



Grace Episcopal Church Asheville, NC

2018 Annual Report
Year to Date October 31, 2018

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2018 Vestry Members

Greg Townsend, Senior Warden
John Woodson, Junior Warden
Eric Howell
Elaine Potter
O.E. Starnes IV
Cheryl Deyton

Anne Jarema
Susan Robinson
Andrew Beasley
Neil Bowen
Jackie Schauer
Lorie Tola

Rector's Report for 2018 **The Rev. Dr. Gary Butterworth**

Dear People of God @ Grace,

I want to thank you for the wonderful welcome and enthusiastic response to my presence among you. When Greg and I first met I was sure this was going to be the best place for me to land as I transitioned into Interim Ministry.

I have been consistently reminded of God's grace and love in my short time here with you and I look forward to our time together. Thank you.

On my first Sunday I spoke about this interim time...this time of transition. I said, "It is great to be here with you, to walk this journey of transition, this journey of rebirth, a re-NEWing of what it means to be God's people here at Grace Episcopal Church in this place...at this time...up here on this holy hill... with you!

God wants us to be transformed by the love of his son, Jesus. I mentioned in my sermon that first Sunday that my view of what I am here to do is "Transformative Pastoral Disruption." I am here to look at things, observe things, point out things, listen to your hopes, dreams and visions and then help you transform yourselves so we are living God's dream for us here at Grace.

As we begin our time together we will be relying on the transformative power of Jesus of Nazareth. We are starting a transformation together. God gives us new beginnings. Through the course of our lives, we are blessed by God with new beginnings that give us the chance to grow and develop. During our time together, it is my hope and prayer that we will explore, play, and dream big dreams...just like we did as children.

I want to be a healing and comforting presence in your lives. I want to understand and appreciate your history here at Grace. I am interested in you as people, what you find important. What you find life giving. We are in this together...this is your parish and you have invited me in to be a part of your family to help guide you in this mysterious and glorious transitional journey. In the next few months I will be leading the parish in a series of conversations as we discover what God has in store for Grace. Whatever it is, I hope you come along for the ride trusting in the transformative love and power of our resurrected Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ! I am grateful and honored that you have trusted me to journey with you...Now, let us begin our transforming journey together.

In Christ's transformative love,
Gary+

Vestry Election – December 9, 2018

We would like to thank the persons rotating off the Vestry for faithful service rendered: Eric Howell, Elaine Potter and Oscar Starnes.

Anne Jarema

Cliff and I moved here three years ago, December 22, 2015. We left the unpacking to come to Christmas Eve Service at Grace and found a home.

I have served on the Vestry for one year. I also serve on the Endowment Committee and am secretary of the ECW. Cliff and I are in the Choir and on the Fellowship Committee. We are often at the Monday morning Bible Study.

At our prior church in Suffern NY, I served on the Vestry, the Search Committee, the Choir and the Altar Guild. I was the Volunteer Director of the Feeding Ministry (Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry), writing the grants and serving as a liaison to the NFP community in Rockland County, NY.

I have enjoyed my year on the vestry and wish to continue to serve during the transition period at Grace.

Doug McClellan

I was born and raised in Albany, Georgia. My parents and I attended St. Patrick's Episcopal Church where I served as an acolyte and as a counselor at Camp Honey Creek on the coast of Georgia.

While attending Albany Junior College, I met Carole, and we got married after I graduated from the University of Georgia and completed my graduate studies in mass communications.

Carole and I moved to Atlanta where we raised our two daughters, Lindsay and Kelsey. We were members of St. Bede's Episcopal Church where I served on the Vestry and other committees. When we moved to Lawrenceville, we were members of St. Edward's Episcopal Church, where I served as a Lectionary Bible Studies leader, newcomer greeter, and usher.

During this time, our oldest daughter was performing in a ministry, Praise In Motion. One night during the Christmas performance of "The Gift," I was working backstage at a theater in Monroe when I accepted a life-changing call to serve as the Tech Crew Chief for this ministry. In doing so, I lived and learned the lessons of the Bible in real time, so that the performances, especially "The Gift," would truly be a gift to the families that came to see it every year.

Today, Carole and I live in Leicester and are very grateful that God led us to Grace! We love it here, and I would be truly humbled and honored to serve on the Vestry.

Susan Robinson

I was introduced to the Episcopal Church when I was 13 years old. My Mom remarried an Episcopalian and we began to attend Trinity in downtown Asheville. The youth minister and youth program were vibrant, and my brother and I quickly found that the Episcopal Church was a better fit for us than the previous denomination we had participated in. I was confirmed in my teens at Trinity and was married there in 1989. Our family moved to Grace in the early 90's and have remained here since. We felt embraced by our church family here at Grace and continue to feel that way though some members have left and others have come. I participated in Pilgrims in Christ and Cursillo here and taught adult Sunday school in the 90's. These days I attend the 7:45 service and serve as an acolyte. I joined the vestry in early 2018.

Ben Scales

My wife Cate and I moved to Asheville in 2002 after living for 10 years on the island of Saipan in the Western Pacific, and we've been members of Grace ever since.

