



ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORT

Sunday, January 27, 2019



Celebrating 160 Years of Grace

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160th Annual Parish Meeting Agenda

Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 9 a.m.

Call to order and opening prayer,	
Appointment of Clerk and Chancellor,	
Approval of 2018 minutes and 2019 agenda (page 35-26)	The Rev. Todd McDowell
Report of the Nominating Committee (page 21-23)	Lynette Ballard
Reception of nominations from the floor	
Polls open	
Our Journey Continues:	
Capital Campaign Presentation (page 37)	Lesley Hoffarth
Junior Warden's Report (page 25)	Rebecca Harrison
Senior Warden's Report (page 26)	Lynette Ballard
Rector's Comments	The Rev. Todd McDowell
Proposed amendment to our by-laws (page 2)	
Treasurer's Report (pages 29-31)	Mike Heyer
2018 Actuals	
2019 Approved Budget	
Polls close	
Floor open for questions	
Other Business	
Celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.	
Rector's Annual Report (pages 27-28)	
Blessing and Dismissal	

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



welcomes you

WELCOME

to the 160th Annual Meeting of Grace Episcopal Church!

2019 will be a year of celebration at Grace Church: 160 years of worshipping God, serving our community, and being a foundation of faith.

This booklet serves as a resource for our January 27 Annual Meeting. We present our 7th consecutive balanced budget, introduce new lay leadership, and officially kick-off a capital campaign designed to leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

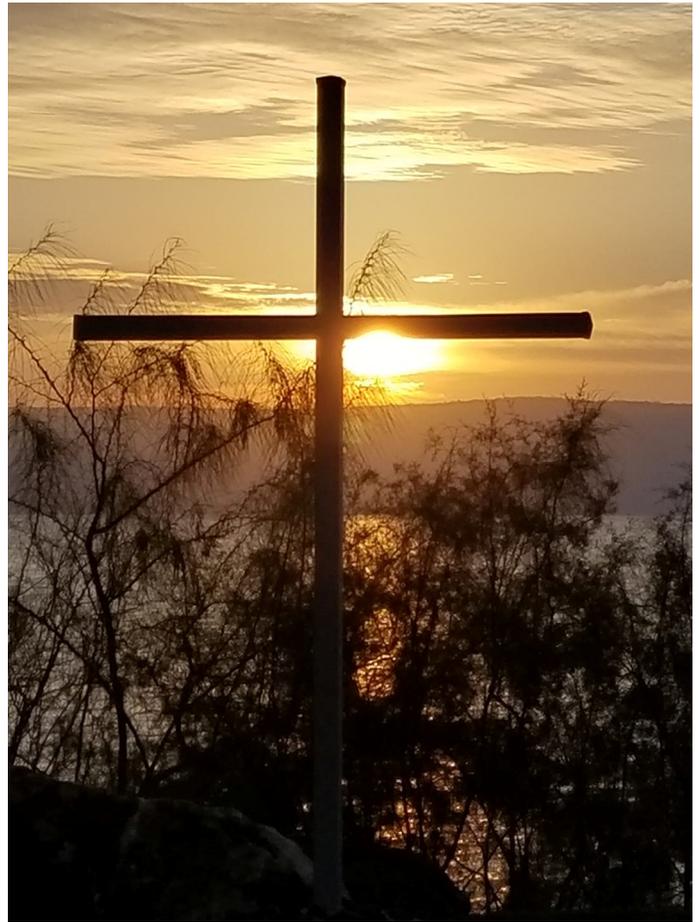
This is also a record of mission and ministry in the life of our parish. Our members share personal reflections on their ministries, offer details of service and fellowship activities, and preview plans for the year ahead.

And finally, this publication provides a snapshot of some of the faithful and fun moments from Grace Church in 2018.

Our ministry at Grace Church and our reports here are guided by the Five Marks of Mission:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

We give thanks to God for our many blessings and look forward to celebrating 160 years of Grace!



Proposed Amendment to Grace Church By-Laws

Submitted by the Rev. Todd McDowell, Rector

As currently stated in our Parish By-Laws, Article II, section 1, “The presence in person of 50 qualified electors of the Parish, as determined by Canons, shall constitute a quorum at any Parish meeting.”

The proposed amendment would say “To constitute a quorum at any Parish meeting, the presence in person of qualified electors of this Parish, as determined by the Canons, shall be at least 20% of our Average Sunday Attendance, as reported in the most current filed parochial report.”



THE FIRST MARK OF MISSION:

To Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

**2019 Budget for
Mark 1 Ministries:
\$217,725**

Ministries Include:

Worship Services
Acolyte Guild
Altar Guild
Labyrinth Ministry Team
Lectors & Eucharistic
Ministers
Music Ministries
Usher Guild
Weddings and Funerals
Holy Land Pilgrimage

(plus personnel and benefits
related to these ministries)

Acolyte Guild

Report submitted by Mary Merriweather

I am the light of the world.

*Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of Life. - John 8:12*

I think of this verse every Sunday morning when the torch bearers walk down the aisle with the Light of Christ.

2018 was a wonderful year for the Acolyte Guild.

We added four new youth acolytes for the 10 a.m.

service: Addie Ludbrook, Sydney Ludbrook, Alex Van Rees, and Jacob Daus.

We also added one adult acolyte for the 8 a.m. service: John Dotson.

We now have a total of 16 youth acolytes and seven adult acolytes.

With the funds we received from the budget last year, we were able to purchase five new albs (robes) and four new cinctures (ropes).

This is an awesome ministry. It's where you can start your journey with Christ by being a part of the worship service on Sunday mornings.

The Acolyte Guild is looking for a few volunteers:

- A seamstress or a tailor to repair acolytes' and eucharistic ministers' albs.
- Individual to supervise the 10 a.m. acolytes (when Mary is teaching Sunday school), to ensure a full team is present and to provide coaching on their performance.



My hope for 2019 is to see more participation (becoming an acolyte) from the young adults at Grace.

Please call or email Mary if you would like to be an acolyte or if you have any questions about this ministry: marymerri2002@yahoo.com.



Altar Guild

Report submitted by Rebecca Harrison

Altar Guild is trying to replace the last set of vestments and hangings for Lent. We have been slowly replacing the old ones, bought in the 60s, as we gather money in our account from donations, weddings, and funerals. Now all we have left is purple! Getting close!

The Altar Guild has a serious shortage of help need. This vital ministry falls to a very dedicated group of people, men and women, who see to it that our church is set up and then cleaned up, for each and every service. Although we have adapted to the times and added men to our group, we are still extremely short-handed. Anyone who has time to give us, once a month, an hour on Saturday and 15 minutes after church on Sunday, please contact me: rharr7176@aol.com



Usher Guild

Report submitted by Richard Russell

Thank you to all who served, and continue to serve as ushers!

This past year, we maintained our "4 1/2" usher teams for 8 a.m. service. Each team has a designated Sunday of the month to serve (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th when there is one...hence the 1/2 team).

At the 10 a.m. service we reduced the number of teams to five. Each team has six or seven members. We have men and women serving, and our ministry now includes youth. We have two youngsters who eagerly help us out at 10 a.m. We have plenty of capacity and are always looking for more folks to serve as ushers at 8 and 10. By creating more teams, we can spread around the blessing of being involved in the service. Anyone interested please email or call "Chard" Russell: richardrussell.pe@gmail.com or (314) 681-9849.



Worship at Grace 2018

Holy Eucharist:

Sundays @ 8 & 10 a.m.
First Sundays @ 5 p.m.
Tuesdays @ 9:30 a.m.

Morning Prayer:

Wednesdays @ 9:30 a.m.

Average Sunday Attendance: 159

Easter Attendance: 415

Christmas Attendance: 503

2018 Baptisms: 4

2018 Weddings: 4

2018 Funerals: 9

Music Ministries

Report submitted by Phillip Brunswick, Organist & Choir Master

This past year was marked by two significant changes in the choir. After 20-plus years of singing at Grace we said goodbye to Brenda Malottke as she moved to Colorado. We welcomed Lisa Kohler as a choral scholar and she has been such a great asset! Below are some reflections from parishioners who are involved in the music ministry here at Grace. I do hope you will take the time to read them all:



Being a part of the choir at Grace Episcopal is very fulfilling to me. I enjoy adding to the ceremony of each service, nearly every Sunday, and appreciate the opportunity to play a part in our worship at Grace. **Jim Davis**

As I sing in my 26th year in the choir, music ministry here at Grace has played a very large role in my life. From a young kid to now a young adult, the choir at Grace has shaped me into the person I am today. The Chorister's prayer I try to live by, 'grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives.' I've made lifelong friends in the choir and the music will always remind me of those people. Music is so important in church that's why I continue to run the RSCM St. Louis Training course every summer to help reach church music to younger generations. The more kids get involved in a thing like choir, the better chance it stays with them in life and they continue to do it. Just look at me and all other the other kids I sang with in choir that are still involved today. **Weezer Weir**

I enjoy being a member of our choir... small in numbers, but big in heart. I sometimes feel closest to God as I sing our pieces and really listen to the words. My fellow choristers are a pleasure to be with. **Dick Entenmann**

Bells are a highlight of my week. It's a chance for me to take a moment from the breakneck pace of life and spend some time with my church family and praise God for all we have been given. It's a rewarding way for me to enrich the worship at Grace. **Christopher Ludbrook**

I like going to church after school before bells and hanging out with other people while we do our homework before bell practice. Mrs. Heigham makes it fun when we get to do a lot of cool things with the bells. **Addie, 7th grade**

Besides filling the sanctuary with beautiful music, I love the intergenerational aspect of being a bell choir member. We have had members from the ages of about 10 to 85! I also love it when I get to talk about our graduating high school seniors at our Spring concert, some who started as 10-year-olds! **Susanne Haring**



I am in choir because I like to sing and I like music. Being in choir means that I am connected to the Church. **Henry, 6th grade**



I am in choir because I am too young to do anything else, so it means singing in church. I am also in it because it makes the service sound better. **Turner, 4th grade**

It's a wonderful opportunity to sing beautiful music that the congregation appreciates and to be with a musical family. **Pat O'Brien**

My week is really complete after Thursday night choir rehearsal and our choral music offering in church on Sunday morning! **Ella Heigham**

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Reflection by Carla Kurth

A journey to the Holy Land was never on my bucket list. In the fall of 2017 I was actually starting to plan a trip to Norway when Fr. Todd casually mentioned that he wanted to plan a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. A few weeks later he announced that Grace Church would journey to Jerusalem during Advent 2018. Chris and I looked at each other and decided to put Norway on hold. When would we ever be able to travel with friends AND a knowledgeable priest to the Middle East? We have now returned from our pilgrimage, and it was one of the most spectacular trips Chris and I have taken. It is difficult to choose favorite sites of the pilgrimage because everything was fascinating.



A particularly moving site was the Church of St. Peter at Galllicantu, or “church where the cock crowed.” Built on an almost sheer hillside, the Church of St. Peter of Gallicantu stands on the eastern slope of Mount Zion. On its roof rises a golden rooster atop a black cross — recalling Christ’s prophecy that Peter would deny him three times “before the cock crows.” Peter’s denial of Christ is recorded in all four Gospels (most succinctly in Matthew 26:69-75). The scene of Peter’s disgrace was the courtyard of the high priest Caiaphas.

The lower levels of the church contain what are believed to have been a guardroom and a prisoner’s cell, both hewn out of bedrock. It is thought to be the cell where Jesus was detained for the night following his arrest. The guardroom contained wall fixtures to

attach prisoners’ chains. Holes in the stone pillars were used to fasten a prisoner’s hands and feet when he was flogged. The prisoner’s cell offered sobering insight into where Christ probably spent the night before he was crucified. It has become known as “Christ’s Prison.”

