

# ANNUAL REPORTS 2017



**“Love God, Love Others, Change the World”**

Grace Church in Haddonfield  
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## **GRACE CHURCH IN HADDONFIELD**

### **The Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Patrick R. Close, Rector  
The Ven. Carmen J. Viola, Archdeacon  
The Rev. James Gowland, Deacon  
Mr. Maximillian Esmus, Director of Music  
Mrs. Jeanne Mugler, Parish Administrator  
Mrs. Elizabeth Murphy, Director of Christian Formation  
Mrs. Darlene Haines, Bookkeeper  
Mrs. Lorraine Winyard, Financial Secretary

### **The Vestry**

#### **Wardens**

Carl Willers, Senior  
Tom Westerfield, Junior

#### **Class of 2017 -Retiring**

Susan Briant  
Dana Cotter  
Nora Bollinger

#### **Class of 2018**

Phil McAuley  
Elizabeth Perdichizzi  
Tom Westerfield  
Ed Strom  
JP Russell

#### **Class of 2019**

Bethann Flagg  
Michael Luther  
Chris Strasser  
Jay Kauffman

William Sweeney, Treasurer  
Al Schmidt, Assistant Treasurer  
Jim Perrin, Assistant Treasurer

#### **Delegates to 2017 Diocesan Convention**

Carl Willers  
Al Schmidt  
Diane Schrauth

**2017 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA****Sunday, January 28, 2018**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
  - a. Opening Prayer – Rev. Dr. Patrick R. Close, Rector
  - b. Table Discussions – “What is God calling us to next?”
  - c. Sharing
  
- II. NOMINATIONS – Mr. Carl Willers, Senior Warden
  - a. Statement of Canonical Qualifications of Voters
  - b. Report of the Nominations Committee
  - c. Vote by Acclamation
  
- III. REPORTS
  - a. Roll of the Saints for 2017 – Rector
  - b. Treasurer’s Report – Mr. William Sweeney
  - c. Presentation of the 2018 Budget – Senior Warden
  
- IV. REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE PARISH
  - a. Comments from the Wardens
  - b. Comments by the Rector
  - c. Additional Comments to Written Reports
  - d. Focusing on Transition
  
- V. OTHER BUSINESS
  - a. Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members, Mr. Tom Westerfield
  - b. Motion to Adjourn
  - c. Closing Prayer – Archdeacon Carmen Viola

**Vestry**

**VOTE BY ACCLAMATION**

**Class of 2020**

Portia Fudala  
Sutton Hamilton  
Karen Murdock  
Amy Watts

**Diocesan Convention**

**Delegates**

Tom Westerfield  
Michael Luther  
Al Schmidt

**Alternates**

Nora Bollinger  
Diane Close

## Table of Contents

Annual Meeting Agenda	3
Rector's Remarks	6
Deacon's Report	9
Wardens' Reports	10
Treasurer's Report	12
2017 Income and Expense with 2018 Budget	13
Committee Reports	16
Christian Formation	16
Cooper Episcopal Consortium	20
Episcopal Church Women (ECW/St. Anne's)	21
Finance	22
Grace Gardeners	24
Music Program	24
Outreach	26
Parish Life	31
Property Committee	32
Stewardship	36
Thrift Shop	36
Wedding Committee	37
Welcome Table	37
Worship	37
Youth Groups	38
Roll of the Saints	39
Thank you to our Pledgers	40
Qualifications for Voting	42

## RECTOR'S REMARKS

Dear Friends in Christ:

Last year, I found the brief phrase that describes the vision of ministry that I have come closest to embracing: *“Love God, Love Others, Change the World.”* As I reflect over this past year, and my ministry at Grace Church, I see how much of that phrase has helped to motivate my priesthood. I am deeply grateful for how that ministry has unfolded amongst you, the people of Grace Church and the communities that we are part of in this special place.

One of my favorite Biblical passages is from *1 John 4:7*: *“Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God.”* I feel the love of God is in this place and it has been my privilege to serve with you over 20 years. As I look back, I see a great many things that we have accomplished, some things I wish had gone better and a hope that the next priest and their family to serve you will be as fortunate as Diane, Jennifer (and Ira), Sean (and Jessica), and I have been. I believe an exciting future awaits Grace Church as the Closes prepare to move on from this very special place.

*“You shall love the Lord with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. The second is this; You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 12:30)”* At the heart of our community is WORSHIP. We are here as Christians to praise God and model our lives after the life, teaching and example of Jesus Christ. The very name of our Church, Grace, speaks of the unconditional love that God has for us. It challenges us to offer this same unconditional love to others. Our worship is a highlight with many hands that help to make the experience special for us. The variety of services that we offer members gives people a chance to gather in prayer, Scripture, music, fellowship, and the Holy Eucharist.

We do worship well, and it happens thanks to the many people from altar guild and acolytes, lay readers and chalice bearers, choir and ushers, greeters and clergy to make our worship special. There is always room for others and we must look at who is not here and determine ways to include them in our midst. It is vital to look at our communities and find ways to invite them to join us in the pews. We need always to remember that we are first, a worshipping community.

*“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me, but the one who sent me. (Mark 9:35)”* One of the special emphases of Grace Church is the inclusion of children. The number of Baptisms we hold, the attendance at the Parish House Holy Communion monthly and the number of offerings we create for children speaks loudly to our friends and visitors. We make room for kids, and that makes us unique among many Churches! The welcome we give to children extends to strangers, those who some (but not us) consider unacceptable, and more than you could imagine. Welcoming is one of the things we do best at Grace Church. But who do we need to welcome next? Who do we need to reach out to around us?

*“... Make disciples of all nations ... (Matthew 28:19)”* EDUCATION is important to us at Grace. All of us are challenged to continue our spiritual journey with a greater understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Our best work takes place with our young people, but there are some great offerings for our older members. No one has the fullest or best understanding of the Christian faith, the Bible or what it means to be an Episcopalian. There is always an opportunity to learn more and practice our faith more fully. While we have done a good job with the kids, there is a need for more with adults.

*“In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you (Matthew 7:12).”* Another great part of Grace Church is how we reach out to others in need. OUTREACH points to our willingness to share the love of God with others. It is also the way that we begin to change the world. The list of efforts we undertake is so long that I won’t take time to list it all here. We are making a difference in our lives and in the lives of others. Jesus commends us to be the ones who show care, compassion and kindness wherever we are now.

The motivation for me is clear, *“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you (John 15:12)”* God loves us, Jesus loves us, now we share that love with others. Take time to look in this report at what we are doing. But we also need to ask ourselves, “What’s next?” We cannot settle for things as they are but need to look for where God is calling us to reach out.

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).”* We have been given much at Grace Church, but the greatest gift, after Jesus himself, is the people who are the members. PARISH LIFE is the way we gather at other times to be this special community. There are a number of groups that people may be part of at Grace. It’s important to help people find the place to join, and going forward there will be the need for more groups. If we make ourselves open to the suggestions of new people, we may find some exciting new things happen in our community! It’s the people that make Grace Church special! Again, where is there a need to create another group, and who will step up to lead it?

*“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Luke 12:34).”* We have been entrusted with so much at Grace. It is imperative that we be a generous people and good caretakers of what we have been given. PROPERTY/STEWARDSHIP points us towards the work and ministry that we conduct in this place. We presented a budget a year ago that had a \$52,000 deficit! If you look at the Treasurer’s report, you will see that not only did we close the gap; we ended the year with a balanced budget. It was a combination of your generosity, extra fundraising around the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary and careful management of the 2017 budget.

However, this doesn’t mean everything is without concerns. Capital expenditures have raised the dramatic need for us raise funds above and beyond the operating budget. We have been planning a CAPITAL CAMPAIGN that will help us address the expenses already made and provide us with the way to take care of other major issues in 2018. There is a need for us to “ante up” not only for the present, but to ensure we have facilities that are safe, in good working order and preserved for those who come after us. We will be talking more about this in the weeks ahead.

*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth (Psalm 100:1).”* One of the great joys of this past year was the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Many thanks to all the people who helped us celebrate our past. Many thanks to all the people who contributed to the events and programs we shared. Now it’s time for us to think about what legacy we leave to those who come after us. What do we have to do to make Grace Church the place for future generations of Christians?

This past year would not have happened without the faithful work of the STAFF and VOLUNTEERS of Grace Church. We are blessed to have Max Esmus, Jeanne Mugler, Betsy Murphy, Darlene Haines, and Lorraine Winyard to keep us on track and help make so many things happen. You all make my life easier! Thank you! We said goodbye to Kate Myers as she retired to take up grandmother duties! The list of volunteers would fill another full page, but thank you, all of you. I will single out the Vestry for their excellent leadership: Carl Willers; Tom Westerfield; Nora Bollinger; Susan Briant; Dana Cotter; Bethann Flag; Jay Kauffman; Michael Luther; Phil McAuley; Elizabeth Perdichizzi; JP Russell; Chris Strasser; and Ed Strom. Your leadership and support helped to make many of the things already mentioned a reality. Thank you Bill Sweeney, Al Schmidt,

Jim Perrin and Rob Gallo for the work of the Finance Committee. Thanks to Barbara Linn and the entire Altar Guild for their work behind the scenes. Thank you Property Committee, Parish Life Committee, and everyone who volunteers time and effort to make Grace Church the special place it is today. Thank you!

A special thanks to my wife Diane, whose love and support made it possible for me to do most of the things at Grace Church. We will greatly miss Grace and Haddonfield. This is the longest we have lived in any one place in both of our lives. This has been home for us. We have a wonderful and unique community. I am grateful for the Haddonfield Council of Churches and the many programs and events we have done together. I have loved being the “unofficial” chaplain of Kings’ Highway and chaplain to the Haddonfield Fire Department. We have benefitted from the love, affection and care that we have received here at Grace. We hope that you have benefitted from our being here as well.

2018 is going to be a year of change for all of us. Diane and I will both be retired. We have a new grandchild to get used to with Jen and Ira’s child in March. We have a wedding to look forward to with Sean and Jessica. It will not be the same. We will miss you, we will miss Grace Church ... there really is no place like this! I have been working with the Vestry this past year to help prepare for the transition. We have given thought and attention to the changes ahead. I am confident that God will send another special person to be with you very soon.

*“(Jesus) said to his disciples, ‘Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life ...’ (Luke 12:4)”* Know this, as we move from last year into this year, we are never alone. The Lord goes with us. God will make the divine self known to you. The Holy Spirit will guide you in the decisions that you need to make. Don’t worry! I encourage you to look for how God is present and working in your lives. Share what you discover with each other. Be of good heart ... you are special ... and God will send another special person to you. Diane and I send you our love. We know that we will never find as special a place as Grace Church, but we do know God has some other things in mind for us as well.

Thank you for being you. Thank you for living out your faith. Thank you for your love and support. Thank you ... for everything. May God continue to bless you in everything that you do! With warmest regards, I remain, faithfully yours in Christ, Fr. Pat



## DEACON'S REPORT

### Archdeacon's Report

I thank you all for your continued love and support. Grace continues to lead our diocese as a model of a healthy faith community serving Christ. The clergy and parishioners continue to be a source of inspiration to me as they minister to those at the margins, especially those people living in Camden.

This year my journey here at Grace took an unexpected turn. While serving to fill in the gap at various church services on Sundays I felt the tugging of the Spirit once again. Consequently, I have spent much of my time discerning a call to the priesthood. I have formally entered the process under the supervision of the Bishop with the help and guidance of Fr. Pat. I am well on my way on this journey and I'm not sure where this path will ultimately take me in serving our diocese. Please keep me in your prayers.

