely manner.

We are proud of all our Lay Ministers and commend them for their loyalty, reliability and sense of responsibility. Attendance and morale have been good in the past year. We continue in our commitment to make every lay liturgical minister's experience at the altar safe, comfortable and rewarding. We seek to instill in them the importance of their ministry in leading their Parish Family in the worship of God and serving the clergy and other ministers at the altar, both

through their practical functions and their ceremonial duties.

Jerré Croteau, Verger, Director of Liturgical Ministries

## **MARTHA'S PANTRY AT GRACE**

Grace's food pantry lost its founding heart and soul with the September passing of Martha Reed. Twenty-five years ago, Martha started the pantry and she oversaw its growth for over 20 years. She continued to work at the pantry through June of the past year. Her commitment to helping ensure that those in need in the Greater New Bedford community had food to feed their families is now shared by many volunteers from within the Grace community and outside of Grace. It was only fitting that on Harvest Sunday in November we renamed the pantry, Martha's Pantry at Grace. What a fitting memorial to the lady who started an outreach effort that has helped us meet the challenge of helping those around us, it is work that our community finds purpose in. The story of the pantry's inception and growth is so indicative of what one person can do. This work of the Grace community is truly the work of a community of people dedicated to helping others. Everyone brings unique talents to the table. Some serve on Wednesday and/or Friday mornings, some help with twice a month deliveries from the Greater Boston Food Bank, some do our "shopping" during the week or pick up bread donations, some knit hats, gloves or scarves for our clients to use during the cold winter months, and some help with our annual Thanksgiving offering of over 125 meals for the holidays. A sincere thank you to the following for the endless hours they devote to this ministry:

Mary Sweet  
Gerry Lopes  
Bill & Martha Reed  
Frank Perrine  
Norma Dyer  
Norma Bosse  
Bobbie & Bob Ketchel  
Roberta Iglar  
Shirley & Dennis Beck  
Angie Mello  
Chuck Cotter  
Judy Knox  
Tom Lynch

Kingsley Doe  
Charlene Nelson  
Len Boyce  
Frank Carbone  
Jack Whiteside  
Judy Yard  
Ed Luth  
Karen Goulart  
Pauline Roderiques  
Sydney Webb  
Brenda Sylvia  
Dick Greenhalgh  
Ned Hines

Steve Barkhuff  
Fred Smialek  
Travis Bowie  
Ed & Eleanor Begley  
Louise Kelley  
Rosemary Morgan  
Barbara Trecker  
Roland & Harriet Shaw  
Joan Swain  
Sue St Gelais  
Pat Fowle  
Chrissy Green  
Rev G Kenneth Garrett

The danger in preparing a list like that above is that I will fail to include everyone—my apologies if you were not listed; know that your work has been appreciated.

I offer a special thanks to Shirley Beck who quietly assists me with the work of the Food Pantry,

something she has done for many years. She oversees volunteers and operations on Wednesday mornings—every Wednesday of the year! She keeps track of inventories of food so we have adequate supplies and helps direct intake and storage of the twice-a-month deliveries of food from Boston. She is always there to offer assistance and guidance —my sincere gratitude for all she does. I would also like to thank Chuck Cotter who does all our local shopping for items that we cannot procure through the Boston Food Bank. He spends many hours ensuring that our shelves are stocked.

We also have ongoing relationships with companies and organizations and other Grace organizations which assist us with food, funds and other needs:

Southeast Insurance  
Project Bread  
Old Rochester Regional High School  
Cape Quality Seafood  
Stop and Shop Supermarkets  
Friend's Academy  
New Bedford Mother's Club  
Vacation Bible School  
Arabella Insurance  
Stephen & Co



In addition to the above, Shaw's Supermarkets is a tremendous contributor to our program throughout the year. When shopping at the location on State Road in Dartmouth, customers are able to leave food donations for our pantry. During the holiday season, Shaw's contributed over 50 turkey dinners, complete with all the "fixins." Following the holiday season, we are the recipients of their annual Spirit of Giving campaign which helps to stock our shelves abundantly. We are grateful for their continuing support.