The only access to the bottle-necked cell was through a shaft from above, so the prisoner would have been lowered and raised by means of a rope harness.

We entered the Sacred Pit in silence. The Pit is about fifteen feet square, twenty feet deep. No door, no window, no light. We read from Psalm 88: “My soul is full of trouble and my life draws near the grave.... You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths.... I am confined and cannot escape.... You have taken my companions and loved ones from me; the darkness is my closest friend.” (vv: 2, 6, 7, 18)

The remains of Caiaphas’s house and courtyard are directly next to the church. Excavations have uncovered a stepped street which in ancient times descended from Mount Zion to the Kidron Valley. These stone steps were certainly in use at the time of Christ. On the evening of his arrest, Christ probably descended them with his disciples on their way from the Last Supper to Gethsemane, and then again when moving from Pilate to Caiaphas once arrested.

We walked the very steps Christ walked when moving from Pilate to Caiaphas, before being imprisoned in the pit the night before he was crucified. Heady stuff. I loved this site and the physical layout that so clearly demonstrated what happened the night before Christ died.

We encountered many sites that left all of us feeling awestruck and emotional. Ask us about them! And, if you ever have the opportunity to visit the Holy Land, GO! Make it happen. Then you, too, can bask in the Jerusalem Effect.



THE SECOND MARK OF MISSION:

To teach, baptize and nurture new believers

**2019 Budget for
Mark 2 Ministries:
\$100,446**

Ministries Include:

Christian Formation
Grace on the Go
Holy Ground
Women of Grace
Women's Book Group
Men's Breakfast
Coffee Hours
Invite Welcome Connect

(plus personnel and benefits
related to these ministries)

Sunday Adult Forum

Report submitted by the Rev. Virginia L. Bennett, D. Min.



Many years ago, long before I had undertaken any seminary classes, I had some amazing clergy teachers. Not only was I blessed to have them as instructors, I had so many profound “aha” moments that I came to believe, and still do, that adult education is a power that can transform the church for good. That’s why I am so passionate about it. But the reason I enjoy teaching

adults so much - those who have the interest and make the time to come and learn about scripture, theology, and the church - is because it delights me so much to see others have their own “aha” moments.

This past year we seem to have gone from the sublime to the ridiculous, meaning we undertook a rather intimidating study of the video presentation “From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians.” We were challenged and learned so much. To prepare us for Year B, we did a brief overview of the Gospel according to Mark.

Because many people didn’t want to stop during the summer, I decided to do something which caused some people to scratch their heads in terms of “Life Lessons Through Humor” as we watched and discussed selected episodes from *The Vicar of Dibley* as well as *M*A*S*H*. This little experiment went far better than I could have imagined. It taught us not only how humor can be healing in real life situations, it taught us that God is always near.

I am beyond gratified and fed by the people who come to these classes. Many of them often tell me how much it means to them to have learned something they always wondered about. Every time someone comes up to me or emails me how much they appreciate what we have discussed or studied, it proves to me how important it is to learn all that we can about our faith, our faith journey, and how God is ‘with us.’ We laugh together, we get serious together, we discuss together, and we all learn from each other.

So I am more than thankful for the opportunity of being with the people from Grace who make the time and the effort to be part of this wonderful group.



Church School Committee

Report submitted by Joanie Van Rees

I've been teaching church school at Grace for more than ten years. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet Grace families, encourage friendships for my children, and grow in my own spirituality.

We teach a curriculum called *Road to Rome* every other year to fourth and fifth graders. The classroom is set up to resemble a home set in Caesarea Maritima, where early Christians gathered in the year 58. The Grace youth are very excited to learn about the history and danger of being early Christians. In addition to lessons, we spend much of the time in class building a giant diorama of the city of Caesarea, a project the youth enjoy immensely.

This year was extra-special because we learned about the Holy Land while some lucky members of Grace were preparing for their trip to the same. Father Todd spent a morning with us to discuss Paul's journeys and really brought the lesson to life. The ultimate achievement was when we were able to make our aqueduct actually work with running water, thanks to Chris Ludbrook!

Thanks to the entire team of church school teachers who work week after week to provide interesting, informative lessons as well as outside activities to educate and enhance the lives of our Grace families.



Grace's Church School Committee

2018:

Laura Agee
Liz Allen
Dianne Casey
Stacy Clark
Kathy Davis
Susanne Haring
Lesley Hoffarth
Ann Marie Lasky
Chris Ludbrook
Mary Merriweather
Tina Roche
Paula Russell
Jennifer Sisul



Christian Formation Classes

Sunday Adult Forum
average weekly attendance:

13



Christian Formation Classes

Children's & Youth
Sunday School
average weekly attendance:

17

Youth Mission Trip

Report submitted by Skip Giessing

The Lord commands us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to give back to those in need and to be good stewards of the church. The annual Grace Church Mission Trip embodies all of these lessons. In addition, the Mission Trip helps teach 15-18 year olds teamwork and how to respect and live among one another, and gives them the opportunity to grow their social skills and manage their time to meet the daily schedules and work assignments.

And yes, let's not forget these young adults learn how to build houses from the ground up, pour concrete, paint, and organize working spaces and grounds. In most cases they are learning these skills for the first time.

Missioners quickly sense the importance of their work and are eager to complete tasks because they know others less fortunate than them will benefit. They make a point of meeting with the families they are helping. They 'feel' the gratitude extended to them. That's a beautiful thing to see.

Missioners participate because they want to help others and they treasure the joy they receive when doing so. What a great life lesson. During the year leading up to



the trip, missioners give their time, talent and treasure to help fund the trip. Much of the money raised is then offered to local Habitat for Humanity and our host church in the area.

The youth sacrifice a week of their summers. In June 2018, in Iowa City, Iowa, each of the six days was consumed with giving

back. They represented themselves and Grace Church admirably, while also learning how to become responsible stewards of the church.

This is a Grace Church event and has been for 23 years. Our kids aren't part of a bigger group of missioners... they are Grace Church missioners, continuing the legacy and tradition, one year at a time. They grow from the experience, they are mature and responsible, and they also have a lot of fun.



Christian Formation: Mission Trip

Reflection by Brigid Van Rees



Last year was the first year that I went on the Grace Mission Trip. I've been looking forward to this trip ever since I was a young kid in church school hearing the stories from the older kids. Before going on the trip I was a little nervous about being away from my family for a

week. But I realized that although I would be away from my home family, I would be surrounded by my church family. I would be with the people that I had grown up around in the church, seeing them week after week at church school. The trip ended up being really fun and I'm so glad that I was given the opportunity to give back through Grace.



Grace on the Go

Report submitted by Christie Boyle

Christie and Stan Boyle, Michele and Vince Nicosia, and Jim Moore lead this traveling group of Grace friends on monthly adventures throughout our area. We visit local/regional sites and events of religious, historical and/or cultural interest. Most include lunch or dinner (Vince's specialty). We are on the go from September through June, and our events are open to all adult parishioners and friends.

Outings provide opportunities for newcomers and regulars to visit places and events that they might not attend on their own; to experience fellowship with interesting older adults.



Ministry highlights from 2018:

January: #1 in Civil Rights: The African-American Freedom Struggle in St. Louis, Missouri History Museum (curator talk and tour)

February: Eugene Field House and Museum (guided tour)

March: Thomas Sappington House Museum (guided tour)

April: Bissinger's Historic Chocolate Factory (guided tour)

May: Muny Opera 100th Anniversary Celebration (rained out; preceded by dinner at Pan d'Olive)

June: Museum of Transportation (guided tour)

September: Sunken Cities: Egypt's Lost Worlds (St. Louis Art Museum tour)

October: St. Louis Gateway Arch new museum (tour)

November: Live Sky: Magnificent Moon star show and exhibits, St. Louis Planetarium

December: Holiday Brass Concert, Manchester Methodist Church

Planned events for early 2019

(see trifold brochures in rack at Parish Hall entrance)

January 10: 100 Seasons Between the Oaks: The Muny in Forest Park (completed)

February 6: Christ Church Cathedral (guided tour); lunch at St. Raymond's Maronite Cathedral

March 11: Holocaust Museum (guided tour and speaker)

April 25: Chaumette Winery, Ste. Genevieve County (worship, lunch and wagon tour)

May 11: National Great Rivers Museum (movie, museum, dam tour)

June 5: Springfield, IL by motorcoach and Texas Eagle Superliner train (Fares, museum tickets, meals covered by prepaid reservations—in two instalments, beginning in February.)

Holy Ground

Report submitted by Barbara Manuel

Holy Ground is a women's spirituality group that meets the second Monday of the month, 6-8 p.m. for a potluck dinner, program or activity, and an informal Eucharist led by the Rev. Helen Ludbrook.

We enjoy fellowship, being prayerfully supportive of each other, and seeing the grace of God in one another (Matthew 18:20), "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

The Rev. Emily Hillquist Davis has been a guest and enhanced our coming together with a contemplative labyrinth program. Christian Formation Director Janis Greenbaum introduced us to story sharing, with each of us drawing a slip of paper and sharing some life experiences relating to that topic.

Our outreach ministry consists of sending Easter and Christmas cards to our shut-in parishioners. We occasionally send "Thinking of You" cards to some of our previous members, or members that are under the weather.

Grace's new labyrinth has been used several times for an activity (Acts 7:33), "Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground."

Our hope and goal for 2019 is to invite new members to join us. Women of all ages are welcome. This is a warm, friendly group open to possibilities. It is especially great for working women to have a night out once a month, enjoy a meal, talk, laugh, cry, and share the Blood and Bread of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Grace Community Labyrinth



We dedicated our beautiful new indoor labyrinth on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2018. This contemplative space was made possible by a diocesan grant and funds from the sale of St. Matthew's Bennett Avenue property. It is open to everyone in the community. Individuals are welcome any time the parish hall is not in use. Groups should contact the church office to arrange a time. Grace's labyrinth committee maintains the space and hosts special events throughout the year.

Women of Grace

Report submitted by Debbie Pidgeon

WOG Mission Statement:

To connect all women of our parish to the whole Church through a program of worship, study, service, outreach and fellowship. Women of Grace (WOG) is the official Episcopal Church Women's (ECW) group at Grace Episcopal Church. All women of the Episcopal Church USA are automatically members of the ECW.

The Women of Grace program year runs from September through May, with meetings on the third Tuesday of the month. Most months we enjoy a brown bag lunch and our speaker follows with a presentation. We explore the many aspects of our faith, as well as form new friendships and strengthen the bond of long-standing fellowship we share.

In addition to our monthly speaker meetings, our special events also provide meaningful opportunities for fellowship as we work together to provide financial support and resources for our church family, members of our community, and St. Stephen's of the Diocese of Puerto Rico for hurricane relief.

Our annual Mother's Day Drive for Kirk Care brought in a wealth of food, supplies and gift cards to help feed our hungry neighbors.

On December 8, WOG held its 13th annual Holiday Sale. Net profit was **\$4,471**. Proceeds will be used for outreach and a capital purchase for Grace Church.

In 2018 WOG donated **\$1,500** to Grace for the purchase of new vestments. **\$1,500** was donated to people of the Diocese of Puerto Rico for hurricane relief. Additional donations totaling **\$850** were made to Diocese of Missouri ECW (\$200), SPROG (\$600 for one week of lunches), and Church Women United (\$50).

I have often described my role in Women of Grace as a "labor of love." However to be completely honest, that love will sometimes be seasoned with frustration and a dash of healthy debate. There is something mystical about the blending of personalities into community, that helps us discover so much about ourselves and others. Through working together, learning together (at our speaker meetings), sharing the experiences that the business of community entails, and caring for each other, we ultimately find spiritual growth. I believe God is found most often in the voices and faces around us.

