



Grace Episcopal Church Asheville, NC

2021 Annual Report

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2021 Vestry Members

Ben Scales, Senior Warden	Jim Scott McKenzie
Compton, Junior Warden	Anne Ron Sims
Jarema	Steve Birkhofer Mathes Mennell
Doug McClellan	Elaine Potter Vicki Vest

Rector's Report for 2021 The Reverend Milly Morrow

Dear Good People of Grace,

Greetings to you all as we look at the end of 2021! This year was another year full of mystery, surprises, joys and blessings at Grace. We together have accomplished many tasks and we have celebrated, we have worshiped, and we have grieved. And through it all, God's deep and abiding presence has been felt in this place!

I want to extend deep gratitude to each of you for the ways you have shown up in our common life. You have volunteered, you have offered support to ministries, you have full-filled pledges and made new ones, you have welcomed many new members with open arms and held to traditions that define who we are and how we gather. For all the ways you have declared yourselves members of Grace, I say thank you and we are truly blessed by you and through your presence.

At the start of 2021 I was still preaching and offering the Eucharistic Prayer to a mostly empty sanctuary. At the end of this year, we have on average 80 plus people sitting in the pews, lifting up prayers and singing together. My first full year at Grace, has certainly been full. In it I have learned what truly makes church, Church. **I have learned that God's presence is most deeply felt when it shines through each of you.**

I have learned that this work and life together is profoundly relational; because when you were not here in the pews The Holy Spirit felt distant and difficult to access. Not because the Spirit wasn't present, but because as humans we need each other to experience it most fully.

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”



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This has been for me the greatest learning of this time; we deeply and profoundly need each other. And so we are deeply and profoundly called to show up with each other, for each other and for God. This showing up is the first step in loving ourselves, God and neighbor.



And Show Up you have. We have welcomed over 20 new members, we finally held my installation as your Rector in what was one of the most beautiful days of my life, we brought on new staff members and welcomed Father Mike in our spiritual work. You have shown up for ministries and lead committees. You have shown up for formation and spiritual direction and the many offerings we have made possible, because you show up in them. You have shown up in financial support and we have a new roof that will protect this sacred building for generations to come and you have pledged to support our on-going life in 2022.

Your vestry has shown up in countless ways; meeting each month and supporting me in being a new and growing Rector. Ben Scales as Senior Warden has walked along side me in this journey – helping me to discern many various situations in which his counsel was crucial to my integrity as your Priest. Jim Compton has kept his eye on every detail of caring for this place we call Grace and advocating for its needs and upkeep.

And the vestry, as a whole group gathered, has worked through conflict, celebrated accomplishments, and wrestled with the unknown in the most faithful and thoughtful ways. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

The Grace staff: Cathy, Jim, Angel, Lindsey, Valerie, Archie, Mike, and Katherine have shown up for their tasks for certain, but also for each other. They have held each other's concerns and worries with compassion, and they have lifted each other up in joy. Each with their minds and hearts set on the capacity of this system to function fully for the Glory of God. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

And the return of the CHOIR and music to Grace. I didn't fully know how important our music was until this year and living without it. Our choir has grown to the point where we simply don't have enough robes and will need to spread out in the chancel! Such a good "problem" to have. Cathy and Jim and all our cantors and choir members, Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

What I have learned this year is that Grace has everything it needs to be what God has called us to be, because each of you Show Up in ALL these ways and more. Grace has all we need to meet our mission of "Building the Kingdom of Heaven, right here on Earth" because each of you Show Up in the work of it.

We have all we need, and God will keep giving us clarity about what to do with it, to worship God and walk in the way of Love. I have no doubt about it. Because you, keep Showing up.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Welcome 2022. Welcome to our new Vestry Members and Treasurer. Let's do this!

We have learned enough to no longer proclaim "This year will be easier. This year will be normal!" We have learned enough to simply say, "This year we have everything we need to be who God has called us to be. This year, I will keep Showing Up."

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

In Christ's peace,
Rev. Milly Morrow

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Vestry Election – December 19, 2021

We would like to thank the persons rotating off the Vestry for faithful service rendered: Anne Jarema, Doug McClellan and Ben Scales. And we also extend a special thank you to Ben Scales for his work as Senior Warden, and to Anne Jarema for her work as Treasurer.

We now introduce the four nominees for 2022.

Joe Aull



Cheryl and I arrived in Asheville in April 1980 with my transfer to a

position with the Blue Ridge Parkway.

In the months preceding the birth of our first son, Bill, in August of that year, we began our search for a church home. We were astonished at the number of Episcopal parishes in Buncombe County – 12 or so at that time. We began our search, including several Lutheran churches in deference to my heritage. We didn't complete our circuit before Bill arrived and visited Grace shortly after his birth.

The reception we received from the congregation and rectors at the eleven o'clock service was so warm and welcoming, even with our noisy newborn, that our decision was made that day.

We joined Grace, with my confirmation happening soon after. While we expected to be here only several years, opportunities arose at the Parkway and we have been here since. I served with the National Park Service for 33 years with 28 of those here on the Parkway as Administrative Officer. Our sons, Bill and Michael, were both baptized and confirmed at Grace. Cheryl found a home in the choir and I've served three terms on the vestry, serving as Junior and Senior Warden at various times.

