



2018 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.

GRACE CHURCH GOALS

YOUTH MINISTRY - Re-envision Grace's program for the youth of the parish and the greater New Bedford community and develop an overarching framework for growth and maintenance of the program. This includes: 1) to hire and continuously fund the position of a full time Assistant Rector/Curate with oversight of the program; 2) identify appropriate structure for the program and provide appropriate resources to support it; 3) ensure an appropriate number of program mentors and succession planning for their replacement; and 4) support the growth of our youth outreach activities and involvement in the life of our parish.

INCORPORATION - Increase the involvement of all parishioners in Grace's programs by mentoring their interests and strengths. Continue to grow a new members program that welcomes all and provides avenues for their involvement in the richness of life of the parish community. Develop offerings representative of the diversity of the greater New Bedford community. Improve communication of the parish's organizational structure and needs in all areas including worship, formation, music and outreach, in order to support increased involvement by all.

OUTREACH/MISSION - Expand services and support for the local community and the world as a whole by nurturing the body, mind and soul. Open our hearts and minds to opportunities to continuously fulfill the needs of those who are vulnerable or on the fringes of our society and nurture programs of support. Support and grow, with our time, talents and treasures, existing programs that assist those in need.

FACILITIES - Continue to make capital improvements to provide a safe, secure and efficient environment within and outside of our church buildings for the use of the parish and the community at large. Make major repairs and raise funding for the projects' completion. Develop an ongoing maintenance plan for church facilities in order to conscientiously budget for work required over the coming years. Recognizing Grace's unique position in the community, ensure that our facilities are available, for generations to come, for worship, formation, outreach/mission programs, fellowship and general use by the Greater New Bedford community.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY – Concentrate on bringing our operational expenses in line with our income without a disproportionate reliance on non-operational funds. Better educate ourselves on the church's budget and accounts in order to bring about an improved understanding of the financial resources required to support a congregation with a commitment to its worship and formation programs as well as the needs of those we serve in the community and beyond. Promote discussion of our Endowment and how it can be grown and used to support our ongoing needs.

PAROCHIAL STATISTICS

Baptized Members: **649** Communicants: **487**
Confirmation/Reception: **0** Baptisms: **7**
Church School Enrollment: **20** Vacation Bible School Enrollment: **8** Youth Group: **14**

REGISTER OF CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist: Sundays: **144** Weekdays: **46** Private: **123**
Other Services: **22** Marriages: **3** Burials: **17** Total Services: **355**
Average Attendance: Saturday / Sunday Services: **176**
Wednesday Morning Services: **11**

THE VESTRY 2018

Senior Warden	Sharlene Begley
Junior Warden	Charles Green
Treasurer	Charles Capizano
Assistant Treasurer	Ruth Jolliffe
Clerk	Diana Ukleja

Vestrypersons

Term expires 2019: Kristen Morgan, Scott Cook, Pat Nieman, Roxanne Garcia
Term expires 2020: John Evans, Nadine Gomes, Michael Goulart, Ryan Shea
Term expires 2021: Kathleen Ferreira, Elizabeth Pye, Judy Knox, Dana Sargent

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Christopher R. Morck, Rector ¹	The Rev. Randall Chase, Sabbatical Priest ²
Brian Roderick, Director of Music	Donna Pires, After School Program Director
Maggie Boyce, Youth Ministry Coordinator ³	Katie Brengle, Parish Administrator
Rachel Vaz, Youth Ministry Coordinator ⁴	Patrick Victor, Sexton

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 11, 2018

The Rev Chris Morck opened the meeting with prayer.
The warrant has been published and was referred to but not read aloud.
Chris asked Diana Ukleja, Clerk, if there was a quorum; yes.
Chris asked for a motion to approve the minutes of 2017 Annual Meeting; Motion, Second, Approved (MSA)

¹ The Rector was on sabbatical from August 26th to January 7th.

² The Rev. Mr. Chase served as sabbatical priest from August 26th to January 13th.

³ Maggie served as Youth Ministry Coordinator through August.

⁴ Rachel joined us as Youth Ministry Coordinator in September.

Elections

Chris thanked the Nominating Committee, made up of outgoing Vestry members, Wardens and Rector, for their work and announced the nominees for officer positions and vestry, asking each to stand. Chris asked for nominations from floor; there being none, Chris asked for a motion to approve the Slate; MSA

We have an opening for a youth member on the vestry which we have not been able to fill; Chris appealed for volunteers.

Chris read through the remaining positions to be elected and introduced the candidates. Chris asked for a motion to approve the slate of representatives and delegates; MSA

Two openings remain for deanery representatives, and two for mission hub representatives, for which volunteers are invited.

Chris recognized the outgoing Vestry members, Len Boyce, Michelle Luth, Sam St. Gelais and Robbie Watkins, along with Kate Towers, who has resigned, and thanked them for their service to Grace.

The Commissioning of new and current Vestry members followed.

Reports

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 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.

Stewardship

Beth Sharp, who has led the Stewardship team for four years, noted that the team's focus throughout has been on our mission. Looking at the results this past year, fewer pledges were received, but the amount pledged increased. We currently have received 148 pledges, totaling \$212,810, towards a goal of \$220,000.

Questions:

The destination of monies given in the envelopes for Easter and Christmas was discussed. These monies go into the operating budget and are counted in separate lines for those feasts. Money placed in envelopes marked for either of these holidays is credited to the giver but is not counted toward the pledge. A call to the office can be made to adjust this as needed.

Queries about the amount one has pledged, or the status of one's pledge can be made to the office at any time. Statements are sent several times a year and are calculated by the calendar

year.

In the absence of an envelope, writing the envelope number on the check has the same effect.

With the closure of the Together Now campaign, there is an opportunity to invite members to contribute toward support of a second clergy position.

Final thought: we would all prefer to have two clergy again; it does not appear that the finances support that, as presently constituted.

Bittersweet Bazaar

Trish Morck gave an update on the funds raised (\$11,815) and the disposition proposed for those funds:

- \$2500 towards organ repairs, \$500 of that in honor of Mark Jeffrey
- \$2300 to the restoration fund
- \$2000 toward snow removal and yard maintenance
- \$1700 for new microphones for our audio system
- \$ 500 for a parish intergenerational retreat
- \$ 500 for the Rector's discretionary fund
- \$ 500 for the Youth Group
- \$ 500 for Children's ministry
- \$ 500 for the Grace After School and Summer Program
- \$ 500 for Unidos Para Familias, an organization which supports families displaced by hurricane Maria

There were fewer persons supporting the bazaar than were needed. It is proposed that folks sign up for discussion of the question "What do you envision the Bazaar will be so that you and your family will be a part of it?"

Chris asked for a motion to accept the Annual Report as written and place on file; MSA

Budget

Assistant Treasurer Betsy Pye presented the budget, which is found at the end of the printed Annual Report.

Since last year's Annual Meeting, additional steps have been taken to protect the financial position of Grace Episcopal Church; these have been successful – not only was the projected deficit eliminated, there is actually excess income after expenses!

The Vestry and the Finance Committee remain committed to two essential areas: funding the needs of our building and pro-actively preparing for a second clergy position.

"Major Other Operating Expenses" (p 41, Annual Report) includes \$28,556 in the 2018 budget

toward capital expenses, such as repairs; there are projects in the works and, as always, a need to prepare for the unexpected. Also in this category for 2018 is \$20,000 budgeted for Pastoral Leadership. This amount will be added to the \$126,000 equity fund, which includes Together Now allocations and private contributions earmarked for Pastoral Leadership.