Women of Grace has been a holy community for me. I continue to be inspired by the women and men I have come to know through my work at Women of Grace.



We are God's Workmanship

2018 Programs and Presenters:

- **January:** *Don't Leave Home Without It: Traveling in Jim Crow America with the Green Book*; Shug Goodlow, Verger, Christ Church Cathedral
- **February:** *Quiet Day*; The Rev. Melanie Jianakoplos Slane, Assistant Priest, Emmanuel Episcopal Church
- **March:** *Biblical Outtakes*; the Rev. Daniel Handschy, Rector, Episcopal Church of the Advent
- **April:** *Soldiers' Stories: A Collection of World War II Memoirs*; Speaker/Co-author, Lynette Ballard
- **May:** *Bad Legs*; Elinor Young (via Skype), Polio Survivor/Missionary
- **September:** *Mystery and Power of the Labyrinth*; the Rev. Todd McDowell, Rector, Grace Church
- **October:** *Kinetic Prayer*; the Rev. Emily Hillquist Davis, Vicar, St. Thomas Deaf Church
- **November:** *History and Traditions of Jewish Holidays*; Rabbi Randy Fleisher, Central Reform Congregation

Women's Book Group

Report submitted by Michele Nicosia

The **Women's Book Group** falls under The Second Mark of Mission: *Teach, Baptize & Nurture*. During the winter of 2018, our congenial group finished reading **Barefoot** (novel three of the *Sensible Shoes* trilogy) observing how four women friends faced the challenges of their lives in their new calendar year. Then a **Bel Canto** performance went seriously awry in South America when terrorists crashed an operatic concert in the Vice-President's home, leading to months of tense negotiations and the surprising personal growth of the mired guests and rebels.

Come spring, we saw the **Underground Railroad** in a unique way via a highly lauded award-winning novel. Then the non-fiction book **Killers of the Flower Moon** showed us how Hoover's young FBI team unraveled the murderous 1920 attacks on the affluent Osage tribe.

Summer selections included two very different nonfiction books. **Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy** enlightened us to the writing and secret adventures of Ernest Hemingway from 1935 to 1961, as indicated by the title. **If You Lived Here I'd Know Your Name** gave us amusing and poignant insights about the residents and life in a small Alaskan town.

Changing pace with English humor, the group finished the summer and entered Fall with a popular quirky fiction book, soon to be a motion picture; **Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine** helped us appreciate

life-changing friendships found unexpectedly. After resolving Eleanor's problems, we tackled life from an American male's perspective with David Sedaris' memoir **Naked**, entering his hilarious, strange, elegiac and sometimes outrageous world. We closed out the year by starting to read and discuss **The Accidental President**, closely following Harry S. Truman's unprecedented first four-months as president and the life-altering decisions he was forced to make. Our group solicits book suggestions from parishioners, friends and many other sources, which we then vote on. These may be nonfiction works that add to our understanding of events, history, people, cultures and religion, or interesting, humorous, entertaining or inspiring fiction. Our group enjoys in-depth discussions of each book over 4-6 weeks, conversing about the world based on our individual life experiences.

We invite all women to join us at *any time*. *Never fear!!!* We don't study; we explore and discuss, sharing personal experiences and enjoying variety as the mix of ladies changes. It is not necessary to read the book to attend our sessions and contribute opinions to the free-flowing conversations, so watch for information in the iMessenger and Sunday bulletin and join ladies of Grace who gather almost every Tuesday after 10 a.m. in Kean Library. This is a great way to get to know other parishioners better and briefly pray for ailing Grace Church members. For more information about this invigorating and fun group, or if you have a book suggestion, contact Michele Nicosia at 314-962-7225 or email nicosmb@att.net.

Messy Church / First Sundays @ 5

Report submitted by Janis Greenbaum, Director of Christian Formation & Communications

On the first Sunday evening of each month, we come together for a short (but sweet) worship service with Holy Eucharist, followed by a meal prepared and served by one of our generous ministry teams. Sometimes these alternative worship services also include themed activities and fellowship events. They are designed for all ages to engage in the Word of God in casual, creative ways.

This series was originally called Messy Church, but we changed the name to First Sundays @ 5 in the fall of 2018. So far this year, we celebrated Saint Francis Day, All Saints' Day, and Advent. Our 2019 celebrations will focus on Saint Valentine, Mardi Gras, Lent, and Cinco de Mayo.



Invite Welcome Connect

Report submitted by Shari Bonham, Director of Development and Ministries Coordinator

The Invite Welcome Connect ministry is a model our vestry has elected to begin a transformational journey at Grace. The journey will equip and empower our congregation to cultivate intentional practices of evangelism, hospitality and connectedness — all rooted in the Gospel directive to, “Go and make disciples of all nations.” (Matthew 28:19)



In June of 2018 four members of our congregation (Shari Bonham, Kelly Eschenroeder, Mary Merriweather and Ryan Missel) attended the Invite Welcome Connect Summit at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee to learn more about the ministry. In October the Vestry voted to bring a facilitator from Sewanee to Grace to introduce the program to the congregation. Grace has partnered with the Diocese of Missouri and Mary Parmer,

founder of the program, will be at Grace March 1, 2 and 3, 2019.

There will be an opportunity to meet Mary on Friday, March 1 at a reception at Grace. Mary will preach at the 8 and 10 a.m. services on March 3 and will lead our Spiritual Formation hour at 9 a.m. Mark your calendars, because this is an event you will not want to miss. Mary brings to Grace her spiritual gift of dynamic and inspirational teaching and preaching.

Mary will also be leading the Diocesan Leadership Conference on Saturday, March 2. The workshop will include the theology of welcome, how welcome is everyone’s ministry, and the transformation that happens when we welcome all as Christ. The workshop is for those serving in leadership, welcome, or anyone who wants to learn concrete ways to open our doors wider, intentionally connect with newcomers, and empower the laity for ministry. Grace must register attendees with the diocese for this event, so if you are interested in attending please contact Shari Bonham in the parish office. Invite Welcome Connect team members would be happy to share more information about the ministry with you if you are interested in being a part of this ministry.

Invite Welcome Connect Team:

Shari Bonham, Kelly Eschenroeder, Mary Merriweather, Ryan Missel



Invite • Welcome • Connect

Workshop

Saturday, March 2

Grace Episcopal Church

Invite provides new opportunities to invite people not only into a relationship with the congregation at Grace but also inviting them into a relationship with God and Jesus Christ. There are many people waiting for and hungry for an invitation to be a part of a church community. Personal invitation is the most effective and essential part of reaching out.

Welcome is the ministry of hospitality. It covers everything beginning with first impressions in the parking lot through follow-up with visitors. It is about seeing others and using listening skills to really hear them. It goes beyond improving how we greet and welcome our guests, but it requires fresh eyes in examining our facilities inside and out. Our spaces must feel welcoming and open to nourishing relationships. It is about being a friendly community, not a community of friends.

Connect begins with offering a safe space where both newcomers and long-term members share their stories of what brought them to Grace. Through holy listening we can discern their giftedness and encourage them in their journey of faith. Connect offers clear pathways to belonging where newcomers are guided through their faith journey into the life of the congregation. Connect empowers each of us to live out our baptismal covenant by offering individual gifts and talents to God. It helps individuals hear God’s call in their lives.

THE THIRD & FOURTH MARKS OF MISSION:

To respond to human need by loving service;
To seek to transform unjust structures of society,
to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

**2019 Budget for
Mark 3 Ministries:**

\$55,840

Ministries Include:

Outreach Ministries
Pastoral Care Ministries
(plus personnel and benefits
related to these ministries)

**2019 Budget for
Mark 4 Ministries:**

\$2,677

Ministries Include:

Outreach Ministries

Community of Hope

Report submitted by Deborah Caby

“I felt a spiritual awakening on my second practice visit. I visited a young woman who was in the process of dying. After visiting and praying with her, I left feeling joyful, rather than depressed.” This is how many Community of Hope lay pastoral care givers feel when sharing the presence of Christ with others.

It is just the opposite of how one would expect to feel in these circumstances! When we fully immerse ourselves in focusing on the spiritual needs of the one we visit, we see Christ in them and we become Jesus' hands and feet in the world. What would seem difficult for most people, through prayer and community support, shaped by Benedictine spirituality, through extensive training, becomes a work of joy. Yes, sometimes we cry, but most often we leave a care receiver feeling blessed we could share their experience with the gift of our presence.

Not only are we fulfilling our Baptismal Covenant, we are doing the work Jesus asked us to do in Matthew 25:35-41. We are feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, clothing the naked, visiting those who are sick, lonely or in prison. We are the hands and feet of Christ!

2018 had us growing our community by eleven additional members by leading a class this Fall. We had members of our own parish, students of various parishes within the Diocese and also extended outside our denomination.

“Having a community to worship and debrief with is reassuring to the work we do. This is the most sacred of all the work I do.”

“The requirement of daily prayer has deepened my faith and forged a stronger relationship with God and opens my heart to even more possibilities to serve and see the Christ in others.”

We are creative in the ministries we serve in. We visit those in prison, feed the hungry, sit with those who are sick or dying, walk with service men and women who are deploying, visit aging veterans or those who suffer from PTSD. We tutor children from inner cities or refugees applying for citizenship. Where there is a need – we are there.



Outreach Ministries

Report submitted by Michele & Vince Nicosia

Grace Church Outreach seeks to facilitate through all parishioners our Lord's caring and sharing ministries to the greater community, and to fulfill our baptismal vow to seek and serve Christ in all persons. Our programs fall under the 3rd and 4th Marks of Mission. Through Grace's Outreach Ministries, in 2018 our parishioners gave assistance to people in need — providing time, talent, funds, goods and outreach monetary grants as shown below and on the following pages:

AFEDJ / Princess Basma Children's Center (Fr Todd McDowell)

\$4,000 / 1 hr

Parishioner Easter donations plus an outreach grant provided the above funds for the *American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem* to support this medical center and specified resources.

Food Pantries: Deaconess Anne House Little Free Pantry

\$ 200 / 1 hr

Kirk Care (Dick Entenmann, Mike Fitzgerald, Sue Nixon)

~ \$4,643 / 500 hrs

Trinity CWE (Becky Coulter & the Nicosias)

~ \$3,417 / 160 hrs

The Outreach Committee authorized a total of \$200 to provide food items for the DAH roadside Little Free Pantry. Grace parishioners generously filled the Hunger Barrel 16 times (@\$150 ea= value \$2,400), supported food drives and gave monetary donations... 7 Grace volunteers helped Kirk Care stock Food Pantry shelves, shop and deliver food to neighbors in need. The WOG Mother's Day collection provided \$1,230 cash/cards & 43 bags of groceries to Kirk Care (est. total value \$430). Becky works 3 hours most weeks at Trinity and parishioners provided hats, gloves and travel toiletries to those utilizing the pantry. Both major food pantries were given an additional \$2,000 in grants during 2018 by the Grace Outreach Committee.

Grace Hill (Sue Nixon)

~ \$ 500 / 50 hrs

Outreach provided a \$500 financial grant to support 2018 Grace Hill programs.