Cate's family has deep roots in the Episcopal Church. Her father has served on the Vestry and as treasurer of St. David's Episcopal Church in Lakeland, FL. Cate has two siblings currently serving as priests in the Church. Her brother, Tim Nunez, has recently left the position of Canon to the Ordinary of the Diocese of Central Florida to become Rector at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Wales, FL. Her sister, Leslie Steffensen, currently serves as Canon to the Suffragan Bishop for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries of the Episcopal Church in Alexandria, VA.

I was born in Birmingham, AL, and raised in the Methodist Church in Lakeland, FL. I became an Episcopalian when I married Cate in 1997. I have degrees in Industrial Engineering from Georgia Tech, and in Law from Cumberland School of Law. I've founded non-profit organizations related to folk music business, advancement of African-American families, and medical cannabis advocacy. I was President of the Parent Teacher Organization at Isaac Dickson Elementary for two terms. I served for 12 years on the board of the Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County (PSABC), during which time I served two terms as President and two terms as Treasurer. Also, and perhaps most relevant to being called to serve on Vestry at Grace, I served on the PSABC transition committee charged with conducting a search for an Executive Director and other transition-related issues for that organization.

Cate and I have three children. Aeron (19) is a freshman at UNC-Chapel Hill. Emeline is a senior at Phillips Exeter Academy in NH, and Charlie is a 7th grader at Asheville Middle School. All three children have been active in EYC and have attended Camp Henry.

Lorie Tola

My name is Lorie Tola. I am a native of NC where I was born into a large Irish, Italian, Catholic family. Baptized in the Catholic Church, my passion for the liturgy developed at a very young age. Most of my younger years were spent in NC, but my family then ventured to TN, PA, CO, NY and then back to NC. After graduating from WCU, with a BSBA degree, I moved to Atlanta to pursue a career in computer software sales and support. It was in Atlanta that I found the Episcopal church. After attending my first service at St. Patrick's I felt I had returned to the traditions I remembered so

well. I served both in-reach and outreach ministries and served most every Sunday as either a verger, chalice bearer, adult acolyte, and/or Eucharistic Visitor.

I have been in a loving committed relationship with my wife, Vicky, for nearly 34 years. We moved to Asheville two years ago to fulfill a promise to return and settle in the mountains of western North Carolina. After moving to Asheville, I began searching Episcopal churches and was drawn to Grace because of its beauty and charm. I became a member 18 months ago and I'm so grateful that I did. The people of Grace have been warm and welcoming, especially the Monday morning Bible Study group. I look forward to getting to know and serving my Grace family.

Sarah Wood

Sarah, with her husband Eric and son Joe became active members of Grace Church in 2017. They live in Leicester and enjoy the service and community here. We are looking forward to hearing more from Sarah in an upcoming issue of the Grace TEAM.

Priest Associate Report The Rev. Bob Reese

Clergy Home Visits: Pastoral care of our members is a top priority at Grace Church, and our clergy work to ensure that anyone who wishes to have contact for pastoral consultation and/or to receive Holy Communion has the opportunity to do so. In addition to hospital visits, Fr. Bob and Deacon Jeannette maintain regular contact with several of our fellow parishioners who are physically challenged and unable to attend church. If you feel that you have a need for the ministry, contact Fr. Bob or Jeannette, or simply call the church office. They provide regularly scheduled home visits upon request and at the convenience of those served.

Monday Morning Bible Study: It's difficult for most people to grow spiritually apart from a small group of supportive friends. Several of us at Grace have realized that and have been meeting each Monday morning for an hour in the parish hall. We reflect on the next Sunday's Gospel passage, and we make an effort to apply the insights we gain from our Bible study to our everyday lives. We encourage sharing and discussion in an informal, non-threatening group dedicated to ongoing spiritual growth. In addition to Bible study, we often consider topics such as following the Christian year, using *The Book of Common Prayer* in church and in our personal lives, and the use of music and hymns as a means of spiritual growth and expression. Anyone is welcome to come. Talk to Fr. Bob if you have questions.

In October 2016, Fr. Bob was asked by Mission Health System to help begin a new chaplaincy program for their Emergency Medical Services Transport personnel. Fr. Bob continues to represent Grace Parish in his outreach ministry to Mission Health System paramedics and EMT's in our region.

Thanks,
Fr. Bob

Senior Warden's Report

Last year, my theme was continuity. I reflected on past leaders, especially Sally Withers, who said that 40 years' membership at Grace was her best preparation for becoming Senior Warden. Indeed, as I move into my second year as Senior Warden, I think about past parish leaders I've known over my 33+ years as a parishioner here. This year, however, is markedly different. As we move into our transition process, this year is not about continuity, but change.

In June, Canon Augusta Anderson met with the Vestry to discuss Father Coffey's impending retirement. In laying out the map for the road ahead, Canon Augusta kept our focus on each step of the process. Our first task was to say goodbye to the Coffeys. We came together as a parish family to celebrate their ministry with us and to wish them well as they moved into the next stage of their journey. I was overwhelmed by the generosity of the parish in contributing to their gifts. I know Gary and Astrid will always treasure the beautiful picture of Grace, made more special with all of our signatures.

Our second task was to call an interim rector. The Vestry called the Reverend Gary Butterworth as our interim rector. We celebrated the beginning of his ministry with us in October of this year, and the parish has come to love his personal warmth and energy. I have come to value his insight into change processes and his outsider's perspective of Grace Church. I know we will come through the transition process a stronger community because of his leadership and ministry among us.