Mary Alice and her crew from People, Inc, continue to be a vital part of our work. They work tirelessly on Wednesday and Friday mornings, helping to help stock shelves, bag orders and deliver orders upstairs to pantry clients. They also come for deliveries of food from the Greater Boston Food Bank on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. People, Inc. is a human services agency serving the Greater Fall River, New Bedford and Taunton areas, which provides unique opportunities to people with life challenges. One of those services is vocational training and Martha's Pantry at Grace is one of their volunteer work sites. We are grateful to have these hard-working individuals as part of our team!

The Food Pantry continues to serve Greater New Bedford clients every Wednesday and Friday morning, from 9:30 to 10:30. We provide 3 meals per day, for 3 days, for each household member. Each household is able to come to the pantry once a month. We continue to expand our offerings to include more produce and dairy items. In addition to paper products, we also now carry limited personal care items recognizing that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits do not cover those much-needed items. During the holiday season we were able to provide complete holiday meals to over 160 families in the community. This included parish families, GASSP families and families with the Bristol Juvenile Court system.

We are grateful for the assistance provided by the Grace staff, Rev Chris Morck, Katie and Patrick. Each provided invaluable assistance throughout the past year.

We have been blessed with some new volunteers this year and others have moved on to work on other endeavors. We are particularly in need of assistance on the mornings of the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month when we unload the delivery from Boston. If you think you would like to join the team, once a month or once a week, please let us know.

Your continuing support with donations of food, funds and plastic bags are always needed. All of you are part of our team in some way!!!

Sharlene Begley

## **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

The Memorial Gifts Fund is a restricted fund consisting of donations given in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a person or event, and which have not been given for a specific project.

In 2017 we received a request to reallocate to the Restoration Fund \$7,500 previously donated by the family of Gratia "Topsy" Montgomery for needlepoint kneelers. The Junior Warden contacted the family for permission to reallocate the funds, and the money was then used for two tower stones on the southeast corner, as well as new landscaping in the front of the church.

The second request of 2017 was received from Brian Roderick for funds to repair the three octave set of handbells. Some of the bells were unusable due to broken springs and we had been borrowing handbells from the Fairhaven Unitarian Church when needed. The committee voted to use \$1,500 from the Fund for refurbishing the handbells, and the work was completed over the summer.

The final request of 2017 was for funds to be used to replenish the Holy Oil stock used for healing services at church, in the hospital and in parishioners' homes. The request was in the amount of \$209. Before we released the funds, however, an anonymous donor purchased the item for the parish.

I would be remiss if I did not thank past and present committee members. As I did not make a report for 2016, I would like to mention the 2016 passing of long-time committee member, John Linehan. John was the person we looked to for perspective when we were deliberating a request. I still ask myself, "What would John say?". In addition, Roberta Berry and Paul Sylvia retired from the committee at the end of 2016, and we thank them for their ever-present grace and wisdom.

Having to replace three committee members in 2017 gave me renewed joy in fellow parishioners who said "yes" almost immediately when asked to serve. Thank you for your willing hearts. Those joining the existing committee of Michael Shea, Joan Swain, and Carole J. Johnson were: Lisa Thibeault, Pamela McNamara, and John Amaral.

Pauline Roderiques, Chairperson

## **PLANNED GIVING**

This will be my last report to the parish as chair of planned giving committee, an extremely important phase of planning for the future needs of parish life. It has been my privilege for over twenty years to meet with many from the parish and community as they made estate plans.

It is now time for new leadership for planned giving and consider new ideas and opportunities in estate planning for parishioners and others in our community so they may consider remembering Grace Church in their will.

I am happy to report that Ned Hines has accepted the challenge to chair this committee. A seasoned

Episcopalian, he is well versed in church operations and financial needs and will be willing to sit down and discuss the opportunities and areas in which you can indicate your preference in gifting to the church endowment.

It has been an honor to serve my church in this capacity for these many years and watch the endowment grow to meet the needs of our parish. My best to all!