At its most recent meeting, on January 31, the Vestry voted to move the excess income (~\$46,000) into this equity fund. These funds will enable Grace Church to consider a second clergy person, either full- or part-time, from a sounder financial position in the near future.

At last year's Annual Meeting, Chris Morck addressed the unsustainable trend of relying on savings to support operations. Through prudent pruning and pro-active planning, Grace Episcopal Church is in a healthier financial position and looking forward to challenges and opportunities.

As a parish, we have planned for Chris' upcoming Sabbatical in practical ways; each year, funds have been budgeted for and will be available for fill-in clergy (see page 39, lines 5171 and 5173). The pastoral needs of the parish and community will be addressed in Chris' absence, while the Wardens and Vestry will be available to address administrative and other needs.

Senior Warden Sharlene Begley spoke to the funds we are gathering towards support for a second clergy position. Full time funding requires a commitment of \$120,000; ideally, we should be prepared to guarantee support for three years.

Chris Morck asked for a motion to approve the 2018 Budget; MSA.

Restoration

Charlie Capizano, outgoing Junior Warden, and Mark Jeffrey reported on the restoration efforts to date. Charlie presented two additional documents, of which copies were available in the room:

A Summary of Capital Expenses
Concluding Observations

Mark invited those present to rise in acknowledgment of the work Charlie Capizano has done in leading this multi-year effort.

Question: If we collect outstanding pledges, will we be able to complete the pointing of the fourth side of the church, for which the estimated cost is just under \$90,000?

Mark commented that we plan to memorialize the contributions which have been received and invite anyone interested in how this is to be accomplished to be in touch with him, Charlie, or any member of the vestry.

Giving Thanks

With respect to the decline of attendance, Chris believes that this can in no way be attributed to the way in which our worship is conducted. He invited us to applaud Brian for his leadership of the music ministry, Maggie Boyce who is leading our Youth Program, Patrick Victor, Katie Driscoll and Liz Kennedy, in her first year leading our Children's ministry.

Chris pronounced Grace and we paused for lunch.

Sabbatical

Chris prepared a handout on the Sabbatical which was available in the room. It is expected that a Rector will take a sabbatical, not as a vacation, but as a time of reflection and restoration. In our contract, a sabbatical is expected after five years. Chris has been with us five and a half years; he considered taking a sabbatical earlier but decided to postpone it at that time. He will come back afterwards. He will be away for four full months this fall, beginning either in August or September, returning in Advent or the first of the year.

Funding for the sabbatical is a normal part of our budget, and funds are in hand to cover replacement clergy. It is planned to hire a part-time clergyperson. Chris' expenses are covered in part by a grant from the Diocese of Massachusetts and in part out of his own pocket.

Questions:

Will the whole family go? Yes, that is the plan; the details are still being worked.

Will Chris report back to the parish upon his return? Yes, he plans to do so. There will be a formal leave-taking and a formal welcome back.

Senior Warden Sharlene Begley expressed her gratitude that he and we will share this time of refreshment and renewal. We have talked to other parishes about their experiences. The intergenerational retreat to which the bazaar has promised funds is something we might use as an informal send off. It might be a Saturday to be held offsite in the spring.

Chris asked for a motion to adjourn; MSA

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Ukleja, Clerk

2019 NOMINATION SLATE

Officers

Senior Warden	Jean Pitcairn
Junior Warden	Charlie Green
Treasurer	Sharlene Begley
Assistant Treasurer	Roberta Iglar
Clerk	Diana Ukleja

3 Year Vestry Term, 2019-2022 (four)

1. Maureen Decker
2. Travis Bowie
3. Rob DaSilva
4. Ruth Jolliffe

Convention Delegates (two)

1. Anne Gundersen
2. Diana Ukleja

Convention Alternates (two)

1. Mike Blais
2. Allen Decker

Deanery Representatives (five)

Episcopal City Mission Representatives (two)

Mission Hub Representatives (two)

Inter-Church Council (one)

1. Eric Jaikes

Teller (one)

1. Norma Bossé

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

I was baptized at Grace as a baby ... but I don't remember that. I do remember Christmas parties in the Library when Santa would make an appearance, attending Sunday school (some of my teachers included Marie Gardner, Norma Dyer, Peggy Fellouris and Dick Fabio), singing in the choir, being confirmed at Grace and being part of the youth group. I gave the first youth sermon at Grace in 1971, taught Sunday School (2nd grade), got married at Grace and my daughter was baptized at Grace. Grace was an important part of my early life.

When I returned to this area in 2006, I returned to Grace and eventually volunteered at the Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen. I became the coordinator for the pantry and was asked to serve on the Vestry. In the fall of 2014, Rev Chris asked me to become the Senior Warden. For four years I have been honored to serve in that position. Grace is an important part of this phase of my life.

How is Grace part of your life? How are you part of Grace's life? One of Grace's Long-Term Goals revolves around Incorporation, both by welcoming new members and increasing the involvement of all parishioners. There are many opportunities for everyone to be a part of the fabric of Grace. The Living Compass program will allow us to meet in smaller groups and get to better know other parishioners. The choir calls to some, volunteering at Community Breakfast, Martha's Pantry or Laundry Love is another possibility. Even if you have limited time, any of these might fit into your schedule. Did you notice that our Annual Meeting Warrant reflects many vacant positions? Please consider volunteering as a Deanery Rep, Mission Hub Rep or ECM Rep. All of us working together are Grace Church, please join us wherever your time or talents take you

As I look back at the last four years, I am thinking of our other goals, and we continue to take steps to achieve them all: Youth Ministry, Incorporation, Outreach/Mission, Facilities and Fiscal Responsibility. At times, different goals vie for the same resources, whether it is time or funds. Going forward I see us challenged in 3 specific areas:

The need for a second clergy person. As Rev Chris wrote in a letter to Together Now participants in May of last year, we are in the "red" pastorally. A second clergy person is needed to help us sustain and grow our ministry in Greater New Bedford. Our first goal of Youth Activities specifically addressed the need to hire and fund a second ordained position to help oversee the Children's and Youth Programs at Grace. When our finances put us in the position of having to part ways with Rev Andrea, we made a commitment to develop a plan to reemphasize this goal going forward. Our goal is to have the funds for a good portion of this position, for a three-year commitment, in hand before bringing a second clergy person on. Based on the funds in the Together Now/Pastoral Leadership Fund, generous donations from parishioners and the vestry's decision to set aside some of the Operating Income for this purpose, we are getting closer to being able to resolve this situation. If you would like to make a donation to this goal, please speak to Rev Chris or any Vestry member. The fund will

supplement operating income as the funding source for the second clergy person.

The demands of our older building. We have invested a great deal over the past several years to restore our building to "good health". Funding will always be needed to ensure that Grace's buildings provide a safe, secure and efficient environment. The Vestry has committed to this effort over the past several years by setting aside some of the church's operating income for major capital expenses. Individuals continue to make donations to specific projects. This year, we were able to replace the roof over Grace House, a high priority need. The chapel roof is the next major need, either this year or next. There will always be work to be done.

Grace staffing. Beyond the issue of ordained staff, we need to seriously consider our needs for other staff. Four years ago, we paid for 79 hours/week of office staff. That was a drain on our resources and the office support was reconfigured. At present, we operate with 18 paid hours/week of office staff (we are very fortunate that Katie, our Administrative Assistant, is a "wonder woman" and can accomplish so much in that time) and a bookkeeper who works for us for several hours a week. Needless to say, there are a lot of volunteer hours to supplement the paid staff. We need to keep in mind that those volunteers may not always be available. Going into the future, we need to realize that additional paid support in the office and managing our facilities may be needed.