The Prayer Book drive embodies much of the generosity of our parish. What started as an effort to replace the thirty "most-loved" prayer books culminated in gifts of 169 prayer books. Because of the generosity of Grace Church, every prayer book in our sanctuary is a new one, given to honor or memorialize friends, loved ones, and family members.

I ended last year's report with a plea for members to fulfill their financial pledges faithfully. Now I can put that in perspective. As 2017 ended, the Vestry faced a grim financial picture, looking at a 2018 budget based on around \$270,000 in pledges we had received in December, as well as a projected shortfall of over \$10,000 in unfulfilled pledges in 2017. Yet between the December Vestry meeting and the beginning of January, our 2018 pledges totaled over \$353,000 and we ended 2017 with a surplus of funds. The generosity of our parishioners enabled us to move into 2018 on a strong footing. Please continue to support the ministries of Grace as we move into our future.

It has been my privilege to serve as Senior Warden this year, one which many of us will agree has been the most eventful year in recent Grace Church history. Yet what I will carry with me from this year is the generosity of the Grace community.

Yours in Christ,
Greg Townsend

Buildings and Grounds Ministry

The following makes up the Junior Warden's 2018 report:

Projects completed:

Installed new solar powered, motion-activated lights at handicapped parking spaces by library.
Secured loose railing in choir.
Repaired clothes dryer at rental house (17 Irving Street)
Replaced ceiling fan in rental house.
Mounted Celtic artwork on fence behind parking lot.
New Japanese Maple planted at back corner by outside entrance to offices.
Replaced thermostat in kitchen with new programmable thermostat.
Installed appropriate "panic bar" door hardware on exit door in basement by the elevator.
Installed magnetic door holder on fire door in office hallway, and had it connected to fire alarm system for automatic closure if alarm is activated. (per fire marshal)
Checked, repaired, or replaced all lighted exit signs and emergency lights.
Installed "Knox Box" for emergency fire department key access when building is unoccupied.
Established a service agreement for annual inspection of fire alarm system.
Completed planting bed above upper parking lot, as part of overall landscaping project.
Repaired pilot light on kitchen oven.
Repaired metal cover over bell tower after it blew off in windstorm.
Replaced main circuit breaker for sanctuary building.
Developed floor plan maps for emergency evacuation exit routes. (will be posted soon)
Replaced all missing "buttons" in pew hymnal racks. (screw covers)

Continuing Projects:

Continued development of low maintenance garden plan for overall property.
Find and repair cause of water leak in bell tower/narthex.
Evaluate and act to remove dead branches from oak tree in front of church, with preservation as a priority if possible.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Building and Grounds Ministry this year through their participation, advice, and any other support. I would especially thank Cliff Albertson, Pat Walters, Kathleen Griffin, James Cannon, David Withers, Dave Marascio, Jim Compton, Monty Wooten, Jackie Schauer, Margaret Dahm, and of course, our amazing sexton, David Gentry.

John Woodson
Junior Warden

Child/Youth Formation Ministry

Sunday school continues to grow and flourish using the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for ages three to ten. We use a Montessori approach that allows a child to explore his or her individual spirituality within the sacramental structure of our faith. This year we have begun restoration of our works. This is what the children know it by. You would probably call it dioramas and lessons. It is not a well-known fact, but our materials are not cookie cutter; you cannot just replace our works. Each item in our atria has been made or bought by previous catechists. Thus, it needs to be maintained. We have started with touching up the paint on the birth narratives. By giving it a makeover, this has been a great benefit to our dear children who join us each Sunday. Seeing that the season of Advent is here, we have been exploring the Annunciation to Mary, Visitation to Elizabeth, and the Land of Israel. This coming Sunday we will be making a Advent wreaths for our classroom, and with great anticipation we are awaiting the birth of Christ as we begin our countdown to Christmas! We have also been looking at the Liturgical calendar, Gestures of the Eucharist, and the ever-favorite Piratical life. We strive with Practical life to create a sustainable future for the altar guild, acolytes, and many other ministry opportunities they will be able to participate in as they grow up here at Grace. We would love to extend a welcome to anyone who would like to know more about what we do. Also, we would adore anyone who can volunteer any amount of time you have. We continue to work hard on cultivating a space where the child and God may grow their relationship!

Grace and Peace,
Mark Silvers
Catechist/Child Formation

Youth Ministry

The youth program is beginning to grow and evolve as part of the Asheville Episcopal Youth Ministry. This youth ministry started in August as I, Jenna Sharrits, began my journey with you, Grace and the five other Episcopal Churches in our deanery. In September the youth program began with weekly Sunday afternoon meetings. On average we have a total of 6-10 youth each week. From Grace we have two very faithful youth (no pun intended) who come most regularly. Each week I have learned something new about our youth and how they are longing for a place of love and belonging with new and old friends.

In the upcoming year, we have lots of fun and exciting things happening. For the first 5 months of 2019 the Diocese is having one big youth event each month! This is really exciting, since we can be a part of the larger youth community in the Diocese. Along with that I am working on teaming up with All Souls youth group to have a few activities together. Hopefully this allows for some community building and extra fun!

