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Nominating Committee 2011 Annual Report

2011 Nominating Committee Members:

Julie Grossman (Chair), Jim Davis, Chris Kurth, Elizabeth Kaul, Harriet Foiles,
Lucy Ryan, Clark Davis

Grace's Nominating Committee members are appointed by the Rector, not more than four of whom shall be members of the Vestry whose terms will expire at the next annual meeting. The Nominating Committee's duties are defined in our parish By-Laws:

ARTICLE VII, DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

Section 5. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a single slate of candidates at least equal in number to the Vestry terms which will expire at the next annual meeting, and a single slate of candidates for delegates and alternate delegates to be elected at the annual meeting with the full understanding that any member of the Parish may nominate other candidates for the Vestry or the position of Diocesan delegate or alternate delegate from the floor at the annual meeting.

This year's Nominating Committee began meeting in November 2011 to put together a slate of nominees for election to the Vestry (Kurt Feigley, Pam Fitzgerald, Melissa Hensley, Philip Morrow) and one Alternate Delegate to Diocesan Convention (Roy Pennington). **The nominees' biographical information is on pages 3 and 4.**

Duties and responsibilities of the Vestry are also defined in our parish By-Laws:

ARTICLE III, VESTRY AND OFFICERS OF THE PARISH AND VESTRY

Section 1. The Vestry shall consist of not less than three, nor more than thirteen members, the number to be determined by the Parish meeting for each year; provided, however, that notice of any proposed change of the existing number shall be duly given at least thirty days previously by the person officiating at a regular Sunday service. Each Vestry member shall be elected to serve for a term of three years. The terms of said members shall be staggered so that five members shall be elected in one year and four members shall be elected in each of the next two succeeding years. No Vestry member who has served three successive years shall be eligible for reelection until the expiration of one year. Each Vestry member shall be a confirmed member of the Parish and otherwise qualified as provided by the Canons. To be a qualified member eligible for election to the Vestry, the member must be regular in attendance and committed to the parish financially (known to the Treasurer). Once elected to the Vestry, it is understood that through education and prayer, the member will commit to proportional giving and strengthen his/her financial commitment through a pledge.

Section 5. Vestry members and officers shall continue in office until the successors are selected and qualified. Any vacancy happening in the Vestry shall be filled by election by the remaining Vestry members, and such replacement shall serve for the remainder of the term for which elected.

Expectations for Vestry members are set forth in the Vestry Covenant, as follows:

I pledge to my fellow Vestry members that I will:

- faithfully attend Sunday worship and, to a reasonable extent, fully participate in the life and ministry of the parish.
- attend all meetings of the Vestry, realizing that three or more absences at regularly scheduled meetings within a twelve month period may result in the Vestry asking for my resignation.
- prepare for each Vestry meeting by reading over the agenda, minutes from the previous meeting, Ministry reports and other data pertinent to each meeting, contacting the appropriate staff person for any clarifications prior to the meeting.
- value the diversity of opinion and give every member of the Vestry their due respect.
- honor each member of the Vestry by practicing attentive listening, refraining from distracting talk when others are speaking.
- cooperate with Robert's Rules of Order in regard to speaking once on a given topic until every member has had an opportunity to speak.
- strive to actively participate in discussions and decisions by the Vestry.
- participate in the Ministry assigned to me by the Rector and Wardens.
- insure the Ministry I represent (am liaison to) submits to the parish office any reports to the Vestry ten days prior to the scheduled meeting.
- exhibit my treasure support to the parish by committing to proportional giving and strengthening my commitment through a pledge.
- offer a listening presence to all members of the parish.
- offer public support and information regarding decisions made by the Vestry.

In addition vestry members must meet diocesan requirements for vestry development:

- i. Participate in diocesan Safeguarding God's Children workshop,
- ii. Participate in diocesan Dismantling Discrimination workshop,
- iii. Annually review and agree to follow Diocesan Sexual Harassment Policy, and
- iv. Participate in the Diocesan Leadership Conference (Feb or March)

Expectations for Convention Delegates and Alternates are to:

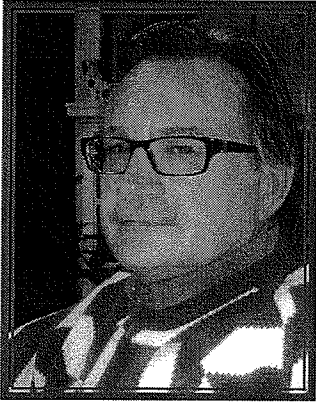
- Attend quarterly Metro III Meetings
- Attend the Diocesan Convention
- Report to the Vestry following Metro III Meetings
- Report to the Vestry following the Diocesan Convention



2012 Nominees for Vestry and Delegates

Nominees for Vestry (four):

Kurt Feigley



I began attending Grace Episcopal in the fall of 2005 after relocating to Kirkwood from New Orleans. I was baptized at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Biloxi and confirmed at St Philip's Episcopal in Algiers (New Orleans). I was attracted to Grace Church by the warm reception from Grace parishioners during visitation in 2005.

In New Orleans I was a volunteer with St Philip's Boy Scout troop and the Boy Scout Jamboree Committee. Here at Grace I serve as an usher and previously volunteered with the Boy Scout Venture and Sunday school programs.

My interest in Grace is in the development and growth of programs to attract youth and young adults, as well as programs that serve the local community.

I am an insurance agent with AAA Insurance, licensed in auto, home, life and health, and a member of Kirkwood Chamber of Commerce. Prior to moving to Kirkwood, I was employed by the National Safety Council where I promoted health and safety in the workplace, home and community, and other activities including as a board member for area traffic and bicycle safety committees. I also served as a board member of a swim and tennis facility and involved in areas of finance, property management and administration.

Pam Fitzgerald

Mike and I have been members of Grace Church for more than 27 years. We were both brought up in the Roman Catholic Church, but when it came time for our oldest to start school, my feminist husband said, "My daughters can be president of the United States if they choose. I do not want to raise them in a church where they cannot be a priest." We went church shopping and found Grace.

I am currently a member of the altar guild and have served a four year term as directress. In the late 90's I was a member of the Vestry, where I served on the Communications Committee, Finance Committee and the Endowment Fund Committee. I have taught Sunday School, prepared lunches at the homeless shelter for women at the Cathedral, gone on the first two youth mission trips, and been active with Grace's Habitat for Humanity project.



I look forward to offering any assistance I can in helping Grace grow as a church and a community.

Melissa Hensley

(No photo available.)

I have been blessed to grow up in the Grace Church family since I was in elementary school. A lifelong love of music was fostered by early involvement in the youth choir, and it was a thrill to participate in the Youth Group's inaugural mission trip to Russellville, Arkansas.

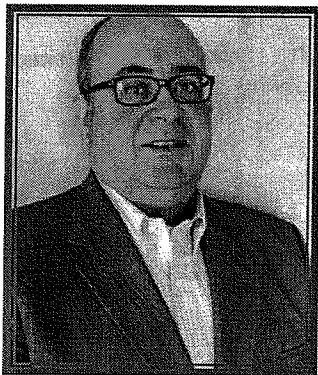
After earning my master's degree out of state, I returned to St. Louis and Grace Church, this time as a member of the adult choir, a mentor to the Youth Group, and a member of several committees. My husband, Jon, and I particularly enjoyed helping the Youth Group build the Elegant Italian Dinner into a major fundraising event.