Bill Reed  
Chair, Planned Giving

## **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Grace Church is blessed to be in a unique position to offer scholarships to college students from the generous bequests of the Eccleston, Heptonstall, Holmes, Menzer, Rapp, Robbins, Teves/Moreau, Tilton, Tripp and McKeachern families. These generous gifts and their prudent investments have enabled Grace Church to offer scholarships each year to assist our parishioners with their endeavors of higher education. The Grace Church Scholarship Committee is pleased to report that the following parishioners were awarded scholarships for the 2017-2018 school year:

**Zackary Beck**  
**Lindsey Bedard**  
**Seaver Boyce**  
**William Boyce**  
**Jonathan Carreiro**

**Alison Frazee**  
**Jared Gammell**  
**Phoebe King**  
**Carissa Mak**  
**Ronni Mak**

**Damien Montague**  
**Madyson Pires**  
**Meaghan Rego**  
**Elizabeth Sylvia**  
**Nathaniel Wordell**

The Grace Church Scholarship Committee members: Colleen Cook, Rob DaSilva, Maureen Decker, Carole Johnson, Ann Kenney and Kristen Morgan.

Maureen V. Decker, Chairperson

## **SOUP KITCHEN**

The “Soup Kitchen,” located at Sister Rose House, 75 Division St., New Bedford, since May 2016, is operated by Catholic Social Services which took over when Sister Rose retired, after she operated Market Ministries with the soup kitchen at Pilgrim United Church. The men’s homeless shelter and the overflow shelter opened on extremely cold days are also at Sister Rose House.

Although the name “Soup Kitchen” remains, it is no longer soup and sandwich; hot meals are cooked on-site by a small staff and served by many volunteers from area churches. Volunteers arrive around 10 am and meals are served 11 am to 1 pm.

Grace Church’s volunteers are Norma Dyer, Lucy Gundersen, Sharlene Begley, Judy Knox, Dyan Martin, Norma Bosse, and substitutes Charlene Nelson and Jeanne Greenhalgh. With the move to Sister Rose House, we are able to alternate our volunteers to serving every other month—generally two persons,

with a third on standby. Attendance varies from 75 to 150 depending on the time of the month and the weather, since most guests walk to the site.

Grace Church volunteers have served since the inception of the Soup Kitchen, many years ago. This outreach is at no expense to Grace Church.

Norma Bosse, Coordinator

## **SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM**

The Epiphany Letters provided by our diocese were made available on the website and in hard copy during Epiphany. The Quiet Day we had planned was sadly cancelled due to bad weather. A successful Quiet Day was held in December, with remarks by Brother John of the Trinity and homemade food which was locally sourced, in support of our Food and Faith effort. Brother John's focus was on our lady Mary as an archetype of faith.

During Lent, we had a lively lunchtime discussion group on Wednesdays, dealing with the life and works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran pastor who opposed Hitler to the extent of participating in a plot to kill him, for which he was imprisoned in a concentration camp and executed. His theology has been passed on to us in his letters from prison.

In the fall, we began a Monday lunchtime Bible study on some of the women whose stories are told in the Old Testament, using as a guide the book *Far More Precious Than Jewels: Perspectives on Biblical Women*, by Katheryn Pfisterer Darr. Following an introduction to the contrasting streams of Biblical criticism, including literary-historical, rabbinical and feminist, the book looks at the stories concerning Ruth, Sarah, Hagar and Esther. The study will conclude in February.

We continued the practice of offering recorded music after the Wednesday morning service in Lent and in Advent. In 2018, we plan to offer the music in the chapel, before the service, as being on the one hand more intimate, and on the other, less disruptive to other activities.

Louise Kelly assisted in preparing the confirmation talks for our young people, and several members regularly participated. We are grateful to the confirmands for allowing us to join them.

Our diocese has formed a Christian Formation network, which we have joined. The network supports formation efforts for children, youth and adults.

Diana Ukleja for the Spiritual Formation Ministry Team

## STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

***“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed” Proverb 11:25 (NIV)***

**“Journey to Generosity”** was the theme to 2018 Pledge Campaign which ran from September 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 29<sup>th</sup>. We were encouraged to think how God has been generous to us and how we have shown our faith in God that He will always provide. With a strong faith, we can give to one another through time, talent, and treasure. Throughout this season, we hoped that you have experienced generosity from others and have shown generosity to others. At any time, we can see this overwhelming bounteousness daily here at Grace Episcopal Church. We encouraged people to identify these acts of kindness and generosity by writing them on paper and placing them in the glass bowl in the back of the church. Several people gave wonderful examples of how we are constantly giving to others and to the church.