Hands on Kirkwood-11/ Celebration Event (Vince & Michele Nicosia)

\$ 250 / 300 hrs

68 Grace parishioners worked during HOK-11; more donated winter clothes, books & kiddie items for free HOK distribution to the community, and baby blankets/diapers to *Nurses for Newborns*. After community work was completed on Oct. 6, our parishioners hospitably provided a welcoming venue for 200+ volunteers to lunch and share work stories over chili, mac 'n cheese, hot dogs, snacks, sodas, hot drinks and homemade desserts to reward their efforts. This record-breaking year for HOK involved over 700 total volunteers working 40 community projects, distributing 8,500 winter clothing items, hundreds of toys and 160 food boxes to Kirk Care and 33 infant care items to *Nurses for Newborns*.

Historically Black Colleges & Universities (Fr Todd McDowell)

\$ 250 / 1 hr

The Outreach Committee supplemented the parishioner collection to donate \$250 to HBCU.

Magdalene House Giving Tree (Vince & Michele Nicosia)

\$ 245 / 10 hrs

Parishioners generously donated \$245 in gift cards to Magdalene House through the Giving Tree, allowing MH residents to select personal items and special foods, making their new year bright & happy.

Meacham Park Adopt-a-Family Event (Sue Nixon, Paula Russell and the Nicosias)

\$ 700 / 100 hrs

Middle-and High-schoolers made and sold Turkey Cookies to raise \$200 in funds for toys & games, making a total of 40 gifts (~\$250) to make Christmas brighter for Meacham Park children. Grace parishioners and the Outreach Committee contributed \$450 in gift cards for families. Sue Nixon & Jennifer Sisul attended the well-organized Dec 15 MP Holiday Party.

Shepherd's Center (Dick Entenmann & Mike Heyer)

\$ 500 / 125 hrs

Shepherd's Center enables older adults to remain vital and independent through programs and services that promote positive aging. Grace's 5 volunteers and a \$500 grant helped the center provide programs to the Kirkwood senior community, including: *Handy Hands, Shepherd's Travelers, Adventures in Learning, Chores Galore, Transportation Ministry* and the *Resource Center*.

Trinity Hot Lunch, CWE (Chris Kurth)

\$2,649 / 200 hrs

Before retiring in Dec, Chris 'shook up' the menu, changing from Grace's usual pork loin dinner to summertime brats & beans, and then to much-enjoyed meatballs & potatoes. This year ~100 volunteers bought, prepared and served 12 delicious meals for 863 CWE people. In Feb. and Dec., Grace Sunday school students made cards and assembled goodie bags for distribution to THL guests.

United Thank Offering (Shirley Browne)

\$ 648.61 / 15 hr

Grace parishioners provided UTO nearly \$649 in *Thank Offerings* to support mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and provinces of the Anglican Communion in the developing world.

3rd Mark total \$18,003 / ~ 1463 hrs= ~\$36,121

Outreach: Shepherd's Center

Reflection by Dick Entenmann

The Shepherd's Center of Webster-Kirkwood is the best-kept secret of local nonprofits. I became aware of it while working at the Kirk Care Food pantry in 2012 through Denise Miller. She recommended that I investigate it as an organization that does great things. I took her "gentle nudge" and put my name in as a volunteer. I have never regretted that decision. I have been a member of their Board for six years and have recently re-joined it.

The Mission of the Shepherd's Center is "Inspiring Older Adults through Enrichment, Volunteerism, and Community Connection." We provide programs and services to folks in our area and have volunteer opportunities in living out our mission. In addition, Grace is a sponsoring congregation and provides resources to the Shepherd's Center to help with their mission.

The one service that my wife Becky and I are part of is the Transportation Ministry. We provide rides for folks within our service area to their doctor's appointments, wait there and take them back to their residence. Our time commitment is minimal, about 2-5 hours per month. Since we can schedule our rides ourselves, this does not interfere with our other activities. We access their online requests, pick our ride for the following week and contact the rider. It seems like a very simple, minimally invasive thing, but the folks we serve are very appreciative of what we can do for them.

Personally, the folks I have met during my drives have been very interesting. One was the mother of the Bishop in Kansas City, another has been a professional bowler, another had been a school teacher for more than 50 years. One particularly interesting ride takes me to the pool/workout facility at Jefferson Barracks. He is taking physical therapy on a weekly basis, so I take him and wait for an hour until he finishes. I get a chance to speak with many veterans as they use the facility. Everyone I have driven has had their own special story, but the one thing in common is their appreciation for what we do. It gives me a great feeling to be able to give back to folks.

Outreach: Trinity Hot Lunch

Reflection by Chris Kurth

Count on a miracle.

Yes, if one's Christian discipleship or food ministry is dedicated to the glory of God, one can expect a miracle.

Once during my eight-year tenure as cook and server for the Trinity Hot Lunch program, food was running out. A miracle was needed. And miracles happen. History and the Bible record them. After the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, a fire threatened the city's Mission District. But one hydrant kept pumping water even though the area's water was cut off... a miracle honored every April 18 when the hydrant gets a new coat of paint. And Jesus' miraculous feeding of the five thousand is recorded in all four gospels.



But one time at Trinity Episcopal Church when the brats and baked beans were running out and the line for "seconds" had already formed, a miracle was needed. Unspoken prayers and spirit-guided Grace Church servers helped everyone who wanted seconds get something to eat. 108 brats fed 65 people twice! "God knows how to count," said Grace server Don Woehle, who witnessed it. So always expect the outreach program's Trinity Hot Lunch to give you a miracle.

Count on it!



Episcopal City Mission Chaplaincy**ECM Giving Tree & Birthday Party (Becky Coulter)****\$ 1,500 / 1 hr**
~ \$ 1,000 / 50 hrs

Grace provided \$1,500 in ECM chaplaincy funds for programs of support, hope and healing to youths in detention... \$185 in funds and 5 volunteers created a fun June 1 birthday celebration with pizza, ice cream & games for 20 youth. A successful Summer Celebration Event was held again at Grace on June 22 and *A Moment in Time* was supported by Grace parishioners on Oct 11. 50 Giving Tree Christmas gifts (valued ~\$385) plus \$430 in gift cards were donated for ECM youth needs.

Episcopal Relief and Development Fund (Marty O'Leary)**\$ 1,981 / 10 hrs**

ERD funds child survival programs, health initiatives, and US and global crises responses. In 2018 parishioners donated a total of \$981, to which Grace Outreach added \$1,000 designated for hurricane relief.

SPROG (Chris Kurth & the Nicosias)**\$2,250 / 25 hrs**

Grace Church donates valuable year-round office space to SPROG. A \$2,000 Outreach grant provided tuition assistance for Kirkwood youth to attend the SPROG summer program and parishioners supplied 305 school items for the students.

St Louis County Mentor Program (John Dotson & Kurt Feigley)**\$ 0 /**

The County Mentor Program particularly needs women mentors for girls in this program. If interested, talk to John or Kurt.

Task Force for the Hungry**\$ 500 / 1 hr**

A \$500 Grace Outreach grant to TFH helped them raise awareness about hunger and poverty issues and provide resources.

+CoChairs and Committee Meeting Hours= 100 hrs= \$2,469**4th Mark total ~\$7,231 / ~87 hrs= ~\$2,148**

Percentages of Outreach resources for various ministry categories in 2018 are broken down below:

<p><u>Within our Community:</u> 33 %</p> <p>Hands on Kirkwood Event KirkCare Food Pantry Meacham Park Adopt-a-Family Shepherd's Center SPROG</p>	<p><u>Within our Diocese:</u> 40 %</p> <p>Deaconess Anne House Little Free Pantry ECM Birthday Party / Xmas / Chaplaincy Grace Hill & Magdalene House St Louis County Mentor Program Task Force for Hungry Trinity Food Pantry & Hot Lunch</p>	<p><u>Beyond our Diocese:</u> 27 %</p> <p>AFEDJ / Princess Basma Children's Ctr Episcopal Relief & Development Historically Black Colleges & Universities United Thank Offering</p> <p>TOTAL 100%</p>
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<p><u>HUNGER:</u> 45 %</p> <p>Deaconess Anne House Little Free Pantry KirkCare Food Pantry Task Force for the Hungry Trinity Food Pantry & Trinity Hot Lunch</p>	<p><u>QUALITY OF LIFE for CHILDREN:</u> 35%</p> <p>AFEDJ / Princess Basma Children's Center ECM: Birthday Party / Xmas/ Chaplaincy SPROG St Louis County Mentor Program</p> <p>TOTAL 100%</p>	<p><u>QUALITY OF LIFE for ADULTS & FAMILIES:</u> 20 %</p> <p>Episcopal Relief & Development Grace Hill & Magdalene House Hands on Kirkwood Event Historically Black Colleges & Universities Meacham Park Adopt-a-Family Shepherd's Center United Thank Offering</p>
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PARISHIONER PARTICIPATION

<p><u>Many participants:</u></p> <p>AFEDJ / Princess Basma Children's Center ERD and UTO Food Pantry donations x2 Giving Tree Donations x3 Hands on Kirkwood Event SPROG donations Trinity Hot Lunch</p>	<p><u>Some participants:</u></p> <p>ECM Birthday Party Outreach Committee Meetings St Louis County Mentor Program Shepherd's Center</p>	<p><u>Coordinator / Oversight:</u></p> <p>Deaconess Anne House Pantry ECM Chaplaincy Historically Black Colleges & Universities Task Force for the Hungry</p>
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2018 Outreach gifts totaled more than \$25,234 provided by individual donations, gifts, Easter and Christmas collections, Vestry allocation, plus fundraiser events including the Ornament Exchange and the Pancake Supper. Volunteer hours were estimated at 1,650 (valued @\$24.69= **~\$40,738**), indicative of parishioners' generosity of time, talent and treasure. Outreach Co-Chairs gratefully acknowledge and thank parishioners for their generous financial and volunteer support.

Outreach: Meacham Park

Reflection by Jennifer Sisul

I began working with the Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association in my role as a Principal in Kirkwood Schools. I hoped it would help me make connections to a very important part of my school's demographic area. I was blessed that it has been so much more than that!

The MNIA is an association of residents of the area and from the Kirkwood Community who are focused on positive acts of change, mission and outreach. Through my years of involvement I have participated in summer programming for kids and families, STEM initiatives led by the Association, scholarship funding, Adopt-a-Family events and general fellowship with the members.

My connections with the membership have become deeper and more special over the years. I return to the work with the Association because of their positivity, orientation towards community-based action and their belief that a small group of committed people CAN make a difference. I leave Association meetings and events with a lighter heart and a renewed sense of hope.



Jennifer at the Meacham Park Homecoming Parade, June 2018

Outreach: St Louis Family Court Youth Mentoring

Reflection by John Dotson

I have served as a mentor to youth connected to the St Louis Family Court since moving to Kirkwood. I believe I am a deputy youth officer for the family court, but I have no badge. The youth I have mentored have been 15-years-old.

The basic purpose of the mentoring program is to provide a positive role model for the youth. I have found this to be a ministry of being present to the youth. I spend time listening to my assigned youth and answering his questions. I have been surprised by the questions I have been asked but I have to remember I may be the only adult male they have talked with at this level. That I am a Vietnam War veteran normally comes out and I get questions concerning my service, such as how many people did I kill? How I answer their questions depends on the youth and why I perceive they are asking their questions. Some youth trust me more than others.

The youth mentoring program needs young men and women to volunteer as mentors. In the past there has been a shortage of women mentors. I am viewed as a grandfather figure to the youth and I am not expected to run up and down a basketball court with them. Although I was trained to be a mentor, my primary role is to be there for them or to be myself. My youth coordinator interviewed me to learn more about who I am and my interests so I could be matched to a compatible youth.

Please contact me if you feel called to this ministry.

Grace Church Prayer Chain

Reflection by Ruth Moore

The Grace Prayer Chain was initiated on Mar. 17, 1996. It has a membership of 23 individuals committed to praying daily for the requests we receive. All requests are held in strict confidence. Most ask for the needs of the sick, successful surgery or family problems.