We recently returned to St. Louis (for good, now!) after a job-related stint in Jefferson City, and cherish the opportunity to raise our daughter, Caroline Grace, in Grace Church. Attracting new members and young families is the lifeblood of any church, and I believe this should be a point of primary focus for Grace Church. I have worked at Maritz, Inc., since 2005, where I now serve as Senior Manager of Research Operations.

2012 Nominees for Vestry

(Continued from p. 1)

Philip Morrow



I've been a member of Grace Church for 12 years. I was baptized at Holy Family Church, St. Louis in 1957, confirmed at St. Mary Magdalen Church, Brentwood in 1966, and received into the Episcopal Church at Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis in 2001.

My activities at Grace Church have included: Sunday School (J2A) Teacher, Eucharistic Minister, Lay Reader, Episcopal City Mission Ambassador, Discernment for Holy Orders Leader, Nominating Committee Member, Annual Pledge Drive Volunteer, Capital Campaign Committee Member, SWEEPS Ministry Co-Chair, Adult Christian Education Co-Chair and Instructor, Paseo Con Christo Community Member.

Challenges I see on the horizon include continued economic pressure on Grace family members, Grace's operating revenue stream and our response to outreach needs, as well as the opportunity to welcome outsiders seeking comfort, fellowship, and spiritualness.

I think vestry members should represent parishioners, him/herself, and Jesus Christ in assembly with other vestry members in all decision making. Vestry members should strive to maintain and improve the spiritual welfare, fiscal integrity, physical and entrusted assets, and moral compass of the parish. Church committee involvement where the need is greatest is my first interest, followed by areas that most closely match my professional and educational experiences: finance, property, communication, personnel, support, and adult education.

I am a native of St. Louis; married to Michell Morrow; three children - Christina, Daniel, and Maureen; grandfather of three; professional contract dining services management advisor - currently seeking greater employment; educated at St. Louis University (BS) and Webster University (MBA); most interested in home improvements, gardening, computer aided design, and my dog.

2012 Nominee for Convention Delegate Alternate

Roy Pennington

I was baptized at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Webster Groves, where my mother was a soloist in the choir and my older sister and brother were also baptized. In 1956 we began attending services at Grace (since we lived in Kirkwood), and I enjoyed singing in the Boys Choir from the 4th through 7th grades.

I returned to Kirkwood in 1993 after 25 years in New York. I was privileged to live with and care for my mother the last 5 1/2 years of her life. I began attending the Thursday Morning Men's Coffee and have been playing in at least one - initially two, of Ella Jean Heigham's handbell choirs since 1994.

My hope and dream for Grace's future is for financial stability. I enjoy attending Sunday morning services at Grace. I appreciate a good sermon and have rarely been disappointed. I also enjoy the music at Grace and think the acoustics in the church are excellent for instrumental and vocals. I admire Phillip Brunswick's musicianship and dedication.

I am divorced, with two grown step-daughters. I enjoy practicing piano and spend as much time playing as possible. I have worked at the Schnuck's Market at Clayton Road and Lindbergh Blvd. since August 1999.



Minutes of the 152nd Annual Meeting Sunday, January 23, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 A.M. and opened with a prayer by Fr. McDowell.

Nominating Committee Report

Denise Miller, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented a slate of four candidates for Vestry terms of three years each: Sheri Bonham, Dick Entenmann, Richard Eschenroeder and Leah Geissing. It was moved, seconded and approved that these names be placed in nomination.

Denise Miller also presented the following names for convention delegates: Vince Nicosia, delegate, and alternates Patricia O'Brien and Michelle Nicosia. It was moved, seconded and approved that these names be placed in nomination.

There being no nominations from the floor, it was moved, seconded and approved that nominations be closed.

Rector's Report

The Rev. Todd McDowell said his report would be presented as his sermon for this day, the Third Sunday after Epiphany. A copy of his report is included in the Annual Report packet which is a part of these minutes and available to every parishioner.

Senior Warden's Report

Senior Warden Dick Entenmann's report is included in the Annual Report packet which is a part of these minutes.

Bridge Team Report

Chairman John Adams presented a report from the Bridge Team showing that the Capital Campaign goal of one million dollars has been reached and exceeded. Installation of new windows and doors is expected to begin mid-March. Members of the Bridge Team include Dick Entenmann, Tracy Hart, Ella Jean Heigham, Vince Nicosia, Marty O'Leary and Sandy Padgett.

Treasurer's Report

The Summary of 2010 Revenues & Expenses is included in the Annual Report packet. Treasurer Mike Heyer reported that the year 2010 ended with a positive figure of \$6,329.

Pledge Status

Senior Warden Dick Entenmann reported that 170 pledges have been received for a total of \$405,471. The full report is included in the Annual Report packet.

Budget

The Vestry-approved budget for the year 2011 is included in the Annual Report packet. Finance Committee chair Steve Henson pointed out that the 2011 budget includes a deficit of \$15,359.

Reports by Title

All other committee reports are included in the Annual Meeting booklet.

The Rector declared all reports received.

Elections

After the polls remained open for thirty minutes, it was moved, seconded and approved that the polls for voting of new Vestry members and convention delegates be closed.

It was moved, seconded and approved that the proposed slate of Vestry members be elected by acclamation.

It was moved, seconded and approved that the proposed slate of convention delegates be elected by acclamation.

Fr. McDowell thanked all those whose volunteer efforts strengthen Grace Episcopal Church.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Browne, Secretary

Rector's Annual Address and Homily - Grace Episcopal Church Annual Meeting III Epiphany - January 22, 2012

Dear people of Grace:

It gives me great pleasure to report on the state of the parish at this, my third annual meeting as your rector. In today's Gospel lesson we read that ". . . Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying," "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." And in our corner of the kingdom that is, indeed, what we are called to do each and every week as we gather to hear the good news proclaimed: To live into the kingdom of God, repent and believe the good news!

2011 was a year of change and investment at Grace – investment in the ministries that will enable the people of Grace to move forward into the decade to come with confidence and grace as we hear and believe the good news that Jesus proclaims. The most obvious impact and change that we saw (or felt) was through the ongoing work of Renew & Reclaim – our capital campaign. As we fulfilled the first of the three year commitment to the life, ministry, and people of Grace Church – we accomplished so much that will have huge benefits to our parish and ministries for generations to come. In the spring we completed the installation of all new thermal, energy-efficient windows and exterior doors throughout every part of our facility, with the exception of the narthex and nave. This will not only help us to control the ever increasing cost of energy, but provide for year-round comfort and security in classrooms and offices which lacked both.

Early in 2012 you will see the implementation of further security measures as we bring online the new keyless entry system and re-key our interior doors. Concerning the interior doors, we also completed the retrofit by adding windows to the four remaining interior doors that had been solid. Not only was this necessary to meet the Episcopal Church's commitment to "safeguarding God's children/people"; it also added beauty and practicality to these locations. If you have not yet seen it I particularly direct your attention to the new chapel door. The etched glass panel is a beautiful addition which gives passersby a glimpse into this sacred space. Now all spaces/rooms in our facility have windows so passersby can see in, except for locked storage/utility rooms and restrooms.