Our goal was to have 100% participation in pledging (individuals, couples, or families who filled out a pledge card) for a total of \$220,000. As of January 5, 2018, we have received 141 pledges totaling \$211,410. In the beginning of January 2017, at the end of the previous campaign, there were 141 pledging units for a total of \$199,848. Therefore, we have received the same number of households pledging but with an increase of money pledged by \$11,562! This significant amount of increase in pledged money shows that parishioners here at Grace Church are dedicated and devoted to our ministries and seek God’s call to help their brothers and sisters in need within their community.

By the end of 2017, pledges had increased from 141 to 159 pledges for a total of \$219,248. Comparing this to the total for the current campaign (141 pledges for a total of \$211,410), we have a decrease in the number of households pledging of 18 and a decrease in the total amount of money pledged of \$7,838. The good news is that there are many more parishioners that can step up and give generously by making their pledge for 2018. I believe through God’s help that we, together as a group, can meet our goal of total pledge amount of \$220,000. I am witnessing how people are stepping out into faith and giving more money to help support our ministries here at Grace Church! It is God’s will and all of us together working towards the same outcome that we will achieve our goals to help others in need more than you can ever imagine!

Even though the number of pledging units and total amount pledged are less than last year’s figures, we are blessed to have 16 new households pledging compared to 19 new pledging units from last year. Also, 35 households decided to increase their pledge compared to 47 households from last year. Twenty-four households did decrease their pledge compared to 13 households from last year. Finally, 27 households have not pledged for 2018 who had pledged in 2017. If those 27 people would commit to God’s ministries here at Grace, we would have approximately \$23,000 more to add to our ministries and outreach! Overall, each of our parishioners’ situations are different which can lead them to increase, decrease, or maintain their pledge from the previous year. We continue to support each other and our church through faith in God.

I will leave you with this challenge: Think about your life and how God has provided for you and your family. How can you give back to God what is actually His? Could you increase your pledge by \$5 per month? If the current 141 pledging units would give additional \$5 per month, then Grace's ministries would have additional \$8,460.

I would like to thank our minister, Rev. Chris, and the committee members- Charlie Capizano, Junior Warden; Anne Gundersen, Ned Hines, Terri Nowell, Kate Towers, and Robbie Watkins, and for their dedication and conscientious work over the past year.

Beth Sharp-McKay  
Stewardship Commission Chairperson

## TRUSTEES OF PARISH FUNDS

During 2017, the Trustees of Parish Funds held four regular quarterly meetings to review quarterly performance reports, receive overall economy review information and market analysis and expectations, consider investment recommendations from our portfolio investment advisors at Bank of America/US Trust, vote on specific buy/sell (rebalancing) recommendations and consider any other matters brought before us.

Given the stock market’s performance over the entire year, our portfolio reported its largest gains since 2013 which we take as good news indeed. We continue to recognize the congregation’s interest in maintaining the Church’s varied outreach ministries and their importance in, and to, the greater New Bedford community and we balance that against the foresight of our forebears to establish and maintain the endowment. It has been noted time and again by others that Grace Church is in an enviable position having an endowment of the size it does and, while it assists with capital projects and on-going operations, at the same time, we acknowledge the “push and pull” of our role and assure you that we take our responsibilities seriously; always with the best interests of the Church as a whole as our guide. On to the numbers...

	<u>Unrestricted Account</u>		<u>Restricted Account</u>	
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Beginning Value (1/1)	\$3,334,268	\$3,951,343	\$3,338,117	\$3,251,159
Ending Value (12/31)	\$3,608,492	\$3,334,268	\$3,670,240	\$3,338,117
Change in Value	\$ 274,224	(\$ 617,074)	\$ 332,123	\$ 86,958
Disbursement (Regular)	\$ 209,767 <sup>10</sup>	\$ 230,790	\$ 73,566 <sup>11</sup>	\$ 83,251
Disbursement (Special) <sup>12</sup>	\$ NA	\$ 600,000	\$ NA	\$ NA
Bank Fees	\$ 18,274	\$ 18,080	\$ 18,599	\$ 17,094
Current Yield	1.90%	2.06%	2.15%	2.19%
Total Return	15.52%	7.00%	12.83%	5.84%
Benchmark (GPS Balanced Return)	15.72%	8.37%	12.91%	7.44%

<sup>10</sup> This figure is the amount transferred to the Church’s Operating Account. It comes from being 5% of the Unrestricted Account average balance over the prior 12 calendar quarters. It is then divided by 12 and 1/12th is transferred monthly.