Most recently, I've served as Treasurer for seven or so years, ending that role this year.

Cheryl and I have been active and involved in a variety of ways throughout our time at Grace. We have watched and been involved in the many changes which have occurred here through the years and I'm excited and hopeful as we begin the next phase of growth and development of our spiritual community at Grace.

Andrew Beasley

Andrew Beasley is a father, husband and teacher. He and his wife Sarah settled into Grace about 5 years ago following loving stints at Holy Spirit and All Souls. Miles, 11, was baptized in Mars Hill while Kendall, 6, was christened in Biltmore Village. Andrew and Sarah met at an EYC event many years ago in Knoxville, TN. The family has lived in Weaverville for 9 years and share their home with an obnoxious dachshund called Leo.



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Terri Frue



Terri Frue was raised in McConnells, South Carolina and was an active member of Olivet Presbyterian church before moving to Asheville. Terri and her husband Jack were married here at Grace in 2003, and she was confirmed into the Episcopal Church at Grace in 2004. Their twins Bailey and Cameron were baptized and confirmed at Grace. Terri has participated in several ministries, including Room in the Inn mobile shelter for homeless women. Terri's interests include walking, gardening, baking, crocheting and sewing, and spending family time at the lake.

Katherine Kaderabek

Katherine Kaderabek is a life-long Episcopalian. She and her husband, Todd have been members of Grace (on and off) for around 19 years. They have two grown children who were both baptized and raised at Grace (Thames and Miller) and a sweet labradoodle, Charlie. Katherine is Managing Broker at Beverly-Hanks Realtors and in her free time you'll find her outside exploring our beautiful mountains or enjoying peaceful time on Folly Beach



Welcome Tara Lonneman ~ Grace Church Treasurer 2022



Tara Lonneman was introduced to Grace Episcopal church through her participation in Centering Prayer and in August of 2021, she became a confirmed member of Grace. She volunteered as a CCD teacher at St. Pius x church in Edgewood, Kentucky and began a Sunday kid's program at St. Leo the Great, a refugee congregation, in Cincinnati Ohio. While living overseas, she explored various denominations and consistently attended St. Andrews, an Anglican Parish of Kohimarama, in New Zealand. She has an MBA and an

Accounting degree, and works at a local CPA where she communicates monthly reports to small business owners in the

Asheville area. As a recent home-owner in Weaverville, Tara can be found working on house projects or planning her next outdoor adventure!

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Senior Warden's Report

It has been quite an eventful year here at Grace. When I came onboard as Senior Warden, our (non-music) staff consisted of Rev. Milly and Valerie Heavens, our church administrator. Over the past year, we've added Angel as Sexton, Archie as Technical Director, Lindsey as Bookkeeper, and Fr. Mike as Associate Priest. We went from having all virtual services to only allowing one tabernacle group at a time, to fully in-person services. We hosted the



Bishop, who formally installed Rev. Milly as our Rector. Along the way, we have mandated masks, then having masks be optional, and back to mandatory masks. Our choir and PubSing has returned. Vestry meetings moved from Zoom to in-person. Oh, and we put a new roof on the church and one on our rental property. Quite a year.

Our membership has grown, as well. The Bishop confirmed over 20 new communicants when he visited us this year. These new members have jumped in with both feet, joining committees, the choir, Bible Study, adult formation and more. Around 40% of our pledges this year came from new members. Father Mike has reinvigorated our members in their 20s and 30s and made strong connections with other young person ministries, such as the UNCA Episcopalians. The future of Grace is bright, indeed.

Of course, our budget has increased, and our pledges have increased right along with it. Though we are projecting a slight deficit this year, we are ending this past year with a surplus, showing that our members are giving even more than they pledge. All of this equips us for the challenges that lay ahead.

Several of us are rotating off Vestry this year. Anne Jarema has served as Treasurer and has been a rock star guiding us through the tumult of transition, capital campaigns, and growth. Doug McClellan, my predecessor as Senior Warden, continues to lead in various ways from stewardship to Bible Study and beyond. And Jim Compton, though remaining on the Vestry, will hand over the reins of Buildings and Grounds to a new Junior Warden, Scott McKenzie. Jim inherited a leaky roof or two, several huge renovation and restoration projects, some non-performing contractors, and other fires to put out, and he handled them all with calm competence and diligence. I can't imagine how I would have survived a year as Senior Warden without Jim as Junior Warden.

Now, I'm pleased to be turning over this post to Elaine Potter. Both she and incoming Junior Warden Scott were baptized here at Grace. It doesn't get more OG than that (ask your nearest millennial what "OG" means). I'm confident that Elaine will not only handle all the usual Senior Warden duties with style and grace, but she'll also lead us from a sense of warmth and humor that will fill our hearts with gratitude for her service.

I thanked a bunch of folks in my TEAM article this month, and I echo those thanks here. I'll re-emphasize my appreciation for Rev. Milly for giving me the opportunity to serve in this role. It was one of the greatest joys of my life to hand her the Bible and the keys to the church at her installation ceremony. And of course, my loving and patient spouse, Cate. Her willingness to serve as my sounding board and her honest and steadfast support made it possible for me to have served, and for that I'm forever grateful.