The much anticipated HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) systems have been installed and are in the last stages of balancing and adjusting controls for comfort and energy savings. This huge undertaking is mostly unseen, but we will certainly reap the comfort and cost saving benefits for decades to come. Much of our old equipment was 47 years old – more than double its life expectancy and band-aided together over many years. The new systems provide heating and cooling to our entire building except the kitchen, upstairs offices and building addition of 11 years ago, which all have systems less than 20 years old. Furthermore, a new centralized, computer-controlled HVAC operating system will allow us the control to heat and cool only those spaces in use, saving energy and money.

We have used 3 ½ % of the commitment to Renew & Reclaim to beautify our space by painting Albright Parish Hall, carpeting the main floor hallway and some of the adjoining rooms, and purchasing new furniture in the narthex. While more remains on our list, the priority is to pay off debt. As we pay our commitments to Renew & Reclaim, those funds will be used to pay down our debt. The White Fund Loan that Grace has been carrying for 12 years is scheduled to be paid off at the end of 2013, but as Renew & Reclaim commitments come in before that time, it is our intention to accelerate those loan payments, thereby reducing the cost to our annual budget. When our debt is fully paid off, we will eliminate an annual expense of \$23,000. We have commitments to our capital campaign of \$1,106,904, and in the first year alone more than half has already been paid. This is, indeed, very good news. Grace Church heard and responded to the appeal to provide for the long-term needs of our parish.

But we still have challenges to face in our annual budget. Certainly the poor economy has taken its toll on many of our families and their ability pledge in support of our annual operating expenses. The budget presented today shows a 2 ½ % deficit. Our income is not keeping up with the cost of our ministries. Every effort was made by your vestry to minimize the deficit, and unfortunately some drastic cuts had to be made. I'd like to address two of those cuts. First, our Diocesan Assessment, which is defined by church canons to be equal to 12 ½% of our income, has not been paid in full since 2008, when Grace cut in half to 6 ¼% what it sent to the diocese. We set as our goal an annual increase until we could again pay it in full, as Grace had previously done each and every year. We were steadily gaining ground to reaching our goal, increasing our assessment from 6.25% to 7% and 8.1% last year. Unfortunately it has been cut again – to 7% for 2012. As a parish in the Episcopal Church, we must honor our commitment to the larger church and the Diocese of Missouri through paying our full assessment. It is my hope that we will get meet our goal to pay our full assessment to the diocese with the 2014 budget, after the White Fund loan is retired.

Another concern I share with you is that our budget for outreach has been reduced by half. In the last few years, we more than doubled our budget to help those in need in our community through the many outreach ministries of Grace Church. While our concern and care for those in need is unwavering, we will have to find other sources of income to maintain our generosity to those in need. In addition to paying our full assessment, I hope by 2014 we can also commit to a goal of bringing our outreach budget back up to the level it was the last few years.

The next year or two will be tight on our budget, but there is much good news to anticipate as we look to 2014 and beyond. Over the next two years, we will complete our capital campaign commitments, which will make it possible for most of us to increase our pledged giving through our annual stewardship campaign. Hopefully the economy will improve and our Endowment Fund will generate more investment income to help with operating expense. Our savings from reduced energy costs and equipment maintenance will be fully realized. Our debt will be paid off which alone reduces our expenses by \$23,000 a year.

I have mentioned our capital campaign and annual giving – the third area of stewardship is planned giving – making provisions in your estate plans for the ministry of Grace Church. This last act of giving is not final at all; it is an opportunity for you to provide ongoing support of Grace's ministries. Many of Grace's parishioners have made provisions in their will or trust documents for continued support of Grace's mission and ministry. It is even possible to continue your annual giving through a perpetual gift, which will provide your same level of support to Grace's ministries forever. The vestry and I are excited to announce the formation of the Grace Legacy Fund. This new fund works in many ways like our endowment but has flexibility and choice as its hallmarks. While our Endowment Fund hasn't changed, we recognize the need to provide for the many ministries of Grace Church. The Legacy Fund will allow people to direct their gift toward one of a number of ministry choices. Over the past decade we have done little to inform the people of Grace of the opportunities for a legacy gift. Gifts of direct bequests, charitable remainder trusts, and annuities are just some of the ways to make provision for Grace Church. Today we launch the new Legacy Fund and invite your inquiry as we raise awareness of the great benefits planned giving can provide both to you and to your church. Ordinary Giving is done through annual stewardship; Extraordinary Giving is done through an occasional capital campaign; Ultimate Giving is accomplished with gifts through our estate planning.

Today's gospel reading also tells us that Jesus saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their net into the sea – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed Jesus.

Let's consider our mission and ministries through that perspective. We are called by Jesus to Follow each and every week as we gather for word and sacrament. Let me share with you the many ways that we at Grace Church have left our nets and followed. We greatly increased our pastoral care through the Community of Hope and the deep commitment of our lay people, who continue to make pastoral visits, share Eucharist, take altar flowers, share concerns with clergy, and pray for those in

need and each other. Efforts to better organize our pastoral care ministry and keep anyone from falling through the cracks have been successful. Under the leadership of our Creation Care Ministry and Eagle Scout and with the help of volunteers, we were able to build a community garden which provides for those in need with fresh produce grown three seasons of the year. Many of you help maintain our facilities, rake leaves, tend the garden, landscape, and beautify our grounds. A new nursery on the main floor just down the hall from the nave is now a reality with one-of-a-kind artwork that has everyone excited about this newly renovated space. Foyer Groups were started, providing casual opportunities to get to know each other better while sharing a meal together. Trinity Hot Lunch is thriving as it was reorganized. And we continue to support so many through our many events which support our outreach to others.

Grace Church's communications have improved dramatically with a fantastic new website, weekly e-news and announcement sheets, Facebook, narthex monitor and bulletin boards in Albright Parish Hall. Our Messenger has been updated and packed full of the news about the many opportunities we have here at Grace Church. These improvements came from the talents of our wonderful staff, including two new members: Janis and Danna. With the addition of Mother Rebecca to our staff last August, we added a full-time priest with many years of experience and the talent to challenge Grace Church and help us reach new goals with Children and Youth ministry, Christian formation, pastoral care, and women's ministries. The talent and dedication of our staff is second to none, and I am so grateful for their continued ministry to and with the people of Grace.

We hosted HabiJam and the Magnetic Church conference which brought Episcopalians from around the diocese to Grace Church. We continue our commitments to hosting many 12-step groups, the Lab School and the summer SPROG program. Our 8th grade students are preparing for Confirmation, while 4th and 5th grade students are on "the road to Rome" – a new Sunday morning Church School offering. More than 40 adults have begun gathering for "The Story" on Sunday morning.

I also want to express my gratitude to our Executive Committee, Dick Entenmann, Julie Grossman and Mike Heyer. These individuals have provided this parish with an unwavering commitment and dedication, and we would certainly not have been able to accomplish all that we have done without them. Thank you also to our Vestry, Chairs of our many committees and all of you who have heard God's call in your own lives and serve God through this place we call Grace. I could not do what I do without the full support of my wife Sabine, and our boys Andrew and Will. Their commitment to Grace and my ministry is incredible, and I thank God for them.