All three of the above challenge us fiscally. When making decisions around our responsibilities regarding our finances, no one challenge can be considered in a vacuum. We need to balance our needs and develop a plan to effectively meet all of them. That plan should consider both short term and long-term needs.

I have served with two dedicated Junior Wardens over these four years. Charlie Capizano skillfully led us through the Restoration effort. And Charlie Green, who is about to start his second year as Junior Warden, has put together—and will maintain—a five-year plan for building work. That plan will help us balance our priorities. And you can always find him around the church fixing something!!

I am extremely grateful for these four years of working alongside Rev Chris. His dedication to Grace and the Greater New Bedford community is amazing. We are fortunate to have him with us on our journey. His integrity and belief in who we are and who we might become are inspiring. I look forward to continuing to work with him in my new role as Treasurer.

Finally, while Chris was away from us on sabbatical, I had the opportunity to work with the Rev. Ran Chase. We were so blessed to have him with us during that time. His wisdom and guidance were truly appreciated. I look forward to continuing to see him around Grace whenever he is available.

My thanks to all of you for your support over the past four years. I look forward to many more

years of working together.

Sharlene Begley, Sr Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

The major effort this year has been the replacement of the roof on Grace House. As part of this work, disused duct work was removed, and the crumbling brick chimney in the South Room was disassembled back to the roof line. The roof work was done by Vaz Construction at a cost \$76,600. The rubber roof on the chapel was applied incorrectly and will also require replacement.

Other work included the replacement of the air conditioning downstairs and assessment of issues with the heating and boilers in the church.

In taking over from Charlie Capizano's capable hands, the current open contracts and contract negotiations were reviewed, and a five-year maintenance plan was completed. The roofs, window trims, re-pointing, and any other potential leaks are at the top of the five-year plan.

The chapel roof was spot repaired by Charlie Green's employees. Repointing was continued on the School Street side of the church and Rodman Hall. The repointing of the north side of Rodman Hall remains to be done.

It would be advisable to create maintenance contracts for semi-annual, annual and bi-annual work that should be done. These include, but are surely not limited to, gutter clearing, industrial kitchen cleaning, grease hood cleaning, grease trap cleaning, exterior power washing, and finding a reliable snow removal contractor.

Our fire alarms failed their annual inspection. A new external fire box with antenna and replacement of the internal fire panel were required. We now have daily testing and constant monitoring by Wayne Electric. On a positive note, in October Fire Department officials inspected the Elevator and the Board of Health inspected the premises and found no problems and issued no citations.

The kitchen hood and duct will be replaced. The new hood system will include an Ansul Fire Suppression System to bring the hood up to current fire code.

Minor maintenance to the Church School area used by the Grace After School and Summer program was completed in order to pass inspection.

The rectory was inspected and needed standard maintenance was performed. The unused 250-gallon oil tank in the basement was removed to increase space in the basement and to eliminate potential oil spill liability.

I would especially like to thank Charlie Capizano for showing me the ropes of the Junior Warden position, and for carrying on with projects when my schedule was overloaded. Thanks to Len Boyce for being my right-hand helper.

Thank you to my wonderful family who have been very supportive and understanding in my donation of time to Grace.

Charlie Green, Jr Warden

HIGHLIGHTS OF VESTRY ACTIONS

January 31st, 2018: The Vestry accepted the report of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) on their 2017 disbursements; see the ECW report for details.

Terry Robinson of Westwood, MA was approved as auditor for 2018.

The Vestry pre-approved 2018 expenditures, for the designated purposes, from the following Grace Church Equity funds within the stated parameters:

Equity Fund	Total Max Expenditure Amount for 2018
Laundry Love	\$6000
Community Breakfast	\$5000
Bittersweet Bazaar	Up to the balance in the account
Organist/Continuing Education	Up to the balance in the account
Youth Program	\$5000

The Vestry voted to apply the excess income over expenses in the 2017 operating budget, largely due to the elimination of the second clergy position, to the Pastoral Leadership equity fund.

February 28th, 2018: The Vestry approved the recommended allocation of funds raised at the Bittersweet Bazaar; see the report from the Bazaar for details.

The Vestry accepted the audit for 2016 and approved the action plan; note that it is usual for audits to run one year behind.

The Vestry authorized continuing repairs to the organ, to an initial limit of \$5000 (of which the source for \$2500 was not at that time specified), pending progress reports from Brian Roderick. The Vestry authorized spending to a limit of \$1000 for ad hoc IT support pending selection of a contracted vendor.

The Vestry voted to increase the Rector's Salary (Total Cash Compensation) by \$815 from \$90,795 to \$91,610 in order to follow the TCC (Total Clergy Compensation) for 2018.

[The scheduled meeting of March 21st was moved to April 4th due to inclement weather.]

April 4th, 2018: The Vestry voted to draw down the Building Fund and the Long-Term Maintenance Fund with additional funds to be determined to cover the costs of the Air Conditioning repairs previously approved.

The Vestry authorized spending up to \$5000 from the Together Now New Mission and Outreach fund to support Living Compass training.

[The scheduled meeting of April 25th was cancelled.]

May 30th, 2018: The Vestry voted to appoint Betsy Pye to the vestry and to appoint Ruth Jolliffe as Assistant Treasurer.

The Vestry voted to allot an additional three weeks to Rev. Chris' sabbatical in acknowledgement for the year's delay in taking it.

The Vestry approved action to fix the fire alarm system pending check into the last time changes were made.

The Vestry voted to combine the Reserve Account and a portion of the Money Market Account into one account invested into a balanced portfolio with a 60-40 ratio. The intent is to realize a greater return, to have complete liquidity, and to maintain relatively low risk.

June 20th, 2018: The Vestry voted to remove the income and expense sabbatical lines from the 2018 operating budget, on the recommendation of our congregational consultant, resolving the difference between the two with an addition to the capital expense line, resulting in a balanced budget.

The Vestry approved the overrun of up to \$400 for track rack pamphlets.

The EVote of June 8th, approving the 2017 parochial report, was recognized

[The Vestry does not meet in July]

August 22nd, 2018: The Vestry approved the application to the Mount Hope Buzzards Bay Deanery for a sending serving grant in the amount of \$4000 in support of the Grace Church Ecuadorian Pilgrimage planned for 2019.

The Vestry voted to place the bequest from the Natalie C Phillips Revocable Trust in the reserve portion of the to-be-combined money market and reserve account.

September 26th, 2018: The Vestry approved the bid from Vaz Construction for \$76,600 to replace the roof of Grace House (including removal of the metal venting system and \$2.50 per square foot to replace rotted wood as needed) and of the small roof over the metal stairs at the northeast corner, and to take the chimney down below the roof lines, using funds from the capital expense line of the 2018 operating budget and another source to be identified.

The Vestry approved the use of \$4200 from the Memorial Gifts Committee to cover the cost of three plaques, to be placed in the chapel hallway, acknowledging donations to the Restoration Fund.

The Vestry voted to open an account with the Diocesan Investment Trust for \$500,000, using \$166,000 US Trust reserve account, with the balance taken from the Bay Coast Bank money market account.

October 24th, 2018:

The Vestry accepted the recommendation of the Trustees of Parish Funds to retain Bank of America/US Trust to continue as Investment Advisor and Management of Grace Church's Endowment.

The Vestry voted to redirect \$1500, given by the Bittersweet Bazaar for Organ Repairs, to Roof Repairs.

The Vestry voted to permit the Bittersweet Bazaar committee to offer complimentary beer and wine at the Sneak Preview event.

The Vestry accepted the report from the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) on the disbursements

from their endowment; see their report for details.

The Vestry accepted the donation of \$4500 from St. Aiden's Chapel and allocated it to the Outreach Equity Fund.