<sup>11</sup> This figure represents funds generated by “income only” legacy gifts that are used to support the Church’s Operating Account. Transfers occur on a quarterly basis. Approximately 50% of the legacies in the Restricted Account are of this “income only” type, the remainder specifically direct their income to support the Church in other ways (for example: outreach, flower fund, scholarships, ECW, church school, music program, Martha’s Pantry, etc.).

<sup>12</sup> This line represents additional approved disbursements such as the \$600,000 disbursed in 2016 in support of the Grace in Community campaign. As reflected by the NA, there were no such special disbursements in 2017.

<u>Portfolio Allocation</u>	<u>Unrestricted Account</u>		<u>Restricted Account</u>	
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Equities	67.6%	61.7%	54.5%	51.2%
Fixed Income	29.1%	29.4%	42.2%	40.6%
Real Estate	0%	4.9%	0%	3.9%
Tangible Assets	2%	2.1%	2%	2.0%
Cash	1.3%	1.9%	1.2%	2.3%

No legacies were recorded in 2017.

As part of the permanent record, attached to this annual report is a listing of legacy gifts, both restricted and unrestricted, together with the market value and percentage allocation of each gift as of December 31, 2017 as well as the investment policies and a report of performance.

**TRUSTEES OF PARISH FUNDS**

Allen D. Decker, Secretary  
Geraldine Perry-Lopes

William I. Reed  
Marcia Anselmo

Alfred J. Smialek

**WORSHIP COMMISSION**

The Worship Commission met three times during the year 2017. The following was discussed:

The rota for Lent-Easter was reviewed and it was decided to use Rite 1 Prayer 2 for the First Sunday of Lent as it matched the Great Litany. The subsequent Eucharists through Maundy Thursday services employed Penitential order, Prayer D. Children’s Liturgy was moved permanently to Lætare Sunday. At the Vigil and on Easter Day Prayer B was used with the Lectionary based Prayers of the People. On Children’s Sunday in Easter Season, an Instructed Eucharist was planned and executed. Prayer C was used for Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, and the summer hours began on June 18.

The Epiphany Festival of Lights was discussed, and a suggestion made that the service could be incorporated into the Sunday ten-o’clock Eucharist on the Sunday closest to Epiphany rather than as a separate afternoon service. It was decided that it would be left as is for now that we would discuss it again closer to the time.

We sponsored a coffee hour together with the choir during Lent.

Healing Prayer on the first Sunday of the month was discussed and it was decided to continue this practice.

General attendance at services was reviewed, it was felt that the lower numbers were directly attributed to attrition due to the death of older congregants whose habit was to attend church weekly; the fact that younger members do not feel obligated to attend every week; the recent increase in outside activities involving youth and children on Sunday mornings directly affects families’ ability to juggle schedules for church.

Summer services were outlined, and it was decided to suspend healing prayers while the principal service remained at 9:00am.



Handbells were sent for repair.

It was decided that, though the announcements are before the service, the welcoming of newcomers would take place at the Peace.

A Spanish Sanctus was authorized for certain times of the year.

The Winter rota was reviewed. It was decided that morning services on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, which is also Christmas Eve this year, would not be scheduled; the three Christmas Eve Evening services took their place. The Fourth of Advent was celebrated at the Saturday service.

A suggestion was made that the Advent wreath be lighted by random members of the congregation. This is already done at the five-o'clock and eight-o'clock services. At the ten-o'clock it has been traditional that it be lit by the youngest acolyte present. It was decided to continue this practice.

There was some discussion regarding conversations taking place in the nave during the service.

It was reported that there were four new acolytes and new lectors, but that we are in need of more ushers as several have resigned. It was also noted that the ushers are the first line of defense if emergency situations arise during the service.

The Youth choir was commended for their excellence this year, especially in view of the fact that many of them take on additional rôles within the liturgy. It was suggested that a forum take place around a choir rehearsal to encourage more participation.