We certainly continue to be blessed with so much. But we must remain mindful of Jesus' call for us to drop our nets and follow Him. This call is echoed in the Catechism on page 856 of the Book of Common Prayer. *"What is the duty of all Christians? The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ, to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God."* In today's gospel Jesus calls us to follow Him. What will be our response?

In closing let us pray together the Collect for today:

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Todd+

Associate Rector's 2011 Annual Report

I accepted the position as the Associate Rector of Grace and began on August 1, 2011, right as the program year was gearing up. It has been a steep learning curve since I began my ministry at Grace and much of my time and mental energy in my first six months has been spent trying to understand what is in place, what is working, and what needs tweaking, in addition to learning the many names and faces of the people of Grace. My areas of oversight include pastoral care, women's ministry, and Christian formation for all ages (from infancy through adulthood). In practical terms this means I am responsible for everything from baptismal instruction, the nursery, church school, and youth ministry, to confirmation and adult formation. In addition to my specialized areas, I share the ongoing priestly work of the parish with the Rector in the liturgy, celebrating the Sacraments and preaching.

Christian Formation

Children

Church School: In Christian formation I work with the Church School committee, co-chaired by Peggy Capriglione and Tina Roche, to plan and implement our curriculum and events for preK-12th grade. As of this Fall, we have three Godly Play classrooms for preschool through 3rd grade. Our fourth and fifth graders began a new curriculum called the "Road to Rome" which focuses on the history and experience of the early Christians. Our sixth graders are in Rite 13 instruction with Paula Russell and Sue Nixon. Our special events since the fall have included the Pumpkin Carving and All Hallows' Eve liturgy, Advent wreath making and Advent devotionals and calendars for the children, and a visit from St. Nicholas.

Children in Worship: One area of focus that has begun this Fall is to more fully incorporate our children into our worship services. We began offering regular children's sermons at the 10:00am worship service on the topics of stewardship, St. Nicholas, and the birth of Jesus. This Christmas Eve I introduced a very simple Christmas Pageant/Nativity to the 4:00pm service that involved the younger children dressing up as angels, shepherds, sheep, wisemen, Mary, Joseph, and a donkey, while older children and youth read the Gospel story of Jesus' birth. Leah Giessing helped direct it, along with assistance from the parents, and we had participation from 27 children, which was a great response. Phillip also began working with the church school children to have them sing occasionally in worship. We will continue to emphasize children's participation in worship in 2012.

Nursery: We moved the Nursery to the main floor this winter and with help from Kerry Dryden and others, it has been painted and totally redecorated. We will be hiring a new staff person to oversee the Nursery ministry in 2012.

Youth

Confirmation: This September I began teaching Confirmation classes for our 8th graders. The classes are loosely based on Mary Lee Wile's "I Will with God's Help" curriculum for the Episcopal Church and will last through May. We have 9 participants in the class that meets on Sunday mornings and includes instruction, fellowship, service project, guest speakers, and a final retreat and exam. Confirmation will take place at the Cathedral on May 19th.

High School: We have begun to transition our high school youth ministry into a more unified model, combining the three tiers of our youth ministry: formation, service (mission trip / mission trip events), and social events (Venturing and church sponsored events). This summer I formed a Youth Ministry Team with the aim of bringing these three strands together and working more

intentionally as we plan and schedule events that include service, formation, and social events throughout the year. Rather than meeting early on Sunday mornings for J2A and formation, the youth have expressed a desire to meet later in the afternoon/evenings on Sundays for monthly formation gatherings. We had the first of these gatherings in November. The monthly youth formation gatherings will be led by me and will complement our monthly social events, Venturing, and mission trip related events, with volunteers from all these groups coming together. The aim is quality over quantity and to offer 2 or more events every month for our high school youth that will attract more participation in a time frame chosen by the youth.

Adults

Sunday Morning: For most of 2011 Sunday morning classes were led by the Rector in a "Rector's Forum" covering various topics and Bible studies. I have just recently begun to seek out new curriculum and ideas for our Sunday morning adult classes as well as special seasonal offerings. We have an avid interest at Grace in learning more about the Bible and I came across a curriculum that seemed to meet our needs called "The Story" by Pastor Randy Frazee this winter. "The Story" leads participants through the entirety of the Bible in 31 weeks. At the end of 2011 the Rector and I finalized plans to use "The Story" in 2012.

Tuesday Holy Eucharist: On Tuesday mornings we have a weekly Eucharist at 9:30am that gives an overview of the "saint of the day." This service is not only a time of worship, but one of education, as we discuss and learn about those in our church's calendar whose life and witness reveal to us new and deeper ways to walk in Christ's footsteps.

Mystics and Meditation: On Thursday mornings a small group gathers at 10:30am called "Mystics and Meditation" in the library for a time of silent centering prayer and lectio divina with texts from the mystics. This group is open to those who would like to learn more about meditative forms of prayer and/or to practice meditation.

Pastoral Care

The primary job that undergirds pastoral care is one of organization and communication, in order that those in need receive the help and support they need. Susan Lauber is our organizational center and spends many hours a week coordinating pastoral care efforts with me and our gifted lay ministers. The areas of this ministry include:

- Visits/Eucharistic Visits
- Phone Calls
- Letter Writing/Card Sending (St. Paul's)
- Meals
- Flower Delivery
- Prayer Shawl/beads/stuffed animal delivery

Over the year these areas have gained new volunteers and have become more organized with weekly assignments that Susan sends out. She and I work closely together to ensure that everyone is being tracked so that, hopefully, no one ever falls through the cracks. Her efforts makes things much easier for the clergy and makes our pastoral care ministry the most organized I have ever experienced. *And please remember to please notify me or Fr. Todd if and when someone is in need and deserves pastoral attention.*

Emergencies and pastoral crises usually go directly to one of the clergy who can be reached on call through the emergency line through Grace's main voicemail.

Community of Hope

The trained lay chaplains of the Community of Hope are lay ministers who serve by visiting and attending to those in need in our parish by offering pastoral care and presence. Their ministry and presence is invaluable. They too work with Susan in coordinating their efforts in addition to meeting on their own on the third Monday of the month for fellowship, study, prayer, and support under the Rule of St. Benedict. The Community just completed their first full year here at Grace. We would like to see new members trained in the coming year to join this devoted group of lay ministers.

Food Cards and Pastoral Discretion Ministry

Grace receives calls and drop-ins each month from those in need from our wider community. Each month the clergy distribute, with the assistance of our office staff, food cards to the hungry. At other times clergy assist those in need to pay a utility bill through the pastoral discretion account. In 2011 we assisted over 25 individuals. Our policy is to help a person once a year in a time of crisis, although many ask for help more frequently than that.

Prayer Chain

Ruth Moore organizes our prayer chain at Grace and works with the clergy to track those in need of prayer and to get updates each week on those we are praying for. This ministry is not particularly visible but is certainly at the heart of all that we do, particularly in our pastoral care ministries. The Prayer Chain members are faithful members who pray for those on our list daily and confidentially, to support our life in Christ.

Women's Ministries

Grace has several ministries that are led by women for women including Women of Grace that meets on the third Wednesday of the month, the Women's Book Study that meets every Tuesday at 10am in the library, and Holy Ground that meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:30pm. All women from Grace are welcome at any of these groups. It was a special honor to be invited by the Women of Grace to share my spiritual journey this fall.