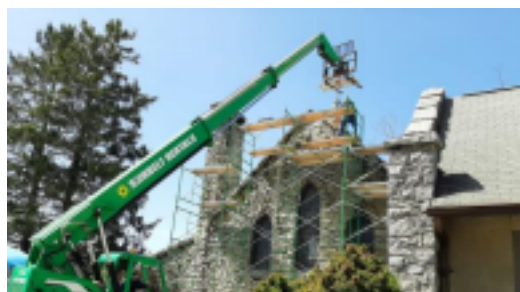
I am so honored to have been your senior warden. Thank you, Grace!

Yours in Christ's Love,
Ben

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Junior Warden's Report / Buildings and Grounds Ministry

Here ends my 18-month appointment as Junior Warden. Obviously, the roof was our first priority and biggest achievement. I would like to thank the other members of the Raise the Roof committee; Jackie Schauer, Doug



McClellan, and Anne Jarema. As a team, we accomplished this task; and as a church we did it with a diocesan loan as our only debt. I would like to thank Ben Scales and Greg Townsend for their assistance in that. This project also increased the office workload for Valerie and Lindsey which they handled admirably.



While the roof project was ongoing, a couple of large trees had to be removed from the property. One was in the playground area, and the other above the upper lot along Oaklawn Avenue. Later in the summer, the roofs on 17 Irving Street and its garage were replaced.

So this year is soon over, but there are several items of unfinished business. Once the budget for 2022 is firmed up, the Wardens and Vestry will move forward on these items. This winter would be an ideal time to remove the big white oak.

I am aware of new committees, one to discuss options for upgrading the playground, and another to look into the future of 19 Irving Street, our storage house.

The insurance claim for the flooding of the downstairs classrooms has been settled, so we have the funds to make those repairs.

Personally, I have one more year on the vestry, and I plan to stay active in buildings and grounds. We will have a new groundskeeping contractor for 2022. We share the same eye for detail, and I look forward to working hands on with him and his crew.

Jim Compton
Junior Warden

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Stewardship Ministry

The 2021-2022 Stewardship Committee is made up of devoted and creative members: George Davis, Cheryl Deyton, Dodie King, Doug McClellan, Catherine McKenzie, and Miles Mennell.

The committee began meeting at the end of August for the Stewardship Campaign season, September 24–

November 21. Our theme was “Giving ’Til It Feels Good!” and our primary Bible verse was John 15:11: “In our giving, our joy is made complete.”

Our financial goal was \$500,000 and our participation goal by members was 100%. We used Grace’s print and e-resources weekly through “This Week at Grace (TWAG)”, the worship bulletin, TEAM, emails, and also our initial mailed letter to the membership.

Our campaign consisted of articles, graphs of progress toward goals, videos, and group pictures featuring our beautiful new roof.



2022 Stewardship Pledges (\$331,234 as of November 22)	
	Our \$ Goal!
\$500,000	
\$450,000	
\$400,000	
\$350,000	
\$300,000	
\$250,000	
\$200,000	
\$150,000	
\$100,000	
\$50,000	
\$0	



At the close of the campaign, the good people of Grace had pledged, \$331, 234 which was 66% of our goal and a 14% increase over pledges for 2021. There were 97 pledges representing 46% of our member participation goal and an 11% increase over 2021.

By December 3, the figures which we could take to the 2022 budget meeting on December 5, were \$356,214 (71% of goal) and 102 pledges (49% of goal).

The committee is grateful for the membership’s response and looks forward to assisting the Vestry in meeting the church’s needs through 2022.

Louise Cate Wernicke
Stewardship Chairperson

Adult Choir Ministry

As I find myself in my third year serving as your music director, I remain thankful for the kindness and support that I’ve received from the Grace Church community. Elise and I cherish the spiritual home we have found in your midst.

I never would have imagined in 2019, that in less than 5 months after becoming your music director, we would be disrupted by COVID. And yet, with all of its challenges, our music ministry has remained strong and has continued to serve the liturgical needs of our worshipping community. This has only been possible because of the deep commitment and dedication of your choir members, and Cathy Adkins, our brilliant organist. Because of their inspirational singing and playing, Grace Church boasts a congregation that sings strong and joyfully!



Despite COVID, the choir continues to lead congregational singing and continues to grow. We are always happy to invite new members. I'm excited about the musical possibilities that are waiting for us as we continue to grow the music program and our church family.

James Cassarino
Music Director

Altar Guild Ministry

The Altar Guild Ministry is a "quiet service" as we go about preparing for the celebration of the Eucharist and other services. Many thanks go to our Altar Guild members for being so flexible and adjusting--sometimes weekly, to our ever-changing needs of the services from online to in person this past year. They didn't miss a beat! Now that we are back in person, we would like to have additional help. If you are interested, please speak to or email Shannon Townsend (gstownsend@att.net).

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Townsend
Altar Guild Leader

Child Formation Ministry

While we are still on hiatus, we wanted to share with you a glimpse into the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd which is a Montessori approach that allows a child to explore his or her individual spirituality within the sacramental structure of our faith. In Level 1 for 3–6-year-olds, it is through exploration of

works that offer insight into the Kingdom of God --what it is like and how it grows, and moments of Jesus' life, as well as the use of the prayer table, practical life works, and learning about specific, special moments in the Eucharist.