With only one priest, a method of continuing Healing Prayers on the first Sunday of the month at the ten-o'clock service was discussed. It was decided that the Subdeacon and the Verger would distribute the bread at these services while the priest holds Healing Prayers in the baptistry.

The number of leaflets printed for Saturday and Sunday services was reviewed.

There was one resignation from the commission and one new member. The current members are Paula Cabral, Jerré Croteau, Michael Goulart, Rebecca Iglar, Christopher Morck, Patricia Nieman, Brian Roderick, and Charlene Ryder,

Jerré Croteau, Secretary

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

2017 was another great year within our youth program at Grace. We've had 19 youth and 7 adults from the parish participate in our activities and we've had a lot of fun along the way. Highlights from this past year include diocesan retreats, confirmation for 2 youth, participation in the intergeneration trip to Ecuador, 2 youth completing the Youth Leadership Academy and pilgrimage, a ski trip, a pool party, serving lunch at the Bittersweet Bazaar, a Yankee Swap party and spending Christmas Eve morning serving and passing out gift bags at Community Breakfast.

This year has been a year marked by transition, as we saw our veteran mentors, Allen Decker, Kathy Ferreira, and Jean Pitcairn, retire. Also, Sydney Webb, our Life Together intern, was with us for the spring season, assisted instrumentally with our Senior Service, and obtained a diocesan grant to

support our trip to Ecuador. She ended her time at Grace making the trip with us to Ecuador before moving into her second year of Life Together in Boston. We had 8 high school seniors graduate within the Grace community, 3 of whom were involved in youth programming. We had 2 rising middle school students join our group. Two of our youth joined the Diocesan Youth Council in the Fall. We gained Louise Kelly as a mentor, alongside Heather Bernardo and Maggie Boyce for our Fall program.

Our goal for youth group at Grace is to provide a space for our youth to struggle with and grow into their faith. With the support of adult mentors, we seek to help cultivate authentic and real relationships with others where we are able to express and challenge what we believe. We have a fantastic group of young people, whom it is a joy to get to know and support. We are always looking for adults from the parish who would give of their time to mentor, chaperone an activity, and have fun with this group!

We are very grateful for the volunteers of our Vestry who joined us in our new endeavor of “Meaningful Mentoring”, a program seeking to create intentional bonds between youth and adults within our church. For the first season on Meaningful Mentoring, last fall, Diana Ukleja, Michelle Luth, Kristin Morgan, John Evans, and Len Boyce each committed to joining us for one Sunday a month from September to December. The time was spent learning about each other as well as supporting our Christmas Gift Bag project.

For Christmas Eve this year, we were able to fit out gift bags of personal care items, shelf stable snacks, socks, gloves, and hand warmers that 14 of us passed out at Community Breakfast on Christmas Eve morning. We were blessed to receive a matching grant from the Mount Hope Buzzard’s Bay Deanery as well as receive donations of hand sanitizers and cereal bars from Whole Foods Market to make this effort possible. The Sunday School children decorated the gift bags that we used to fill and pass out. We were able to help 68 individuals that morning.

All in all, we had another great year learning to grow and challenge our faith. We’ve strengthened relationships, begun serving our church and the community in new ways, and continue to explore what living a faith-filled life can hold. We are so grateful for the support of our church family, whose generosity and encouragement make our successes possible.