The Vestry voted to spend \$1000 from the Music Outreach Fund for the initial payment to the Gay Men's Chorus for the May 2019 concert. The Boston Gay Men's Chorus will perform at Grace Church in May 2019; a deposit of \$1000 will secure the arrangement. Funds are being raised to cover the entire cost of \$5000, with proceeds beyond the \$5000 remaining at Grace. The Vestry accepted two gifts totaling \$7793.13 designated for Roof Repairs.

The Vestry accepted the recommended Auditor [our current auditor, Terry Robinson].

November 28th, 2018: The Vestry approved the following two motions made and approved at the October 25, 2018 meeting of the Trustees of Parish Funds:

A motion to accept the categorization as noted and update the Restricted Endowment legacy listings was made by Marcia Anselmo and seconded by Bill Reed. On a call for a vote, the motion was APPROVED.

Next, with the categorization and updating completed, Mr. Capizano asked that the Trustees approve the Restricted Endowment legacy categorization and listing as of October 25, 2018. A motion to that effect was made by Marcia Anselmo and seconded by Gerry Lopes. On a call for a vote, the motion was APPROVED.

The Vestry approved the Rev Chris Morck, Sharlene Begley, Charlie Green, Charlie Capizano and Ruth Jolliffe as the membership of the nominating committee for 2018.

[The December Vestry meeting was cancelled in favor of an EVote to approve the report of the Nominating Committee.]

December 21st, 2018: The report of the Nominating Committee was unanimously approved by EVote.

January 5th, 2019: The Vestry approved offering wine and beer at the clergy celebration supper on January 12th, by EVote.

January 11th, 2019: The Vestry approved the Nominating Committee's recommendation of Roberta Iglar for Assistant Treasurer, following the withdrawal of the previous nominee, by EVote.

January 14th, 2019: The Vestry voted to have the Rector, with a small group, develop a revised 2019 budget.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Ukleja, Clerk

ALTAR GUILD

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.

The ideals and general rules governing the Altar Guild:

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.

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 is 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 the clergy. The existing members are thanked for their loyal service to the guild.

Submitted by, Jerré Croteau, Sacristan

BITTERSWEET BAZAAR

The 39th annual Bittersweet Bazaar, held on November 10, 2018, raised a little over \$9,000. Fund disbursements will be approved by the Vestry on January 30, 2019 and announced at the Annual Meeting on February 10, 2019. Stay tuned for more!

Some changes discussed after the 2017 Bazaar were instituted: Grandma's Attic was displaced by a Vendor Marketplace, Upscale Yard Sale and Gift Basket Raffle. While this may not have been the most profitable of adjustments, we did not spend \$300 on a dumpster! We are discussing the possibility of re-instating Grandma's Attic for our 40th – and final – Bittersweet Bazaar. Many, many thanks to all who donated items, baked goods, handcrafted treasures, helped in the kitchen, and came and supported the Bazaar! Special thanks to:

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

Charlene Ryder, Roberta Iglar, Nadine Gomes and Len Boyce for staffing the Counting Room.

Zelinda Douhan and Jeanne Greenhalgh for greeting our guests.

ECW – for delicious Baked Goods, and **Diane and Jim Doe** – for organizing the Chinese Auction.

Kathy Ferreira and crew – for planning, preparing and serving a most excellent lunch.

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

Pam Souza – for promoting the Jewelry Table and **Zelinda Douhan** – for publicizing the event.

Michael Jodoin and Charlene Nelson – for arranging and staffing the Upscale Yard Sale

Judith Almy-Coutu – for soliciting crafters and farmers for the Vendor Marketplace.

Gwen Skinner, Jane Garcia and Louise Kelly – for raffle ticket sales

Diana Bullard and Ann Kenney – for contributing to and selling handmade and holiday items.

Eric Jaikes, Michael and Karen Goulart – for setting up and selling various Grace Market items.

Jerré Croteau – for setting up for lunch, offering tours of our beautiful church and for his constant support.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Pye

2018 Bittersweet Bazaar chair

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

A total of 20 students are enrolled this year in Church School: seven in K-1, taught by Pamela Souza and Mark Bernardo; five in Grade 2-3, taught by Betsy Pye with Patti Bedard and Pam McNamara alternating as assistants; eight in Grades 4-5, taught by Charlene Ryder and Roberta Iglar. In addition, Nadine Gomes and Erin Mingola are “Floaters”, available to fill in and lend extra support when needed.

Our curriculum for Grades K-1 and 2-3 is “Holy Moly”, which consists of a video and craft tied to a Bible lesson or Liturgical Season. Grades 4-5 use “Connect”, which is more Bible-based and includes a craft or activity. In addition, Children’s Chapel during 10:00 service uses Godly Play teaching modules, and several have been added to our inventory this year.

The three classes have joined forces in many hands-on activities this year, from filling baggies with pet treats before the Feast of St. Francis to decorating wooden stars for the Christmas Pageant. A special Christmas banner was hand-lettered and decorated by church school students to welcome families to the Christmas Eve Creche Service.

Additional banners, set out for parish messages, were lettered (thanks, Heather and Mark!) and colored to welcome home the Morck Family and to thank our Sabbatical Priest, Ran Chase.

Ten students participated in KidsJAM following pageant rehearsal on December 15. They made Reindeer Food (thanks, Erin!) and created scallop shell ornaments and Christmas cards for parish shut-ins while enjoying cheese pizza (thanks, Len!) and a movie.

These projects provided opportunities for the older students to assist and guide the younger – whether with spelling or finding just the right color marker – and they consistently rose to the challenge! We are very proud of all our Church School students, and you should be, too!

Charlene Ryder and Betsy Pye

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

The Community Breakfast Program provides a hot breakfast to the homeless and needy in the New Bedford community every Sunday morning. This breakfast is the only free community meal available on Sunday mornings and we typically serve 50 to 70 people each week.

We have a core group of 5 to 7 volunteers who volunteer each week. Another 15 plus people volunteer throughout the year. Some of these are parishioners (individuals and families) while others are non-church members from the community who have heard of our work.

Some of our clients are also volunteers, who want to give back at the breakfast, either with setup (i.e. putting placemats and utensils on the table) to cleanup (i.e. sweeping and mopping floors, cleaning bathrooms and taking out trash and recycling). Some of these client volunteers have attended church services at Grace.

Twice a month we receive discounted or free (when available) supplies from the Boston Food Bank. This includes free eggs and low-cost cereal, ketchup, syrup, pancake mix and sausages. Every Saturday we receive day old baked goods from Stop and Shop (Dartmouth Street location) in New Bedford. These items are free and include breads, English muffins, cakes, pies, cookies and other desserts.

The baked goods are served to our customers with coffee and bread products, when we open our doors at 6:30AM (one hour before our hot breakfast). These baked goods are very beneficial to those who are hungry and/or have missed a meal, as well as for those who just want to show up for the baked goods and then go home. There is something for everyone at our Community Breakfast. We encourage all our customers to take the baked goods home with them. Any leftover baked goods are frozen and given to our Food Pantry, for possible use during the week.

Throughout the duration of our Community Breakfast, we always take the time to listen to our clients. Sometimes, a client just needs someone to listen and perhaps say a prayer with and on other times, we may have a clothing donation (i.e. gloves and hats) to give to a client in desperate need. On occasion, we also use the Community Breakfast as a time for handing out winter coats that were collected during a coat drive on December 2nd, and for handing out toiletry kits (with our youth group) to those in need (which we did on December 23rd). In addition, we also pass out "Street Sheets" and inform our clients of Martha's Food Pantry and Laundry Love, which are both offered during the week (Laundry Love is offered on the last Monday of every month). Finally, we offer spiritual guidance by handing out prayer cards, wooden crosses and bibles on request, as well as telling our clients about the various days and times that church services are offered at Grace.