In Level 2 for 6–9-Year-olds, the kids are developing a sense of community and moving into deeper abstract understanding of God's Plan, the Kingdom of God and our place and response to it, as well as exploring further the Eucharist - the structure, connections to the works they have explored as well as their own personal response.

In Level 3 for 9–12-year-olds, the expansion of viewpoints and understanding of themselves, the Plan of God, history and peoples, and understanding the complete structure of the church service are just a few of the components of this level of classes.

While all of this may seem complex and abstract, the beauty of the works is the simplicity that allows a child to explore and respond for where they are for the moment and allows them to revisit the work and grow further with each interaction.

When we have the atria (Sunday School rooms) put back in order, take a walk around the rooms and see the works- simple and beautiful.

Grace and Peace,
Mark Silvers
Catechist/Child Formation

Communications Ministry

The communications ministry of Grace Church is a multi-faceted operation involving old and new media.

The Grace TEAM (To Each A Ministry) remains one of the anchors for the parish communications network providing a monthly collection of past event reporting and detailed future happenings. Kim Hayes works tirelessly to provide a concise summary of all things Grace. TEAM is available in printed form and downloadable PDF format from the church's web site at GraceAVL.com.

This Week at Grace . . . and More (TWAG) is a weekly e-mail blast compiled by Valerie Heavens. This is the go-to source for all that is on for Grace in the coming week. In addition to event descriptions TWAG most importantly contains links to the web, up-coming ZOOM meetings, services, and information sources. TWAG is a subscription-based e-mail and can be found on the church's web site at GraceAVL.com.

The weekly Sunday service Bulletin, because of the pandemic, became available for the first time as an online PDF for viewing and downloading. In addition to providing the service rubrics, it has become an instrumental means of conveying parish news, events and links. Spanning from the upcoming meeting links to the most current prayer requests our Bulletins have it all and are available on the church's web site at GraceAVL.com.

In addition, our Rev. Milly Morrow and Valerie Heavens contribute regular updates to facebook.com/graceasheville and facebook.com/grace.church.718689/.

This year, Grace was fortunate to be able to bring back live services in the Sanctuary, but with continuing concerns about COVID and its variants, we continue to require masks during service. Those who do not yet feel ready to come back to live services can participate through our Livestreamed services on YouTube. We are grateful to our new Tech Director, Archie Clarkson, who was hired to bring relief to our dedicated team of volunteer ‘streamers’ – James Cannon, Elaine Potter, and Ali Schaefer. At times, they are asked to fill in for Archie, or provide a livestream for memorial services and weddings, which allows families and friends to participate at a distance. We continue to be grateful for the technology that enables people to watch the service live in the Parish Hall and/or Library if the church feels too crowded. This has been especially helpful to families with children, who can participate in services with their children in the parish hall, since young children are not yet able to be vaccinated.

Zoom also continues to be available as a viable communication and meeting method. Tabernacle Groups and ministries have been meeting through zoom which has been an effective method of staying connected in fellowship and getting the work of the church done. Some zoom meetings, like Monday Morning Bible Study and Centering Prayer, along with links to our Steaming and YouTube offerings, are available on the church’s web site at GraceAVL.com.

Our website at GraceAVL.com continues to provide a robust, user-friendly platform allowing the Grace family to connect and get news of all things Grace. We are very grateful to James Cannon who keeps our site up-to-date and makes any needed changes, with Valerie posting the weekly TWAG links. The site has facilitated on-line giving and provides one-click links to newsletters, Grace YouTube services, ZOOM meetings, Service bulletin PDFs, Sermon recordings, Pumpkin Patch donations, a 2022 Pledging link, and so many more opportunities to stay connected with Grace.

With the overwhelming importance to Grace’s communication network of being ‘online’ there is an ongoing effort by volunteers to help technologically challenged parishioners avail themselves of our many ‘online’ offerings. We continue to provide monthly mailings via regular mail to those not connected and have a strong Pastoral Care Team reaching out by phone.

Into 2022 we are always looking for more and better ways to continue and enhance the connection of Grace Church and our relationships within our worship community and beyond. Please come join our amazing communications team and share your skills or learn some new ones.

Respectively submitted,
The Grace Communicators

Endowment / Planned Giving Report

The Church endowment pool effectively grew from a January 1, 2021 opening position of \$683,913 to \$747,702 at December 3, 2021, for a net year to date increase of 9.33%. One significant withdrawal from the investment pool occurred in December 2020 for \$50,000 in support of capital spending in 2021 for the roof project.