My focus continues to be on developing lay leadership. Grace Greeters, although less formalized, continues to welcome newcomers to our church weekly. We have been blessed with now being a "destination" church due to our warm and open culture; and our focus on ministry to those at the margins. Grace captures the idea of the "body of Christ" in motion and I am so blessed to be a part of this amazing, welcoming, open and loving faith community. Our Lay Eucharistic Visitor program has also grown some, but still requires oversight for our continued success in meeting the needs of our homebound parishioners, especially during our upcoming transition.

My main ministry has been to work on being a relevant force for discipleship in this diocese. Lay leadership and small group formation will be vital for all our programs going forward. Being able to transition to lay leadership will ensure that our ministries grow and flourish. Discipleship and formation are so vital to this end.

The book "The Heart of Discipleship" continues to reap benefits and many of our churches now have the books in their pews. The challenge is "getting it out there"; so I have donated many books this year in furthering this effort. Although this September I did not have a formal God Talk Program due to my studies for the priesthood, the webinars that were developed and delivered earlier in the year are now out there for anyone interested. In bringing our Adult formation series to YouTube we have been able to drastically affect our reach. We now have the webinars being viewed and listened to regularly each week. My hope is that we will be more deliberate and intentional for adult formation.

As part of our continued discipleship formation we are also planning another pilgrimage to Israel next year. The people that made the pilgrimage last year were visibly changed by the experience. Being on a pilgrimage is one of the essential ways to transform a person's faith into a maturing and growing faith that guides us towards living a fuller life in the way of Jesus. Once you experience the Bible in context, your faith journey will be much deeper and more meaningful. In Israel they call geography the fifth gospel and for good reason.

I continue to work for our diocese as the Bishop's archdeacon responsible for diaconal deployment. I have worked with the deacons in our diocese to ensure that they feel nurtured and empowered in their respective churches. I have also begun the work of meeting with and planning deployment for our next group of deacons slated to be ordained this coming year. As archdeacon, I am also responsible for the Bishop's initiatives in the Camden and Woodbury convocations. This year's focus has been on supporting churches lacking clergy leadership for Sunday Services.

I look forward to my continued service to Grace Church as we meet the upcoming challenges of transition together.

Respectfully submitted: The Ven. Carmen J. Viola, Dcn

## WARDENS' REPORTS

### Senior Warden

*Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love. ~1 Corinthians 16: 13-14*

I find it hard to believe that my year as Senior Warden has come to an end. This opportunity has allowed me to deepen my relationship with our church and my own spirituality, for that I am truly grateful and humbled. The vestry of 2017 was a wonderful group of people and I am thankful to each one of you for sharing the gifts God gave you to enrich our lives. Grace Church is truly a great place because of its members, leaders and staff.

Last year Bob Weil passed the title of Senior Warden to me. He entrusted to me a legacy of Love, Grace and Outreach. In 2017 the vestry lived out the principals that make our church great, planned for the future and celebrated our rich history. By focusing on what we do and not on the results, we delivered on our goals and strengthened the foundation for the church as we move forward.

Spiritually Grace Church is as strong as ever. Father Pat, Deacon Carmen and Deacon Jim ensured that Grace delivered an impactful and meaningful message that we all enjoy so much. We are blessed to have them at Grace Church. To say that Max has yet again brought our music to another level would be an understatement, Max continues to grow and it is truly remarkable to witness. Betsy and the Sunday School Program make an impact not only on the children in our church but also the parents. She brings a community together each week and makes our church a welcoming and fulfilling place for families.

In 2017 Grace Church had its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Throughout the year, the church held events to remember and celebrate our history. The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at Tavistock was an incredible night, we recognized the fellowship we have at Grace, the commitment we have to our community and how grateful we all are to be a part of something so special. This event was truly a group effort; it was so much fun and full of memories for all that attended. Thank you to Lynne Ryan and the planning committee, they worked so hard to deliver a memorable year full of events designed to allow us to remember our past and enlighten everyone as to why Grace is such a unique place to be.

The Capital Campaign is moving forward and will be big focus for the church in the coming months as we engage you for support. We have a wonderful group of people who have dedicated their talents to establishing a solid foundation for the Capital Campaign to grow from. The theme for the campaign is "Securing Grace's Future" and it could not be a more appropriate name since in 2017 we celebrated the church's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Now we can take our great appreciation of our history and do the needed work to ensure Grace Church is here to serve our members and our community for generations to come.

Finding our next rector is something Grace Church has not had to do for over 20 years. We are all blessed to have Father Pat in our lives, he is leaving big shoes to fill when he retires on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Vestry and Search Committee are working closely with the diocese to find our next rector. Your input is valued and will help the church build a Parish Profile that will be used to guide the Vestry and Search Committee.

Tom Westerfield will take the responsibility of Senior Warden from me. We all know Tom for his roles in the church services and committees he serves. Tom is an established leader in our church; he will guide us through 2018 and all the challenges and celebrations this year has to offer us. Tom is organized, responsive, compassionate and always willing to listen. Thank you Tom for being a friend, mentor and the best Junior Warden I could possibly ever have.

I feel blessed to have the opportunity to serve as your Senior Warden. Thanks to each of my fellow parishioners for support of your Vestry during this past year. Exciting, fulfilling times await all of us at Grace Church.

Faithfully yours in Christ,  
Carl Willers, Sr. Warden

### **Junior Warden**

As I look back on 2017, I am thankful for the success of our 175th celebrations. The tremendous financial support of these activities allowed our budgeted deficit to be much lower than originally forecasted. Your Vestry worked very well together and was a cohesive group supporting each other and the activities of the parish. I want to take a moment to thank Carl Willers for his time and leadership he faithfully committed to Grace Church. I am grateful he has agreed to continue his leadership running the Capital Campaign in 2018.

I ask for your prayers for the Vestry members throughout 2018, as this will be a year of significant change. We are happy that Father Pat and Diane will soon be able to enjoy their retirement and we appreciate their time with us as faithful servants in so many ways. Their 20+ years of service to Grace have allowed us to grow in our spiritual walk and have weathered the storms around us and come through as a “welcoming” church. As I look around society today, I appreciate our spiritual home that uses history and understanding to constantly challenge the status quo, ensuring we try to be true followers of the teachings of Jesus. The leadership of Father Pat, reminding us to look for God in everything and everyone we come across, is not always easy, but we are better for it. Our commitment to these principles are now ingrained and will not be forgotten as we move to the next chapter of Grace Church.

The Vestry’s plan is to conduct small group parish meetings and online surveys during these first months of 2018, to gain input from every member of the parish. This information will be used to create a Parish Profile and establish the required characteristics of our new Rector. The Vestry will then turn the process of prayerfully considering candidates, to the Search Committee after Father Pat’s departure the first of May. The culmination of their work will be given to the Vestry, detailing the most suitable candidate(s) for issuing a Call. The search process is expected to last most if not all of 2018, so we ask for your patience. During the transition, we will depend on Supply Priests and our two Deacons. The Vestry is also considering a part-time Interim Minister for the second half of the year. We are committed to keeping you informed through this process.

Another big event kicking off in 2018 is the Capital Campaign. We ask that you consider the important improvements that need to be made to the facilities that are not accounted for in our limited operating budget from pledges. The church has not asked for this type of additional financial support in over 20 years and the deferred maintenance is evident in our facilities. This campaign is also something that potential priests look at to determine a healthy church and could influence their decision. I pray that we will be successful in our goal and that everyone will make a financial commitment. If we default to others, the success of the campaign will fall short. We really need everyone in our Church family to make this campaign successful.

I look forward to serving as your Senior Warden during this time of transition and welcome all the support and prayers for your Vestry.

In his service,  
Tom Westerfield

## TREASURER'S REPORT

In 2017, Grace Church experienced a surplus of \$15,172, which enabled Grace to set aside \$15,000 to provide for anticipated safety improvements in 2018 and to provide additional funds for the capital fund campaign. This reduced the surplus to \$172, the amount shown on the accompanying report. When the budget was set for 2017, a deficit of \$52,000 was anticipated and this was included in the 2017 budget as a transfer from savings. As a result of a number of positive financial events in 2017, this transfer from savings was not required. Included in these positive events were the increase in loose offerings and the positive result from our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The increase in the loose offerings was unexpected but does represent the positive image that Grace presents to the community. Concerning the income realized from the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, this was the result of the support the celebration had from Grace members and the planning and commitment by the anniversary committee in preparing for the event.

In regard to the 2017 Diocesan Fair Share Pledge, as in past years, Grace paid to the Diocese an amount that was felt within the means of the parish. It is recognized that the \$66,000 paid was below the amount requested by the diocese, however, it represents a substantial commitment by the parish and the parish will continue to work toward the goal of meeting the total amount requested.

Since Grace was able to get through 2017 without transferring funds from its financial reserves to the operating account, this enabled Grace to conserve these funds for other financial needs. This includes expenditures in 2017 made for capital projects, including energy and lighting improvements, air conditioning and boiler repairs. These expenditures totaled \$96,166 and were a major reason for the decrease of the cash balances in 2017. This decrease is evident when one compares the total cash reserves at the end of 2016 and 2017. At the end of 2017, the available restricted and unrestricted funds totaled \$287,952, at the end of 2016 the same total was \$327,614. Hopefully these funds will be restored with the donations to the capital campaign.

The total restricted and unrestricted funds of Grace at the end of 2017, consisting of both cash and securities, is contained in five different accounts and the balances available at the end of 2017. The balances in these accounts at the end of 2017 are as follows with the 2016 balances indicated in parentheses:

- TD Bank Operating Account - \$89,111 (\$57,090)
- TD Bank Memorial Account - \$19,784 (\$99,698)
- Fulton Bank Memorial Account - \$71,495 (\$71,463)
- BB&T Bank - \$1,507 (\$1,509)
- Charles Schwab Investment Account Cash - \$8,707 (\$16,355)
- Charles Schwab Investment Account Securities - \$97,348 (\$81,361)

Other than the receipts and expenses reported in the operating statement, Grace received donations from parishioners and others, which are specified for designated purposes. Grace also made disbursements to individuals and organizations as directed by the donors. I refer the reader to the outreach report included in the annual report.

It is also important to recognize the important contribution to Grace made by the Thrift Shop. This is directly attributable to the head of the Thrift Shop, Ellen Berntson and the dedicated volunteers who work to make the Thrift Shop possible. The Thrift Shop gross receipts for 2017 were \$17,142. Of this amount one-half was contributed to operating revenue (\$8,571) and the remainder to Camp Faith, funding for the social worker, and Camden Christmas.

I conclude by stating that the 2017 financial results reflect the positive support of the parishioners of Grace Church. We can be proud of this generosity and reflects the commitment to stewardship by all of our members. I cannot close without thanking all who supported me and enabled me to perform the duties of treasurer of Grace Church. These individuals are assistant treasurers Jim Perrin and Al Schmidt, members of the finance committee, Jeanne Mugler the parish administrator, Lorraine Winyard who pays the bills and takes care of the payroll and Darlene Haines, the parish bookkeeper.