The Community Breakfast program was supported this year by a Case House grant of \$4500, an Intercity Grant from the City of New Bedford of \$1000 and individual donations of \$1010.

Jim McKay

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Of Grace Episcopal Church, New Bedford

Grace Church ECW members gather for a noon monthly luncheon and meeting the third Thursday of October, December, March and May at the James Arnold Mansion (home of the Wamsutta Club). We are a community of women who give, care and share God's love through mission and ministry as does the National Episcopal Church Women who offer support to all women in their mission and ministry in the world.

We are blessed to receive disbursements from restricted (designated) endowment funds for ECW. This allows us to donate to our five fields of service.

PARISH	Grace After School & Summer Program Grace Episcopal Church Restoration Fund
COMMUNITY	Neediest Families Fund SouthCoast Breast Care Humane Society & Shelter SouthCoast SHARE Foundation, Inc. ⁵ (at UMass Dartmouth)
DIOCESE	Bishop's Annual Fund Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
NATION	Rosebud Episcopal Mission West National Episcopal Church Women
WORLD	Society of St. Margaret's for their work in Haiti Episcopal Relief & Development – Gifts of Life: pair of goats and a flock of chickens

Grace Church Memorial Fund received a donation in memory of deceased members, Cynthia McNaughten and Joan Reed. In addition, hats, gloves, mittens and scarves were collected and distributed at Martha's Food Pantry. We organized and ran the baked goods table at the Bittersweet Bazaar and hosted an after-church Coffee Hour.

⁵ SHARE = Society for Human Advancement through Rehabilitative Engineering, Inc.

The following speakers received a donation to benefit their respective organization:

- Dr. Whitney Green – Buttonwood Park Zoo veterinarian
- Katherine Brum and Matthew Souza – musicians
- Richard Asquino – President, James Arnold Mansion, Inc.
- Nancy Briand – Vice President, Council of Women’s Organizations of New Bedford (of which ECW is a member)

Our meetings offer socialization, education and participation in service projects and are open to guests as well as members.

Currently the following individuals serve as officers of ECW:

Co-Presidents: Priscilla Guillemette and Debbie Clark

Secretary: Norma L. Bosse

Assistant Secretary: Janice Baker

Treasurer: Harriet Shaw

Assistant Treasurer: Judy Knox

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Guillemette and Debbie Clark

Co-Presidents

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

Chris, our Rector, Ran, our Priest, 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 twenty-three private Eucharist Services were shared with members of our parish family. In addition to the Eucharist services, thirty-nine 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 2018 for seventeen members and friends of our parish family, including Christine Gallop, Arthur Moniz, Cynthia McNaughton, Mary Woods, Michael Jolliffe, David Turner, Charles Austin, Doris Tripp, Joan Rodman Reed, Jonathan Rodman Reed, Natalie Phillips, Gilbert Botelho, Barry Botelho, Jacqueline Smith, Natalie Pat Stack, Sandra Sanders and Eileen Ross Mandly. Also, Mildred Blossom and Willis Tripp who we visited regularly died in 2018. May the souls of God's faithful servants departed rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them.

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

Formerly the Women's Group at Grace, this more inclusive group focuses on living out our faith with respect to the food we purchase and prepare. 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.

This was a focus of the South Coast Mission Hub this past year; then director, Steve Matthews, preached on this topic at Grace on the weekends of January 28th and February 18th.

In June, the group met at the Rectory for a presentation from Meredith Wade, a Life Together intern in Boston. Meredith is working with the congregation of St. James, Cambridge, to review their outreach in support of food justice. Her title slide poses the question:

Is food ministry an act of charity or justice?

Like Grace, St. James runs a food pantry. The question raised is whether we are just giving food away, rather than meeting those we help as equals, working toward a more equitable distribution of resources overall.

The phrase "food justice" can apply to the simple fact that some go hungry in a nation of abundance, or to the underlying economics of food production – this is where buying local or raising what you can come into play, but also issues of agribusiness, at home and abroad, and issues of access to food resources. This is not merely a matter of no money to buy food, but also of no place to grow food, and no easy access to affordable, healthy produce. Densely built urban areas don't host a lot of supermarkets, and lower income areas are unlikely to host a farmer's market. Access to good food leads to wholeness and completeness; it is related and connected to racial inequality, as well.

Meredith did a wonderful job of making our visit a conversation rather than a presentation on her work (interesting though that is). She has agreed to repeat her presentation after the 10 am service on Sunday, April 7th.

Trish Morck and Diana Ukleja, 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 five to fourteen. The program is licensed for 39 children. We have provided service for 50 students in 2018.

The Grace After School and Summer Program (GASSP) is self-supporting. Resources include private pay, vouchers from People Acting in Community Endeavors (P.A.C.E.), donations, grants and fund raisers. On average, 60% of students are private pay.

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 eight schools. Our Group Leader/Site Coordinator is Courtney Souza we have one Group Leader, Brianna Pires, and one Group Leader Assistant, Lindsey Oliveira.

This year we received monies from the Bazaar (\$500.00), New Bedford Day Nursery (\$2,574.00, received in December 2017 and applied in 2018), the Episcopal Church Women (\$300.00), and private donations totaling \$400.00.

We donated \$500.00 to Grace Church for toilet paper/paper towel expenses. We also paid computer/internet repairs for the server and floor cleaning/waxing for the Sunday School/After School Area.

The After School Advisory Board Members are Robin Lopes (our Nurse), Jean Brown, Dana Sargent, Paul Sylvia, David King, Judy Knox, Melissa Botelho, with Janet Doe as chair and Kristin Morgan as Vestry representative. We would 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. During school vacation or when schools are closed, our hours are from 7:30 to 5:30. Please contact Donna L. Pires at 508-961-1622 with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
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 2018 we served 618 guests, an increase of almost 25% over 2017.
- Our guests processed 1147 loads of laundry, a similar increase.
- On average, each month 52 guests do 96 loads of laundry at a cost of \$562 for the washes, with an estimate of \$52 for supplies, supported by 24 hours of volunteer effort.
- Southcoast Health has sent their Wellness Van quarterly, offering checkups and immunizations for our guests.

- For the third year, we participated in the New Bedford Connect program, held in October at the New Bedford YMCA, to connect homeless people to available programs.

The Laundry Love program receives no financial support from Grace Church, but we are grateful to individual members who donated \$1675 to the program in 2018, as well as the regular provision of laundry supplies, which we have not needed to purchase.

First Citizen's Federal Credit Union has been a faithful supporter of the program, donating \$1500 in 2018, as well as supplying volunteers to staff twice this year. We received a Bristol County Case House grant of \$1000. The Lodge of St. Andrew, which provided an initial gift when the Laundry Love program began, supported us with a very generous gift of \$6000 this year. We received a donation of \$500 from the Corvette Club, and the laundry owner, Matt Andrade, has added over \$300 to the cards used to operate the machinery this year.

With our finances in good order, we have added water, snacks and warm hats and mittens to our offerings—all much appreciated by our guests. Glaser Glass has again provided us with poster calendars which we marked with the 2019 dates and distributed to our guests in December.

Additional hands are always welcome. Please speak to any of the volunteers if you'd like to pitch in! Volunteers include Travis Bowie, Elle Braddock, Carol Braga, Chuck Cotter, Pat Fowle, Louise Kelly, Judy Knox, Gerry Lopes, Jim Parker, Marilyn St. Aubin, and Diana Ukleja.