Brief analysis: While general parish contributions to the pool were less than \$1,000.00, broader market averages advanced favorably in 2021 (e.g. the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 12.75% from early Dec 2020 to early Dec 2021). Grace Church has maintained a well-diversified portfolio of equities (stocks), fixed income (bonds), and a marginally conservative 7% cash position. Equities were the major growth

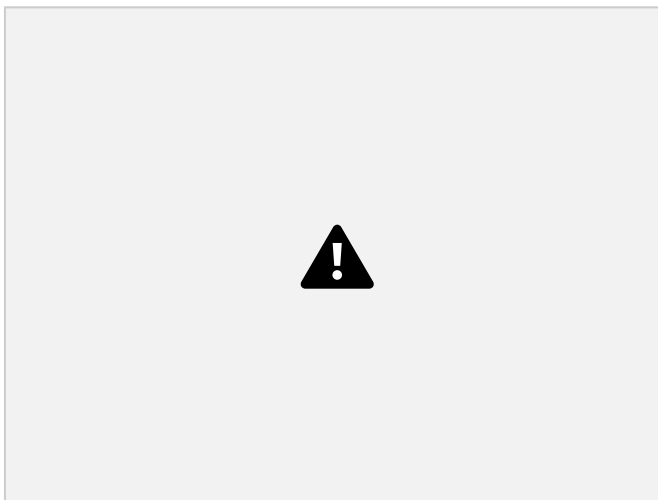
vehicle in 2021 (both domestic and international) with other portfolio components yielding comparatively soft returns. Grace Church is fortunate to have Parsec Financial Management serve as its investment and advisory manager, and the portfolio's results for 2021 are testimony to Parsec's expertise.

Committee Stewardship: well managed endowment funds require discipline to ensure that they remain a sustainable funding source. The Endowment Committee recommended a 6% annual spending rate against the endowment pool (fund), based upon a rolling average of the most recent 12 quarters, for proposed budgeting in 2022. The resulting calculation releases \$38,871.42 for the 2022 Church budget to be used for purposes consistent with the Endowment's By-Laws.

Your Endowment Committee includes: Ms. Anne Jarema (Secretary and Associate Coordinator), Mr. Larry Harris, Dr. Gael Paschall, Mr. John Chastain, and Steve Birkhofer (Lead Coordinator/Chair). Your Committee meets quarterly (typically the second Monday or Tuesday eve following the end of each calendar quarter). All Parish members are welcome to attend and contribute to these meetings.

Peace to All,
Steve Birkhofer

Episcopal Church Women



ECW held only one meeting this year on October 16, 2021. Ten women attended our fall potluck luncheon held in the parish hall including our officers: Cheryl Aull, President; Jeanne Sims, Vice President; Anne Jarema, Secretary; and Mary Ann Warren, Treasurer. Our officers agreed to continue serving until we are able to hold our next rummage sale tentatively scheduled for April 30, 2022. We hope to have a luncheon following the rummage sale to elect new officers and discuss the future of ECW at Grace.

Topics of discussion included how ECW could best assist with church projects and funding. All of

ECW's funding is provided by our annual rummage sale. Since our last rummage sale was held in the fall of 2019, we were limited in our ability to provide financial assistance until we are able to hold our next one. However, since our 2019 sale was successful, we were able to help in several areas. Each year we set aside funding to assist children/youth of Grace to attend Camp Henry. This year we provided partial scholarships of \$235 per child for 2 children. We also provided \$2000 to help pay for the new roof. In addition to monetary funding we decided to allow agencies providing for those in need to have items from the storage house prior to the rummage sale. Homeward Bound collected multiple items that will assist them in setting up housing for the homeless.

We would like to thank all parishioners of Grace for contributing items and your time to our annual rummage sales. Without your support we would be unable to provide the assistance described above. Those of us who physically help set up and manage the sale missed the camaraderie and fellowship these past two years! We'll keep our fingers crossed that we are able to hold a sale in 2022!

Cheryl Aull, President

Finance Ministry—Year to Date, November 30, 2021

This year has been an exciting year of growth and change at Grace, including all the new faces in the congregation and the additional programs. This includes the choir. It is wonderful to hear the richness due to the additional voices, but, on the other hand, we did not have enough blue choir robes for Advent. Jim has borrowed red robes from Christ School. Am I allowed to say that? As a result of growth, we have added a number of staff positions (Associate Rector, Bookkeepers, Technical Director). We know the many benefits we have experienced with these additions, but expenses have grown as well.

Expenses have increased about \$35,000 in 2021 from 2000. Through the generosity of congregates and the drawdown of some reserves, we project that we will end this year with a positive balance, erasing the original projected deficit and meeting the increase in expenses.

In 2021, there were 85 pledges totaling \$299,610 at the end of the stewardship ministry. For 2022, there are currently 103 pledges totaling \$358,244.

For 2022, income is projected at \$432,167.42. Expenses are projected at \$475,978.20. The deficit is projected at \$43,810.78. As a point of comparison, the original budget for 2021 showed income of \$380,566, expenses of \$406,185, and a projected deficit of \$25,619. For 2022, most budget entries will require a continuous due diligence on expenses. The budget for Outreach has been increased as that Ministry continues to be an important connection to our community's needs, in accordance with Jesus's teachings.

This year we had a very successful roof replacement campaign. It was not the ordinary roof replacement but a 50-year roof with required stone masonry work and copper gutters. We had some accumulated reserves that we used. To date, other contributions from the congregation and others have totaled \$147,680.

Assuming the mantle of Treasurer this year brought a steep learning curve and an appreciation of all those that have assumed this role in the past and been the bookkeeper as well. Joe Aull has continued to show his extreme patience in helping me and Lindsey, our new bookkeeper. The professionalism and dedication shown by Lindsey has amazed me. We are very fortunate to have her on our team. I look forward to working with all in the transition.