Respectfully Submitted, Bill Sweeney, Treasurer

2017 Income & Expense Summary and 2018 Budget - Operating Account					
Year 2017 Results					
Acct. No.	Account Name	Budget	Actual	(Under)/ Over Budget	2018 Budget
<b>Income</b>					
401	Pledges Received	\$ 380,000	\$ 379,666	\$ (334)	\$ 380,000
402	Loose Offering	45,000	73,706	28,706	50,000
402.10	Thrift Store	9,000	8,571	(429)	9,000
403	Easter & Christmas	24,000	21,793	(2,207)	23,000
407	Miscellaneous	10,000	8,395	(1,605)	8,000
408	Space Use	21,000	23,258	2,258	21,000
409	Fund Raisers	20,000	40,149	20,149	15,000
	Investment Income		441	441	
499	Transfers	52,000	-	(52,000)	-
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 561,000</b>	<b>\$ 555,979</b>	<b>\$ (5,021)</b>	<b>\$ 506,000</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>Rector</b>					
511	Salary	\$ 74,628	\$ 74,628	\$ -	\$ 27,876
511.1	Short Term Disability			-	
512	Social Security Offset	18,000	18,181	181	6,000
514	Professional Allowance	5,500	4,697	(803)	1,833
515	Annuity	9,000	9,000	-	-
516	Pension	25,485	23,880	(1,605)	9,000
517	Health & Group Life Insurance	37,635	36,355	(1,280)	7,908
	Search Committee Expense				2,700
	Supply Clergy - Compensation				17,725
	Supply Clergy - Travel		199		2,275
519	Continuing Education	800	740	(60)	400
581	Deacon Stipend	1,200	1,400	200	2,400
581.1	Deacon Conferences			-	1,200
580	Substitute Clergy	6,000	4,794	(1,206)	2,000
	<b>Total Rector</b>	<b>\$ 178,248</b>	<b>\$ 173,874</b>	<b>\$ (4,573)</b>	<b>\$ 81,317</b>
<b>Administrative Support</b>					
601	Administrative Assistant Salary	\$ 35,125	\$ 35,125	\$ (0)	\$ 35,828
602	Secretary Salary	1,373	317	(1,056)	-
604	Administrative Assistant Annuity	1,756	1,756	(0)	1,791
604.1	Administrative Assistant 403(b) Match	1,405	1,405	(0)	1,433
	Administrative Assistant Health Insurance	-	-	-	-
605	Administrative Assistant Dental	-	-	-	756
610	Office Supplies	4,500	4,878	378	5,000
611	Postage	3,000	2,426	(574)	3,000
613	Telephone	4,000	2,648	(1,352)	2,800
613	Equip. Leasing	11,000	10,248	(752)	10,000
600	Other Expense	-	228	228	-
	<b>Total Administrative Support</b>	<b>\$ 62,159</b>	<b>\$ 59,031</b>	<b>\$ (3,128)</b>	<b>\$ 60,608</b>

## 2017 Income &amp; Expense Summary and 2017 Budget - Operating Account

		Budget	Actual	(Under)/ Over Budget	2018 Budget
	<b>Parish Life</b>				
702	Publicity	\$ -	\$ 2,379	\$ 2,379	\$ -
703	Stewardship	2,500	513	(1,987)	2,500
704	Hospitality	600	18	(582)	600
707	Vestry	200	42	(158)	200
708	Miscellaneous	600	890	290	600
	<b>Total Parish Life</b>	<b>\$ 3,900</b>	<b>\$ 3,843</b>	<b>\$ (57)</b>	<b>\$ 3,900</b>
	<b>Education</b>				
711	Adult Education	\$ 750	\$ 705	\$ (45)	750
712	Church School	4,500	4,291	(209)	4,500
713	Youth Group	400	645	245	800
714	Conferences	300	75	(225)	300
715	Director of Religious Education - Salary	20,000	20,000	(0)	20,400
	Director of Religious Education - Pension Contribution				1,020
	Director of Religious Education -403(b) Match				-
	Director of Religious Education - Health Insurance				-
717	Nursery	1,000	580	(420)	1,000
719	Confirmation	1,300	1,123	(177)	1,500
	<b>Total Education</b>	<b>\$ 28,250</b>	<b>\$ 27,418</b>	<b>\$ (832)</b>	<b>\$ 30,270</b>
	<b>Finance</b>				
721	Accounting	\$ 750	\$ 697	\$ (53)	\$ 750
722	Brokerage & Banks	1,500	2,376	876	2,500
723	Bookkeeper	4,000	3,090	(910)	3,300
724	Professional Financial Review	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total Finance</b>	<b>\$ 6,250</b>	<b>\$ 6,163</b>	<b>\$ (87)</b>	<b>\$ 6,550</b>
	<b>Music</b>				
731	Director of Music Salary	\$ 33,959	\$ 33,959	\$ 0	\$ 34,638
732	Dir. Of Music Pension Contribution	1,698	1,698	-	1,732
732.1	Director of Music 403(b) Match	1,358	1,358	0	1,388
733	Director of Music Health Insurance	10,476	13,582	3,106	12,000
734	Supply Organist	1,200	910	(290)	1,200
735	Continuing Education	1,200	1,467	267	1,200
737	Music Supplies	1,200	968	(232)	1,200
738	Miscellaneous	500	460	(40)	500
739	Organ & Piano Maintenance	2,000	1,648	(352)	2,000
	<b>Total Music</b>	<b>\$ 53,591</b>	<b>\$ 56,050</b>	<b>\$ 2,459</b>	<b>\$ 55,858</b>
	<b>Outreach</b>				
741	Diocese Fair Share	\$ 66,000	\$ 66,000	\$ -	\$ 68,000
742	Rector Discretionary Fund	5,500	5,065	(435)	5,000
745	Other Outreach	-	168	168	
	<b>Total Outreach</b>	<b>\$ 71,500</b>	<b>\$ 71,233</b>	<b>\$ (267)</b>	<b>\$ 73,000</b>

## 2017 Income &amp; Expense Summary and 2017 Budget - Operating Account

		Budget	Actual	(Under)/ Over Budget	2018 Budget
	<b>Property</b>				
754	BF Steam - Cleaning	\$ 37,452	\$ 37,452	\$ -	\$ 38,203
755	Maintenance & Repair	24,000	17,818	(6,182)	25,000
755.1	Capital Expense Reserve	-	15,000	15,000	-
756	Security & Fire Alarm	4,300	2,311	(1,989)	3,600
757	Utilities	55,000	47,151	(7,849)	55,000
758	Snow Removal	200	177	(23)	200
760	Grounds Maintenance.	3,300	3,665	365	3,300
762	Insurance	15,300	17,767	2,467	16,947
763	Miscellaneous	2,000	1,437	(563)	4,000
763.1	Internet		1,984	1,984	
764	Janitorial Supplies	3,200	2,503	(697)	3,200
	<b>Total Property</b>	<b>\$ 144,752</b>	<b>\$ 147,265</b>	<b>\$ 2,513</b>	<b>\$ 149,450</b>
	<b>Worship</b>				
771	Acolytes	\$ 500.00	\$ 471.18	\$ (28.82)	\$ 500.00
773	Worship Supplies	3,500	3,384	(116)	3,500
	<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,855</b>	<b>\$ (145)</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>
801	Payroll Taxes	\$ 8,500	\$ 7,076	\$ (1,424)	\$ 7,000
901	Reserve for Contingencies				34,050
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 561,150</b>	<b>\$ 555,807</b>	<b>\$ (5,542)</b>	<b>\$ 506,003</b>
	<b>Surplus(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (150)</b>	<b>\$ 172</b>	<b>\$ 521</b>	<b>\$ (3)</b>

## **CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

“Christian formation is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others, and all creation. Every experience in our lives can provide us with the opportunity to express our faith; the challenge we face is recognizing these opportunities and learning ways to live a sometimes countercultural life in a secular world.”

[www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/lifelongformation/about-christian-formation](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/lifelongformation/about-christian-formation)).

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Education Committee**

The Education Committee at Grace Church is a volunteer group that works with the Director of Christian Formation in planning a variety of Church School activities and providing input on curriculum ideas. The Committee creates ideas and plan for special group projects, Festival days, throughout the year. They also work to provide support to the church school teachers and DCF as needed. Currently the committee consists of Betsy Murphy, Dana Cotter and Portia Fudala. We are always looking for new members and ideas. Those whom enjoy making crafts, working with children or sharing suggestions for our Church School programs are welcome. We meet on the second Thursday of odd-numbered months, i.e. January, March, May, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall, our meetings typically last one hour.

#### **Adult Formation**

##### ***God Talk***

Deacon Carmen Viola concluded his God Talk series on May 22, 2017. The program was based on his book *The Heart of Discipleship*. Videos of the program are available through YouTube for all who are interested in the program. It was a series of seminars and discussions focusing on living a more complete and spirit-filled life. Some of the topics included unconditional love, forgiveness, having enough, and suffering. The main focus was connecting to God while making connections to others.

##### ***Thursday Morning Bible Study***

Beginning in 2017, Diane Close took over leading the Thursday morning Bible Study. The group began with three members and has continued to grow, currently having seven regular members. They have chosen a variety of topics to explore including the Gospel of “Matthew,” *Crazy Christians* by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, and *The Liturgical Year: The Spiraling Adventure of the Spiritual Life* by Joan Chittister. The group meets on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall library. Nora Bollinger will be leading the group when Diane Close retires in April.

##### ***Grace Church Lenten Series***

On Thursday mornings in March and April 2017, Father Pat led a study group on the *Five Marks of Love*. The series was developed by the brothers of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist and Virginia Theological Seminary. It was a six-week series that provided an opportunity to observe and reflect on the ways Christ’s love is expressed in our lives, our faith communities and the world around us. The series had a workbook and online video component.



***Cooper Episcopal Consortium Lenten Series***

On Wednesdays in Lent, Grace Church participated in a Lenten Series “Speaking of Faith” along with Grace Church in Merchantville, Holy Trinity Church in Collingswood, St. Bartholomew’s Church in Cherry Hill, St. John’s Church in Maple Shade and St. Mary’s Church in Haddon Heights. There were two sessions each Wednesday, one at noon and one at 6:30 p.m. Each session included worship, a soup meal, and discussion. Each participating church hosted a Wednesday. There were about fifteen participants in each session.

***Chat with Father Pat***

In the spring of 2017, Father Pat began a once a month open discussion group after the 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion service. The participants established the topics for each session. Some of the topics included children and the internet, ethics, and leading a Christian life. All those that attend Grace Church of all ages were welcome to participate.

**Youth Formation*****Church School***

Church School meets on Sunday mornings in the Parish House after communion at the 9:30 a.m. service. All who attend Grace Church are welcome to attend. We have fully inclusive classrooms and encourage cooperation and support among all of our children. We ask that all who participate in church school register their children, to help provide us with the most up-to-date information in case an emergency should occur. We had an average attendance of 50 children and 50 children registered. It was the first year of online registration and registration is open year-round. The majority of the church school budget is for classroom related activities and special projects for festival days. The monthly birthday cakes cost \$335.88; we receive about \$100.00 in donations to cover this cost. The curriculum costs \$568.00 annually. This year all of the classrooms were fully restocked with watercolors, crayons, glue sticks, markers, construction paper, and pencils.

We use the *Weaving God’s Promises* curriculum. The year began with some Old Testament lessons about the Garden of Eden and human’s separation from God’s love and ended with Jesus’ love and salvation for all. The Gospel focus was on the book of “Matthew.” This curriculum has provided us with flexibility in our lesson planning and is written exclusively for the Episcopal church, thus providing additional connections between the our church and the Bible.

Thank you to our church school teachers: Dana Cotter, Kelly Kuchera, Marianne Poisel, Shannon Morris, Amy Watts, Dorlisa Young, Shelia Raman-Combs, Daniela Stange, Carl Willers, Karen Marshall, Nora Bollinger and Portia Fudala. Thank you to all of the families who participated in church school and those that have helped to provide snack on Sunday mornings.

***Communion Class***

Communion Classes ran from March 5, 2017, to April 2, 2017, during Church School. There were ten participants in the class, and we used *A Child’s Guide to Holy Eucharist* as a supporting text.

While most children at Grace Church already receive communion, we have continued the tradition of communion class as a special opportunity for children in the second grade to begin to learn more about the history, traditions, symbols and meanings of our church service and Holy Communion.

***Confirmation Class***

On October 1, 2017, during a Holy Communion service celebrating 175 years of Grace Church in Haddonfield, led by Bishop William Stokes, 12 youths and one adult were Confirmed into the Episcopal Church. In addition, three adults were received into the Episcopal Church.