Travis Bowie, Chair

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

At the end of 2018 the Lay Liturgical Minister and Acolyte Guilds are composed of 40 active acolytes, as well as an additional 6 who serve on a limited basis; 24 Eucharistic Ministers, and 5 subdeacons; 5 of the above are Licensed Worship Leaders. There are also 29 Lectors, most of whom are also either Acolytes or Eucharistic Ministers. The grand total of Lay Ministers in all categories is 71. (There are many ministers who appear in more than one category total; 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 16 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, and Kimberly Doe 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 23 active Lead Acolytes.

The Acolyte Guild continues to enjoy the cooperation and support of the Director of Music, the Youth and Children's Coordinators, and Acolyte parents, thus reducing scheduling conflicts and the 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 and our ministers and acolytes have responded professionally to changes in some liturgical events. We continue in our commitment to make every lay liturgical minister's experience at the altar safe, comfortable and rewarding, and to instill in each the importance of this ministry in leading the Parish Family in the worship of God and serving the clergy and other ministers at the altar, both through practical functions and ceremonial duties.

Respectfully submitted:

Jerré Croteau, Verger, Director of Liturgical Ministries

LIVING COMPASS

This last June, Kathy Ferreira, Roberta Iglar, and Jean Pitcairn had the privilege of traveling to the Nicholas Center in Chicago to attend a Community Wellness Advocate Training as a part of the Living Compass Program. We spent 3 very full and inspiring days learning about a spiritual program to help individuals and congregations work towards a balance of heart, mind, soul, and strength. We are looking forward to running Living Compass Wellness Circles in our own community in the next year.

MARTHA'S PANTRY AT GRACE

Martha's Pantry, named for our founder, Martha Reed, 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. Over the past 2 years, in recognition that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits do not cover those much-needed paper products and personal items, we now supplement our food offerings with such items.

In 2018, we provided the equivalent of approximately 62,500 meals to those who visited the pantry. Additionally, during the holiday season we were able to provide complete holiday meals to over 175 families in the community. This included parish and GASSP families or individuals. This year we were also able to assist the Haitian Church in Dartmouth with turkeys for their members.

The work of Grace Greater New Bedford is truly the work of a community of people dedicated to helping others. The pantry has been part of that work for over 25 years. Everyone brings their 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 Reed
Frank Perrine
Norma Dyer
Norma Bosse
Bobbie & Bob Ketchel

Roberta Iglar
Shirley Beck
Angie Mello
Chuck Cotter
Judy Knox
Tom Lynch
Kingsley Doe

Charlene Nelson
Len Boyce
Frank Carbone
Jack Whiteside
Judy Yard
Karen Goulart
Pauline Roderiques

Ned Hines	Barbara Trecker	Diana Ukleja
Steve Barkhuff	Roland & Harriet Shaw	Larry
Fred Smialek	Nancy Krueger	Colleen Roy
Travis Bowie	Sue St Gelais	Marilyn Saint Aubin
Ed & Eleanor Begley	Pat Fowle	Ray Lavalley
Louise Kelley	Chrissy Green	Barbara & Richard Bell

My apologies if you were not listed; please know that your work has been appreciated.

As for the past several years, I am deeply grateful to Shirley Beck who quietly assists me with the work of the pantry. Shirley oversees volunteers and operations on Wednesday mornings—every Wednesday of the year! She is always there to offer assistance and guidance —my sincere gratitude for all she does.

I also offer a special thanks to Kingsley Doe, Jack Whiteside and Len Boyce for their dedication over the years. Two times a month, these gentlemen bring their trailers and pickup trucks to the North End of New Bedford to load the food deliveries from the Greater Boston Food Bank and bring them back to Grace. At Grace they oversee the unloading and storing of the food from Boston. Without them, our work would not be possible.

Shaw's Supermarkets are our foremost area partner and a tremendous contributor to our program throughout the year. When shopping at their location on State Rd in Dartmouth, customers are able to leave food donations for our pantry. During the holiday season, they contributed over 60 turkey dinners, complete with all the "fixins" and, following the holiday season, we are the recipients of their annual Spirit of Giving campaign which helps abundantly stock our shelves. We are grateful for their continuing support.

Each year, Cape Quality Seafood in Dartmouth allows us to use their freezers in Nov and Dec when we need to store frozen turkeys and chickens for the holiday season. Our storage at the church could never hold the turkeys and chickens delivered by the Greater Boston Food Bank. For many years the folks at Cape Quality have graciously let us use space at their facility for as long as we need it. Our thanks to them.

We continue to serve as a vocational training work site for People, Inc. A team of their clients continue to be a vital part of our work. They join us each Wednesday and Friday morning when the pantry is open. They help bag orders and deliver orders upstairs to pantry clients. They also come for Tuesday morning deliveries of food from Boston. 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. We are blessed to have their help.

As always, 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.

As happens each 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, time and plastic bags are always needed. It is a team effort and it works because all of us play some part!

Respectfully submitted,
Sharlene Begley, Coordinator

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. The Committee receives requests for funds to be used for a specific use that would fall outside of the budgeted expenditures, or in the case of the Restoration Campaign, in addition to an ongoing project.

In 2018 we reviewed one request from the Grace in Community Committee requesting up to \$4200 to be used to have 3 plaques made acknowledging the donors to the Restoration Campaign. The request was approved by the Memorial Gifts Fund Committee and sent on to the Vestry for approval. The final expense for the work on the plaques came to \$3923.54.

In 2018, there were \$100 in donations to the Fund.

Once again, I would like to thank all past and present members of the Committee for their faithful stewardship of the Memorial Gifts Fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauline Roderiques, Chair, for the Memorial Gifts Fund Committee: John Amaral, Carole J. Johnson, Pamela McNamara, Michael Shea, Joan Swain, Lisa Thibeault

PLANNED GIVING

Through estate planning, you can leave a legacy of blessing and a better future for Grace Church. Your planned gift will ensure that Grace Church will be able to continue our commitments to the community.

By including Grace in your will or trust, you will be joining other friends of the church in the promotion of God's ministries. Support makes a difference and it allows us to preserve shared values and support the welfare of the church and its mission.

We can help you fashion a gift to meet your personal interests and ensure the legacy you envision is a reality. To learn more, please contact the church office.

Ned Hines, Chair

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 2018-2019 school year:

Olivia Barnaby
Lindsey Bedard
Margaret Boyce
William Boyce
Alison Frazee

Katherine Frazee
Jared Gammell
Abbey Luth
Carissa Mak
Ronni Mak

Mia Morgan
Elizabeth Sylvia
Nathaniel Wordell

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

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen V. Decker, Chairperson

SOUP KITCHEN

Members of Grace Episcopal Church volunteer on the second Wednesday of the month at Sister Rose House, operated by Catholic Social Services.

A full meal is served, cooked by staff; the Wednesday regular is Shepherd's Pie, which is very popular! Guests also have dessert, bread and butter and beverages.

Grace volunteers are Judy Knox, Sharlene Begley, Pauline Roderiques, and Norma Bossé. Charlene Nelson, Dyan Martin and Jeanne Greenhalgh substitute as needed.

After many years of dedication, Norma Dyer and Lucy Gunderson have retired from this work, which began at Pilgrim United Church Parish House. The program was founded by Sister Rose, who passed away in 2018.

With the layout of the kitchen and serving counter at Sister Rose House, we are now able to function with two volunteers each month, so that we serve on alternate months, or as needed to cover for other crew. Volunteers arrive at 10 am and leave at 1 pm.

New volunteers are welcome! Come and visit to learn the routine.