Holy Ground: We are a women's spirituality group that meets for fellowship over a potluck dinner followed by a time of spiritual sharing and/or practice and the exchange of a casual Holy Eucharist. Gretchen Logue and I organize this gathering of women, which continues to grow. This Fall/Winter we learned more about our individual spiritual interests, Benedictine spirituality and lectio divina. We also created handmade cards for the seamen who work alone at Christmastime in December. Much of our time is spent sharing and supporting one another in our respective faith journeys. This deep sharing is the "holy ground" that we participate in. All adult women of Grace are welcome to join us.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. D. Rebecca Dinovo, Associate Rector

Senior Warden's 2011 Annual Report

In 2011 we continued to see change as a Parish, while continuing to grow in relationships.

We saw the departure of The Rev. Emily Davis to pursue her expanded calling with St. Thomas. We were very fortunate to have The Rev. Rebecca Dinovo join us in the fall. The spirit was certainly moving in this change.

We added two key positions to our staff. Janis Greenbaum and Danna Squires joined us in late spring as our Communications Director and Parish Secretary, respectively. They both have had positive impacts, and it is hoped that their hours can be expanded in the future.

Due to the outstanding support of the Parish, we were able to complete most of our planned Capital Campaign projects without our anticipated level of borrowing. The Vestry authorized expenditures for new windows, new interior and exterior doors, new carpeting, repainting, new furnishings, and new HVAC systems for the older parts of our building. The new HVAC control system coupled with the new doors and windows will have a positive impact on our utility expenses moving forward.

A new ministry was started to help us grow together as parishioners. I urge you to participate in a Foyer Group; nothing but good can come from learning more about ourselves and growing our relationships.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the other members of our Executive Committee – Father Todd, Mike Heyer, and Julie Grossman, for their support and camaraderie in this my third and final year as Senior Warden. I won't forget our time together in helping to reshape Grace for a successful future.

Dick Entenmann, Senior Warden

Motion for changes to Parish By-Laws as approved by the Vestry October 28, 2011

This motion is being made in order to allow for a current Vestry member (if they so desire and are nominated) to serve a second three-year term without a one year waiting period between terms. This change not only reflects the current Canons of the Diocese of Missouri but will also improve the experience level and consistency of the Vestry makeup.

Current By-Law wording of Article III, Section 1:

No Vestry member who has served three successive years shall be eligible for re-election until the expiration of one year . . .

Proposed new wording:

No Vestry member who has served two consecutive three-year terms shall be eligible for re-election until the expiration of one year . . .

Junior Warden's 2011 Annual Report

2011 was a very exciting year for Grace Church! As your Junior Warden for a second consecutive year, I have been involved in many of the projects and improvements that have occurred at Grace Church.

The HVAC project is finally coming to a close! Between designs, estimates and installation it has been a 3 year endeavor. Thanks to such a successful Capitol Campaign, all of us will be able to enjoy a comfortable environment at Grace. Other Capitol Campaign improvements have included new Narthex furniture, the refinishing of the Narthex walls, painting of Albright Parish Hall, and the first floor carpeting of the Hallway, offices, the new Nursery, and the Lavielle Conference Room. It is our hope that we have created a more welcoming atmosphere for our parishioners.

My responsibilities as Junior Warden are to oversee the building, grounds, landscaping and the maintenance staff at Grace.

There are several incredible volunteers that need to be recognized once again! A very special thanks goes to Jim Willis and John Dokos who have donated so much of their time and skills to so many projects at Grace. Peggy Capriglione has once again spent much of her energy beautifying our landscape areas. Jim Davis has also given much of his time when it came to helping with our lawns and grounds at Grace. Bob Howell expertly took care of painting and touch ups around Grace. Wayne Bonham has saved Grace Church's Columbarium budget by volunteering to maintain our Columbarium Fountain. Betts Salisbury devotes much of her time to keeping our pantry organized and stocked. Keri Dryden generously donated her artistic talents by painting the beautiful mural in our new Nursery.

I would like to ask all you to take a few moments and personally thank these wonderful volunteers.

It has been a true honor to be your Junior Warden for the last 2 years. I would also like to acknowledge and thank The Rev. Todd McDowell, Dick Entenmann and Mike Heyer for their patience and friendship.

It is truly amazing how much I have learned during my term as Junior Warden! More importantly, I will forever be humbled by the goodness at Grace Church.

Respectfully,

Julie Grossman
Junior Warden

Acolyte Guild

The Acolyte Guild completed another rewarding year of service within Grace Church in 2011. Acolytes serve an important role by assisting the clergy during the liturgy. Junior acolytes begin their service as Torchbearers as early as fifth grade and progress to the more responsible position of Crucifer as they gain confidence, poise, and experience. There are 34 junior acolytes who support the 10 a.m. service and six adult acolytes who serve during the 8 a.m. service. Our acolytes performed faithfully at all Sunday services in 2011. In addition they were called upon to assist in special services at Easter, Christmas, and several funerals.

Jim Davis serves as Co-Director of the Acolyte Guild. Jim works with the junior acolytes at the 10 a.m. service providing procedural guidance and ensuring they're properly robed and prepared. Carol Rush provides seamstress support when an acolyte alb needs mending. We are in need of one or two adults to launder the robes as needed throughout the year; please contact Jim Davis or John Adams if you can help.

The Acolyte Guild stands ready to assist the clergy and to act as leaders to the congregation in 2012. As always, we welcome new junior and adult members to join our guild.

John Adams
Director of Acolytes

Altar Flowers

Our altar flowers are given by members of the parish "to the glory of God" and in thanksgiving for someone or some event (the birth of a baby, a birthday or anniversary, etc.) or in memory of a loved one. Altar Flower dedications for any Sunday may be reserved well in advance, except during Lent, Christmas and Easter. (We do not have flowers during Lent, and on Christmas and Easter the church is decorated with poinsettias and lilies given by the parish as memorials or thanksgivings.)

In addition to adorning the altar, the flowers also serve to cheer our shut-ins or those who are ill. Our altar flowers are divided into smaller arrangements after Sunday services and taken on pastoral visits to members who are hospitalized or unable to get to church.

Jane Cenova coordinates our Altar Flower schedule with Kirkwood Florist. Once you sign-up to give flowers on a particular Sunday, Jane will arrange to have altar flowers delivered to church for your reserved Sunday, and Kirkwood Florist will bill you directly. Unless you have specific instructions about a particular flower you want included, etc., you don't have to worry about remembering to call the florist to order altar flowers.

If you would like to donate altar flowers, a sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in Albright Parish Hall or you may contact Jane Cenova by phone (314-842-1491). She will help you reserve a Sunday and provide more information.

Archives Committee

With the installation of the new HVAC system in the undercroft in the fall, basic environmental requirements for the Archives room were satisfied. Parish records that had been removed were returned, and the stage is set for the next steps, which include acquiring a computer dedicated to archival work, establishing an accession form for use in identifying and establishing custody of possible archival material, and cataloguing the material already on hand. We have access to an archival software program (one year's subscription donated), have established professional dialog with the Diocesan Archivist and with the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists, and are in the process of determining our needs for purchasing protective archival storing material.