On Friday, September 8 and Saturday, September 9, Deacon Carmen and Betsy Murphy led the youth on retreat at St. Mary's Church in Stone Harbor. During the retreat, the youth were encouraged and guided in examining their future roles in the Church and incorporating religious practices into daily life. Thank you to Kate Lin, and Lori Heberley for helping to chaperone.

Confirmation classes take place on the third Thursday of every month from September to May in the Parish Hall. Classes are open to all teens who are in the sixth grade or older. The classes cover church history, religious practices, special holy days, spiritual practices, ethics and modern Christian life.

***Summer Sunday School***

Summer Sunday School ran Sunday, July 9 through Sunday, August 27, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:10 a.m. in the Parish Hall. The Summer Sunday School program was led by Alexa Kowalski and had an average attendance of six students. The program consisted of children's spiritual music, Bible stories and weekly activities. It was also a fully inclusive program. The children sang during 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, August 27 to share some of what they learned. The summer program cost \$600 annually and provides many benefits to our children and families.

We are grateful for the expertise that Alexa Kowalski brings to the program. She is a certified Music Together instructor and has a degree in Music Education from Rowan University. This was her third year running Summer Sunday School and throughout that time participation by our youth has increased. We look forward to her help again in summer 2018.

***Vacation Bible School***

Vacation Bible School ran from July 10 - 14, 2017, from 8:30 a.m. until noon. The theme was God's Great Creations, and the program was written and planned by the Vacation Bible School Committee consisting of Dana Cotter, Amy Watts, Portia Fudala, and Betsy Murphy. Al Schmidt help to plan the activities for the games. The music station was planned by Max Esmus and Alexa Kowalski.

Registration for Vacation Bible School was 100% online. We grew from 40 participants in 2016 to 47 in 2017. 43% of the participants attend Grace Church, 23% did not list a home church, 19% attend Christ the King Church; the other 15% attend Haddonfield United Methodist Church, Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Our Lady of Good Council, and Hope Church. This indicates that Vacation Bible School, in addition to serving the families of Grace Church during the summer, is helping to spread God's works among families who do not normally attend church. There were \$829.81 in expenses for Vacation Bible School, and \$883.00 was raised.

***Christmas Pageant***

The annual Christmas Pageant took place on Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. in the Church. 341 people attended the service. Mary was Chloe L., Joseph was Graham O. and Jesus was Goia B. Madison W. was Gabriel, Cecilia C. was Elizabeth and Max M. was Herod. The wisemen were Owen L., Aiden W. and William O. There were also eight narrators: Abby R., Natalie D., Anne B., Elena D., Dan W., Grace M., Peter C. and Ella F.

Thank you to J.P. Russell who helped guide the shepherds and their flocks, and to Sharon Domenico who helped with our angels.

### **Other Annual Reports**

#### *Acolytes*

The Acolyte team had two training sessions in 2017, one on March 5 and the other on September 24. We welcomed the following new members in 2017: Cecilia C., Peter C., Anna L., Emma L., Charlotte D. and Sophia W. We currently have the following acolytes: 15 torchbearers and 4 substitutes, 15 servers and 10 substitutes, 5 crucifers and 6 substitutes, and 3 thurifers. All members of Grace Church who are in the first grade or older are welcomed to join the acolyte team. Our next training will be March 5, 2018, to prepare for Lent and Easter.

In 2017, five new crucifer robes were purchased using memorial funds from George Freeze. Many of our crucifers had outgrown the robes. The acolyte team would like to thank the hard work of Nora Bollinger and Davit Martinez. Every week Nora or Davit attempt to contact the acolytes scheduled for that week and remind them. If you or your child is an acolyte, please make sure we have your most up-to-date information. If you are interested in joining the acolyte team, please see Nora Bollinger.

Faithfully Submitted by: Betsy Murphy & Nora Bollinger

#### *Nursery*

While Grace Church encourages children to attend and participate in our services, we understand that sometimes this may create stress for their caregivers. On the Second floor of the Parish Hall is a playroom that is staffed on Sunday mornings from 9:20 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The nursery is for children from birth to kindergarten and has a changing table.

We currently have a shortage of nursery volunteers. We need to have at least two people supervising the nursery each Sunday; however many Sundays we are having difficulty getting volunteers. Our nursery volunteers are ages 14 and older. To volunteer, please contact Betsy Murphy, 856.433.2151 or [gracehaddonchurchschool@gmail.com](mailto:gracehaddonchurchschool@gmail.com).

Faithfully submitted: Betsy Murphy

#### ***MLK Day of Service***

Monday, January 16, 2017, marked the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Haddonfield Council of Churches MLK Day of Service. We had 140 volunteers gather at the First Presbyterian Church of Haddonfield. The volunteers then worked at their choice of 14 different projects. The projects involved a variety of activities from visiting the elderly in a long-term care facility, to making pet treats for the AWA, to cleaning and setting up classrooms for Kids Alley Café. All of the projects were registered and part of the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Greater Philadelphia MLK Day of Service out of Girard College.

Faithfully submitted: Betsy Murphy

### COOPER EPISCOPAL CONSORTIUM

On December 13, 2016, Bishop William (Chip) Stokes convened a meeting at Grace Episcopal Church in Haddonfield to explore greater educational, faith, fellowship, and networking opportunities for the churches in the Camden Convocation. Bishop Stokes outlined another purpose for the meeting. This was to encourage greater sharing of services to achieve financial savings. Challenges and advantages were reviewed. Priorities were identified.

The group as led by co-conveners, The Reverend Mark Chattin, rector of Holy Trinity Church in Collingswood, and Vestry Secretary Susan Briant of Grace Church in Haddonfield, met five times in 2017. Six local churches participated in the group named the Cooper Episcopal Consortium, as suggested by Father Mark Chattin. Each church sent members representing the clergy and the congregation. Participating churches and personnel included: Grace Church in Haddonfield: Betsy Murphy and Susan Briant; Grace Church in Merchantville: the Reverend Jeffrey Kirk and Joshua Seib; Holy Trinity Church: Father Mark Chattin, Lois Harwood, and Paul Wolfgang; St. Bart's in Cherry Hill: Deacon Art Knight, Earle Hicks, and Mike Moore; St. Mary's of Haddon Heights: the Reverend Genevieve Bishop, Deacon Tom O'Connor and others; St. John's of Maple Shade: the Reverend John Charles Powell and Christina Crowthers. The Diocese was represented by the Reverend Dr. Rob Droste and Canon Phyllis Jones.

#### Highlights of 2017 for CEC:

- Developing spiritual networking opportunities to strengthen our mission to transform lives through Christian ministry
- Understanding our challenges and opportunities and how to work together to grow
- Visiting all churches to know each other better and to add resources and ideas for our communities
- Praying and reading passages of the Bible together to strengthen our faith and knowledge
- Sharing of activities and events such as the Fall Fellowship book discussions that brought people together to read Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's "Following the Ways of Jesus"
- Expanding the "Learning in Lent" program series resulting in participation of all churches and larger attendance
- Growing joint youth services and activities to promote fellowship and fun through ice skating, bowling, a swim party, and a kick ball tournament
- Creating a group setting for altar guilds to exchange ideas and supplies
- Completing 2 surveys to explore cooperative purchase and networking opportunities
- Exploring group and individual discounts for copy machine equipment and supplies including a visit from a local vendor
- Meeting with an energy consultant to find out about energy and equipment discounts. Al Schmidt of Grace Church in Haddonfield spoke of Grace Church in Haddonfield's significant savings and progress in working with this vendor over the past decade.
- Opening up special events at different churches and sharing publicity about these events. St. Bart's will host its annual picnic in June 2018 where all will be welcome.

#### Plans for 2018

CEC will focus on other program and networking opportunities in 2018. Training at churches will be open to members. St. Bart's will offer safety training and Father Mark Chattin invited everyone to Anti-Racism training at Holy Trinity on Feb. 1, 2, and 3, as sponsored by the Diocese. Father Chattin suggested an evaluation of our first year and reorganization of the group to improve membership and participation. Phyllis Jones will facilitate training on church audits. Promotion of greater outreach into our communities will be explored.

We have learned that working together helps us to build a sense of community and to strengthen and sustain our faith. Marshalling our resources helps us to build a good life, a place to be cared for and welcoming places (our churches.)

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Briant

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)**  
**St. Anne's Guild**

We had a very busy year. Thanks to all the women of the church and some special men for all your help.

We had two very successful Rummage Sales this year as well as a Foxfire Jewelry Sale raising \$5,845 and \$166 respectively. We started providing PB&J sandwiches for St. Wilfrid's through the ECW Camden District as well as Easter Baskets for Kids Alley, and PJs and Books for Valentine's Day. St Paul's continues to receive winter gloves for their Christmas Bags and Attitudes & Images the handbags with feminine products for women re-entering the workplace. The sock kits are fun to make at our intergenerational coffee hour and so appreciated by the homeless. The support we receive from the church for all we collect as well as Confirmation is gratifying.

New for this year was a fundraiser "Soup for Syria" providing funds to U.S.A. for UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees). The 14 recipes to 'celebrate our shared humanity' were cooked by 12 women and raised \$800 for this cause. The soups were sold as individual servings or tastings during the Haddonfield Fall Festival. Our cooks were Jean Horn, Amy Christopher, Bethann Strom, Lisa Hildebrand, Karen Marshal, DeSha Viola, Michele Westerfield, Becky Perry, Gina Tucker, Jane Leichner, Sharon Cottrell and Bobbie Schmidt. Gretchen Poliero was cashier and Marty Lawless, ECW District President was cleanup and behind the scenes.

United Thank Offering raised \$1,235 this year. The UTO through grant programs has become a worldwide effort to support programs that address human need and that make a significant impact on expanding the mission and ministry of the church. Local churches with the support of the Diocese, may apply for grants as well.

St. Anne's, ECW, meets regularly on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 and we welcome anyone interested in helping with our many projects or bring your own ideas.

**OUTREACH FUNDS GIVEN by ECW, (ST. ANNE'S GUILD)**

ECW Diocese	\$ 800
Interfaith Caregivers	100
Seamen's Church Institute	50
Lutheran Services (New Vision)	50
St. Paul's Food Basket	200
Project Interaction	243
St. Paul's Camp Faith (3)	1,200
Haddonfield Council of Churches Social Worker	600
Kids Alley Café Easter Baskets, Lunches, & Camper	868
United Thank Offering	50
Episcopal Relief & Development	500
Grace Church 175 <sup>th</sup> Sponsor	1,000
Grace Church Music Fund Memorials (2)	100
Grace Church St. Paul's Food Basket Memorials (2)	100
Total	\$ 5,861

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bobbie Schmidt, Treasurer

**FINANCE****Counters**

The Grace Church Counting teams perform a most important function for keeping track of the collections received each Sunday by Grace. This involves giving proper credit for individual pledges and other contributions; making sure that the checks and cash received equal the total contributions made and making the bank deposits. Each team consists of one controller and two counters and each team is responsible to count for two consecutive Sundays. I am saddened to have to report that we lost two members of our counting team in 2017, Skip Slauson and Stan Skiorski. We mourn the loss of these two valuable members and thank them for all the contributions that they made. Concerning 2017, we had eight counting teams, down from ten in 2016. This meant that each team was required to count two Sundays three times per year, up from two times per year in 2016. I would like to thank individually the members of our counting teams for their time and efforts: The controllers are: Darlene Haines, Glen Raicyk, Don Ryan, Shirley Kuhn, Gene Riley, Fred Shindle, Mike Peacock, Barbara Linn. Our counters are Bethann Strom, Mary Ann Barrett, Carol Tatem, Millie Seneski, Chris Strasser, Marianne Buzby, Rob Gallo, Mickey Cotter, Joyce McAuley, Roger Perry, Bobbie Schmidt, Karen Sweeney, and Bruce Monaghan. I am also happy to report that we have three new members that have joined the team, Amy Christopher, Michele Westfield, and Linda Macklin. Additional thanks also are in order for Jeanne Mugler, who transmits the schedules to team members and acts as a middleperson for changes that may occur during the year. The counting team needs additional members. We encourage anyone who would like to become a member of the team and perform this vital task, please contact either Shirley Kuhn or myself.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Sweeney

**Investment Committee Report**

On June 30, 2011, the Investment Committee, as authorized by the Church's Vestry, began a program of investing available Church funds by opening a brokerage account with Charles Schwab & Company. The portfolio, originally valued at \$80,000, is overseen by a committee consisting of Father Pat; Church Treasurer, Bill Sweeney; and Church members Rob Gallo, John Poliero, Mike Peacock, Ron Cox and Carl Willers. During the year, one of our original members, Skip Slauson, passed away unexpectedly. The Committee is very appreciative of Skip's hard work in helping us structure the original portfolio as well as his advice and input over the years. Skip will always be remembered for his dedication as we continue our work to add value to the Church's overall financial position.