We had one request that was exceptional and encouraging. A member asked for a friend's Jewish cousin, who had been told he had pancreatic cancer. He went into remission that week and it lasted five years. It was a "wow" moment to be reminded that God does hear us and cares for us in amazing ways.

THE FIFTH MARK OF MISSION:

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

2019 Budget for Mark 5 Ministries:

Expenses for these ministries are connected to other ministries

Ministries Include:

Creation Care
Grounds & Landscaping
Memorial Garden and Columbarium

Grounds and Landscaping

The outward appearance of our property is important not only to our current members and neighbors, but it also serves to attract potential new members to our spiritual community. And 2018 brought some big changes to the outward appearance of Grace Church!



In a survey conducted in the fall of 2017, our members spoke out about the need for better landscaping and maintenance of our property. In response to your concerns, Grace's Vestry dedicated an additional \$5,000 of the 2018 budget to beautify our grounds and acquired a new long-term landscaping proposal from Walter Knoll Florist.

The first phase of that plan began last spring, with the removal of intrusive trees and old ground cover in the garden area in front of Albright Parish Hall. New trees, bushes and flowers have been planted in their place, along with a new irrigation system to help maintain the garden.

Seeds for this renovation were planted in 2011, when evangelism consultant Andrew Weeks came to Grace Church to share his practical ideas for church growth. He helped us understand how curb appeal can make a big difference to people looking for a new church home. Norm Olson, an Episcopal consultant who conducted last year's survey, agreed it's time to update our look.



We are lucky to have several members who have spent countless hours over the years to keep our gardens looking good. But the size and demands of our property make it difficult for volunteers to do all the work. Under the guidance of professionals, we hope to have landscaping that not only looks good, but is easier to maintain.

Watch for more improvements coming this spring and summer!

SUPPORTING MINISTRIES:

Building a foundation for all ministries at Grace Church

2019 Budget for Supporting Ministries:

\$276,160

Ministries Include:

- Administration
 - Archives
 - Communications
 - Endowment Trustees
 - Finance Committee
 - Grocery Coupons
 - Memorial Gifts
 - Planned Giving and Gifts
 - Stewardship
 - Sextons
 - Vestry
- (plus personnel and benefits related to these ministries)

The Vestry

The Vestry is the lay leadership of our parish, who act under the bylaws of our parish:

The duties of the Vestry shall be to take charge of the physical properties of the Parish; to attend to and regulate its temporal concerns; to provide for the support of the Rector, and for the staff persons whose employment has been authorized; to act as helpers to the Rector in whatever is appropriate to laypeople for the furtherance of the Gospel.

Vestry members serve three-year terms, with three new members elected each year. Grace's Vestry meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.



Grace Vestry Members:

Class of 2018 (retiring):

- Lyn Ballard
- Mike Johnson
- Pat O'Brien

Class of 2019:

- Rebecca Harrison
- Chris Ludbrook
- Tom Voller

Class of 2020:

- John Dotson
- Kelly Eschenroeder
- Mike Heyer

Class of 2021 Nominees:

(see candidate bios on opposite page)

- Mike Casey
- Pat O'Brien
- Susie Reis

Elected by the Vestry:

Treasurer:
Tim Engelbrecht

Clerk:
Sue Nixon

Personnel Committee:
Dick Entenmann



Mike Casey

I have been a member of Grace Church since 2010. I grew up in the Catholic Church attending St. Stephen's Parish in South St. Louis. During my time at Grace, I have served as an Usher, enjoyed Messy Church, and look forward to being more involved.

My wife is Dianne Casey. We have five children Hannah (24), Emma (20), Audrey (12), Lucas (8), and Peter (5). I work in a research lab at Washington University as a Staff Scientist in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. I am the treasurer for Lucas's Cub Scout troop. I enjoy running and am currently training for a triathlon.



Pat O'Brien

My husband Doug and I came to Grace during Lent of 2001, thanks to an invitation from Bryan Miller. I've been singing in the choir since then and am now also serving as a vestry member. About three years ago I began playing in the bell choir. I'm a lay reader, acolyte and lay Eucharistic minister, primarily at the 8:00 service. I know parishioners from both services. I've also served as a convention delegate.

Doug and I have lived in Chesterfield for 38 years. We have two children, Kathleen (37) and Ken (34). Our grandson, Eamon, was baptized at Grace last May. I was a city Planning Commissioner for six years and am a trustee for my neighborhood. I'm an Advanced Master Gardener with the Missouri Botanical Garden where I've been a Plant Doctor for 27 years.



Susie Reis (Susan Skinner Reis)

I am a lifelong St. Louisan and a lifelong Episcopalian. I grew up at St. Michael and St. George in Clayton, where my parents were very active. I attended Mary Institute and Wheaton College in Norton, MA.

I am married to Joe Reis and the mother of two grown sons, Charlie and John; mother-in-law to their wives, Kate and Nicole; grandmother to three beautiful granddaughters, Lauren, Hannah and Sarah. We have lived in Glendale for 40 years and worked as a teacher for most of my adult life, except for a couple of forays into retail, owning Simply Shaker in Kirkwood for nine years, and Gelato di Riso in three locations for six years. I'm currently teaching at Eliot Chapel Nursery School.

I have enjoyed serving in several ministries at Grace Church, including the Altar Guild, Labyrinth Committee, and the kitchen pantry supplies purchaser.



Diocesan Convention Candidates

Diocesan Convention Delegates meet throughout the year to discuss issues to be presented at our annual Diocesan Convention. They attend the annual Convention in November and cast votes on behalf of our parish. This year's nominees are:



Betty Bowersox (second term)

In 2003 I shifted my church membership from Church of the Good Shepherd to Grace/ Kirkwood, and immediately became active as a lay reader, Eucharistic minister, and later as an acolyte. I am also serving on Diocesan Standing Committee, and I've been on Grace's Stewardship committee for the past three years, last year serving as its chairman. It was also my privilege and honor to be (Lay) Co-Chair of the 2018 Diocese of Missouri Deputation to General Convention held in Austin, TX. Even better, I was able to join the Pilgrimage to Israel that Fr. Todd led in 2014 – a life-changing experience!



John Dotson (second term)

I became a member of Grace Episcopal Church during Holy Week, April 2014. I was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 1968. I made my Cursillo in 1978. I made my life vows in the Third Order Society of St Francis in 1978. I serve as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector at Grace Church. I serve as a member of Grace's vestry. I am active in the Community of Hope at Grace. I serve on the Diocesan Commission on Dismantling Racism. In the past I served as a youth mentor for the St Louis Family Court. I am native of Kingsport, Tennessee. I was member of the Methodist Church until college. I was an Army infantry lieutenant in Vietnam from 1970 - 1971. I received a MBA degree University of South Carolina, 1978. I moved to St Louis in 2014 to live near my daughter Virginia and her family.



Lyn Ballard (first term)

I have been a member of Grace since 2013, and before that a member of St. Matthew's Church since 1980. I am a lector and Eucharistic Minister, have helped with Trinity Hot Lunches, served on the Vestry since 2013, and am on the Labyrinth committee. I currently serve on the Diocese of Missouri's Commission on Ministry and the Diocesan Board of Examining Chaplains, and have been elected by the Metro III Convocation to the Diocesan Council. It's always important to stay connected to the work of the Diocese. This year it will be especially important, as we will be electing a new bishop at the Convention in the Fall. Frank and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary this year, and we are devoted to our daughter and her family. I love travel, theater, and am crazy about books. The recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land was a peak experience in my life.



Chris Ludbrook (alternate)

Minus a few teenage years, Grace Episcopal Church has been my home, and my family's home, for more than 45 years. It has been my honor to serve on the vestry for the past two years as we look to provide a home for not only today's parishioners, but those of tomorrow as well. As a member of the Church School Committee, I have served our youth over the past four years as a Sunday School leader in the high school and elementary classes. As an Alternate Delegate to Convention, I look forward to supporting Grace's position within the Diocese as we search for a new Bishop.





GRACE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Junior Warden

Report submitted by Rebecca Harrison

2018 was an eye-opening year as Junior Warden. Although I have been here since 1959, and therefore here when this church was built, I had no idea of the state it was in.

We started in January of 2018 with a major plumbing issue in the kitchen that required major expense to repair. It was the first of many.

The lower level classrooms below the church itself are an on-going repair. The side used by the Lab School is the more heavily used and therefore takes almost weekly fixing of some kind. The bathrooms in that part of the building are equally old, and equally needful of maintenance. 60-year-old plumbing requires parts that are getting increasingly difficult, and therefore expensive, to find. Ultimately, it would be in our best interest to replace those old fixtures, however that is not in our budget.

The choir room is, of course, the same age. It, too, has a bathroom that could use an upgrade, and it is in the choir room that we recently found a new problem: wiring. All they did was turn on a light switch, and wires actually melted in the walls. We managed to fix the immediate problem, but again, that wiring is 60 years old and should be replaced, however like the plumbing, it is not in our budget.

The outside of our property has long needed its own upgrade, and fortunately, we managed to get an increase in the 2018 grounds budget to cover the start of a push to make our grounds beautiful once again. This was only a start, but we will be doing another phase when spring arrives. We will be doing the other



side of the front and the area around our “new” spire.

The spire itself will finally be finished once spring arrives. As part of that project, we will get the driveway and monument lights that have been off since the tree fall two years ago repaired, as well as installing the new spotlights for the spire itself. It will be impressive once complete.

Our current project is waiting for the weather to break. The roof of Albright Hall, which has been roofed more than five times (so we have six layers up there) is finally worn out. It is 38 years old. Frederic Roofing will be tearing it all off back to the original base and putting the new one on as soon as the weather clears. Once they get the new roof on, there will be major exterior finishing work to the Parish Hall. It, too, is showing its age.

Last, you will see the return of Walter Knoll as they refresh all of our flower beds and re-mulch them to keep them looking as beautiful as last year. If you were



not aware, we have had people that are not members here comment on the beautiful grounds. We even had a group use our grounds for a photography competition. Our goal is to keep them looking great, but still have enough in our budget to deal with other issues on the grounds, like the trees that

need trimming. It is a balancing act with our very limited budget.

It has been an honor to be your Junior Warden for 2018. It gave me a chance to serve our Lord, and our community of faith, in a way I never would have contemplated. It is a very rewarding position, and one I will happily do again, if given the chance.

Senior Warden

Report submitted by Lynette Ballard

It has been a blessed and busy year. Here are some highlights.

In January we dedicated the newly labyrinth in Albright Hall. It has brightened up our parish hall and thrills the children who like to follow the path whenever they are there. Grown-ups, too, find walking the labyrinth slows down their stresses and revives their spirits. The project was made possible by a generous grant from the Diocese of Missouri's New Ventures in Community Ministry fund and our St. Matthew's Bennett Avenue fund. A labyrinth had long been a vision for the St. Matthew's congregation, and now, here it is. It is a symbol of pilgrimage for our whole congregation, the Diocese, and our community.



Just when we thought we had resolved the flat-roof problems with a new roof funded by a White Loan from the Diocese of Missouri, we found out that the saw-tooth roof over Albright Hall is badly aged and needs to be replaced very soon to protect the interior from damage. So, back to the drawing board we went, looking to expand the White Loan and meet another crisis. Our very alert and practical Junior Warden, Rebecca Harrison, has been attentive to present and future needs that our large grounds and 60-year-old church building present.