Norma L. Bossé, Coordinator

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

The discussion of the collection of essays on women of the Bible, Far More Precious Than Jewels, begun in 2017 with Ruth and Sarah, concluded in early 2018 with Hagar and Esther. A few of us met at Panera's for lunch one Monday a month.

In Lent, the discussion moved to the parables of Jesus, using William Brosend's book Parables in the Conversations with Scripture series. These discussions were held at the church on Wednesdays with a bring-your-own bag lunch.

In September, Professor Emeritus Memory Holloway presented a slide show on images of the Revelation in art, together with an analysis of the major themes of that book, at a parish supper. Memory has agreed to repeat her presentation this year, for what we hope will be a wider audience.

From October through the end of the year, the Wednesday lunchtime sessions discussed Days of Awe and Wonder: How to be a Christian in the Twenty-First Century, a collection of sermons and essays by Marcus Borg.

On December 1st, Brother John of the Trinity led a quiet day (really, just the morning), for which

his theme was the omniscience of God, as shown in the Revelation to St. John. Brother John led us to Revelation through the later portion of Isaiah, Job, Psalm 90, verse 4 (for a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night) and the second letter of Peter.

Recorded classical music was played in the chapel, before the 10 am service on Wednesdays, during Lent and Advent. Thanks to Louise for loaning her CDs of the chanted daily service by the monks at the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge for our use in Advent!

Diana Ukleja for the Spiritual Formation Ministry Team
Rev. Chris, Brother John, Louise Kelly

STEWARDSHIP

Transforming Generosity

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

“**Transforming Generosity**” was the theme for 2019 Pledge Campaign, which ran from September 22nd through October 20th. We were asked to reflect on a time that we have given of ourselves either through our time, talent, and/or treasure to someone automatically without thought. How did you feel after giving sacrificially? Did it feel like it was a choice or a burden, or did you feel good that you made a positive difference in someone’s life? Transformation of ourselves takes time and is a process. When you are able to give freely in both time and monetary form, then you are trusting in God’s path for you and your pledge is no longer a burden, but instead a joyous time.

Our goal was to have 100% participation in pledging (individuals, couples, or families who filled out a pledge card) for a total of \$225,000. As of January 12, 2019, we have received 135 pledges totaling \$209,741. In comparison to the previous year’s campaign in beginning of January 2018, the amount of pledging units was 141 for a total of \$211,410. Therefore, we have received slightly a smaller number of household pledges but with a decrease of money pledged by only \$1,669. Overall, these numbers show 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.

Now, when you compare the final total of pledging units for 2018, which was 153 pledges for total of \$224,200, to the current 2019 numbers, which is 135 pledges for total of \$209,741, we have a decrease in number of households pledging by 18 and the total amount of money pledged decreases by \$14,459. The good news is that there are many more parishioners that can step up and give generously by making their pledge for 2019. I believe through God’s help

that we, together as a group, can meet our goal of total pledge amount of \$225,000. 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 18 new households pledging compared to 16 new pledging units from last year. Also, 38 households decided to increase their pledge compared to 35 households from last year. Only 6 households decreased their pledge compared to 24 households from last year. Finally, 32 households have not pledged for 2019 who had pledged in 2018. If those 32 people would commit to God's ministries here at Grace, we would have approximately \$36,000 more to add to our ministries and outreach! As well, we would surpass our goal of \$225,000 by approximately \$21,000. Overall, each of our parishioners' situations are different which can lead to increase, decrease, or maintain their pledge from the previous year. We continue to support each other and our church through faith in God.

Thank you to all of those who have pledged for 2019. For those who have not yet pledged, please prayerfully consider making your pledge today to support and expand the ministries here at Grace Church. We are all truly blessed to be part of such a generous and gracious church family.

I would like to thank our sabbatical minister, Rev. Ran Chase, and the committee members- Anne Gundersen, Ned Hines, Terri Nowell, and Robbie Watkins for their dedication and conscientious work over the past year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Sharp-McKay
Stewardship Commission Chairperson

TRUSTEES OF PARISH FUNDS

During 2018, the Trustees of Parish Funds held five regular meetings to review quarterly performance reports, receive overall economy review information (including market analysis and expectations), consider investment recommendations from our portfolio investment advisors at US Trust (Bank of America), vote on specific buy/sell (rebalancing) recommendations and consider any other matters brought before us.

In addition, this past Fall, we conducted the first-in-recent-memory review of our professional investment advisory services and invited proposals for such services from interested parties. In response to a Request for Proposals, submissions were received from Trustees of Donations (The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts), Plimoth Investment Advisors (BayCoast Bank), Citizens Bank Private Wealth Management, Episcopal Church Foundation/State Street Global Advisors and US Trust (Bank of America). After vetting the responses, Citizens Bank, Episcopal Church Foundation/SSgA and US Trust were invited for interviews. After completing the interviews, the Trustees and the Parish Treasurer met to discuss the recommendation to the Vestry. The unanimous recommendation to the Vestry was to remain with US Trust. A copy of our report to the Vestry dated October 16, 2018 is attached.

A long sought-after goal was achieved with our decision to place a portion of the endowment into a socially-responsible investing program with US Trust. We decided to place 20% of both the Unrestricted and Restricted accounts into the Socially Innovative Investing (S2I) strategy which only invests in large capital domestic individual carbon-free company stocks. While we are pleased to have taken this step, we will watch closely to see how this investment vehicle performs over a full cycle.

We also played a supporting role to the Finance Committee and the Vestry in their efforts to construct the 2019 Church budget by supplying comparisons of what the Unrestricted account's support to the operating budget would equal at annual rates of 4%, 4.5% and 5% (with payments made monthly) both in gross amounts and net of bank fees.

Lastly, we participated in a comprehensive review of legacies (the individual contributions made to both the Restricted and Unrestricted accounts in the endowment) and their supporting documentation in the Church records. It was determined that 6 legacies in the Unrestricted account should properly be in the Restricted account. So, upon a recommendation by the Trustees, the Vestry approved moving the 6 legacies from the Unrestricted account to the Restricted account and also approved the legacy listing and categorization as of October 25, 2018. The directive to move the funds was provided to US Trust on December 24, 2018 and is expected to occur in early January 2019.

The stock market's performance in 2018 was not what it was in 2017, not by a long shot. The fourth quarter was especially difficult and resulted in a negative performance for the year. That said, because of periodic rebalancing throughout the portfolio, the endowment did not take as deep a hit as it might otherwise have. Because we, and our advisors, know the important role

that the endowment plays in supporting the Church’s operating budget, we are prudently aggressive in the Unrestricted portion of the endowment and more conservative with the Restricted portion. 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 forebearers to establish and maintain the endowment. 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>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Beginning Value (1/1)	\$3,608,492	\$3,334,268	\$3,670,240	\$3,338,117
Ending Value (12/31)	\$3,197,761	\$3,608,492	\$3,380,574	\$3,670,240
Change in Value	(\$ 410,731)	\$ 274,224	(\$ 289,666)	\$ 332,123
Disbursement (Regular)	\$ 186,522*	\$ 209,767	\$ 79,125***	\$ 73,566
Disbursement (Special)**	\$ NA	\$ NA	\$ 19,565	\$ NA
Bank Fees	\$ 17,938	\$ 18,274	\$ 18,441	\$ 18,599
Current Yield	2.35%	1.90%	2.56%	2.15%
Total Return	(6.03%)	15.52%	(4.80%)	12.83%
Benchmark	(5.43%)	15.72%	(4.62%)	12.91%

* 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.

** 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 from the Unrestricted Account in 2017 or 2018. With the Restricted Account, in June, the Vestry voted to remove Together Now funds for Long Term Maintenance and place them in the Grace in Community Restoration Fund at BayCoast Bank. The \$19,565 represented the current value of \$17,955 of Together Now funds directed to the Restricted Account in March 2014.