The Committee's financial advisor is Mark Crivaro, Senior Financial Advisor at Wealth Management Associates in Cherry Hill. Mark provides financial advice and guidance to the Committee on a pro bono basis.

During 2017, the Committee met quarterly with Mr. Crivaro to discuss portfolio performance, assess general market conditions and make recommendations for enhancing portfolio performance. In general, overall financial markets were very bullish, and the markets showed continued strong growth during the year. Aided by market advances and with continued oversight of the Committee, for the year, 2017, the portfolio increased in value from \$97,176 to \$106,055, an increase of 8.5%. Since inception, the portfolio has increased in value by 32.6%, which translates to an annual, compounded growth rate of 4.4%.

Investments in the portfolio are carefully selected consistent with the financial goals and risk profile previously approved by the Vestry. In general, the portfolio is structured with the goal of producing annual returns in the range of 4-6% by investing in a mix of mutual funds, exchange traded funds (ETF's) and bonds.

During 2017, we continued to use the Schwab account as a very cost-effective vehicle to receive donations of stock and other financial instruments from parishioners. Such donations are sold as soon as they are deposited in the Schwab account, and the proceeds are then transferred to the Church's operating account. Donors then receive a receipt from the Church acknowledging their donation for tax purposes. During the year, we received three such donations. With the Capital Campaign being rolled out in 2018, parishioners may want to consider donating stock, mutual funds or ETF's to meet their financial commitment. Such donations must have been owned by the donor for at least one year and have appreciated in value. Parishioners who are considering this approach should contact Rob Gallo or Bill Sweeney for further details.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Gallo, Committee Chairman

## **GRACE GARDENERS**

Grace Gardeners is a group of volunteers who help to beautify & maintain the grounds of Grace Church. We raised money for our various projects through the sale of annual and perennial plants in the spring and the sale of mums in the fall. Additional funds were raised and donated to St. Paul's Food Basket in Camden through the sale of tomatoes grown in the three raised beds at the rear of the Parish Hall.

As non-working social events our volunteers visited Mt. Cuba in Hockessin, DE on April 23, 2017 and visited Longwood Gardens on Sept. 22, 2017 to view the new fountains! Plans are to attend the Hellebore Festival in Ottsville in April.

The Strayer Memorial garden at the rear of the Parish Hall was completed and cleaned-up. In addition, over 130 mini-daffodil bulbs were planted in the garden at the base of the handicap ramp, as well as adding other plantings throughout the church property. The Arbor on the Patco side of the Parish House was cleaned up and was repaired due to rotting.

No gardening knowledge or experience is needed to join in our efforts - all are welcome.

Submitted by,  
Gretchen Poliero & Ellen Berntson

## **MUSIC PROGRAM**

### **Music in Worship:**

The mission of the music program at Grace Church is to foster and enable congregational song by inspiring, teaching, and leading the singing of the entire people gathered to worship. The people's worship is also elevated by organ and instrumental solos, choral music, and vocal solos. We strive for the highest artistic achievement in every aspect of our diverse music-making, fostering beauty and dignity that reflects the infinite beauty of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Our music draws primarily on the traditional hymns of the Episcopal tradition, as found in the Hymnal 1982 and Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS II). These resources are further enriched by the inclusion of a wide variety of styles, from contemporary to jazz, old spirituals to modern gospel, ancient plainchant to classical choral music.

### **Choirs:**

The Grace Choir (adults and older teens by invitation) rehearses weekly from September to June, leading worship on most Sundays at the 9:30 a.m. Eucharist. The Grace Choir serves to lead the congregation's song in hymns, psalms, chanted prayers, and canticles. The choir also performs choral anthems from a wide variety of traditions, from Anglican anthems to African-American spirituals, singing music from the 8th century to the 21st century. In 2017, the Grace Choir was blessed with many additional performance opportunities, including our 175th Anniversary Festival Evensong with brass, strings, and organ, and a performance of Gabriel Fauré's Requiem with the choir of St. Mary's church in Haddon Heights. We also hosted the Haddonfield Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service and participated in the Haddonfield Choir and Hymn Festival at First Presbyterian Church. The Grace Choir welcomed three new members in 2017, and mourned the loss of two beloved members, Stephen Leichner and Skip Slauson. The choir was blessed to have had the opportunity to visit Steve and his family at home and sing hymns at his bedside, and to do the same for Skip and his family at the hospital. The Summer Choir leads worship at 9:30am services until September. This informal ensemble rehearses on Sundays at 9:00am, and doesn't wear vestments or walk in the processional. The Summer Choir is open to anyone who wishes to sing with us, including teens.



The children and youth choir program at Grace Church is dedicated to nurturing the social, emotional, and spiritual development of young people through singing in community. Choristers aged 2nd grade through 12th grade comprise two ensembles, the St. Michael's Singers and the Teen Choir. These choirs each perform about once per month the 9:30am Holy Eucharist. Singers learn sacred music from the medieval era to today, practicing healthy vocal skills, music reading, and engaging their craft with focus and discipline. The Teen Choir welcomed two new members in the fall, and the St. Michael's Singers also welcomed two new members. The choirs at Grace strive to be models of Christian community and fellowship, pouring their hearts into their singing and supporting each other in love. We continue to extend a hearty invitation to all who have an interest in singing, regardless of skill level.

### **Music in Christian Formation:**

Each Sunday following church school, students gather on the second floor for "Music Time" before departing with their parents. In a relaxed environment, Mr. Max leads young people in singing classic Sunday school songs, spirituals, and Christmas carols during Advent and Christmas.

### **HCSPA Summer Choir Camp:**

In August, we held the fourth annual Haddonfield Choir Camp in conjunction with the Haddonfield Center and School for the Performing Arts. Choir Camp 2017 was a great success, with 68 participants aged 6 to 18. Over 150 parents, family, and friends crowded into the Grace Performance Hall for our closing concert and celebration on Friday Aug. 11. The camp choirs presented music from a broad diversity of genres and reached an impressive artistic standard in only five days. More importantly, participants experienced the joy of singing good music in community, and took the first step on a journey of lifelong singing.

### **Music Fund:**

Grace Church engages professional guest artists on major holidays and other occasions to elevate the level of artistry of our worship. These singers, conductors, and instrumentalists are not covered by the regular music budget, and are provided for by the Music Fund. The Music Fund raised about \$15,000 in 2017, including many gifts given in loving memory of Skip Slauson and in loving memory of Steve Leichner. The Music Fund played a particularly crucial role this year in providing the professional guest musicians for our 175th anniversary celebrations.

### **Assistant Organist of the Day:**

In spring 2016 we launched a new program to introduce people to the organ and give a behind-the-scenes perspective on the role of the organist in worship. The assistant organist helps pull stops, prepare sheet music, turn pages, and gets a chance to play the instrument for fun after worship. So far we've had many participants, including children, teens, and adults.

### **Music Program Odds and Ends:**

During the choir break each summer, offertory music at the 9:30am Eucharist is provided by guest musicians from our congregation and from the community. Our thanks go out to these people for sharing their gifts with us.

In April, Grace Church hosted an organ recital presented by the S.J. chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Myself and six other organists from across South Jersey performed a diverse program.

Each December, Grace Church goes caroling in the Haddonfield community. This year, eleven church members of all ages shared Christmas Carols to the delight of many. We started at Grace Church's Sunday evening AA meeting, then continued to Brandywine Senior Living, and the homes of several parishioners. Great fun was had by all!

Lastly, for professional development, your music director participated in a series of workshops on organ improvisation, presented by the American Guild of Organists Philadelphia Chapter, and taught by Jeff Brillhart, a professor of organ at Yale University. These classes culminated in an improvised performance on May 22, given by myself and two other students at the AGO annual meeting at Girard College in Philadelphia. Additionally, I attended a workshop on music for social justice led by Mark A. Miller at Westminster Choir College in the fall. My spiritual development continues to be fed by taking regular retreats to Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York.

### **Haddonfield Center and School for the Performing Arts (HCSPA)**

Grace Church hosts an independent non-profit organization, the Haddonfield Center and School for the Performing Arts (HCSPA). The mission of HCSPA is to promote the performing arts in the South Jersey area, specifically by providing a home for performances and lessons at Grace's beautiful facilities. The Center presents an eclectic concert series each year, and has two ensembles in residence, the Greater South Jersey Chorus and the Symphony in C Youth Orchestra. We also host music teachers who provide lessons in voice, piano, guitar, violin, viola, and percussion, as well as student recitals.

Respectfully submitted,

Maximillian Esmus  
Music Director, Grace Church  
Artistic Director, Haddonfield Center for the Performing Arts

## **OUTREACH**

### **IHOC-Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council**

IHOC is a program whose mission is "to serve as a collective parent organization coordinating the people-power and resources of our member congregations and individuals to provide effective outreach to homeless people in our county." From January 29, 2017 thru February 18, 2017, Grace Church hosted between 8 to 10 homeless men in the program. During that three week period, parishioners cooked meals, purchased food, hosted the men in the evening and overnight. The very generous donations amounted to over 300 hours of service. In 2018, Grace Church expects to host up to 12 homeless men from Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. We will be accepting donations of toiletries and food and change for laundry before the arrival of the men. If you would like to donate needed items or volunteer your time and talent as a dinner, social or overnight host, please contact Nevan Soumilas at (609) 238-4782 or [nsoumilas@yahoo.com](mailto:nsoumilas@yahoo.com).

