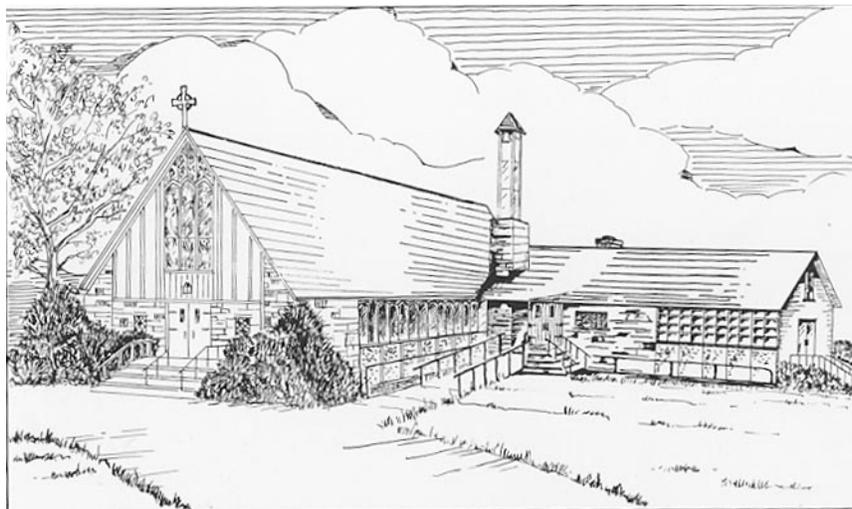


2021 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE PARISH AT
ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022



Grace Episcopal Church

150 Chapel Street - Norwood, Massachusetts 02062

WARRANT

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Know all persons by these present
that the Annual Meeting of
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
NORWOOD, MASSACHUSETTS
will be held on
Sunday, January 30, 2022

The purpose of the meeting shall be to receive the Reports of the Officers and Organizations of the Parish; to elect Officers and Delegates for the terms specified for their offices as stated in the By-Laws of the Parish; and to conduct such other business as may lawfully come before this meeting. All baptized persons, sixteen (16) years of age or older, who acknowledge in writing the authority of the By-Laws of the Parish and who declares his or her intention to aid in maintaining public worship therein by regular attendance at such worship and who are contributors of record, are entitled to voice and vote.

Katherine Wharton
Senior Warden

David Button
Junior Warden

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Sunday, January 30, 2022

1. Opening Prayers
2. Welcome Words
3. Reading of the Warrant
4. Certification of a Quorum by Clerk of the Vestry
5. Review of Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting
6. Wardens' Report
7. Treasurer's Report for 2021
8. Presentation of Budget for 2022
9. Commissions and Organizations Reports
10. Report of the Nominating Committee
11. Election of Officers and Vestry Members
12. Benediction and Adjournment

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Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting

JANUARY 31, 2021

(To be voted for Approval at Annual Meeting January 30, 2022)

Father John opened the meeting at 11:04 Am with a Prayer.

Welcoming words: by Father John, that included how voting and our presence was counted at today's meeting on ZOOM, those who voted on Survey Monkey, and voted by mail-in paper ballot. All due to our inability to meet in person at the church due to the Pandemic.

Reading of the Warrant by Cathy Noble

Certification of a Quorum by Cathy Noble included those attending by ZOOM today, 23 who voted on Survey Monkey, or mail. Total over 18 for Quorum.

Review of the Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting: A Motion to approve the minutes as written by Eric Bedard, 2nd Jon Grant. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Agenda of today's Meeting: Motion made to approve as presented by Eric Bedard, 2nd Debbie Morton. Unanimously approved.

Rector's Report at 9AM ZOOM service, also handed out via email and regular mail as needed.

Warden's Report: Presented by Katherine Wharton. An unprecedented year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic impacting everyone. Reviewed how Capital Campaign fund raising in 2019 made it possible to do some repairs at the church while few people were around. Discussed how we finished the year in good shape financially. We also found new ways to have on line church services and meetings to keep us together. Drive-by opportunities to make religious holidays more real. Had one of the best and quickest Christmas Tree Sale. With the availability of Covid-19 vaccine, she expects things to improve at some point in 2021

Treasurer's Report for 2020: by Beth Gurney, Treasurer; Income, pledges and expenses were down due to the pandemic. Ended 2020 with a positive number. Motion to approve the Budget report of 2020 as presented made by Tracey Johnson, 2nd Debbie Morton. Unanimously approved.