As we continue to grow in our own youth community, we will still be having weekly Sunday afternoon meetings. This is where we are able to learn more about ourselves, our friends, our neighbors, and our God. Thank you for your support and welcoming me into your church community here at Grace. I am excited to see where this next year takes the youth program!

May blessings be in your path,
Jenna Sharrits
Youth Missioner for the Asheville Episcopal Youth Ministry

Adult Christian Formation Ministry

Adult Formation strives to provide each adult in the parish with avenues to deepen and expand their spiritual journeys while providing a safe, nurturing, and supporting community. We have had three separate Sunday offerings this year. Andrew Beasley offered a class aimed at young families that... Father Coffey and I collaborated on a lengthy study of the Gospel of John. Starting after Easter and running through the fall, Doug McClellan taught a course entitled "Lectionary Bible Study," providing participants a deeper dive into each Sunday's readings. Outside of the Sunday offerings, we have three major ministries focusing on adult formation. The Monday-morning Bible Study led by Father Reese continues to thrive as a study group and as a supportive community. Our Centering-Prayer and Healing-Prayer ministries continue to support and enrich the prayer lives of our parishioners.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Townsend
Adult Christian Formation Ministry

PubSing!

PubSing, the monthly sing-along of hymns, old-time gospel and Americana inspirational music, is approaching the completion of its fifth year. We moved to our new home, Habitat Brewery, this year. PubSing is structured around a "music jam" format, meaning that there is no established band or choir, and anyone is welcome to join in to play an instrument or sing. As a result, the setting is very informal with people coming and going, getting up to eat, drink or socialize, and then joining in on a chorus of song.

It is very much like being at someone's home for a campout, where people enjoy each other's company while they sing. Attendance varies from about a dozen to a high of 35-40 people. There are regulars who come each month, while others attend occasionally. It is not unusual for people who just happen to be at the brewing company to join in the singing. Tourists occasionally join in also, as the event is described in the Mountain Xpress or the Scene. Musicians vary from month to month.

Please feel free to come and watch or participate! The PubSing happens on the second Sunday of every month, at the Habitat Brewery, located at 174 Broadway St., Asheville, from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Monty Wooten
Organizer

Outreach

Outreach at Grace Church takes Jesus' call to care for those in need beyond the doors of the church and out into our neighborhood, our community, our nation and the world. Through programs to feed the hungry, visit prisoners, shelter the homeless, provide for needy children and respond to disasters in this country and throughout the world, we are, with our own hands and through support of the work of others, touching many lives. We would like to do even more.

To date in 2018, we have provided financial support to the following:

- ABCCM: \$2000
- Habitat for Humanity: \$1500
- Homeward Bound/Room in the Inn: \$1200
- Manna Food Bank/Backpackers: \$6000
- Episcopal Relief and Development: \$1000
- Consider Haiti/Pumpkin Patch: \$ 100
-

Our annual budget this year was \$7,000. As you can see, Outreach disbursed a total of \$11,800, the \$4,800 deficit made up through a small amount of fundraising plus generous donations made to Outreach by individuals and a grant from ECW, for which we are so very grateful.

In 2019, our goal is to financially support the following:

- ABCCM: \$2000
- Habitat for Humanity: \$1500
- Manna Food Bank/Backpackers: \$4500
- Episcopal Relief and Development: \$ 800
- Homeward Bound/Room in the Inn: \$1200

Again, we would like to do more. It is our hope that generous pledging will increase our annual budget for 2019 and supplemental donations from the parish will allow us to expand our reach.

Clearly, when we are not actually able to *be* the hands of God in the world, the gift of money is a sensible alternative, and the Grace Outreach committee is grateful for the opportunity to manage those allocations on behalf of the parish. At Grace, however, we as an entire parish also invest our *selves* in many ways, volunteering our time and gifts to help others. We are grateful to everyone who gives in this way.

- The Backpacker program continues to send two food deliveries a week during the school year to 45 children at Jones Elementary School. A team of committed volunteers make sure food gets from Manna to Jones where it is put into the hands of those who need it. The parish, as a whole, responds generously when requests are made for hard-to-obtain food items.
- Additionally, we have teams of people who cook and provide a meal each month for 35-50 women and children at Steadfast House, a local shelter.
- To help keep the pantry at ABCCM filled, we sponsor a quarterly food drive, sending them, on average, 30-35 bags full of requested food items.
- Through our annual Back-to-School and Angel Tree projects, we also support area foster children and families. This year's Angel Tree is decorated with the names of 65 children who will have a happier Christmas because of our gifts. The success of this program is driven by the generosity of parishioners who purchase requested items out-of-pocket.
- Grace volunteers host "Grace Movie Night" at Craggy Prison, using the time to socialize with and encourage the inmates there.
- A team of dedicated cooks and friends host the annual Broughton luncheon.
- Internationally, we continue to partner with Consider Haiti to host their annual Pumpkin Patch. Parishioners volunteer to unload pumpkins, sell and keep financial records throughout the month of October.

The people of Grace Church make these programs possible and successful through their willingness to volunteer time and resources. In many cases, what they are called to do is done without funding from the Outreach budget.

It cannot be said enough. We would like to do more.