### **Kids Alley Café**

Kids Alley is a program that provides a safe, nurturing environment for underprivileged children who need supervision while their parents further their education or go to work. Kids Alley runs multiple programs, including an afterschool program where the children receive a healthy snack, tutoring, help with their homework and arts and crafts. Kids Alley also runs the Saturday Live Program which runs every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm, again providing children with a safe place to play games, do crafts and learn about God. Grace Church provides lunches for the Saturday Live Program on the first Saturday of each month. In 2017, members

of Grace Church gathered in the Parish Hall on the first Saturday of each month (excluding July and August) to make 100 brown bagged lunches which include a sandwich, drink, apple sauce, pudding, carrot and a snack. A total of 1000 lunches were made and delivered in 2017. The program is currently run out of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Audubon. In January 2018, as a result of a failure in the heating system at Holy Trinity, the afterschool tutoring program was moved to Grace Church temporarily. Grace Church also provided presents for the Kids Alley program at Christmas, Easter baskets in the Spring and backpacks when school begins each September. If you would like more information about his outreach opportunity, please contact Nevan Soumilas at (609) 238-4782 or [nsoumilas@yahoo.com](mailto:nsoumilas@yahoo.com)

### **Knit Wits**

The Knit Wits came into being many years ago with the express purpose of supporting the annual mitten tree by knitting hats, scarves and mittens for the children of the Sumner School in Camden. Over the years the Knit Wits have donated hundreds of handmade items to the school and have expanded their efforts to include knitting hats and scarves for the Seaman's Church Institute, an organization that promotes the safety, dignity and improved working environment for the men and women serving in international waters. At one point in our history, we also sold our knitwear to raise funds for worthy projects. We still have some additional funds available if anyone is aware of a program that simultaneously supports knitting and people in need. Our motto is: *Making the world a warmer place, one stitch at a time.*

The Knit Wits currently meet in the parish house library on the third Saturday of each month from 10 – 11:30 a.m. Coffee and light refreshments are served and all are welcome, regardless of ability level, or whether you knit or crochet. You can come to learn too! We also welcome members who are unable to attend our gatherings but wish to knit from home on behalf of the Seamen's Church institute or the children participating in Kids Alley Café, now that the Sumner School has closed. Knitted and crocheted goods are generally collected in November for distribution around the holidays. Patterns are available and please feel free to contact Karen Marshall at 856-795-6420 or [kmarshall@clrdesign.com](mailto:kmarshall@clrdesign.com) for further information.

### **Open Clinic at St. Wilfrid's**

The Open Door Clinic in East Camden continued to serve the destitute of the community with health screenings, used and new clothing, diapers and toiletries, and food donations to the community in 2017.

The Clinic operated 13 times this year, usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at St. Wilfrid's Church. As an act of service, we picked up leftover Panera food on every Friday night and transported the food to Cathedral Kitchen for their use when the clinic is not operating.

We supplied over 700 food bags, screened over 500 patrons and have given away over 125 carloads of coats and clothes to the needy. We also gave over 125 new toys to parents to give their children at Christmas.

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself (Luke 10:27)."*

We are always in need of translators, social workers and those who would minister to the spiritual needs of our patrons. And we could use assistance with funds to keep the heat and electric on, and gift cards to replenish our pantry. Many thanks to the volunteers, the contributors, and Father Pat.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alex MacMoran

**Project Interaction**

Project Interaction is made up of a group of Episcopalians representing seven suburban Episcopal churches including Grace Church in Haddonfield. They meet monthly and orchestrate an ongoing series of outreach activities to benefit St. Paul's Camden, and the people of that city. Each Sunday morning one of these churches provides a hot breakfast at St. Paul's. Attendees may include the poor, the homeless, the elderly, or anyone in need of a hot meal. Bobbie and Al Schmidt provide and cook a meal six times a year. Grace parishioners also work with St. Mary's to cook on the fourth Sunday of each month.

In addition, Project Interaction raises money to help fund Camp Faith, a five-week summer camp for the children of Camden. They also collect warm accessories and toilet articles to be assembled in gift bags and given out at the December breakfast. This year, St. Anne's, Knit Wits and parishioners donated over 75 pairs of quality gloves that are to be put in the Christmas bags. We also collect sturdy used clothing, which are distributed on the fourth Sunday of the month. Toni Bonnette is in charge of these two activities.

Fundraising centers on the upkeep of St. Paul's building and bringing it up to code. Each year we make improvements to better service our guests. 2017 funds went toward much needed repairs and the upkeep of the kitchen and dining room. The annual raffle and luncheon in November was a social and financial success. Many parishioners attended. Others supported the event by donating prizes, time and money. Many, many thanks to all who helped.

Project Interaction meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. In 2017, the meetings were held at St. Bartholomew's Church in Cherry Hill. In 2018, they will be held at Trinity Church in Riverton. We appreciate the support that our parish gives to Project Interaction and St. Paul's and invite you to become involved in any of our projects.

Respectfully submitted,  
Toni Bonnette and Jean Horn

**St. Paul's Food Basket**

St. Paul's Food Basket is the oldest outreach program sponsored by Grace Church. We have just completed our 33rd year.

This year we mark a major transition as Dick Hammond retires as our chairperson after 33 years of expert leadership, energy, guidance and commitment. He will be sorely missed. We all wish him well in his future activities.

St. Paul's Food Basket involves approximately 25 parishioners (and a number of other dedicated volunteers) each month. We gave out 100 bags or more of food to needy folks at St. Paul's Church in Camden on the fourth Friday morning of each month, all year. We would like to give out food more often, but we are limited in the number of times we can provide food based on the amount of money and food donated and the number of volunteers..

During 2017, we handed out 2,200 bags of food. We were able to help a total of 7,262 people in need. Grace Church parishioners and other friends of the St. Paul's Food Program donate all of the money used to buy food, bags and supplies throughout the year. The Food Bank only offers a limited and unpredictable assortment of low cost food. As a result, we have had to go to other resources to make up the difference. It takes about 1200 cans of food and other packaged food items each week to fill the bags.

In order to obtain enough food to fill the bags, we asked parishioners to bring cans items like vegetables, peanut butter, tuna, soup, etc. to church each week. Cereal and pasta are also a great help in filling the bags with nutritious food. This has been very helpful and we thank you for this support. In addition, the cash contributions made to St. Paul's have allowed us to purchase the remaining needed food items from Aldi Stores. Unlike most stores, Aldi allows us to buy food in case lots at very competitive prices.

Each weekday volunteers pick up food from Wawa in Cherry Hill and Audubon, and pastries from Starbucks in Haddonfield and store it in the freezer at Grace. This is a morning activity that takes an hour or less. Each Wednesday morning other volunteers take this food to St. Paul's on the weeks that we do our giving out. Other weeks this food goes to Touch NJ in Camden and St. Wilfrid's, where they distribute this food. We can always use more help with the Wawa and Starbucks food pickup and delivering the food each Wednesday morning to St. Paul's and Touch NJ.

We have a number of volunteers who month after month have worked diligently to make this program the success it has been for over 33 years. We thank all our volunteers as well as all those who support our program with cash and food donations.

Every two months Denise Sikorski contacts all of our volunteers to determine their availability for the coming period and then prepares the schedule. This requires a great deal of contact and follow up work. She has been doing a wonderful job. Denise has also been very successful in encouraging more folks to volunteer to help with St. Paul's. Because we are still shorthanded, several of our veteran volunteers have offered to help more than once a month. (We want to thank Bill Irving for stepping up to help Dick Hammond, Dan Menna and us with many aspects of our program. His help has lightened our load considerably.) Without the generous support of ALL our volunteers, we could not continue this great program.

We have many opportunities for volunteer help in addition to financial support. These include:

- Wawa and Starbucks food pickup each weekday
- Food delivery to St. Paul's and Touch NJ each Wednesday morning
- Helping with food shopping at Aldi and food pickups at the Food Bank
- Bagging food on Tuesday mornings, 8:30 Start for about 2 ½ hours
- Handing out food bags on Friday mornings, 7:30 to 9:30

We try to limit each volunteer to only a few hours each month and only when they are available. We always need volunteers. If you would like to help with this great program, please call:

Denise Sikorski, cell (609) 670- 6074 (email [t42wthme@gmail.com](mailto:t42wthme@gmail.com) ) or

Al Schmidt, cell (609) 471-8298 (email [ajs1106@gmail.com](mailto:ajs1106@gmail.com)) or

Grace Church, (856) 429-0007 ([email-office@gracehaddon.org](mailto:email-office@gracehaddon.org))

Other members of our committee that you can contact to get more details on what we do are:

Daniela Stange (908) 487-8891 (email [danielastange1@yahoo.com](mailto:danielastange1@yahoo.com))

Bill Irving, (856) 745-3971 (email [william.a.irving@gmail.com](mailto:william.a.irving@gmail.com))

Rob Gallo, (856) 596-1893 (email [rjg19462008@verizon.net](mailto:rjg19462008@verizon.net))

We need everyone's financial support since we have to buy much of the food we give away. A check to Grace Church directed to the St. Paul's Food Basket is always most appreciated.

If anyone has a connection with a large shopping center that could donate case lots of food, we could increase the number of times we give out food and maybe get back to giving out every week.

We Thank God for all the wonderful efforts and kindness of all who have supported St. Paul's Food Basket these many years.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Schmidt and Denise Sikorski

### Grace Church Consolidated Outreach Statement 2017

<b>Outreach Expenses</b>	<b>Program / Recipient</b>	<b>Amount Given</b>
	Diocese	\$ 66,000.00
	Camden Christmas	\$ 17,063.01
	St. Paul's	\$ 14,264.05
	Thrift Store	\$ 8,571.07
	Rector Discretionary	\$ 8,600.59
	EYC	\$ 5,165.39
	ECW Sponsored Includes Diocese, IFC, Seamen's Church Institute, Lutheran Services, Haddonfield Council of Churches, Episcopal Relief & Development and much more	\$ 4,661.00
	Camp Faith	\$ 3,707.70
	Social Worker	\$ 3,655.97
	St. Wilfrid's	\$ 2,050.18
	Kids Alley Cafe	\$ 2,028.24
	United Thank Offering	\$ 1,235.00
	Food Only	\$ 1,000.00
	Vacation Bible School	\$ 829.81
	Feed My Starving Children	\$ 347.00
	Other / Unspecified	\$ 266.10
	IHOC	\$ 75.98
<b>Total Outreach</b>		<b>\$ 139,521.09</b>

This table is designed to shine a light on the good works that are done with the money that comes into Grace Church from everyone's contributions. Whether directed to a specific program such as St. Paul's or placed loose in the offering basket, every bit helps with our core mission: To help others as Jesus would have wanted us to do.

As usual, Grace Church lives into our faith. Outreach as a percentage of total giving to Grace Church is 19.9%. The other money contributed goes to heat, cleaning services, salaries, etc. Except for the ECW (Episcopal Church Women or St. Anne's Guild), all figures are available from the statements created by the Treasurer (Ordinary and Other Income Statements).

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Strasser

## PARISH LIFE

### 175th Anniversary

The celebration of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grace Church started in May 2017 when blue pinwheels were spread around the outside of the church. A banner announced that our church was celebrating its 175th year!

Throughout the spring, summer, and fall, events took place to honor this special time. An evensong service was presented, a parish picnic was held at Crystal Lake pool, a kids' carnival was great, church archives were gathered, beer was brewed, special baskets were created, and plans finalized for the anniversary dinner at Tavistock Country Club on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The dinner was a huge success. Over 170 people attended the affair! On October 1<sup>st</sup>, a reception for Bishop Stokes followed the Confirmation service. In addition, pewter ornaments, a photo book of Grace Church and a history book covering the past twenty-five years of the church are being sold. Several events are yet to come – the burying of a time capsule and an anniversary quilt.

The most gratifying thing of all, however, was the coming together of our whole parish family in making our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary a memorable celebration!

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynne Ryan

### Parish Life Committee

The Parish Life Committee has had a very successful year. We hosted Newcomer's Brunches at the rectory, and a Palm Sunday Brunch and coffee hours. We would like to thank all who brought food and helped set-up and clean-up at these events. We hope that the fellowship and great food was enjoyed by all. We would love to have you join our group.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nora Bollinger, Elizabeth Perdichizzi, and Amy Christopher

### Grace Church Book Club

It was a productive year for the Grace Church Book Club. We welcomed three new members into the group. A variety of books were selected by the presenters: *Underground Railroad*, *Small Great Things*, *Wonder*, *Loving Frank*, *Hillbilly Elegy*, *A Piece of the World*, *The Fortunate Ones*, and *A Gentleman in Moscow*.

The discussion of "*A Piece of the World*", based on Andrew Wyeth's painting, *Christina's World*, took place at a luncheon in Chadds Ford, PA. It was followed by a tour of the Andrew Wyeth retrospective at the Brandywine Museum.