The merger with St. Matthew's congregation in 2013 has brought many blessings. This year, we used reserved funds to erect the St. Matthew's Church spire which had been salvaged from the demolition of the church building on Bennett Avenue in Warson Woods. It now stands near the intersection of Argonne and Woodlawn as a tribute to the generations of people who were members of St. Matthew's parish and symbolizes the legacy of the union of our two parishes. Some work is left to be done when weather permits, including spotlighting this beautiful addition to our grounds.

Among many important decisions and practical business matters the Vestry attended to this year, the most important is the decision to go forward with a capital campaign we are calling *Our Journey Continues*. This is a momentous decision, because all other regular ministries of the parish must continue while we are assuring the health of Grace far into the future. The majority of the

funds we raise will assure good care of our facilities into the future. It also will light up our lives with much needed upgrades to lighting in the nave, increase the legacy outreach fund, and pay off the White Loan (remember the roofs!) debt.

I am grateful for Grace's Invite, Welcome, and Connect initiative which is helping all of us to better know one another and new individuals and families who attend and choose to join our parish. I'm looking forward to the Invite, Welcome, and Connect program to be held at Grace, March 1 – 3 in conjunction with the Annual

Diocesan Leadership Conference. I hope that many of our Grace members will attend.

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



Rector's Report

Submitted by the Rev. Todd McDowell

Epiphany III 2019 – I Corinthians 12:12-31a

The Epistle for today is about the church being the body of Christ. Why do you think the apostle Paul used the image of a body to symbolize the church? Our bodies are strange, and wonderful, and complex, and awesome, and awkward things. Our bodies are capable of amazing physical feats -- just think back to the Olympic Games. Those athletes gave the world a picture of the body at its healthiest and strongest. But our bodies are also capable of being weak and sluggish. The characteristics of a healthy body in Christ are unity, equality, and empathy.



So, the body of Christ is gathered here this day, many different parts but one body. And today, as the body of Christ, we embark on a new capital campaign entitled *Our Journey Continues...*. In some ways it is unlike previous capital campaigns which have had a tangible brick and mortar focus. Our last campaign of nine years ago in 2010, which replaced our major HVAC systems, gave us new thermal glass windows, and retired our debt. The campaign ten years before that one at the turn of the millennium in 2000 which built an addition to our facilities, with a beautiful conference room, offices, ADA compliant restrooms on both floors, handicap accessible exterior doors, and an elevator. We are the benefactors of the many generations that have called Grace Church home over the past 160 years.

Yes, 2019 is the year that we celebrate 160 years as a parish in the Diocese of Missouri. 165 years ago, the year after Kirkwood was founded, Episcopalians gathered at the Bodley's new home each week to read Morning Prayer. Within five years they had bought land and built a beautiful English gothic church at the corner of Taylor and Argonne (now Eliot Chapel). But they wouldn't issue a call for Grace's first rector until the debt from that building was paid off in 1865. Our parish later purchased land and built a parish house at Taylor and Washington in 1924. The parish bought a large city block where we sit today and built a new church for worship in 1960 and added the parish hall and Sunday school classrooms in 1964. Our merger with St. Matthew's in 2013 brought additional land to our parish which was sold and that money in our Legacy Fund provides us with more than \$40,000 a year.

I was recently asked: Why do we need a capital campaign to endow our buildings? They went on to say that each generation has always paid for our facilities themselves. But that is not completely accurate; we have always benefitted from our previous generations which bought the land and built the buildings which we enjoy today. Through those saints of old, we have a beautiful building which sits on an entire city block and has all been paid for by them. In this 21st century church world we are not being called to buy more land or build new buildings; additional square footage is not needed to live out our dreams for God's mission and ministry in this community. But as our building approaches 60 years of age, we are being called to remember what we have, to maintain it, to honor the past, and modernize into the future.

Through our pledges and financial gifts, we are projected to pay about 73% of this year's budget for our current needs. And let me express my kudos to you for that, because that represents more than a 5% increase in dollars over last year. Thank you for your strong support of our annual stewardship. 20% of our budgeted needs will be covered by earnings from our traditional endowment started in 1983, and our legacy fund started in 2013. Those are funded primarily with estate gifts given out of love for this Grace parish which has meant so much to so many for 160 years. Five percent of our budget will come from the use by others of our building, one percent from other income and less than one percent from fundraising.

You ask: Well then, our budget is too big and why don't we cut it back? We have been doing that each and every

year in order to pass a balanced budget. This year your vestry gave up their annual retreat, the personnel committee had asked for merit salary increases for staff which had to be eliminated, a new folding machine was removed from the budget, and staff and ministries went back through their budget requests and cut significantly in order to cut expenses. These were sacrifices made by many in order to keep our mission and ministry alive and vibrant. I am proud to say this represents the seventh year in a row that we have given our full tithe to the Diocese of Missouri and our seventh year presenting you with a balanced budget. We have been able to do all of this while maintaining God's mission and living out our ministries which help define who and whose we are.

So yes, we have our beautiful church and building and block which is a beacon of hope to those in our community. I know of no other church which has its doors of welcome so wide open as we bring in more than 300 non-parishioners each week to use our facilities to further God's work: St. Thomas' Church for the Deaf, the Lab School, SPROG, Contemplative Outreach, many 12-step programs, and others in our community. Our building is truly an important ministry not only for our own needs but for the more than 300 people each week that find God's presence here at Grace Church. So, we have a church with a building and grounds which is vital to our ministry, which most of us have not had to pay for but was entrusted to our care as a gift from previous generations to continue God's mission and grace in our community.

The long-term viability of this parish will be maintained through endowing the cost of maintaining our building and grounds. A successful \$1 million campaign would add enough annual income to our legacy fund to provide for the annual budgeted expenses of our building and grounds. Imagine if future generations didn't have the annual expenses of these facilities to worry about, and all the funds raised in our annual stewardship went to the current ministry needs of this parish without worry for the building.

I'm sure you have seen the numerous churches with for-sale signs, many throughout St. Louis and all around the country. There is only one reason that these churches had to close: they couldn't maintain their buildings. The size of any parish can ebb and flow over time, ministries can grow or shrink accordingly. The one fixed cost that we can't escape from is that of the buildings and their maintenance.

Other parts of this campaign will improve the inadequate lighting here in the nave, reduce our debt from new roofs and boilers, and a 10% tithe will go to the Legacy Outreach Fund to provide for others in our community. In fact, if *Our Journey Continues* campaign is successful in reaching our goal, the people and agencies supported by our outreach will benefit from an additional \$5,000 each and every year.

We are so fortunate to have our wonderful and dedicated staff; they are always going above and beyond for the people of Grace. It is through our staff, lay leadership and all of you the people of Grace, that we are able to carry on God's mission and vibrant ministry in our community. I am also very grateful that in May I will celebrate 10 years as your rector. But my importance to this church is no greater than any other member of the body of Christ. Every last one of us, from the youngest to the oldest member, is equally valuable and important in the body of Christ.

As our Epistle today reminds us: we are all members of the one body.

“The body does not consist of one member but of many... But the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

Our Journey Continues reminds us we are the body of the church in this our community. As we are individually members of this one body, we know that each and every one of us has unique gifts and resources. So, our individual contributions to *Our Journey Continues* will not be an equal share, but we pray that from each of us, *it will be an equal sacrifice!*

Amen.

Grace Episcopal Church Statement of Financial Activities

For the Year Ending December 31, 2018

	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	
Ministry Revenues				
From the Congregation:				
Current Year Pledges	\$ 400,942	\$ 383,077	\$ 422,912	<i>Current Year Pledges</i>
Non-Pledge Offerings	\$ 29,000	\$ 31,945	\$ 29,000	<i>Offerings from families and individuals who do not pledge</i>
Excess Pledge Offerings	\$ 12,000	\$ 15,562	\$ 12,000	<i>Pledgers who gave in excess of their pledge for current year</i>
Prior Year Pledge	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,783	\$ 7,000	<i>Pledges for prior year paid in current year</i>
Plate Offering	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,389	\$ 7,000	<i>Loose plate cash in Sunday Offering</i>
Total From the Congregation	\$ 455,942	\$ 443,756	\$ 477,912	
Endowment, Legacy & Investments	\$ 130,614	\$ 130,772	\$ 132,096	<i>Income from Endowment & Legacy Funds & other investments</i>
Fundraising	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,017	\$ 2,500	<i>Income from fundraising</i>
Facility Use Income	\$ 33,342	\$ 32,778	\$ 33,840	<i>Income from facility use</i>
Other Income	\$ 16,994	\$ 16,038	\$ 6,500	<i>Miscellaneous income</i>
Total Revenues	\$ 639,392	\$ 625,361	\$ 652,848	
Ministry Expenses				
<i>Mark 1: Proclaim the Good News</i>				
Worship	\$ 3,668	\$ 2,995	\$ 3,250	<i>Worship related expenses</i>
Music Ministries	\$ 5,500	\$ 4,482	\$ 5,305	<i>Vocal and Handbell Choir Expenses</i>
Diocesan Support	\$ 62,201	\$ 62,201	\$ 62,700	<i>Diocesan Assessment (12.5% of revenue in Parochial Report)</i>
Personnel & Benefits	\$ 144,751	\$ 140,192	\$ 146,470	<i>Includes stipend, benefits and taxes</i>
Total Mark 1	\$ 216,120	\$ 209,870	\$ 217,725	
<i>Mark 2: Teach, Baptize & Nurture New Believers</i>				
Baptism & Confirmation	\$ 700	\$ 362	\$ 1,000	<i>Expenses for baptisms and confirmation</i>
Christian Formation	\$ 6,550	\$ 6,865	\$ 6,750	<i>Resources for Spiritual Formation and Sunday School</i>
Invitation & Hospitality Ministries	\$ 6,950	\$ 4,864	\$ 8,360	<i>Supports newcomer programs and social programs</i>
Personnel & Benefits	\$ 86,638	\$ 87,401	\$ 84,336	<i>Includes stipend, benefits and taxes</i>
Total Mark 2	\$ 100,838	\$ 99,492	\$ 100,446	
<i>Mark 3: Respond to Human Need through Loving Service</i>				
Pastoral Care	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,337	\$ 2,300	<i>Pastoral support for human needs</i>
Outreach	\$ 5,700	\$ 5,848	\$ 5,950	<i>Support for outreach ministry programs</i>
Personnel & Benefits	\$ 46,376	\$ 46,694	\$ 47,590	<i>Includes stipend, benefits and taxes</i>
Total Mark 3	\$ 54,376	\$ 54,879	\$ 55,840	
<i>Mark 4: To Seek to Transform Unjust Structures of Society</i>				
Outreach	\$ 2,242	\$ 2,030	\$ 2,677	<i>Support for outreach ministry programs</i>
Total Mark 4	\$ 2,242	\$ 2,030	\$ 2,677	
<i>Parish Life: Supporting All Marks of Mission</i>				
Governance	\$ 3,430	\$ 3,522	\$ 2,200	<i>Staff, parish and vestry expenses</i>
Stewardship & Finance	\$ 11,157	\$ 10,567	\$ 10,727	<i>Year-round stewardship ministries, including finance</i>
Communications	\$ 1,778	\$ 1,048	\$ 2,331	<i>Publications, signage, licenses & webhosting expenses</i>
Parish Office	\$ 34,072	\$ 33,982	\$ 32,477	<i>Office supplies, equipment, postage, copier & technology</i>
Facilities	\$ 114,898	\$ 132,121	\$ 120,201	<i>Expenses for building & grounds, utilities and insurance</i>
Personnel & Benefits	\$ 100,413	\$ 99,817	\$ 108,224	<i>Includes stipend, benefits and taxes</i>
Total Parish Life	\$ 265,748	\$ 281,057	\$ 276,160	
Total Expenses	\$ 639,324	\$ 647,328	\$ 652,848	
Net Total	\$ 68	\$ (21,967)	\$ -	