In this time of transition, all the ministries at Grace will receive important feedback from the parish. In particular, what the Outreach ministry learns about this parish's vision for helping "the least of these" will guide us far beyond the year ahead.

Thank you to all who have, through such varied, generous and helpful gifts, been a part of Grace Outreach in 2018.

Kim Hayes
Outreach Committee Chair

The Chancel Choir

The big news from the choir this year has been the arrival of Edward J. (Ned) Tipton as Director of Music.

Ned is an Asheville native (Fun fact: he served as drum major of the Asheville High band.) who went out into the world and became a concert pianist and organist as well as – fortunately for Grace – a talented and richly experienced choral musician and conductor. His credentials include a stint with the world-renowned Robert Shaw Chorale and twenty years as choirmaster at the Anglican Cathedral in Paris.

As our choirmaster, Ned is part conductor, part teacher of music theory, part drill sergeant, and full time nice guy. His attention to detail and his capacity for hard work have been contagious; as a choir, we have discovered that beneath his guiding hand we can do more than we ever thought we could. And since he knows that, and expects our best from us, we strive to provide it. That's the choir's ministry, after all.

Thus, we have taken on music that is ever more challenging and, we hope, an acceptable offering. Mindful that the choir's first duty is to lead people in musical praise to God, we have, under Ned's direction, come to pay particular attention to service music and helping the congregation make a joyful noise.

We continue to be blessed in having the supremely talented Cathy Adkins as organist, accompanist, and backup director. The team of Ned and Cathy is one that any church anywhere would be fortunate to have; we are singularly fortunate to have them grace Grace.

The choir is always on the lookout for new members. We have no specific requirements for membership except a passable voice (the rest will come; we're big on on-the-job training) and a commitment to showing up Wednesday evenings at 7:15 and Sunday mornings at 10:15. We even throw in refreshments at rehearsals. But mainly, being a chorister is rewarding spiritually and, well, fun. Buttonhole Ned or a choir member and we can tell you all about being a member of the O.K. Chorale.

Rusty McCredie
President of the Choir

Pastoral Care Ministry

Our Pastoral Care Chairman, Kathleen Griffin, has diligently and faithfully offered her leadership to pastoral care for a good number of years. Her service has positively affected numerous parishioners, family and friends. Kathleen has been seeking a new chairman for a while and it is now time to actively recruit, train and support a new chairman. Pastoral Care supports the sick, homebound, bereaved and lonely of Grace Parish. Christ himself calls each of us to care for the widow, orphan, lonely, prisoner, sick and any other who needs us. Grace church needs a dedicated Servant of Christ to take on this special ministry. With the help of clergy, staff and lay persons this ministry is a team effort and benefits the givers more than the receivers. Fr. Gary will be having a Pastoral Care Committee meeting in January, all persons interested in serving are asked to attend. If you feel called to this special ministry please let Valerie, Fr. Gary, Fr. Bob or Dn. Jeanette know.

Stewardship Ministry

This year's stewardship campaign has focused on developing our vision of our corporate ministries as we move into our time of transition. More than fundraising, creating a budget, or paying the bills, stewardship is our response to the abundance God has given us. Many of us live out our commitments to Christ in our community, ministering to the shut-ins and the prisoners, the sick and the lonely. As Christians, these ministries are what we called to do, individually and in our corporate life as Grace Church. Our challenge at this time is to build our capacity as a parish to respond to our call to use God's gifts to us to do His work in our world.

This fall, the Vestry shared our vision for Grace Church in 2019, one that emphasizes our ministries of outreach, pastoral care, and youth formation while continuing to support other aspects of our parish life, such as worship and adult formation. To fulfill this vision, we need pledges totaling over \$388,000. At this time, we have received 101 pledges totaling \$340,000. The Vestry will adopt a budget for 2019 based on that total that works towards the spirit of our vision. As we move into 2019, we invite you, if you have not pledged at this time, to help recreate our vision of ministry as Grace Church and make a pledge for 2019, not out of obligation but out of a vision for who we can be as Grace Church.

Thanks,
Greg Townsend

Weddings Ministry

We had a slower wedding year than we expected in 2018 but were still able to raise \$7,600 for the Building and Grounds upkeep. Right now, we have already 5 confirmed weddings for 2019 with a few more prospective ones. We are grateful to Mary Ann Warren, Jean Haldane, Jenny Thomas and Nancy Walters for all your help with this year's weddings. We are also thankful to the Altar Guild and Flower Guild for working with us to make it such a special experience for the wedding couples. And, of course, we probably couldn't do any of it without Valerie Heaven's faithful assistance or David Gentry's help after the ceremony. We are always looking for committee members that are available for a few hours one or two weekends a year.

Respectfully,
Cheri Potter and Elaine Potter

Flower Guild Ministry

I want to extend a warm thanks for the continuing loyalty, expertise and efforts of our present flower guild members: Julia Anne Dawson, Micki Newton, Nora Jones, Pat Davis, Mary Jane Westall, and Don Wills, as well as our treasurer, Charlotte Chiott. Their faith and talent have been reflected so often as we have worked with a very small staff.

Happily, there has been a wonderful change as we welcome four new flower arrangers. They are Jennifer Witt, Lucy Bowen, Barbara Crownover, and Chance Wyatt. Evidence of their talents have already been seen on our altar recently in the beautiful arrangements done by this group. It will be such a treat to continue working with them in their new ministry.