I invite you to continue to follow our financial progress on a monthly basis in the Grace TEAM.

Anne Jarema
Treasurer

**Statement of Activities - Grace Church
Year to Date - November 2021**

Actual Budget Variance

Income:

Pledges 305,657 292,316 13,341 Open Offering 15,448 18,333 (2,885) Building Income 7,533
9,980 (2,447) Administrative and Other Income 39,985 28,215 11,770

Total Income: **368,623 348,852 19,771**

Expenses:

Administrative 11,043 23,833 (12,790) Outreach/Mission 47,843 50,643 (2,800) Parish
Programs 8,271 8,869 (598) Operations 67,480 76,626 (9,146) Personnel 239,068 212,365
26,703

Total Expenses: **373,706 372,336 1,369**

Income Less Expenses: (5,083) (23,484) 18,402 ■ some variances due to
rounding

Flower Guild Ministry



We have recently suffered a great loss with the death of our leader, Marzy Israel. She capably led our Flower Team for more years than anyone remembers. We have continued our ministry by adorning the chancel area shelves with either flowers or greenery throughout the year. We are also currently working on a program of carrying unused flowers to the sick within the congregation and to residents in this areas' nursing homes (please let us know of anyone who would enjoy this service).

My heartfelt thanks to our annual donors in addition to our suppliers: John at Clements Florists, the staff at Coward's Floral Supply, and for purveyors of local plant materials. We are blessed with our new staff members, the

Rev. Milly Morrow, our priest who has offered much support as has Angel Stoudt, our part time sexton. Additionally, much appreciation goes to Valerie Heavens our office coordinator, Ginny Moser, our guild

Treasurer, and Dodie King, who keeps track of our donors.

Please call me at 828-230-3640 (C) or 828-253-9008 (H) if you would like to be a flower donor or a volunteer in any capacity.

As ever, we rejoice in flowers to the Glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Davis

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Garden Guild Ministry

In early spring Jim Compton and I planted a white oak on the west side of the church. The oak was obtained at no cost from Asheville Greenworks plant-a-tree program. Due to the on-going work on the new roof, we were unable to continue with our new courtyard plantings. We plan to move forward with that in the spring of 2022. At that time, we will be asking for volunteers to help spread mulch and do general clean up. It is far too much work for us (Kathleen Griffin and me) to accomplish on our own. We thank you in advance for your willingness to help.

Submitted by
Jackie Schauer

Healing Prayer Ministry

Healing prayer is currently available each Sunday at the 10:30 am service when healing prayer ministers are present. We invite everyone who would like healing prayers for themselves, family, or friends to come to the prayer station at the front of the church either during communion or after the service. Those asking for prayers are welcome to stand or kneel. If you are unable to come to the prayer station, ask one of the ushers to let us know and we will come to you in your pew. All prayers and requests are kept confidential.

We are hoping to add back the in-person Litany for Healing service to our church schedule in the future. If anyone would like to receive healing prayer outside of church service, please contact one of the healing prayer ministers. We are looking for new healing prayer ministers and welcome anyone who might be interested in joining the prayer team. If interested in becoming a healing prayer minister or if you just want more information, please contact Karen Compton or Reverend Milly. Many thanks and blessings to all the Grace Healing Prayer Ministers who include Pat Davis, Brenda Haller, Shari Lane, Sonny Rawls, Louise Wernicke, Joan Aldrich and Allyn Aldrich.

Karen Compton
Member of the Healing Prayer Team

Liturgical Ministries

2021 certainly brought many changes to our Liturgy. After a long period of streaming, we have been able to open our worship to the members of Grace and to the public. In doing this, we've been able to bring back more Acolytes and Chalicists as servers.

As we streamed our services at the beginning of the year, a single Verger serving the role of Acolyte/Chalicer was sufficient. We have now been able to relax some of the Covid precautions,

attendance has increased, and with the addition of Mike as Associate Rector, we have shifted as liturgical needs have changed. The Verger ministry has been put on hold as we grow and develop our Acolyte and Chalice ministries.

There is now a detailed Customary existing for the positions of Acolyte and Chalice. The future plan also calls for video(s) to be made for instructional purposes.

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This ministry will only expand over the next year as attendance continues to grow. The Liturgical ministry at Grace welcomes your participation. If you have been a Liturgical server in the past or are interested in learning more about this rewarding contribution to the life of Grace, please contact Rev Milly Morrow.

Respectful submitted,
Lorie Tola

Men of the Church

The Men of the Church for a long time has held monthly meetings the second Tuesday of each month. In the past a member hosted at his home, or occasionally at the church parish hall. We collected \$15 per person, and that money was directed back into church programs and causes as voted on by the men. Additionally, our Pig-Pickin was our main fundraising event.