Treasurer's Summary Report

Report submitted by Tim Engelbrecht

2018 Ministry Budget Results

2019 Ministry Budget

Ministry Revenues

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Actual %</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual %</u>
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2018</u>		<u>Of Total</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Of Total</u>
				<u>Revenues</u>		<u>Revenues</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 383,077	\$ 400,942	\$ (17,865)	61.3%	\$ 422,912	64.8%
Non-pledge offerings	\$ 31,945	\$ 29,000	\$ 2,945	5.1%	\$ 29,000	4.4%
Excess pledge income	\$ 15,562	\$ 12,000	\$ 3,562	2.5%	\$ 12,000	1.8%
Prior year pledge income	\$ 5,783	\$ 7,000	\$ (1,217)	0.9%	\$ 7,000	1.1%
Plate offerings	\$ 7,389	\$ 7,000	\$ 389	1.2%	\$ 7,000	1.1%
Other income	\$ 851	\$ 1,650	\$ (799)	0.1%	\$ 6,800	1.0%
Fund raising	\$ 2,017	\$ 2,500	\$ (483)	0.3%	\$ 2,500	0.4%
Facility usage	\$ 32,778	\$ 33,342	\$ (564)	5.2%	\$ 33,840	5.2%
Transfer Cap. Reserve/Cap. Camp.	\$ 1,594	\$ 1,594	\$ —	0.3%		
2017 Surplus carryover	\$ 13,900	\$ 13,900	\$ —	2.2%		
Endowment fund income	\$ 82,035	\$ 82,035	\$ —	13.1%	\$ 81,780	12.5%
Legacy Fund Allocation	\$ 48,429	\$ 48,429	\$ —	7.7%	\$ 50,016	7.7%
Total Revenues	\$ 625,360	\$ 639,392	\$ (14,032)	100%	\$ 652,848	100%

2018 Ministry Budget Results

2019 Ministry Budget

Ministry Expenses

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Actual %</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual %</u>
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2018</u>		<u>Of Total</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Of Total</u>
				<u>Expenses</u>		<u>Expenses</u>
Ministries & Outreach	\$ 77,904	\$ 82,448	\$ 4,544	12%	\$ 84,973	12%
Diocesan Support	\$ 62,201	\$ 62,201	\$ —	9.6%	\$ 61,054	9.4%
Facilities	\$ 133,117	\$ 116,498	\$ (16,619)	20.6%	\$ 120,201	18.4%
Personnel & Benefits	\$ 374,105	\$ 378,117	\$ 4,072	57.8%	\$ 386,620	59.2%
	\$ 647,327	\$ 639,324	\$ (8,003)	100%	\$ 652,848	100%
Total	\$ (21,967)	\$ 68	\$ (22,035)		\$ —	

**Grace Episcopal Church Gifts Beyond the Budget
For the Year Ending December 31, 2018**

	Actual	Total	Notes:
Mark 1: Proclaim the Good News			
Flower and Music Donations	\$2,500		<i>Christmas & Easter Flowers & Music</i>
Vestments	4,118		<i>Individual Donations</i>
Vestments	1,500		<i>Women of Grace</i>
Handbell Fund	105		<i>Individual Donations</i>
Labyrinth	23,579		<i>Bennett Avenue Fund</i>
Labyrinth	19,160		<i>Diocesan Grant</i>
Total Mark 1: Proclaim the Good News	\$50,961	40.03	%
Mark 2: Teach, Baptize & Nurture New Believers			
Total Mark 2: Teach, Baptize & Nurture	\$0	0.00%	
Mark 3: Respond to Human Need Through Loving Service			
Easter Offering	4,100		<i>Easter Offering</i>
L'Arche Grant	50		<i>Women of Grace Donation</i>
Episcopal Relief & Development	720		<i>Individual Donations</i>
Iglesia San Esteban (Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief)	1,500		<i>Women of Grace Donation</i>
Episcopal Relief & Development	224		<i>Church School Lenten Project</i>
Episcopal Relief & Development	500		<i>Hurricane Relief from Outreach</i>
Kirkcare Food Pantry	1,215		<i>Mother's Day Food Drive</i>
Kirkcare Food Pantry	1,000		<i>Outreach Seasonal Offerings</i>
Kirkcare Food Pantry	265		<i>Individual Donations</i>
Trinity Food Pantry	1,000		<i>Outreach Seasonal Offerings</i>
Discretionary Fund	4,095		<i>Individual Donations</i>
Community of Hope	600		<i>Individual Donations</i>
United Thank Offering	649		<i>Individual Donations</i>
Trinity Episcopal Church	50		<i>Stole Donation</i>
Trinity Hot Lunch	50		<i>Outreach Seasonal Offerings</i>
Bishop's Offering	265		<i>Offering from Bishop's Visitation</i>
Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity	1,500		<i>Youth Mission Trip Donation</i>
Trinity Episcopal Church, Iowa City, IA	1,500		<i>Youth Mission Trip Donation</i>
Total Mark 3 Respond to Human Need:	\$19,283	15.15	%
Mark 4: To Seek to Transform Unjust Structures of Society			
Sprog	2,000.00		<i>Outreach Grant from Seasonal Offerings</i>
Deaconess Ann House	100.00		<i>Little Free Pantry Donation</i>
Deaconess Ann House	100.00		<i>Outreach Seasonal Offerings</i>
Episcopal City Mission	1,500.00		<i>Outreach Grant from Seasonal Offerings</i>
Total Mark 4:	\$3,700	2.91%	
Parish Life: Supporting All Marks of Mission			
Columbarium Maintenance	810.00		<i>Columbarium Security Deposits</i>
Irrigation System	13,799.83		<i>Designated Offerings & Bennett Ave Fund</i>
Spire Project	17,888.39		<i>Bennett Avenue Fund</i>
Albright Hall Sound System	4,997.59		<i>Capital Reserves</i>
Albright Hall Sound System	5,000.00		<i>Equipment Donation</i>
Legacy Fund Donations	10,864.00		<i>Individual Donations</i>
Total Parish Life	\$53,360	41.92	%
Total Gifts Beyond the Budget	\$127,304	100%	

Stewardship Committee

Report submitted by Betty Bowersox

Last August the Stewardship Committee decided to begin a journey of year-long stewardship, complete with occasional testimonials during Sunday announcements as well as emailed ministry messages, intended to help create a link between what we believe, what we do, and what we give. Carla Kurth movingly spoke about the importance of the church family, and how these relationships lead to stewardship. We heard about gratitude and gratefulness from Stan Wallach, celebrated past achievements around Grace with Janet Mika, Andy Miller spoke about the spirituality of tithing as well as how pledging and a capital campaign fit together to address the needs of the parish, and Chris Ludbrook shared some thoughts on thanks and praise. Lastly, we heard Skip Giessing's message about volunteerism — here is an excerpt:

“Stewardship in the Episcopal Church is about being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God. The tradition of giving back to God and to the church comes from the biblical practice of tithing... we see stewardship as more than simply contributing money to the church; it is also about contributing time and talents, and volunteering for ministry, outreach and mission. For me, stewardship is a balance of my time, talent and treasure that I voluntarily give back to God and this church as a way of honoring what God and this church mean to me and my family....

“As a member of the finance committee, I know how important treasure is and how necessary it is for the well-being of our church. Our ability to operate and maintain our property and our ability to complete necessary mission work within our community depends on a healthy financial budget. But finance alone does not make this happen. Volunteering our time and talent are equally important ways we provide stewardship to the church. There are many service committees at Grace, and those committees are



always looking for new members to keep them fresh, and to provide new ideas! . . .

“The church needs your treasure, your talent, AND your time to function. We volunteer for the comradery, but more importantly because we are faithful stewards of God and this church. Many of you will be asked to serve in one capacity of another, but honestly, I hope you won't wait to be asked. Volunteer! The more involved we all are, the healthier our church becomes, the more we serve others and the stronger all our relationships with one another (and God) become.”

Thank you to Andy Miller, Skip Giessing, Marty O'Leary, Janet Mika and Lyn Ballard who all said “Yes” (but please don't make me do follow-up Pledge Calls) when asked to serve on the Stewardship Committee. A huge thank you to all the ministries that participated in the three Ministry Fair Sundays in November to share our many Good News opportunities with the rest of the parish – your posters (and treats)

were spectacular. And thank YOU for the sharing of your time, talents and treasures before, now, and in the future!

If something you've done at Grace or experienced because of Grace has made an impact or difference in your life and you'd like to share that experience some Sunday, please leave a note in the stewardship mailbox – there's paper there for your input.

Dear Lord – To You all Hearts are Open!

Planned Giving & Gifts Committee

Report submitted by Ron Ryan

Our Committee's purpose is to communicate ways you can leave a lasting legacy to Grace Church, and streamline the process for you!

In September we hosted a fun Perpetual Grace Appreciation Evening at Fr. Todd's home & patio, with musical accompaniment by our own talented Lilly Van Rees! We always have a great time at this annual event to celebrate those who acknowledge including Grace Church in their estate plan (will or trust).

You can support Grace Church for many years by naming one of these funds in your estate plan:

The **Grace Church Endowment Fund**. Annual income from your gift to this fund will perpetually support general church needs and programs.

The **Grace Legacy Fund**. Annual income from this fund supports the church, but has increased flexibility, allowing you to designate the ministries you want to benefit from your gift.



Let one of us or the church office know if you have named Grace Church in your estate plan (we don't need to know the details), and we will include you on the *Perpetual Grace* donor tree which is located in the corridor just outside the library & Albright Hall. This is our way to publicly recognize those who indicate including Grace in their estate plan. Many thanks to these current & former parishioners who have already done so:

Sandra & John Adams

Benjamin E. & Barbara Berry

Wayne & Shari Bonham

Bill & Mary Cadwallader

Clark S. & Jean C. Davis

Richard & Rebecca Entenmann

Sonja Gentsch Freeman

John C. Herweg, M.D.

Dave & Ruth Jayne

Christopher & Carla Kurth

The Rev. Todd & Sabine McDowell

Larry & Katherine Reimelt

Tom & Liz Allen

Ed & Joan Bland

Betty L. Bowersox

Paul & Katie Compton

John W. Dotson

Michael & Pamela Fitzgerald

Joe & Mary Etta Heggie

Michael W. & Janet M. Heyer

Alexander & Martha Jones

Diana P. Kurth

Vince & Michele Nicosia

Ron & Lucy Ryan

Lynette & Frank Ballard

Marion A. Bock Trust

Stan & Christie Boyle

Becky & Tom Coulter

Tim & Becky Engelbrecht

The Rev. David Kerrigan Fly

Jean Heimos

Robert Dean Howell

Kendall & Elizabeth Kaul

Carl W. Luyties Irrevocable Trust

Donald William Radeackar & Norma Lee Ethel

Ted & Julie Sward

Page 455 of the Book of Common Prayer reminds us of our duty to provide for the well-being of our families, church, and favorite charities in wills. We ask that you please remember Grace Church in your estate plans, which will help support our ministry for generations to come.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss tax-savvy giving options with you. Everyone's situation is unique, so we always advise involving your personal advisor to determine what is right for you. If you have not already included Grace Church in your estate plan, please let us know how we can help!