During the year, operating off-site, the committee addressed two requests for information. The first concerned an individual determined not to have been a member of this parish (time frame 1905-19110) and was forwarded to the diocesan archivist for assistance. The second was for information on the marriage of a member of this parish in 1949. It was determined that the marriage had not taken place in this diocese, and the appropriate civil records from Jackson County, Missouri were accessed, copied, and forwarded to the requester. Additionally, the committee continued work on an historical parish photo collage for the wall in the hallway across from the Rector's office.

The Archives Committee members are: Christie Boyle (database responsibility); Dick Corbet (photo material management); Laura Domitrz (scrapbooks); Joan Goodson (history); Jim Willis (background and general knowledge of "where all the skeletons are!"); and Ron Jones, Archivist. From time to time as we address the problem of identifying faces and places from the past in photos, we will ask for assistance from members of the parish. And it goes without saying, we are always looking for new members!

Ron Jones

Christian Formation for Children and Youth

The church school committee is responsible for coordinating children's and youth education, as well as the nursery and several annual family events.

Committee Members:

Peggy Capriglione (co-chair)	Tina Roche (co-chair)
Joan Van Rees	Kathy Davis
Kerri Dryden	Sue Nixon
Paula Russell	Mother Rebecca Dinovo

Nursery

Grace's nursery is available (free of charge) on Sunday mornings from 9:00-11:30 a.m. (during Christian Formation hour until the end of the 10:00 service.)

In 2011 our nursery was staffed every Sunday morning by Kelly Davis, a high school aged member of our parish who provided good, consistent and reliable child care. In 2011, Grace Church's Personnel Committee completed a part-time Nursery job description following national church and diocesan guidelines and recommendations regarding experience and education in early childhood development. Our Vestry was able to fund the part time position, and it was posted in December at local colleges and universities. Resumes are being gathered and hiring will take place in early 2012. Until that time, Kelly continues to staff our nursery; and we are grateful for her dedication.

In the fall of 2011, renovations began to turn a former office space on the main level into a safe, clean and appealing nursery space. New carpeting was laid, cabinetry and countertops installed to create a workspace that could be easily "child proofed", and a Noah's Ark mural was created by Grace parishioner and artist, Kerri Dryden. A set of new child-sized table and chairs provided the finishing touch. Volunteers moved nursery furniture upstairs from our former space, and our new main-floor nursery was opened in time for Christmas. We are grateful to everyone who helped.

Church School is held every Sunday of the school year from 9:00-9:50:

- Pre-K thru 3rd Grade *Godly Play* teaches children using interactive religious language, parables and sacred story.
- Grade 4-5 (Club 45) *The Road to Rome* which invites kids into the life of the early Church and introduces them to the lives of early Christians.
- Grades 6-7 "*Rite 13*" (part of the *Journey to Adulthood* curriculum implemented in 2010.)
- Grade 8 *Confirmation Class* is led by Mother Rebecca
- Grades 9-12 *Senior High Program* provides opportunities for fellowship, study and service, including an annual Mission Trip.

Special Events included the Advent breakfast and activity, presentation of 5th grade bibles, Halloween pumpkin carving, St. Nicholas Day, Christmas and Easter cards from teachers to students, 6th & 7th graders shopped for Advent Giving Tree gifts for Grace Hill, Easter egg hunt and providing child entertainment/activity for annual parish picnic.

Communications

My goal as the Communications Coordinator is to **invite, welcome** and **inform** our current members, our community, our diocese and anyone interested in Grace Episcopal Church. With the many changes and innovations in technology, there has never been a more exciting or challenging time to get our message out in the world.

Since beginning this part-time staff position in May, I have focused on the following tasks:

- Designing and constructing a new website; then maintaining and updating that site at www.gracekirkwood.org
- Publishing weekly announcements for our Sunday bulletin and e-mail distribution
- Maintaining our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/GraceChurchKirkwood
- Photographing events
- Maintaining pictures and content on the Narthex monitor
- Relaying Grace's event information to the Diocese and the community at large
- Working with Parish Administrator Angela Breeher on other church communications tools

In 2012, I hope to continue and improve all our current church communications. Specific goals and possible changes/additions include:

- Inviting more parishioners to contribute pictures, articles and information for our publications
- Increasing promotion of our worship services and special events to the community
- Using our tools to offer more educational and spiritual-based communications
- Restructuring the bulletin boards in Albright Parish Hall to make them more effective tools
- Serving in the Communications/Media focus group with the Magnetic Church efforts.

My sincere gratitude goes out to everyone who contributes to our successful communications at Grace Church. I could not accomplish what I do without your help. I am always available to help with the communications needs for any ministry or event. I look forward to a new year of spreading the Good News at Grace!

Blessings,

Janis Greenbaum

314-821-1806, ext. 19 (office)

314-651-1843 (cell)

communications@gracekirkwood.org

Office hours: Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. till 2 p.m.

Creation Care Ministry

Members: Jim Davis, Warren Davis, Carla Hildebrandt, Jan McMichael, Sabine McDowell (Ministry Chair), Sue Nixon, Patricia O'Brien, Larry Reimelt, Eric Woodruff

Since its inception in March 2010, the Creation Care Ministry Team has focused on helping our congregation become more sustainable and energy savvy. Environmental awareness goes hand in hand with eradicating poverty and mission work. We want to alleviate suffering by becoming better stewards of God's gifts of natural resources.

Our bi-monthly meetings are held in the Kean Library on the 1st Sunday of every odd month, after the 10 a.m. service. Our next meeting is on March 4.

The Creation Care Ministry:

- helps Grace Church recycle materials like glass, cardboard and paper, most plastics and cans.
- maintains a bulletin board in the Parish Hall to help connect the parish with the wider 'green' community.
- provides containers at Grace Church for recycling single-use batteries, as well as recyclable batteries and cell phones. In 2011 we diverted almost 100 lbs of batteries from our waste stream by collecting them and bringing them to recycling stations in St. Charles.
- arranged for Grace Church to be one of 200 drop off stations in St. Louis to recycle Holiday lights for the 2011 Christmas season. Sponsored by St. Louis Green and Operation Food Search, this wonderful event has already collected almost 40,000 lbs of broken lights and wires. The resources will be sorted and sold to provide food for 'Operation Food Search'.

Our biggest accomplishment in 2011 is the set-up of our Gardens of Grace. In collaboration with Charlie Moley, our Eagle Scout, the Creation Care Ministry is the proud sponsor of four garden spaces that have grown a variety of fruits and vegetables. 2011 was definitely a learning experience – and the squirrels were our teachers! Nevertheless, we were able to donate \$125 to Kirkcare from produce harvested and given away for a donation at Grace.

We are always looking forward to learn from our members and brainstorming about ways to help our congregation tune into the needs of God's creation, our fragile home.