Well, we hosted a well-attended Pig Pickin this year, after a long absence. We have many in the church community to thank. We thank Cheryl Aull, Jeannie Sims and the entire Women's Group, Monty Wooten and the PubSing Band, and all of you who came out and enjoyed a nice fall evening, especially those who stayed to help clear away and clean up afterwards. That meant a lot to

the members of the smoking crew, whose day started at 5:30 in the

This year's smoking crew was Ron Sims, Steve Birkhofer, Jack Frue and me. Other members assisting this year were Don Lewis, Bill Lewis, and George Davis. Seven men in all showed up. Granted other members made monetary donations, but if it were not for all the aforementioned assistance, seven seniors could not have pulled this off.



The lock-down, and it's associated social distancing has had a large impact on the group.

Of the 25 or so members currently on my emailing list, 10 to 12 regularly attend meetings, and Ron Sims is the only member to host a meeting at his home. Granted the MOC has the parish hall reserved the second

Tuesday of each month, but Zoom meetings substituted a few months. In December there was no meeting because no one volunteered to host. This was not the first time this has been the case. We may have to suspend the monthly meetings, and just focus on the yearly Pig-Pickin.

Frankly I believe Men of the Church are in dire need of fresh leadership and new members. Personally, and I also speak for my best friend Ron Sims, we have been shouldering most of the weight for some time now. I will be discussing possibilities with Rev. Milly and Fr. Mike. Please remember this group in your prayers. It is not going away. We remain, and will spring forth anew when the time is right, with God's help.

Jim Compton

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Office Ministry

The Office Ministry has been ongoing here at Grace for many years. I am very grateful to all who have contributed so much over the years to what needs to be done to keep the office at Grace running smoothly. Some of the people are intricately involved in other ministries, and what we do in the office supports these ministries, and what they do supports the office work. Because a lot of work this past year has been done at home due to the pandemic, we have not had a lot of people coming into the office. We are now in the position where we need to rebuild our office ministry.

One of the most important tasks we do is create the Sunday bulletin, with input from our clergy and music director. We thank *Charlotte Chiott* who has been faithfully putting together our Sunday bulletins for many years. In June, she passed the baton to *Lindsey Farmer*, and this task is now being done by *Katherine Johnson*. *Kim Hayes* not only creates the Grace TEAM newsletter and helps with our monthly planning as part of the Communications Ministry, she also has been covering for me in the office when I go on vacation. This November, Katherine Johnson took over the office coverage while I got away for a couple of weeks. I am also grateful to *Gael Paschall* who regularly writes thank you notes for Memorial gifts we receive, and to *Lynda McCredie* who came in weekly and assisted with various tasks in the office for several months. *Cliff Albertson* along with *Jim Compton* as part of the Building and Grounds ministry remotely monitor and adjust thermostats throughout the building based on our church calendar. And more recently, *Shannon Townsend* has quietly stepped in to help with going through boxes of files and other office materials that needed to be culled. We are looking for additional volunteers to help with keeping our data up-to-date and helping with the new format for our Church Directory.

Thank you to each one of you, and to those who I 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 God.

Valerie Heavens,
Office Manager

Outreach Ministry

Our hopes for Grace Outreach in 2022 remain the same:

- that our generous investment and enthusiastic personal involvement in outreach will grow, becoming the things that define us as a parish; that we will become an “outreach church” not just

in word but in how we live out our faith;

- that more of us will become active participants in outreach programs;
- that what starts as outreach in response to immediate needs in our community will expand into bold advocacy for the marginalized and will lead to pursuit of long-term relationships and solutions.

This year, without abandoning our determination to feed and shelter and build relationships with the marginalized in our community and world on a broader level, we have continued doing the practical things that an on-going pandemic safely allows: providing financial and in-kind support for the agencies and organizations that were already serving the greatest needs: food, shelter, medical supplies, school supplies, etc. Here is the result of spending from the 2021 outreach operational budget made possible by your pledges:

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ABCCM (\$2000)
Manna Food Bank (\$1000)
Room in the Inn/Homeward Bound (\$1200)
Church of the Advocate (\$500)
Consider Haiti (\$1000)
Habitat for Humanity (\$1500)
Episcopal Relief and Development (\$500)
Pisgah Legal Services (\$500)
Transformation Village (\$1300)

In addition to the above disbursements, we responded to year-end matching donor opportunities to fund Pisgah Legal Services, Beloved Asheville, Episcopal Relief and Development, Homeward Bound and Manna Food Bank at \$500 each. Those gifts will be doubled by other agency partners.

Our use of reserve funds, coupled with parish generosity, has also allowed us to supplement the above budget, providing emergency support for such things as flood relief in Haywood County, assistance for agencies working to prevent evictions, aid for Haiti following the August earthquake, Christmas gifts for Broughton Hospital residents and more. Funding from reserves also assisted numerous on-going projects in our area addressing food and shelter insecurity. The annual Pumpkin Patch, an all-parish effort, netted \$13,683 for Consider Haiti, more than \$1500 over last year's total. We were also the recipients of an anonymous \$5000 grant from the Community Foundation, which was disbursed to Pisgah Legal Services in support of their homelessness prevention program.

At the close of 2021, we will have disbursed a total of approximately \$17,850 (not including the \$5000 grant or the \$13,683 for Pumpkin Patch) to helping agencies here and around the world. Your generous pledges to the church budget made 67% of that total possible.