Planned Giving & Gifts Committee:

Ron Ryan (chair, 909-1000), Julie Sward (825-2900), Bill Cadwallader (799-1339, Fr. Todd



Grace Endowment Fund & Grace Legacy Fund

Report submitted by Ron Ryan

Year 2018 Overview – Grace Endowment Fund

Beginning Market Value (12/31/2017)	\$1,746,924
Asset Increase/ (Decrease), net	(111,362)
Distributions to Grace Church	(82,035)
Fees & Expenses	(9,183)
Contribution/Additions	<u>2,530</u>
Ending Market Value (12/31/2018)	<u>\$1,546,874</u>

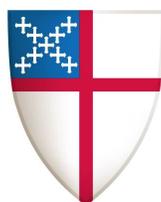
Year 2018 Overview – Grace Legacy Fund

Beginning Market Value (12/31/2017)	\$1,075,698
Asset Increase/ (Decrease), net	(63,772)
Distributions to Grace Church	(48,429)
Fees & Expenses	(6,296)
Contribution/Additions	<u>20,894</u>
Ending Market Value (12/31/2018)	<u>\$ 978,095</u>

<u>Current Investment Allocation</u>	<u>Policy Range</u>	<u>Endowment Fund</u>	<u>Legacy Fund</u>
Large Cap Equities	25-70%	31%	32%
Mid Cap Equities	0-20%	7%	6%
Small Cap Equities	0-20%	7%	6%
International Equities	0-25%	23%	21%
Fixed Income	25-45%	31%	31%
Cash & Equivalents	0-10%	<u>1%</u>	<u>4%</u>
		<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

The Grace Legacy Fund allows donors the flexibility to direct gifts to their favorite causes. Year-end balances are as follows: St. Matthew Mission Fund \$784,080, Columbarium and Memorial Garden \$51,936, Mission, Ministry and Outreach \$48,227, Organ and Music \$41,220, Women Ministries \$8,554, Children and Youth Christian Formation \$5,108, Altar Guild/Flowers \$822, Building \$261, and the Undesignated Fund \$37,887. In addition to estate planned gifts, any unspecified gifts from memorials, etc. are placed in this fund.

Endowment Fund Trustees: Bill Cadwallader (Chair), Chris Pierce (Secretary Treasurer), Janet Mika, Diane Warhover, Don Neubacher, Ron Ryan and the Rev. Todd McDowell.



Grace Episcopal Church

Minutes of the 159th Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2018

Report submitted by Sue Nixon, Secretary to the Vestry

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 and opened with a prayer given by Father Todd McDowell.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Marty O’Leary presented the Report of the Nominating Committee (see pages 25 and 26 of the 2018 Annual Meeting report packet), which included a slate of three candidates for Vestry terms of three years each: John Dotson, Kelly Eschenroeder, and Mike Heyer. There was one candidate nominated to serve a three-year term as Delegate to Diocesan Convention: Pat O’Brien. There will be two unfilled positions for Delegate to Diocesan Convention. Those positions will be appointed by the Vestry. It was moved and seconded to receive the report of the nominating committee. Motion passed. At 9:12, the floor was opened to further nominations for Vestry members or Convention Delegates. The polls remain open for 30 minutes.

Junior Warden’s Report: Mike Johnson’s report can be found in the 159th Annual Meeting packet on page 3. Mike spoke to the parish about improvements made in 2017, and about future improvements, notably the installation of the spire from St. Matthew’s Church.

Senior Warden’s Report: Lyn Ballard’s report can be found on page 4 of the 159th Annual Meeting packet. Lyn highlighted improvements to the facility, programs that take place at Grace, and personnel issues.

Father Todd appointed Sue Nixon as secretary and Steve Jianakoplos as parliamentarian.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes from the 158th annual meeting be approved as written. Passed.

Rector’s Comments: Father Todd expressed his gratitude to the 2017 Vestry, especially Kurt Feigley and Marty O’Leary, who have completed their terms on the Vestry. Father Todd also extended thanks to all of those in leadership positions and to all committee members, all of whom contribute so much to the life of Grace Church.

Father Todd encouraged everyone to read the entire 2018 Annual Meeting packet, and to share it with friends. He extended thanks to Janis Greenbaum for the many hours spent putting the packet together. It was moved and seconded that all reports printed in the 2018 Annual Meeting Packet be received. Motion passed.

Endowment Fund Report: Ron Ryan reported on the Grace Endowment Fund and the Grace Legacy Fund. The report can be found on page 31 of the 2018 Annual Meeting packet. Both funds performed very well in 2017, ending with a combined balance of \$2.8 million dollars. Ron pointed out that contributions totaling \$42,000 were received in 2017. Ron also pointed out the Planned Giving and Gifts Committee report, found on page 32 of the 2018 Annual Meeting packet.

Financial Updates: Treasurer Tim Engelbrecht presented the 2018 budget, found on pages 33 and 34 of the Annual Meeting report packet. Included in the report are the actual and budget amounts for the 2017 budget, as well as the 2018 budget. Tim reported that 2017 ended with a positive balance of \$13,900. That amount has been transferred to the 2018 budget as “Other Income.” Tim extended thanks to Finance Committee members and to the staff and committees of Grace for doing an excellent job of controlling expenses. Tim invited parishioners to contact him if they have any questions regarding the budget. Tim noted that this is the fourth year of ending with a positive balance, and the fifth year of paying our full Diocesan assessment. Tim noted that loose cash plate offerings, which the Vestry has designated to go to Outreach, came in at just over \$8,000, which is over the budgeted amount of \$6,500. Utility costs have been kept down due to improvements made to the building. Principal payments of \$27,322 were made towards the \$135,000 White loan, which was taken out in September 2016. A large portion of the principal payments was from gifts designated to pay off the White Fund loan (\$21,548).

Tim reviewed the 2018 budget. He extended thanks to Debby Pidgeon for chairing the Stewardship Committee. Tim pointed out the Gifts Beyond the Budget report on page 34, which notes \$55,810 of contributions that do not pass through the ordinary budget, and support important ministries at Grace, in St. Louis, and around the world. At 9:46, it was moved and seconded that the polls close. Motion passed.

It was moved and seconded that the slate for Vestry be elected. Passed.

It was moved and seconded that the convention delegate nominee be elected. Passed.

Father Todd asked parishioners with questions about the annual report to come forward:

Q: Highlights of the Vestry meetings used to be published in the Messenger. Why are they not published anymore?

A: Father Todd will look into this, as well as the posting of the minutes in Albright Hall.

Q: Where is the new pictorial directory?

A: It is awaiting printing. One delay was waiting for the labyrinth floor to be laid, as a photo of the floor will be on the cover of the directory. There was also a good deal of editing that needed to be done.

Father Todd opened the floor to other business. There was no other business brought to the meeting by parishioners.

Father Todd's sermon will serve as the Rector's Report.

Father Todd noted that Lyn Ballard has agreed to serve another year as Senior Warden. The Vestry will elect the Junior Warden at a special Vestry meeting following the 10:00 service.

The annual meeting continues with the celebration of the Eucharist and the dedication of the labyrinth. It was moved and seconded that the annual meeting will adjourn after the dismissal of the 10:00 service. Motion passed.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As we celebrate the past 160 years of our parish life, *Our Journey Continues...* gives us a unique and exciting opportunity to leave a lasting legacy. This opportunity ensures the journey of Grace Church will continue for our children and their children, for the next 160 years... and beyond!

Our Journey Continues... is a capital campaign to provide a permanence to the care of our buildings and grounds.

Funds raised through this campaign will go to the following:

- ⇒ **70% to Grace's Legacy Building and Grounds Fund**, where income generated will be used to cover our annual building expenses year after year;
- ⇒ **10% to new lighting in the church nave**, to brighten our worship space and reduce energy costs;
- ⇒ **10% to pay off the majority of our debt**, including a loan for new boilers and new roofs over the Narthex and Albright Parish Hall;
- ⇒ **10% to Grace's Outreach Fund**, as our tithe to God and our community for the blessings of this campaign.



Here's what people are saying:

Barbara Manuel:

Grace Church has been my "home" all of my life (almost 63 years). I was baptized in our former building (corner of Argonne & Taylor) in 1956, Confirmed in 1970, and married here in 1979. Some of my closest friends I met at Grace. We share activities here as well as outside of church. I believe this Capital Campaign is important for the following reasons:

- Improve the much needed lighting system in the Nave.
- Maintain our 60-year-old building, not only for our congregation but also for all the other groups that use our facilities.
- Increase our Legacy Fund for future generations to enjoy activities and worship without worry.

Joanie Van Rees:

A successful campaign will enable our members to focus on ministry and outreach. Grace members can be satisfied knowing that their contributions will be used to put the teachings of our faith into meaningful actions.

Grace Church is a second home to our family. We worship and learn there and feel confident that the building and members will be there when we need them to be.

Tim Engelbrecht:

The Capital Campaign - "Our Journey Continues" - comes at the absolute right time in Grace's history. This year we will be celebrating Grace's 160th year and I am very thankful to all the Grace members before us and what they did to get us here. But now we must step forward and put in place the means to keep Grace going for the next 160 years. Grace to me, is not only a place where we come to worship on Sundays, it is our family and where we raised our family, is where if a member is in need we all step in together to help out. It is important to me that this continues in the future so that my children and their children, etc. can experience this.

Carla Kurth:

Home is where the heart is, and Grace is my church home. I have been a member at Grace for 37 years. My children grew up in this place, this community of support. They were baptized here, were shaped by Mary Etta Heggie and the many Sunday school classes and events they attended, were guided by Philip Brunswick during their choir years (all three kids totaled 41 years of choral music!), participated in 11 mission trips, and made lifelong friends. One son was so moved by his experiences here that he went to divinity school and is now an ordained priest. And now, my granddaughter attends Grace's nursery (just like her mom did!), plays in Albright Hall, and accepts communion from Fr. Todd while surrounded by loved ones. May the circle be unbroken. I encourage you to support our capital campaign in gratitude for days past and present, and with hope for future generations who will come to call Grace home.

Mike Heyer:

I believe the capital campaign is important because it helps to ensure the parish will continue operations for future generations.

Broad support and commitment from and by parishioners is needed in order to maximize the amount raised. No amount is too small. Our goal of \$1 million gives the parish the funds needed to annually cover building and grounds maintenance expense in perpetuity as well as being able to make needed improvements in lighting, significantly payoff current outstanding debt and provide money for outreach.

Grace Church is my home. I have been a member for over 40 years. My late wife Janet was a life long member and is interred in the Columbarium. My daughters were born and raised here - baptized, confirmed and married. Both of my weddings were here. I feel it very important that future generations are able to enjoy what we are able to enjoy today.

Lyn Ballard:

It will build a financial foundation to maintain our buildings into the future. The building is 60-years-old and we need to have stability as we face future needs. These things can't be done on a crisis-only basis.

It will mean better lighting in the nave -- awfully dark in there now. It will mean more opportunity to serve persons who are vulnerable and in need in our community. It will give future leaders the ability to focus on mission and ministry rather than constantly seeking funds to repair the infrastructure.

Supporting this campaign will link us to one another and to Grace in even stronger bonds than we have now.

Our Campaign Prayer:

Lord, what do you want to do through me?

Bountiful God,

We come together in gratitude for your generations of blessings to us at Grace Episcopal Church.

Mindful always of your abundant love, in which we already possess all that we need,

We ask you:

Open our eyes and hearts to your will for the future of this place.

Stir in us a passion, courage, and commitment for the work ahead.

Keep us respectful of one another, all who join us in this effort, and all who --for whatever reason--may not take up the invitation.

Let zeal for your house consume us, not for our glory but yours, not for pride in leadership but for joy in service, not for monuments of brick and mortar but for a legacy of faith.

Remind us that without you we can do nothing, and with you, nothing is impossible.

This we pray in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.



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The Episcopal Church

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop
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The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

The Rt. Rev. Dr. George Wayne Smith, Bishop
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