Grace Church Endowment Fund

Year 2011 Activity Overview

Beginning Market Value (12/31/10)	\$1,488,078
Asset Increase/(Decrease), net	(52,360)
Distributions to Grace Church	(74,772)
Dividends & Interest	44,080
U.S Bank Fees	(10,976)
Audit Fees	(2,150)
Contributions	1,392
Other	<u>(493)</u>
Ending Market Value (12/31/11)	<u>\$1,392,799</u>

Asset Allocation as of 12/31/11

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Policy Range</u>
Large Cap Equities	48%	(35-65%)
Mid Cap Equities	4%	(0-15%)
Small Cap Equities	3%	(0-15%)
International Equities	6%	(0-20%)
Fixed Income	38%	(25-50%)
Cash & Equivalent	2%	(0-10%)

Year 2011 Time-Weighted Investment Performance (annualized)

Actual	(1.41%)
Benchmark (1)	1.54%

(1) Our benchmark is 40% S&P 500 Composite Index, 35% Barclays Gov/Credit Index, 10% MSCI EAFE Index (Gross), 7% Russell 2000 Index, 7% Russell Mid-Cap Index, 1% Citi 3 mo T-Bill Index.

During 2011 two major accomplishments were achieved by your Endowment Fund Committee. First, a new fund was established which will allow for us to invest for the future of Grace with more flexibility. The new Fund, The Grace Legacy Fund will allow for more flexibility and allow donors to be more selective with their gifts to Grace as they may direct their gifts to one or more of the following accounts: Organ and Music, Columbarium, Building, Mission Ministry and Outreach, Altar Guild/Flowers, Children and Youth Christian Formation or could be directed to the Undesignated account. You will be hearing more about this exciting new Fund during 2012. The other major accomplishment was the formation of a Planned Giving Committee at Grace which will be responsible for informing our parishioners how they can remember Grace through life time gifts and ways to include Grace in their estate plans. This committee will be responsible for increasing awareness of the Grace Endowment Fund and The Grace Legacy Fund and to better inform members on how a gift to one of the Funds or including Grace in your estate plan will help perpetually fund the long-term success of Grace.

Endowment Fund Trustees: Tim Engelbrecht (Chair), Chris Mars (Treasurer), Eric Woodruff (Secretary), Larry Reimelt (Chair Planned Giving Committee), Stan Boyle, Ken Hand, and the Rev. Todd McDowell.

Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee organizes activities to promote fellowship within the parish. The members of the fellowship committee are: Jane Cenova, Dana Callaway, and Kristi Peck.

This year we planned the Spring Picnic, Summer Social, Fall Picnic, Progressive Dinner, and a St. Nicholas Luncheon. Thanks to Barb Manual, Dana Callaway, Jane Cenova, Kathy Davis, Rebecca Dinovo, Colette and Richard Feldges, Julie Grossman, Florence Hoey, Lisa Jianakoplos, and Kristi Peck for making each of these events successful.

Foyer Groups were introduced in the fall. Foyer Groups are a fun and easy way for parishioners to gather on a regular but informal basis for purely social reasons – to enjoy one another’s company and get to know other people in the parish. The groups met twice between September and December. Over 70 people signed up to meet new people and visit with old friends.

It takes many hands to make these events successful, and we thank each and every one who played a part in the success of each event.

Janet Mika, Fellowship Chair

Grace on the Go

Grace on the Go visits local and regional sites of religious, historical and/or cultural interest to Grace Church’s members and friends. We encourage participation by everyone available on a weekday.

Activities in 2011 included tours of “Treasures of Napoléon” at Missouri History Museum; Hindu Temple and Daar-Ul-Islam Mosque; St. Raymond’s Maronite Cathedral and Lebanese lunch; Dogwood-Azalea Festival in Charleston, MO; Cahokia Mounds; the Eucharist in the chapel and lunch in the restaurant at Chaumette Winery; Daniel Boone Home in St. Charles County, MO; and “Icons in Transformation” at Christ Church Cathedral. The final 2011 activity was the Holiday Brass Concert and Christmas party.

Christie Boyle, Ministry co-chair

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

Our sincere thanks go to the 40 Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers who serve Grace Church at our Sunday morning services, funerals, weddings and other special services. Of these 40, eight serve at the 8:00 a.m. Eucharist. We welcome Katie Heitman, our newly trained youth Eucharistic Minister, to our 10:00 a.m. team. If you would like to consider being part of this important ministry (especially at the 8:00 Sunday morning service), please contact Fr. Todd or Mo. Rebecca.

Donald Radeackar, Ministry Chair

Meditation Group

The Meditation Group meets weekly for prayer, reflection, and spiritual reading and growth. A brief reflection (scriptural or other) opens the session, followed by silent prayer (also called centering prayer). Spiritual reading is done in the Lectio Divina mode. Group discussion on the readings closes the session. Formerly known as “Mystics and Meditations”, the group tried several different meeting times and locations in 2011 – a process complicated by staffing changes, HVAC and other building renovations, and settled on Thursday mornings, 10:30 - 11:30, in the Kean Library. All are welcome. (For info. contact our Parish Administrator Angela Breeher in the parish office.)

Music Program

The Choirs of Grace Church sang Choral Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral in April.

The Gloria Deo Handbell Choir played for a service at Christ Church Cathedral last spring. Our three Handbell choirs gave a wonderful offering of music at the annual Spring Concert.

The 14th Annual Royal School of Church Music Choir sang a Choral Eucharist at Grace in July, with guest music director, Garmon Ashby.

The 17th Annual Advent Lessons & Carols was well attended and beautifully sung by the choirs. The Advent Dinner raised over \$300 for chorister scholarships, and the loose offering of \$429 went to the Pennington Organ Fund.

Major repairs were made to several ranks of collapsing organ pipes.

Phillip Brunswick, Organist & Choir Master

Ella Heigham, Director of Handbells

Not Just Donuts

Not Just Donuts coffee hour (NJD) takes place in Albright Parish Hall following our 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. Sunday services. NJD has become a vibrant Sunday morning event at Grace Church and provides a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, hospitality and service. Many people enjoy time visiting with one another after attending one of our morning worship services, and Not Just Donuts provides an excellent venue to welcome newcomers to our community.

In addition to providing fellowship and hospitality, NJD is an excellent opportunity for service to the parish. We always welcome those who wish to make a commitment to host a particular coffee hour. You will find a sign-up board on the coffee hour table every Sunday, and we encourage you to participate. Training is provided; contact Harriet Foiles, Ministry Chairperson of NJD. The goal is to have hosts scheduled to serve once every 6 - 8 weeks so this does not become a burden for any one person or group. We use "green" paper products instead of china, so there is less clean-up.

Harriet Foiles facilitates the coffee hours after the 8:00 and 10:00 services. With Liz Allen she co-chairs the coordination of the 8:00 coffee hour. We have not had a coordinator for the 10:00 coffee hour since 2011 and invite anyone in search of a leadership role to consider filling this position. If you are interested, please contact Harriet Foiles.

The total budget for this event is \$700 and is supplemented by treats provided by volunteers.

There have been many volunteers who prepare coffee, bring treats, and prepare for NJD coffee hours. During 2011 a total of 69 individuals served at our coffee hours: 19 hosted at 8:00 and 45 hosted at 10:00. This group combined hosted a total of 69 coffee hours. These individuals also supplemented the donut holes on the first and third Sundays and bagels on the second and fourth Sundays. Our middle school-age Church School students and their teacher, as well as several family teams with multiple members, hosted the 10:00 coffee hour.