Additional outreach activities in 2021 included:

- Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) training. A seminar on how an asset-based program could guide outreach at Grace was presented by Eleanor Withers through Episcopal Relief and Development.
- Beloved Asheville. A visit to their "Tiny Village" construction site led to a partnership with four



other area parishes in applying for a Human Hurt and Hope grant from the diocese to develop a common area at the village. The grant was approved, and details are coming.

- Transformation Village. A team made up of people who previously served monthly meals at ABCCM's Steadfast House continues to provide a meal once monthly at the newly opened Transformation Village.
- Habitat for Humanity Episcopal House XIV. We join other Episcopal Churches in the area to help with a house build every other year. This year's house is being built for the sexton at Trinity Episcopal Church in Asheville.
- Fr. Michael Reardon. We welcomed Fr. Mike, who will provide the outreach ministry with guidance and oversight from clergy.

We are sad to report that two projects – Backpackers and the YMCA Mobile Market – are not active at this time. Backpackers is working to renew a partnership with Jones Elementary now that the school has

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returned to in-person learning; we hope to resume our work with Manna Food Bank's Backpack Program next fall. The YMCA Mobile Market has struggled with staffing and, in an effort to make better use of resources, has moved several market locations, including ours, to more rural areas where people have less access to in-town food sources.

Lastly, the Grace Outreach Committee developed the following vision statement: **“We at Grace Church collaborate in realizing the kingdom of heaven on earth through seeking and serving Christ in all persons, respecting the dignity of every human, and striving for social justice and peace.”**

We also adopted the following Mission Statement: **“Together, with God's help, outreach at Grace Church is building the kingdom of heaven on earth.”**

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Hayes, Grace Outreach Coordinator

Pastoral Care Ministry

The Pastoral Care Ministry supports the sick, homebound, bereaved and lonely of Grace Parish and is defined by our mission statement:

The mission of the Pastoral Care Team at Grace Episcopal Church is making the compassionate presence of Christ known through intentional connection and through the physical and spiritual care of those in need.

Some of our efforts in this mission include:

Feed My Sheep – arrange for food to be available in the freezer at Grace for those who are ill, recovering from surgery or otherwise unable to prepare food for themselves. We can always use contributions of soups, chili, or stew in freezer bags labeled with description and date.

Friends in Christ – visit homebound or hospitalized parish members and take Holy Eucharist to those

who desire. Also taking Christmas cookies and Easter Baskets to the same members.

Cards and Calls— sending cards to parishioners and making calls to parishioners on their birthdays. Also make contact with those who are ill or in need of support and works with clergy to stay in touch with those on the prayer list.

Our new Associate Rector Mike Reardon has joined our team and is providing guidance and leadership to Pastoral Care. In addition to Mike our team includes Cliff Albertson, James Cannon, Pat Davis, Don Lewis, Sydnor Thompson, Lorie Tola.

We meet weekly and our discussions center on updating the prayer list, what resources are available for those in need and how we can connect those in need to those resources. We make calls to those on the prayer list.

To contact the Pastoral Care Team, please contact any of the members or send an email to the team at Pastoralcare4grace@gmail.com

Although the pandemic is still here, vaccines have made it possible to allow us to again make physical contact with most of those in need and we remain committed to ensuring that we are faithful to our

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mission. To that end in addition to our team members we have volunteers who have made themselves available to provide transportation, home sitting, medical advocacy, and other services to those in need. If you would like to join our team or if you can volunteer to provide some services to those, contact us at our email address or call any one of us.

Cliff Albertson

PubSing!

PubSing, the monthly sing-a-long of hymns, old time gospel and Americana inspirational music is back. As with most events on the Covid recovery tract, the return of PubSing has taken a slow path. We started up again in August at our outdoor venue at Zillicoah Brewery. We met there again in September and October. The weather was great and the singing loud.

As I write these words, we are preparing for our first indoor session of the year, which will occur on November 28th. The PubSing meetings for the winter will all be indoors at the Cork & Keg, downtown Asheville. Proof of vaccination is required to participate.

So, come out and join us on afternoons every fourth Sunday in 2022. Hope to see you there.

Monty Wooten

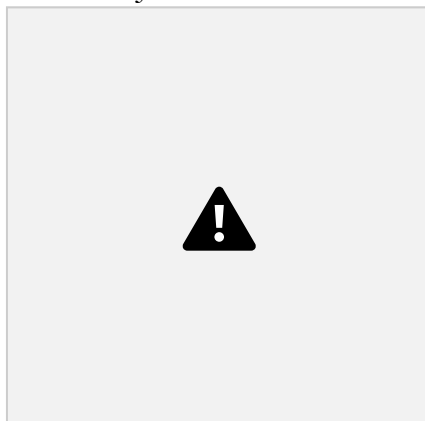
Weddings Ministry

Wedding Bells have begun to ring again!

After having to cancel most of the weddings originally scheduled in 2020 Grace has been able to re-open its doors for couples and their families to celebrate in 2021. As of November 15th, we have celebrated three weddings, with several weddings planned for 2022. Since taking over as Grace's wedding coordinator

in August we have updated our agreement and policies with more inclusive language for couples, created new relationships with trusted photographers, and are looking forward to a new year of love and celebration in our sacred space!

Respectfully,
Katherine Johnson



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