We are also grateful to David Gentry for his invaluable help and the support of the administrative staff, Valerie Heavens.

With much appreciation,

Marzy Israel
Flower Guild Chairman

Altar Guild Ministry

In late June, after Jackie agreed to take on leadership of the altar guild, we convened a brunch/ planning session, facilitated by Valerie, to brainstorm on where we were at and where we needed to go.

Over the last few years, our ranks have diminished from 22 “full” group members down to 7 (currently). At our June meeting we discussed ways that we could streamline our processes, recruit new members and offer an option for resigning members to remain as occasional “substitutes”. We still **need two more members in order to fill a minimum roster**.

Since June we have instituted quarterly meetings, which have allowed us to make good progress in accomplishing the goals that were set at the initial planning session. We have:

- created a new **Altar Guild Training Guide** for new members
- revised the **Altar Guild Manual** Preparations for Basic Worship Services and Seasonal Worship Services for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. (This had not been done since 2006). We also revised our Saturday and Sunday morning task checklists
- re-designed the electronic giving cards, removed unnecessary pew pocket items and re-formatted the pew pocket items that were retained
- purchased new linens, had additional cabinet keys made
- cleaned out the altar guild sacristy cabinets, bringing altar guild items and records scattered in various locations throughout the building back to our designated storage areas and have relocated items belonging to other ministries back to their separate storage areas
- designed forms to facilitate communication between the weddings ministry, the clergy and the altar guild
- met with the verger ministry to co-ordinate with and understand how we interface

As we begin 2019 we will continue to work toward our goals of:

- completing the revision of the remaining seasonal worship pages in the altar guild manual as we proceed through the liturgical year in 2019
- completing an inventory and assessment of the condition of all altar and table linens, vessels, hangings and vestments, kneeler cushions, hymn boards and altar carpet in an effort to repair, replace and/ or clean all items that require attention.
- disposing responsibly of the items that we no longer use, such as the multiple boxes of wax candles and brass followers (we now use oil candles), etc.

Jackie Schauer
Altar Guild Ministry Leader

Verger Ministry

Over the past several months, our clergy, including our Bishop, along with our Vestry and other members of the laity prepared to begin a Verger Ministry at Grace Church.

Vergers are appointed by the clergy, and four persons were selected to begin this ministry. James Cannon, Lorie Tola, Daphne Urquhart and Chip Coon began functioning as Vergers, and were installed in September. Primarily, the Verger relieves the clergy of looking after liturgical details, so the clergy can concentrate on their duties to preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments. The Verger ministry strives to provide quality liturgical experiences and worship opportunities here at Grace Church.

Lorie Tola

Healing Prayer Ministry

The Grace Healing Prayer Team is available each Sunday at the 9:00 and 11:15 services, either after you receive communion or after the services. Grace also hosts other healing services. There is a Taizé service held at 8:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month and a Eucharist and Litany for Healing every Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. with laying on of hands and prayer at the altar rail by the celebrating priest.

This past year four of our Grace Healing Prayer Team members attended the Healing Winds Conference at Lake Junaluska. We were privileged to hear Rev. Nigel Mumford who addressed us on the subject of “God’s Message/God’s Power.”

We would also welcome anyone who might be interested in becoming a healing prayer minister and would urge you to speak to Father Gary or any healing prayer minister. Many thanks and blessings to all the Grace Healing Prayer Ministers who include Karen Compton, Pat Davis, Brenda Haller, Trisha Hargrove, Marzy Israel, Shari Lane, Sonny Rawls, Ann Robinson, Corinne Spencer, Louise Wernicke, Jane Whitman, Joan Aldrich and Allyn Aldrich.

Jeanne Robertson
Chair of Grace Healing Prayer Ministers

Planned Giving/Endowment Report

Thanks to God—and many generous parishioners—the endowment fund has grown from \$0 to over \$590,000 over the last eighteen years. Thanks to this growth we have been able to support select capital and outreach projects for the church. Over the last several years we have helped fund new playground equipment, doors, landscaping, the parking lot repaving, and most recently – our new Youth Minister, Jenna Sharrits. Future years will hopefully see other projects completed. Should you wish to contribute to this fund please contact the church or anyone on the Endowment Committee.

Current members are Larry Harris, Anne Jarema (Secretary), Steve Jones, and Mike Nery (Chair). For 2019, John Chastain and Stephen Birkhofer have been nominated as new members and I will be replaced as chairman by one of our existing members. ***We are always looking for new committee members -- with or without finance backgrounds. Please consider joining if you have an interest.***

Mike Nery
Chair

Finance Ministry—Year to Date, October 31, 2018

After the first ten months of 2018 income from all sources totaled \$336,178 and fell \$7,980 under our budgeted number. Last year at this time we were also experiencing a shortfall in income that amounted to \$19,432.

On a more optimistic note, at this time last year our pledged income was approximately \$2,100 under budget while this year's pledged income exceeds our budgeted amount by over \$20,000. This is a significant change. Our current income shortfall is the result of overly optimistic estimates of non-pledged contributions and visitor offerings.

