

A Graceful Presence



Grace Episcopal Church Pledge Drive 2024

Grace church is finally emerging from the disruptions of the Covid pandemic as we gather again in person and online. Our congregation is thinking, meeting and praying about what our mission and priorities need to be in the near future.

More than planning though, our church is taking the initiative to begin to follow where the Spirit is leading. We are moving to re-energize around sharing God's abundant grace with each other and with those outside our doors.

A significant initiative is the addition of a full time Assistant for Christian Formation, Outreach and Pastoral Care. Mr David Waters will be working with our lay leadership and others to revitalize and support these significant ministries.

The addition of this position is a bold step to engage the new realities of a more secular world with energy, joy and vision, so that we can be a joyful presence in our community. It will allow us to provide engaging opportunities for those who seek to grow in faith, and share their gifts for the healing of the world.

We need everyone's support to make a renewed Graceful Presence in Kirkwood a reality.

A Grace Filled Transition

Taking initiative on the things that matter most

This past fall the vestry decided to take initiative and invest in new staffing that will revitalize and deepen our ministries within our parish family and beyond. This was a financial stretch, but after years of declining staff leadership support, the vestry felt this would be the best way to strengthen the congregation for growth in the coming years. And so we welcomed David Waters to focus on the following areas.



Outreach

This past year was a remarkable time of **refocusing** Grace's ministry of sharing the love of Christ in tangible ways with those on the margins. The team has chosen 5 ministries that will help us engage in both financial ways and with personal loving engagement.



Pastoral Care

Grace is most powerfully felt in times of personal crisis and need. Whether those isolated by being shut in, or those with health challenges. Pastoral staff and lay team members embody Christ's love with a personal touch.

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Christian Formation

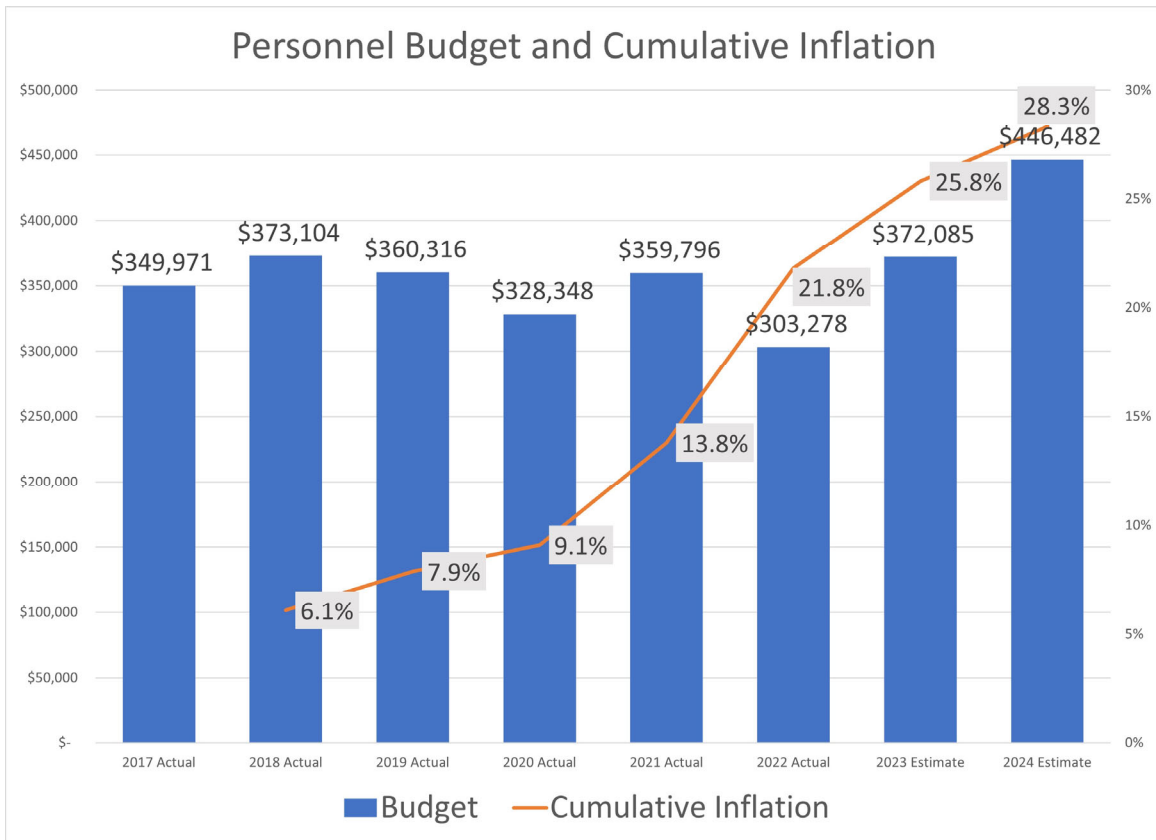
Since 2018 Grace has not had a staff person dedicated to ministry children, youth and families. Our lay volunteers have continued to offer the love of God through classes, service and mission trips. Having a coordinator/resource staff person will equip and empower our volunteers to both deepen and expand the ways we support a faith filled life for our families with children.

We are also able now to enrich our spiritual growth opportunities for adults, finding ways the presence of Christ can continue to ground our lives.





New staffing for 2024 will increase total staff costs by \$74,000. While this is a substantial increase compared to the reduced staffing Grace had during the pandemic and transition, it is about the same as the 2018 costs adjusted for inflation. This increase is a combination of our new assistant and the full cost of a new rector later in the year.



To cover this increase with pledges will require an average 22% increase per pledge.