## 2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

	Budget Jan - Dec 17	2017 Actual as of 1/24/18	2018 Budget
Income			
4000 · Operating Income			
4100 · Regular Donations & Support			
4110 · Pledges (Current year)	230,000.00	211,351.00	220,000.00
4120 · Pledges (Prior Year)	2,000.00	985.00	2,000.00
4130 · Plate Collections	40,000.00	63,998.33	50,000.00
4140 · Christmas/Easter Offerings	7,500.00	7,915.86	7,500.00
4150 · Weddings/Funerals/Baptisms	5,000.00	4,570.00	4,000.00
4160 · Flower Donations	2,500.00	2,682.59	2,500.00
4170 · Church School	300.00	126.66	150.00
4180 · Misc Donations	1,000.00	1,486.75	500.00
4190 · Bazaar	3,250.00	2,700.00	0.00
<b>Total 4100 · Regular Donations &amp; Support</b>	<b>291,550.00</b>	<b>295,816.19</b>	<b>286,650.00</b>
4200 · Withdrawals from Funds			
4210 · Restrct/General Repairs	2,500.00	2,599.74	2,500.00
4220 · Restrct/ Instrument Tuning/Maint	2,000.00	1,680.39	2,000.00
4230 · Restrct/ Music	400.00	382.03	400.00
4250 · Restrct/ Church School	150.00	129.50	150.00
4260 · Restrct/ General Fund	32,000.00	36,150.43	35,000.00
4275 · Reserve Fund Earnings	3,500.00	3,784.57	3,500.00
4285 · Sabbatical Fund	0.00	0.00	12,000.00
4290 · Endowment/Unrestricted	210,000.00	209,767.20	185,648.00
4295 · Bazaar Fund	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
4296 · Restrct/Flowers	140.00	151.71	140.00
<b>Total 4200 · Withdrawals from Funds</b>	<b>250,690.00</b>	<b>254,645.57</b>	<b>244,338.00</b>
4300 · Receipts from Activities/Other			
4310 · Building Use	1,800.00	3,890.00	9,000.00
4315 · Misc Income		4,762.63	0.00
4320 · Bank Interest	1,200.00	965.61	1,200.00
4330 · Riley Fund	24,000.00	23,216.00	22,000.00
<b>Total 4300 · Receipts from Activities/Other</b>	<b>27,000.00</b>	<b>32,834.24</b>	<b>32,200.00</b>
<b>Total 4000 · Operating Income</b>	<b>569,240.00</b>	<b>583,296.00</b>	<b>563,188.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>569,240.00</b>	<b>583,296.00</b>	

Expenses

5100 · Worship

5110 · Rector Compensation	90,795.00	90,813.85	90,795.00
5114 · Asst Rector Compensation	75,649.00	38,440.67	0.00
5120 · Clergy Pension			
5121 · Rector Pension	21,246.00	21,246.00	21,246.00
5122 · Asst Rector Pension	<u>13,616.00</u>	<u>6,808.44</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 5120 · Clergy Pension	34,862.00	28,054.44	21,246.00
5130 · Clergy Medical/Dental			
5131 · Rector Med/Dent	33,264.00	32,610.48	35,145.00
5132 · Asst Rector Med/Dent	32,616.00	13,590.00	0.00
Total 5130 · Clergy Medical/Dental	<u>65,880.00</u>	<u>46,200.48</u>	<u>35,145.00</u>
5140 * Sabbatical Expenses			25,000.00
5150 · Clergy Continuing Education			
5151 · Rector Cont Ed	1,000.00	998.58	1,000.00
5152 · Asst Rector Cont Ed	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>855.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 5150 · Clergy Continuing Education	2,000.00	1,853.58	1,000.00
5160 · Clergy Travel Allowance			
5161 · Rector Travel Allowance	800.00	799.48	500.00
5162 · Asst Rector Travel Allowance	800.00	199.48	0.00
Total 5160 · Clergy Travel Allowance	1,600.00	998.96	500.00
5171 · Supply Clergy	1,000.00	1,591.74	2,500.00
5172 · Guest/Hospitality	200.00	34.95	500.00
5173 · Sabbatical Fund	500.00	500.00	1,000.00
5174 · Parish Life	1,000.00	1,277.82	1,000.00
5176 · Track Rack Pamphlets	200.00	254.00	300.00
5180 · Sacristy Supplies	2,000.00	1,682.33	2,000.00
5190 · Flowers	<u>3,200.00</u>	<u>2,834.30</u>	<u>3,200.00</u>
Total 5100 · Worship	278,886.00	214,537.12	184,186.00
5200 · Music Ministry Expense			
5210 · Organist			
5211 · Organist Salary	25,085.00	25,879.34	27,581.00
5212 · Organist Med/Dental	11,880.00	10,551.06	10,000.00
5213 · Organist Continuing Education	<u>500.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>
Total 5210 · Organist	37,465.00	36,930.40	38,081.00
5220 · Substitute Organist	1,000.00	800.00	1,000.00
5230 · Youth Choir Scholarships	800.00	514.00	800.00
5240 · Guest Musicians	1,400.00	1,275.00	1,400.00
5250 · Choir Section Leaders	8,000.00	6,050.00	8,000.00
5260 · Instrument/Tuning Maintenance	2,700.00	2,367.10	2,700.00
5270 · Music Ministry Exp-Other	<u>1,500.00</u>	<u>1,135.13</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
Total 5200 · Music Ministry Expense	52,865.00	49,071.63	53,481.00