Members of the club were acknowledged at the Jewish Community Center in Cherry Hill when they went to hear Ellen Umansky, the author of *The Fortunate Ones*. When the club discussed her book, each member was asked to bring a painting or object that holds particular significance to them and explain why. Ms. Umansky was deeply moved that her book had inspired such and intimate exchange.

The Book Club meets the second Monday of the month at 1:15 in the Parlor. It recesses in June and reconvenes in September. The December meeting is lunch at a local restaurant. Come join us and expand your library.

*"I have always imaged that Paradise will be a kind of library."* Jorge's Lois Barges.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marlene B. Alexoff

**Kitchen Committee**

The winter focus is “company is coming!” The Men from IHOC are coming to Grace for 2 weeks and we want to make sure they have plenty of space to store and prepare their food. We also have members of our parish coming to break bread with our guests from IHOC and we need to make sure the space is user-friendly and easy for all to use.

To meet this goal we are cleaning up some cabinets to help clear counters and opening up the shelf under the stainless table to create additional easy access storage space.

**Some additional projects:**

- Coffee: improve coffee station, make it easier and safer to get a cup of coffee
  - Are there opportunities to improve the quality?
- New simple signs on “how to” support Coffee Hour
- China: dispose of chipped pieces, organize and pack in appropriate storage containers.
- Silverware/Stainless: eliminate bent, rusty junk
- Organize supplies used for coffee hour
- Start to reduce multiple purchases of supplies because we can’t find it (6000 plastic forks)

Long-term we are looking at the plans to update the kitchen as part of our Capital Campaign. The Kitchen Team needs to ensure this project is done responsibly, on budget and meets the needs of our parish for years to come.

Finally, the kitchen is an important space for fellowship and preparation of food for coffee hour, fund raising events, outreach group support, celebrations and more—our mission is to ensure a clean, safe and easy to use space for Grace Church.

We are looking for parishioners to help us look for creative ways to improve our kitchen, keep it clean and join us to support opportunities to serve great tasting, healthy food at Grace Church. And we will have fun doing it!

*“Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all of the people.”*

Respectfully submitted by,  
Karen Marshall

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

Your Property Committee is responsible for the maintenance of the physical plant (buildings and grounds) of Grace Church. To this end our members work to identify work items, obtain bids from contractors where required and oversee the completion of the work. We also schedule work parties for less complex work that does not require a contractor. The on-going work of the Property Committee results in substantial savings for our parish family.

Our members view this opportunity as a chance to do God’s work while experiencing history first hand. It is also a labor of love as well as an exciting adventure in discovery and education about old and new construction as we work to be good stewards of all of the items under our charge. We welcome people with an interest in maintenance of buildings and grounds to join our committee. While some of our work is manual labor, we also



have to work with contractors for specific repairs and manage continuing contracts for maintenance.

2017 offered us many exciting challenges as we entered the seventeenth year of maintenance for our now not-so-new Parish House. This past year we worked with the Vestry in refining the details of the items in our Capital Campaign. We also completed the NJ Clean Energy Grant work to upgrade our church Air-conditioning and Heating, one of our Parish House Roof Top Air-conditioners and the conversion of most of our Church and Parish House lighting to LED for improved energy efficiency. We also replaced a second Parish House Roof Top Air-conditioner (not eligible under the grant program) that had failed.

The fixed price contract for our electrical supply we negotiated in 2016 is still in effect and we will renegotiate it this year. This contract is saving us about \$1,500 per year given the current PSE&G rates.

As we do any of this work, we continue to discover/learn more of the historic construction concepts employed on our buildings and grounds.

**Should you ever find an item that needs fixing but cannot find a Property Committee Member to tell about it, we have a quick and easy way for you to let us know. Just send a note to [property@gracehaddon.org](mailto:property@gracehaddon.org) and we will add it to our list of work items.**

Listed below are some of our more significant accomplishments of the past year.

### **Church**

- 1) Prior to the NJ Clean Energy upgrades:
  - a) Replaced/re-lamped lights as needed. Wherever possible lights were replaced with energy-saving CFL or LED bulbs.
- 2) Continued to work on keeping our Thrift Shop dry, even in times of extraordinary rainfall.
- 3) Repainted church exterior trim and Parish House doors.
- 4) Maintained snow shield over crypt stairway.
- 5) Sacristy ceiling repaired and painted.
- 6) Continue to explore audio/visual upgrades for church and parish house.
- 7) Obtained replacement microphones for pulpit and altar
- 8) Received proposals for installation of carbon monoxide detectors in church and parish house as required by new state and local regulations.

### **Parish House**

- 1) Replaced ballasts/re-lamped lights as needed
- 2) Maintained the Computer Network.
- 3) Ensured required annual inspections of elevator, kitchen hood and fire and smoke alarms.
- 4) Re-negotiated Annual Maintenance Contracts.
- 5) Regular Preventative Maintenance of the Heating and Air Conditioning.
- 6) Patching and painting stairwell ceiling leading to Performance Hall.
- 7) Repaired King's Highway doors.
- 8) Supervised ice machine repair.
- 9) Negotiated a significant savings with an updated copier contract.

### **Rectory**

- 1) Repaired storm door.
- 2) Replaced Backyard Gate

**Grounds**

- 1) Replaced Trash Area Gate
- 2) "clean up the grounds and trimming."
- 3) New spot lights for the front sign were installed.
- 4) Solar spot lights for the front garden were installed.
- 5) Renegotiated a new grounds maintenance contract.
- 6) Kept gardens and the Speed Line side of the church clear of weeds.
- 7) Maintained gardens and plantings, including mulching the Gardens.
- 8) Removed trash and debris from grounds on an ongoing basis.
- 9) Snow removal as needed.
- 10) A special thank you to the Grace Garden Club for the beautiful seasonal flowers, bulbs, and plants.
- 11) Combined work parties with Grace Gardeners to rework gardens and clean up the grounds.
- 12) Removed rotting wood from Arbor on the side of the Parish House and replaced with pressure treated wood for durability.
- 13) Fixed the kitchen sink
- 14) Got the dishwasher operational
- 15) Installed the memorial bench to Skip Slauson

**Goals for 2018**

- 1) Begin implementation of Capital Campaign Items as funding becomes available
- 2) Work on patches to inside ceilings showing water damage.
- 3) Schedule more Parish work parties to give opportunities for involvement to the entire parish. These will include re-pointing our walkway and refinishing damaged wall corners.
- 4) Complete the work on our Operations Manual for the Campus.
- 5) Switch our existing PC network to a server-based system for easier data security & backup.

We also completed a host of other small and not-so-small projects that get attention throughout the year. Members of the committee also consult with borough officials and other town commissions as necessary regarding our property and facilities. The committee also performs duties formerly done by a paid sexton.

Our group consists of spirited, hardworking people sharing and enhancing their talents as they face the challenges in meeting the physical needs of our church. If you are interested in joining our group, please contact any one of us or the church office. We appreciate all offers of help. If you can help from time to time, please do.

As the Property Committee continues to work without ceasing in our endeavors, we wish to thank all of those dependable and faithful parish members who helped us in our work parties during the year and so willingly gave of their time, energy and experience. We also extend our appreciation to the wardens and vestry for their assistance and support.

**Property Committee Members**

Lee Albright  
Art Flagg  
Brian Lisiecki  
Mike Luther

Mike Peacock  
John Poliero  
Bill Ratcliffe  
Marty Rosica

Dan Santora  
Al Schmidt  
Sterling Sproul

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Ratcliffe & Al Schmidt

## **STEWARDSHIP**

“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Luke 12:34) The Stewardship Committee is a standing committee of the Vestry responsible for the annual giving campaign at Grace Church. Ed Strom is the chair of the committee and we head up the pledge drive each year in the fall. We spend three weeks preparing for the Pledge Drive, then gather for a dessert on Saturday night and brunch after both services on Sunday to celebrate our life together.

We have been using a program that encourages people to consider their personal relationship with God as the motivation for their giving. We don't ask members to pledge to a budget, we form the budget based on the giving of the people. Each member and family is asked to make a deliberate and prayerful decision about giving.

The standard of giving is 10% for Christians. To calculate your percentage, simply take your income and divide it by your giving amount. The percentage you arrive at is what we encourage you to consider. Members of Grace Church are encouraged to strive for the tithe. It can be as simple as making an effort to increase one's giving by 1% each year until you attain the 10% goal.

The monies we receive from pledges form the foundation for the annual operating budget. This year we received 186 pledges for \$387,000. Our annual budget for Grace in 2018 will be just over \$500,000., so you can see that pledged income accounts for approximately 75% of the annual operating budget of Grace Church.

We thank all who have pledged and encourage you to strive to tithe! If you have not tithed, we ask you to contact the Church Office and we will send you a pledge card. Thank you for your support of the life, mission and ministry of Grace Church.

## **THRIFT SHOP**

The Grace Thrift Shop ended the year with a total of \$17,142.15, almost identical to last year's total of \$17,139.75. This amount brings the cumulative total since its inception in 2010 to \$124,898. Half of the annual Thrift Shop income is allocated to the church operating budget; the other half for the year ending in December 2017 was donated to the Haddonfield social worker, and Camden Christmas.

Grace Thrift Shop operates on donations from parishioners, residents of Haddonfield and surrounding communities, and donations from Haddonfield businesses. The shop is open every Friday and Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM from January thru the end of June. We close for the summer with the exception of the Haddonfield Arts and Crafts weekend in July (which incidentally, is a very good money-maker for the Thrift Shop). We re-open in September through the end of December. This year, we closed the shop on December 23 because of both Christmas and New Year's Day falling on a Monday.

Unsold household items and clothing are donated to St. Anne's Guild for the bi-annual rummage sale and Goodwill in Haddonfield; unsold clothing is taken to St. Paul's Church in Camden on the fourth Sunday of the month by the Fourth Sunday breakfast volunteers; to St. Wilfrid's by the free clinic volunteers, and towels, sheets and blankets that have not sold are taken to the Animal Welfare in Blackwood. Donations of baby equipment (which Goodwill does not accept and do not sell in the Thrift Shop) are taken to First Way in Burlington.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers who sort donations, sell and socialize with our customers and fellow volunteers. Three hours per month is all that is requested from Thrift Shop volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen K. Berntson, Thrift Shop Committee Chairperson

### **WEDDING COMMITTEE**

We have a wonderful group of women who are dedicated to making our wedding couples as happy as possible on their special day. Every wedding at Grace Church has its very own coordinator and we handle everything once you walk in the door of our church. We are one of the few churches in South Jersey that have Wedding Coordinators. We have had six glorious wedding in 2017. If you are interested in joining our group, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise Sikorski, Wedding Coordinator

### **WELCOME TABLE**

The Welcome Table provides newcomers and visitors with information about Grace Church. This is often the most important impression they get about Grace Church after the attending the church service.

Our Table is located in the parish hall after the 9:30 service. The Church Office produces the folder of current information about Grace Church that we can offer to people who stop by so that they can read about what is happening at Grace Church and how they might get involved.

When a visitor stops by our table, we collect their name, address, and family information. We offer them our folder of information about Grace Church and then try to introduce them to people at coffee hour who might have similar interests. We pass the information sheet to the church office after coffee hour.

We are always looking for people who can help staff our table. It is an important mission and only less than an hour of time during Coffee Hour. If you are interested in helping, please contact the Church Office, Sue Comfort or Al Schmidt

### **WORSHIP**

#### **Altar Guild**

Our dedicated Altar Guild members work in a ministry that is very important to the life of Grace Church. Our mission is to prepare the Lord's table for Holy Eucharist with care and affection; to anticipate the needs of the priest and the people; and to encourage members of our parish family to join us as Sacristans in this joyful work. Whenever Holy Eucharist is celebrated at Grace Church, there is an Altar Guild member or members working quietly behind the scenes.