Expenses at the end of October 2018 totaled \$322,270 and were \$21,889 less than budgeted amounts, resulting in an overall budget surplus of \$13,908. The savings generated this year relate primarily to salary and benefits lapses for the time frame between the “two Garys.”

While our overall income estimates have not been met, we have been blessed with a significant increase in pledged giving. This is a very welcome step forward that we anticipate continuing as we move into next year. We again ask for your faithful stewardship and prayerful support as we review and renew our Parish and our programs.

The handling of receipts and the oversight of pledges are critical and sensitive functions of church finances. Anne Simmons with her counters (Steve Birkhofer, Martha Boyette, Georgi Bruce, and Sally Withers) and her depositors (Steve Birkhofer, Judy Bohan, James Cannon, Chal Vaughn, and Hugh Vaughn) ensured all deposits were accounted for, deposited in a timely fashion and credited to the proper accounts. Their invaluable volunteer work and tireless efforts are deeply appreciated by the Parish.

**Statement of Activities - Grace Church
Year to Date - October 2018**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Income:			
Pledges	315,331	294,675	20,656
Prior Year Pledges	50	-	50
Non-pledged Offerings	-	10,105	(10,105)
Open Offering	10,254	28,219	(17,965)
Interest	53	53	1
Misc.	10,490	11,107	(617)
Total Income:	336,178	344,158	(7,980)
Expenses:			
Outreach/Mission	39,097	41,671	(2,574)
Parish Programs	11,198	10,331	868
Operations	58,066	56,188	1,877
Personnel	213,908	235,968	(22,060)
Total Expenses:	322,270	344,158	(21,889)
Income Less Expenses:	13,908	(0)	13,908

Joe Aull,
Treasurer

Communications Ministry

The Communications Committee is dedicated to improving the engagement among the congregation, the community of Grace, and its clergy and staff. We are working diligently to identify and improve various ways to communicate activities, events and functions within the church. We offer all these skills to our church as our gift of time and talent to our fellow parishioners.

The list below is items that are completed and available or in process:

- Weddings at Grace: the website now has detailed information that allows the community to learn more about “how to have a wedding at Grace.” An electronic form has been created that gives our staff the information they need to facilitate a personal response and help guide them through the process. As a result, weddings at Grace have become much more frequent.
- We are working closely with Father Gary Butterworth to help determine how we can improve our website in order to meet the needs of our Grace community.

Grace's website is a critical component in how information is shared with the parish. The website is constantly updated to contain the latest information regarding activities and important announcements. Understanding today's technology can help the communications committee stay ahead of the curve by maintaining a fresh, forward-thinking outlook. If any of our parishioners have these skill-sets and are interested in helping the committee reach its goals, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Look to these resources for the latest in news from Grace as we continue to grow and spread God's Word.

Thank you,
Eric Howell

Fellowship Ministry

The Fellowship Ministry has once again been busy bringing the three separate services of Grace together in Fellowship.

Fifth Sunday Brunches - Beginning in January, each fifth Sunday we hold a potluck brunch between the 9:00 and 11:15 services, a chance for folks from different services to mingle and socialize.

Mardi Gras Talent Show - Talented parishioners shared their musical gifts to entertain the parish on a Friday evening potluck in February. The Pub Sing Band added their musical expertise and Monty Wooten was our wonderful emcee.

Foyer Groups - Foyer Groups are small group get-togethers for those who wish to meet other parishioners on a more personal level. Following a cookout meeting at the home of Sally and David Withers, these groups split off to meet monthly in different homes.

Pentecost Picnic - This old-fashioned church picnic on the front lawn in May included fresh burgers and hotdogs on the grill with potluck sides. A wonderful turn-out ensured that everyone on Merrimon Avenue knows we're alive and well on the hill!

Father Gary's Farewell Barbeque - A combined service at 10:00 to say goodbye to Father Gary and Astrid Coffey was so well attended in July we had to set up seats in the back yard for our catered picnic from Holy Smoke Barbeque.

Back-to-School Brunch and Ministry Fair - In August, we held a fun potluck brunch and ministry fair which gave all our hard-working ministries a chance to recruit more volunteers. We continued the sign-ups throughout the following month in the vestibule.

Welcome Brunch for Father Gary Butterworth - In October, we welcomed Father Gary Butterworth to Grace as our Interim Rector with a combined service and potluck brunch in the Parish Hall.

Thank you Reception for Father Bob and Jeannette - Father Bob and Jeannette Reese were feted by the Parish with a special reception in November for all their hard work and dedication over the years to Grace Church.

Celebration of Ministries and Annual Meeting - The Fellowship Ministry also set up the potluck for the Annual Meeting in December that sums up our year at Grace.

The Fellowship Ministry team this year consisted of Sally and David Withers, Louise Wernicke, Anne Jarema and Cliff Albertson, Maria Mason, Ray and Jeanne Robertson, Walt and Joyce Noble, and Jeannette Reese. Thank you to everyone who has supported the Fellowship Ministry!

Sally Withers,
Chair

Episcopal Church Women

ECW held a semi-annual meeting on May 5, 2018, Derby Day. Twenty attendees brought salads to share, wearing fascinators and hats. It was agreed by those attending that the next meeting would be held on October 20, 2018. Lunch for twenty-four attendees at the October meeting included ribs prepared by Mary Ann Warren and side dishes brought by attendees. After an announcement by Maria Mason that health issues precluded her continuing as president, Cheryl Aull was elected, President; Jeanne Sims, Vice President; Anne Jarema, Secretary; Mary Ann Warren, Treasurer.