Special thanks is extended to Carol Rush who faithfully provided her famous sticky buns for the 8:00 coffee hour every second Sunday. (On those Sundays the number of people at the 8:00 coffee hour increased because parishioners who usually attend the 10:00 service came early to have sticky buns!) We also acknowledge Elizabeth Harding who committed to host 8:00 coffee hour every second Sunday. If room permitted, we would acknowledge and thank each of you individually by name! If you'd like to thank our coffee hour hosts for their ministry, consult the

sign-up board on the coffee hour table in Albright Parish Hall each week and let them know how much you appreciate their ministry of hospitality.

Our thanks to ALL who helped Grace Church provide a warm welcome and fellowship each Sunday, and especially to Harriet Foiles and Liz Allen.

Outreach

“Is this the year that you volunteer more?” As Mo. Rebecca challenged us in her sermon about volunteering and serving a couple of weeks ago.

The Outreach Committee is committed to outreach within and outside of our community. Please think of volunteering this year. We are looking for a liaison from Grace Church to work with the leadership at Hands On Kirkwood, Habitat for Humanity and several other programs. Please email (Dmilner1847@earthlink.net) or call me for more information.

Kirk Care 2011

Kirk Care hired a new director in June 2011. Our food pantry has been serving more people this year. We do an average of over seventy deliveries a month and have been helping with utilities for our clients. We are looking for people to serve on assessment teams and deliverers. If you are interested, please see Sue Nixon or Denise Miller.

Denise Miller, Outreach Committee Chair

Habitat for Humanity 2011

Vision/Mission: Habitat for Humanity is an international organization dedicated to providing decent housing for low income families. Grace Church provides a grant and work volunteers to the Saint Louis EHfHP to support the build of one new house each year.

The 2011 home on the near North side was the 14th home for which the Saint Louis Episcopal Habitat for Humanity Project (EHfHP) has provided volunteers and financial support.

Time/Talent:

Number of volunteers:

Grace Habitat Coordinators:	2	Michele & Vince Nicosia
Work Volunteers:	2	

Number of work hours:

2 Coordinators (~38 hrs meetings, recruiting, scheduling, fund raising, planning)
2 Volunteers (scheduling issues prevented the volunteers from actually working)

Description of Duties:

Grace Coordinators attend EHfHP planning meetings, organize and participate in fundraisers. They develop recruitment materials & board, arrange Spring Fellowship recruiting programs, duplicate information handouts & waivers, schedule Grace workers, and make reminder calls 4 days prior to work dates. They provide additional assistance to EHfHP as needed during the course of the build. They write Grace Outreach Annual Reports, write Thank-You notes and update EHfHP information.

Grace Volunteer Workers (16 yrs and older) assist the build in many ways according to their skill levels. Volunteers construct the house framework, carry/move building materials, and install siding, floors, steps, doors, cabinets; they paint, sand, oversee the tool shed, serve as Safety Observers, distribute drinks/cold towels to workers, and clean up the work site, sorting and recycling materials.

2011 Financial support by Grace Church Outreach: \$3,200

2012 Building Considerations: Grace Church Outreach provided \$3,200 to support the 2011 Episcopal Habitat Build. Because of funding issues in 2011, the Episcopal churches were unable to partner with any other organizations to sponsor a house. Instead, Episcopal churches provided partial funding toward a house and workers for three days of the build. EHfHP has lost several member churches over the last few years, which (along with the ongoing economic situation) continues to impact financial support of Habitat. EHfHP attempted to reorganize in order to bring in support from more parishes in the Diocese. This effort was less than successful as indicated by the poor turnout for the EHfHP Habijam Picnic fund raising event on October 1, 2011. Additionally, Habitat for Humanity St. Louis faced increased difficulty in qualifying applicants for mortgages to become a home owner, and for this reason in 2011 did not complete some partially-built homes.

Resignation: After ten years of working with EHfHP, we officially tender our resignation as coordinators for Grace Episcopal Church to pursue other outreach opportunities.

Michele & Vince Nicosia
2011 Habitat for Humanity Coordinators

Pastoral Care

More than twenty parishioners participate in Grace's Pastoral Care Ministries to provide pastoral care to our parishioners in many ways, including: Eucharistic visits, flower deliveries, prayers through the Prayer Chain, notes and cards delivered by St. Paul Guild, phone calls, and deliveries of prayer shawls, prayer beads, and prayer bears. The combined total of these resulted in more than 400 pastoral contacts during 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lauber, Pastoral Care Administrator

Prayer Chain

On March 17, 2012 we will mark 16 years of the ministry of the Grace Church Prayer Chain.

In 2011 we received 198 requests for our parish, parishioners, families & friends. We have 15 members who pray daily for the requests, which are held in strict confidence.

To submit a request for prayer or to become a member of our ministry, contact our clergy, the parish office or Ruth Moore at 314-842-1153.

St. Paul Guild

St. Paul Guild was formed in 1996 at the request of then-Rector David Fly to console, congratulate, encourage, and befriend parishioners and those beyond our walls with letters, notes, and phone calls. We were then known as Keeping in Touch, but the group has had the same mission for these 15 years. Since our formation, email has become the most common form of written communication, but we generally prefer the hand-written word.

We are smaller now than we once were, but so is the parish. We hope that in spite of our size we have been able to touch those of you who need to hear from us.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Leach, 2011 St. Paul Guild Chair

(Note: After Susan Leach moved to California with her husband, Katy Mills took over duties as Ministry Chair of our St. Paul Guild.)

Women of Grace

Our mission is to connect all women of our parish to the whole Church through a program of worship, study, service, outreach and fellowship.

Our monthly lunch/programs in 2011 included a tour of Christ Church Cathedral; a visit with a “therapy” dog and her owner, The Rev. Michael Randolph; tips on disaster preparedness from the Red Cross; stress management by Counselor Beth Vaccaro; and a visit from our Bishop’s wife, Debbie Smith, who told us about her visits to our Companion Diocese of Lui in Southern Sudan. A year-end picnic featured a delightful musical presentation on women’s history by Ms. Dee Ban, teacher, musician and historian, who accompanied herself on the autoharp.

We also heard about Mother Rebecca Dinovo’s amazing journey to the priesthood and the efforts to rebuild Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince following the Haitian earthquake.

A “Quiet Day” kicked off the Lenten season with the Rev. Emily Davis providing inspirational exercises and guest Lara Koch demonstrating the art of playing Tibetan prayer bowls.

The year 2011 also saw the installation of a new freezer purchased with the proceeds from our 2010 annual Holiday Sale and some generous donations from parishioners.

We published a new cookbook with more than 200 recipes submitted by Grace Church cooks.

Our annual Mother’s Day Drive for KirkCare brought in a wealth of food supplies and gift cards to help feed our needy neighbors.

In December, WoG held its 6th annual Holiday Sale which netted \$2,894. The majority of the proceeds were split between the Diocese of Lui and to purchase vestments for our church.

We feel justly proud of these programs and accomplishments and invite all women of the parish to join us whenever possible. An annual contribution of just \$10 per woman helps defray the cost of our programs. Guests (gentlemen, too) are always welcome to join our monthly activities.

Note: All female members of the Episcopal Church USA are members of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW). Women of Grace is the official ECW group at Grace Episcopal Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Browne, President