I would like to thank my hard-working group of Sacristans for everything they do. Those who served this year were: Mary Ann Barrett, Sue Comfort, Beth Deitelbaum, Alice Diamond, Laura Miller, Karen Orlando, Betty Phillips, Maureen Stanton, and Karen Sweeney. Special thanks to Josh Deitelbaum for always helping his mom with our Parish House Eucharist! Thank you also to the members of the Property Committee, who always lend a helping hand when needed!

**We are in need of new members!** Please consider joining this very important ministry by contacting either the Office or me at [barb010259@verizon.net](mailto:barb010259@verizon.net) or (856) 693-2921.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Linn, Altar Guild Director

### **Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lay Eucharistic Visitors**

Maintaining an orderly and smooth-flowing worship service involves the assistance of many parishioners. In addition to serving at one Saturday and two Sunday Services, our Chalice Bearers and Lectors assist at special weekday services, weddings, and funerals. Appropriate training is given for each type of service.

Eucharistic Ministers take the Holy Eucharist to parishioners in homes, hospitals or nursing or retirement homes. All of these ministries could use more help. To volunteer, please call the Church office.

### **Ushers**

We have many volunteers, and have truly worked together as a team. The new members that have joined this year are doing well. We can always use new volunteers, at both the 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. services.

This is not a very hard job to do, and it is rewarding. Please take the time when entering our Church to say hello to the person greeting you at the door. They have taken the time away from their worship to welcome you into our Church Family. To volunteer, please call the Church office.

## **YOUTH GROUP**

### **Episcopal Youth Community**

This year the EYC's big event was their mission trip. Young members of Grace Church, and their adult leaders, spent a week serving the community of Niagara Falls, NY on June 25-29.

The group also attempted to increase attendance at events and continue to try to find ways to get the word out about our group. Some ideas have included the use of the "remind" app, and having meetings during Sunday School once a month. The EYC participated in the following events this past year: bowling, caroling, the 30 hour famine, volunteering at St. Wilfrid's, Kids Alley, hosting a dinner for IHOC, the pancake supper, making food for the communal Thanksgiving, selling pretzels and making pizzas for the annual meeting.

The group is very interested in being "effective" and participating in events to serve others. They hope to participate in a "stay mission" this year (similar to a staycation) to focus on local needs where they can help.

The youth would like to have a designated "youth leader," but is trying to lead themselves by becoming involved and trying to increase attendance.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dana Cotter

**ROLL OF THE SAINTS****Baptisms**

Oliver James Baxter  
Christine Simpson Baxter (A)  
Gabrielle Louise Martine  
Harlowe James McGrath  
Tessa Sheridan Thompson  
Oliver Cohan Baker  
Evan Anthony Greshock  
Isabelle Brynn Lamboy

Brynn Simone Ruder  
Brooke Olivia Wells  
Magnus Conrad Westcott Baker  
Avery Elizabeth Burrough  
Ava Delphine Gorky  
Jack Frederick Bidrawn  
Georgia Mosser Knapp  
Noah James Menna

Jayden Angel Oquendo  
Gioia Marin Bellano  
Arden Ellis Bozarth  
Noah Allen Bobco  
Declan Thomas Moyer  
Claire Victoria Harris  
Cody Matthew Pinto  
Avory Marie DeJesus

(A) Adult

**Confirmations**

Joshua Adam Deitelbaum  
Morgan Rose Heberley  
Chloe Elizabeth Lin  
Richard Maxwell Murphy

Angela Maria Darley  
Alice Rose Kilkelly  
Owen Charles Luther  
Abigail Simpson Reenock

Alyssa Marie Tanner  
Matthew Thomas Ventola  
Zachary Lane Weil  
Matthew Lee Weil

**Received**

Michelle Rose Marie Baker

Michael Francis Luther

Jo Susan Phillips

**Marriages**

Gabrielle Christina Doyon & Thomas M. Connolly  
Danielle Farahmand & Jose Medrano Avalos  
Christina Marie Lambert & Christopher A. Severia  
Bryanna Jean Servais & Steven Mark Sutton

Gretchen C. Timer & Anthony R. Cianciarulo  
Kristen Renee Crimaldi & Javier Vadel Santiago  
Kirsten Marie McDowell & Fletcher T. Barnett  
Marlena Susan Strom & Louis Marshall Goldman

**Necrology**

Herbert Lowery Coleman  
Mabel Dianne Brill  
Theodore Churchill Widener Strom  
Marie T. Finley  
Robert G. Zoll  
Francis "Skip" Slauson  
Edith Margaret Hogle

Dorothy V. Westman  
Doris E. Lukasik  
June Marie Frenzel  
Lauretta Jean Jones  
George Sota  
David E. Unterbrink  
Frederick A. Kuhn, Jr.

Stanley Sikorski  
Doris L. Squazzo  
Vincent E. Squazzo  
Kathy Jane Shuman  
Rachel U. Heston  
JoAnne W. Cunningham

**Transfers**

Ashley & Troy Harris  
Jacqueline Williams

Linda Cooper  
Linda & John Macklin

## THANK YOU TO OUR PLEDGERS

A special thank you goes to all the people who filled out *Estimate of Giving* cards for 2017. We have a record \$383,339 from 185 pledge cards. If you have not completed a card yet, please contact the Parish Office or speak with the Treasurer or Wardens. Here is whom we have heard from so far:

Carl & Marlene Alexoff	Deborah & Stephen Derkoski	Joan Johnson
Edward Andrewes	Mark & Kim Di Maurizio	Jay Kauffman
Wilma Appolo	George & Alice M. Diamond	Ann Keith Kennedy
Janine Ashe	Jim Diaz & Mike Guerriero	Christopher & Cynthia Kessler
Michelle Baker	Darin & Sharon Domenico	Steven & Anne Kreiss
Jerry & Beth Barnish	John F. & Janet Doyon	Shirley Kuhn
Mary Ann Barrett	Gerrie Dressler	Rose Kuhn
Les Baxter & Karen Peterson	Richard & Sylvia Duda	Jane Leichner
Margaret Becker &	Robert & Carla Edwards	Kathleen Lin
Kim Strommen	Lee & Carolyn Ensminger	Steven & Barbara Linn
Anthony & Olivia Bellano	Leslie Entwistle	Brian & Jean Lisiecki
David & Erica Bergstrahl	Gregory & Toni Esemplare	Paul Lower
Ellen Berntson	Elaine A. Fanjul	William Lubenow
Janet Birdsall	Jean Fischer	Michael & Diane Luther/ Schrauth
William & Allison Bisirri	Pamela Fisk	John & Linda Macklin
Nora Bollinger	Arthur & Bethann Flagg	R. Elizabeth Manning
Rick & Toni Bonnette	Wayne Frenzel	Karen Marshall
Susan Briant	Ed & Portia Fudula	Sarah & John Mathews
Mark Brill	Elaine Furniss	John & Suzanne Maxymuk
Irene Buckingham	Rob & Candy Gallo	Phil & Rose McAuley
Larry Buenzle	Mark & Deidre Gatti	Joyce McAuley
Virginia Buntaine	Louis & Rosanne Gillingham	Chris McFadden &
Carol Calvin-Buckley	Charles & Dorothy Gruber	Elizabeth Ives
Gerald Caracciolo &	Darlene Haines	Mary McGrath
Janet Wedgwood	Brandon & Sue Hamilton	Hilda & Charles Miller
Richard Carney	Sutton & Jessica Hamilton	Fran Miller
Nanette Carrozzino	Samuel Hanger	Laura & Trever Miller
Jerry & Maureen Carrozzino	Troy & Ashley Harris	Bruce & Lori Monaghan
Michael & Emily Cerrone	Grayson & Lori Heberley	Harriet Monshaw
Jean F. Christie	Nils Herdelin	Karen Murdock
Eric Darley & Amy Christopher	William Herrmann	Elizabeth Murphy
Doug & Georgette Clark	Mark Heston	Sharon & David Muse
Delia Clark	Bill & Lisa Hildebrand	Wynn & Kate Myers
Jerry & Patricia Clark	Thomas & Reeves Honey	Gary & Laurie Neel
James Clark	Rachel & Greg Hopely	Alec & LeeAnn Norris
Rev. Patrick & Diane Close	Robert & Jean Horn	Laura Oberg
Sue Comfort	Chris Hutchinson &	Sean & Jennifer O'Donnell
Stephanie Connors	Sonya Roccia	Jessie Orlando
Cathi Cooney	Bill & Lynn Irving	Michael Peacock
Linda Cooper	Doris Jackson	Elizabeth Perdichizzi &
John H. Coxe	Judith Jacobsen	Davit Martinez
Lizabeth Deitelbaum	Ruthann Johnson	

James Perrin  
Roger & Rebecca Perry  
Jo Susan Phillips  
Betty Phillips  
Michael & Marianne Poisel  
John & Gretchen Poliero  
Helen Pollack  
Joseph & Ellen Quicksell  
Theodore W. Raiczky  
Glenn B. Raiczky  
Sheila Raman-Combs  
William Ratcliffe  
Dawn Reynolds  
Lucile Roberts  
Carol Roccia  
Joseph & Mary Russell  
Don & Lynne Ryan  
Frank Salerno  
Dan Santora  
Al & Bobbie Schmidt  
Jen & Erica Sciolla  
Peter Scott  
Gerald & Millie Seneski

Fred & Carol Shindle, III  
Denise Sikorski  
Robert & Arlene Sims  
Tim & Maureen Slater  
Melissa Slauson  
Ernest & Gerrie Smith  
David Sommerville  
Constance Sota  
Nevan Soumilas  
Donald & Cheryl Spatola  
Patricia Spiegel  
Clifford & Maureen Stanton  
Timothy & Judith Stevens  
Chris & Lori Strasser  
Ruth N. Stratton  
John & Marion Stratton  
Edward & Elizabeth Strom  
James & Daniela Natali Susini  
William & Karen Sweeney  
Robert & Marianne Tanke  
David & Joanne Tarditi  
Scotty Tatem  
George & Carole Tatem

Carol Tatem  
Melanie Tomkiewicz  
Takeski & Kazue Tsuda  
James & Joan Tucker  
Anita Unterbrink  
Robert & Susan Vaughan  
John & Cynthia Vena  
Rev. Carmen & DeSha Viola  
Marie Vogt  
Alton Watkins  
Amy & Dave Watts  
Robert & Allison Weil  
Tom & Michele Westerfield  
Carl & Dawn Willers  
Jacqueline Williams  
Olivia Wilmot  
Lorraine Winyard  
Bryan & Lisa Wurtz  
Nancy Young  
Polly Youngstein  
Jean Zoll



### **QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTING**

The voters shall be baptized persons of full age, domiciled in the parish or adjacent thereto, of good moral character, adhering to this Church and to no other religious body, regular attendants at the services of this parish, meaning thereby those who are more frequently present than absent, and regular contributors to the current expenses of the parish for 6 months before the annual meeting. Any voters not baptized or confirmed in the parish shall have been received as communicants in accordance with the Canons of this diocese or shall be baptized persons who have been received on their written request to the rector or to one of the wardens if there be no rector. No one shall be permitted to vote or be eligible for office in more than one parish in this diocese. The rector or wardens shall keep a list of all who have been received as voters, which list shall be open to inspection by the members of the parish. The chairman of the meeting shall be the judge of the qualifications of voters

*Bylaws of Grace Church in Haddonfield  
Section 7*

### ***VISION STATEMENT***

***GRACE is God's gift of unconditional love made known to us in Jesus Christ. Our vision is to live with grace as an open, welcoming Christian Community. In the pew or at the altar, we invite you to be part of our faith journey. No matter where you are, we will meet you there.***