*** 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.).

<u>Portfolio Allocation</u>	<u>Unrestricted Account</u>		<u>Restricted Account</u>	
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Equities	56.4%	67.6%	46%	54.5%
Fixed Income	32.9%	29.1%	46%	42.2%
Real Estate	0%	0%	0%	0%
Tangible Assets	1.6%	2%	1.9%	2%
Cash	9.1%	1.3%	6.1%	1.2%

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, 2018 as well as the investment policies and a report of performance.

Respectfully submitted this 24th day of January, 2019.

TRUSTEES OF PARISH FUNDS

Allen D. Decker, Secretary
 Geraldine Perry-Lopes
 Alfred J. Smialek

William I. Reed
 Marcia Anselmo

WORSHIP COMMISSION

The Worship Commission met twice during the year 2018. The following were discussed and decided:

Review of Holy Week and Easter Services: The services were reviewed along with the number attending each. Some conclusions were drawn: that the attendance during the Triduum⁶ has been decreasing over the years. The importance of these services in preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection, especially the Great Vigil which is the first Eucharist of Easter, was emphasized. Several suggestions were made and adopted: It was decided by consensus: The times of the evening services will be changed to 6:00pm or 6:30pm, with all being consistent. The color of the altar on Maundy Thursday will remain red, (rather than the optional white,) without flowers. The Evening Good Friday Liturgy take place in All Saints' Chapel. Lenten veiling will be continued; more black veils will be procured for Good Friday. More educational material regarding the importance of these services will be promulgated well in advance.

⁶ The Triduum consists of Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Holy Week.

Epiphany Festival of Lights Proposal: It had been suggested that the Epiphany Festival of Lights be incorporated into the ten-o'clock Eucharist Service on Epiphany or the Sunday nearest Epiphany. Jerré presented a prototype of a leaflet of this proposed combination service. The attendance has varied over the years and last year it had to be canceled because of the weather. The recruitment of over 55 Acolytes, Lectors and Choristers required for this service to return on this winter evening is a grave inconvenience. The service, however, is unique to our parish and is a long-embedded and well-loved tradition and should be maintained. Though some disadvantages were considered, next year, 2019, would be ideal to start this idea, as Epiphany is on a Sunday. It was decided by consensus: The Epiphany Festival of Lights, with its readings and music intact, and including Holy Eucharist, will be incorporated into the ten-o'clock service on Epiphany 2019.

Proposal for timing of Lessons and Carols and the Children's Christmas Pageant: Brian suggested that the two events not take place on the same Sunday next year; that Lessons & Carols be on the 16th of December and the Pageant on the 23rd. It was then suggested that the Pageant be moved to the Christmas Season, on the First Sunday of Christmas, the Children are out of school at that point and it might increase attendance on what is usually a "low" Sunday. Chris will consult with the Children's Minister. It was decided by consensus: The Children's Christmas Pageant will be moved next year to the First Sunday of Christmas, pending Chris' consultation with Children's Ministry, and the 23rd be an alternative. (This was later rescinded; the Pageant was returned to Gaudete Sunday.)

Summer Services: June 3 is the last Sunday for the Adult Choir. It is the service at which Senior Youth Recognition takes place and this year incorporates two baptisms. June 10 will be Sunday, Children's Eucharist & School Recognition, the last Sunday for the Youth Choir. June 17, we move to the Cary Altar with one service at 9:00am through September 2. It was decided by consensus: There will not be an alternation between Rite I and Rite II in the Summer, Rite II Eucharistic Prayer A, Prayers of the People Form VI will be used throughout the Summer (with the exception of the two Children's Sundays (June 10 and August 12.)

Coffee Hour: It was decided by consensus: The Coffee Hour on May 6 will be hosted by our Commission.

Cassocks & Cottas: It is felt that the choir, and in particular the Youth Choir, are in need of new vestments. It was suggested that the Youth Choir use the same color vestments as the Acolytes, which would make them interchangeable when they frequently have to perform both duties in the same service, as well as simplify vestiture in general. It was decided by consensus: The Youth Choir and Acolytes will use the same vestments when new vestments can be procured; and a letter requesting funds from the Memorial Fund Committee be sent to them.

Review of Rota September through January 6: Jerré reviewed the significant liturgical events for the entire time of Chris' Sabbatical.

Boston Gay Men's Chorus concert in May: Brian presented the possibility of a concert in May. The BGMC approached him regarding a concert in the Spring. The concert would occur in the afternoon of Sunday, May 19, 2019. The cost is \$5,000, with a deposit of \$1,000. In the past the chorus has contributed a portion of the fee a local LBGT group. The music will be secular in nature. The chorus requires time on the day of the concert for rehearsal and asked that a light snack be provided. Chris Morck has already approved the building use and was fully informed of this undertaking before leaving for his sabbatical. By consensus the Commission voted to sponsor this concert with ticket prices of \$15.00 (10.00 for seniors and students).

Choir & Lay Ministry: Brian is actively recruiting for the choir. Two of the section leader positions need to be filled and Brian is following up on leads for these and other choir positions. Jerré has lost several lay ministers and is recruiting for Acolytes, Ushers and Eucharistic Ministers (particularly Youth LEMs). Letters have sent to the parents of potential acolytes. And Jerré will follow up. Both Brian and Jerré will make a recruitment announcement at the 10-o'clock service on Homecoming Sunday.

The current members are Paula Cabral, Jerré Croteau, Michael Goulart, Roberta Iglar, Christopher Morck, Patricia Nieman, Brian Roderick, and Charlene Ryder,

Respectfully submitted
Jerré Croteau, Secretary

YOUTH AND CHILDREN COMMISSION

The Children and Youth Commission is currently made up of Kathy Ferreira, Roberta Iglar, Betsy Pye, Charlene Ryder, Paula Cabral, Cindy Shea, Jean Pitcairn, Caroline Blais, Maggie Boyce, and Heather Bernardo. We meet monthly to co-ordinate the Children and Youth program calendar and events. This last year has been very busy with both the children and youth programs being run entirely by volunteers. Thanks to the volunteer oversight of this group we have helped to support the classrooms, the special events, the curriculum needs, VBS, and more. We look forward to the excellent energy and vision of this group of caring congregants.

Respectfully submitted
Jean Pitcairn

YOUTH MINISTRY

This last year has been another wonderful year for the youth at Grace. Youth coordinator, Maggie Boyce, and mentors Heather Bernardo, and Jackie L'Hereaux helped to make the 2017-2018 year very successful. With the continued use of the Meaningful Mentoring program youth and vestry members spent time getting to know each other and learn about each other. We handed out much needed supplies and personal items to the Community Breakfast participants, both at Christmas and Easter. The 2018 year started off with a movie night and pizza, followed by a great zip-lining trip. We continued our fundraising efforts with our parish Spring brunch, which was open to all, but a voluntary donation was appreciated. Fall brought another great round of apple pie making. We look forward to another fulfilling year of youth growth and experiencing God in our lives and growth in our community together.

A final note, we had a gathering in the Spring to determine the way forward for our youth program. There was a committed and overwhelmingly positive response from the congregation that has brought us the gift of a talented set of mentors for 2018-2019 – new to us are Roxanne Garcia, Seaver Boyce, and Jesse Rodriques, who are joined by returning mentors Heather Bernardo and Jackie L'Hereaux. We are grateful for their presence in the lives of our youth.

We look forward to a confirmation class and a Right 13 program in the next season.

Respectfully submitted
Jean Pitcairn