5300 · Education Ministry Expense			
5310 · Church School			
5311 · Church School Salary	15,000.00	10,464.68	10,500.00
5312 · Church School Programs	4,000.00	2,946.69	4,000.00
Total 5310 · Church School	19,000.00	13,411.37	14,500.00
5320 Youth Ministries Expense	3,500.00	2,657.81	
5321 · Youth Ministries Admin	0.00	0.00	6,000.00
5322 · Youth Ministries Expnse - Other	0.00	0.00	4,120.00
Total 5320 Youth Ministries Expense	0.00	0.00	10,120.00
5350 · Adult Education/Small Groups	350.00	101.80	350.00
Total 5300 · Education Ministry Expense	22,850.00	16,170.98	24,970.00
5500 · Administration			
5512 · Layworker Wages	46,750.00	36,959.19	36,450.00
5514 · Layworker Med/Dental	15,720.00	12,144.35	13,000.00
5516 · Layworker Pension	4,643.02	1,860.36	2,124.00
5518 · SS & Med Taxes paid by GEC	7,013.04	5,492.84	5,737.00
5520 · Temporary Workers	1,000.00	520.00	1,000.00
5522 · Web Site	816.00	454.80	700.00
5530 · Stewardship Costs	500.00	413.51	500.00
5542 · Printing/Postage	4,000.00	4,166.92	4,200.00
5544 · Print Advertising&Communication	2,000.00	1,690.23	2,000.00
5548 · Office Equipment	1,500.00	1,258.64	3,000.00
5550 · Office Supplies	1,500.00	1,414.45	1,750.00
5555 · Accounting Expense	9,500.00	6,944.95	8,000.00
5560 · Life Together Intern	5,000.00	2,500.00	0.00
5565 · Leadership Formation	1,100.00	534.00	1,000.00
5580 · Payroll Service Fees	400.00	701.86	1,000.00
5595 · Miscellaneous	2,500.00	3,111.40	2,500.00
Total 5500 · Administration	103,942.06	80,167.50	82,961.00
5600 · Buildings & Grounds			
5610 · Church			
5612 · Gas	10,800.00	8,734.27	11,500.00
5614 · Electric	14,400.00	14,912.90	15,000.00
5616 · Water	1,600.00	1,058.55	1,300.00
5618 · Telephone/Internet	5,500.00	5,383.39	5,500.00
5620 · Repairs&Maintenance	15,400.00	16,187.41	15,500.00
5624 · Security/Fire Alarm	1,000.00	700.00	2,500.00
5626 · Sexton Supplies	1,500.00	1,730.01	1,500.00
5628 · Kitchen/Bathroom Supplies	1,500.00	1,067.77	1,500.00
Total 5610 · Church	51,700.00	49,774.30	54,300.00

5630 · Rectory			
5632 · Gas	1,500.00	1,537.56	1,500.00
5634 · Electric	1,000.00	1,002.29	1,000.00
5636 · Water	600.00	578.79	600.00
5638 · Telephone/Internet	1,000.00	1,106.60	1,000.00
5640 · Maintenance/Repairs	2,000.00	741.18	2,000.00
Total 5630 · Rectory	6,100.00	4,966.42	6,100.00
Total 5600 · Buildings & Grounds	57,800.00	54,740.72	60,400.00
5700 · Major Other Operating Expenses			
5710 · Diocesan Assessment	71,384.00	67,856.00	74,634.00
5720 · All Insurance	30,000.00	32,067.50	32,000.00
5730 · Capital Items (Budgeted)	7,000.00	15,865.03	28,556.00
5740 · Annual Audit	2,000.00	1,345.93	2,000.00
5760 · Deferred /Pastoral Leadership	2,000.00	2,000.00	20,000.00
Total 5700 · Major Other Operating Expenses	112,384.00	119,134.46	157,190.00
Total Expense	628,727.06	533,822.41	563,188.00
	-59,487.06	49,473.59	