As was determined at previous sessions, active participation in church projects by ECW would be to help as needed. Plans to assist with church deep cleaning in December were included in the discussion. Further discussion resulted in a vote to give \$1500 to Outreach committee and adding to the amount of campership monies given to help with the cost of attending Camp Henry. The amount of \$175.00 per camper was deemed low; however, the amount was not raised. It was determined that the number of applicants would determine whether the amount could be raised for the coming year.

All agreed that announcements that are made at the 11:15 service should also be made at the 9:00 a.m. service. Discussion about the upcoming rummage sale included assignments for leaders of various areas of rummage sorting and pricing. The enthusiasm and cheerful help in preparation for the rummage sale led to increased camaraderie among participants.

ECW Year-End Report 2018

Our 2018 Rummage Sale total was \$3,360. Allocations for the year were as follows:

Diocese of WNC	\$300	Camp Henry Scholarships	\$ 350
United Thank Offering	\$200	Grace Outreach	\$ 1500
Broughton Lunch	\$108	Broughton Teens Christmas	\$ 100
ECW Luncheons	\$160	Rummage Sale Signs	\$ 80
Magnetized Name Tags	\$700		

Mary Ann Warren
Treasurer

Men of the Church

Most at Grace are familiar with Men of the Church through our annual Pig-Pickin'. The group was started soon after Grace became a parish, and was very active in the early days of Grace, and had a large membership. We are open to all men, although nowadays our monthly dinner meetings only draw a dozen or so regular attendees. Again, all men of the church are welcome.

Our monthly meetings are hosted by one of the members, usually at their home, or sometimes the fellowship hall. We start with an hour of fellowship followed by dinner, then an informal business meeting, as we have no elected officers or dues. We collect \$15 from each for dinner.

That money and the proceeds from the Pig-Pickin' are used as necessary to supplement any church activities in need. So it's all for a good cause, with fellowship and fun.

Jim Compton

Newcomers Ministry

The Newcomer Ministry is charged with coming up with and implementing ideas about ways to welcome and orient those who visit or are new to Grace Church. The Ministry is going through a transition and we will have more information on this during the upcoming year

Office Ministry

The Office Ministry has been ongoing here at Grace for many years and has had a recent rejuvenation with new members. I am very grateful to all the long-term office ministry helpers as well as our newcomers.

Some of the members who are currently serving have been with us for many years. Charlotte Chiott works closely with Fr. Gary, Ned Tipton and me to faithfully put together our Sunday bulletins each week. Kim Hayes not only creates our Grace TEAM newsletter as part of the Communications Team, but also trained me when I was newly hired and now covers for me in the office when I go on vacation. Joe Aull, who is our trusty Treasurer on the Finance Team, also works closely with me to be sure all our IT needs are met, and acts as an ongoing advisor in so many areas. Chal Vaughn, who used to be here every Thursday to help with the printing, folding and distribution of bulletins, has now passed that baton to a newer member as she continues to offer support as an Office Ministry Coordinator, Parochial Report compiler of data, and she is always available to help whenever needed. Nancy Remmers is here on Wednesday mornings to look after the church rosters, recording our new members, transfers, weddings, baptisms and funerals, as well as answering phones and helping with other tasks as needed. And Kathleen Griffin works closely with me on the member directories and tracking down birthdays, anniversaries and other information we like to help members celebrate. Thank you so much to each one of you for being here so consistently.

I also want to thank our newer assistants who are becoming equally invaluable. Cliff Albertson took over for Eva Dupree and is setting temperatures every week on our six thermostats. (A big thanks to Eva for all she did while working with me, whose contributions are too many to mention.) Anne Jarema has been working with me to bring our purchasing and vestry binders up to date, along with other tasks she is available to help with. Carole McClellan is our new Thursday morning assistant, helping with our Sunday bulletin printing and distribution, and many other ever-changing requests.

Lorie Tola has been a great support at compiling all the various contributions from schedulers for the Ministry Schedule who work with the Worship Ministry. And Gael Paschall is available to help out with Excel spreadsheets when we need her. There is always help available when needed.

The Grace Nursery: I'd like to acknowledge our Grace Nursery Assistants, and those who help out when our regular workers are not available. Meg Cook and Sarah Pantaleo are quietly available to look after the children in the nursery on Sunday mornings. They often call on Debbie and Alyssa Jones, as well as Naomi and Grace Green, who have been available to step in when needed. We encourage you to bring your young children down during service if they're getting restless, or if you want some focused time for contemplation and worship.

Thank you to each one of you, and to those who we failed to mention, for your ongoing contributions to making Grace a vibrant engaged community, filled with opportunities for worship, learning and giving our gifts in service to the Lord.

Many Blessings,

Valerie Heavens
Office Manager



Grace Episcopal Church

871 Merrimon Avenue

Asheville, NC 28804

828-254-1086

grace.church.asheville@gmail.com

www.graceepiscopalchurch.us

www.facebook.com/graceasheville