Presentation of Budget for 2021: by Beth Gurney, Treasurer. 2021 Budget has a deficit of \$22,867. \$15,000 of the deficit is the reduction in pledges from 2020. Beth anticipates some of expenses will be decreased for a portion of 2021 due to pandemic, paying groups will start coming back to the church. After discussion regarding replacement of floor in Russell Hall, a motion to accept the 2021 Budget as presented made by Dave Sullivan 2nd by Mike Regner. Motion passed with 1 abstention.

Commissions and organizations Reports: A motion was made by Eric Bedard 2nd Jon Grant to accept reports as a group as printed in the Annual Meeting Report. Passed unanimously.

Report of the Nominating committee: A motion to approve an emergency one year extension of present Vestry members, Convention Delegates, Deanery Delegates, Parish Historian, and Investment Trustees made by Tracey Johnson 2nd Robert parsons. Passed unanimously. Noted: Jon Grant's name was inadvertently omitted from being an investment trustee.

Election of Officers and Vestry Members: a motion was made to approve Cathy Noble as clerk of the Vestry by Katherine Wharton, 2nd Tracey Johnson. Motion passed with 1 abstention.

General Discussion: Replacement of floors Russell Hall, secretary's office, and Sacristy, part of Capital Campaign funds, food pantry helping with 21% of cost and opportunity of few people in the church due to Covid 19. Plans for in church Eucharistic service 2/14/21 if Covid levels are low. There will be drive by prepared communion available. Film, The Chosen, with discussion as our Lenten program continues on Wednesdays via Zoom. Ashes will be available by drive by on Ash Wednesday.

Adjournment: at 11:52 am with a motion from Eric Bedard, 2nd Robert Parsons. Passed Unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Noble, Clerk of the Vestry

SUMMARY OF 2021 VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

Due to continuation of the Pandemic and beginning roll out of a vaccine. Church services will continue mainly via zoom at the start of 2021.

January

- Annual Meeting set for January 31, 2021. Meeting will be via Zoom. There will be voting on several key reports. Annual reports will be sent out electronically and hard copy. Researching ways to accomplish voting.
- Final Christmas tree sale, \$11,671 which included 144 wreaths. It is the second highest sale, 2015 being the highest. Suggestion made that we start selling other items and keep tree numbers at 500.
- Treasurer Beth Gurney reported we are \$50 ahead of the 2020 Budget for 2020.
- Anselone flooring will be replacing our floors starting in February.
- 16 people attended the Blue Christmas Service last month. It went well.
- Souper Bowl Sunday February 7. Money donations to be sent to the church.
- Lenten program "The Chosen, with discussion, will begin January 27.
- Vestry Retreat will occur in August and be done outside due to pandemic.
- Plans discussed for services from Ash Wed thru Easter with possible in church services and alternatives as needed.

February

- Flooring replacement as a Memorial to Elizabeth Gleichauf. Replacement dates set for March 2021
- Parochial Report for 2020 reviewed and accepted.
- Covid levels currently in the orange hoping they will be in the yellow by mid- Lent so in church services can begin again. Plans continue for Ash Wednesday and Holy Week if necessary.
- Souper Bowl Sunday donations presently at \$250. Sock drive to start soon.

March

- A motion was made, seconded, and passed to use the Elizabeth Gleichauf funds to pay for the flooring replacement. Dave Button, on behalf of the Memorial committee said we can make this a memorial to Elizabeth without prior notification of the memorial committee, due to precedence. Motion Passed unanimously.
- Food Pantry will help with the cost of the flooring replacement.
- Souper Bowl Sunday, presently up to \$250. Sock drive to start soon.

April

- Multiple church property repairs are in need of attention. Lawn mower being serviced, mouse traps set, garage loft cleaned out as needed, Patty's office window to be replaced soon, amongst other items.
- Sock drive yielded 452 pairs of socks and flip flops, and \$422 donated so more can be purchased.
- Mother's Day Service planned for outside in front of the church. Pentecost, May 23 possibly in the Sunken Garden. Hoping to have indoor services starting in June.

May

- Property, multiple repairs being done. Gutter caps done, office window installed, chasing mice droppings. Church roof: several ridge shingles needing repaired, and 3 gutters replaced, after on line voting to ensure contractors would not move on to another project.
- Stewardship, October 16 dinner suggested to kick off Stewardship campaign, welcome everyone back to church after Covid, and dedicate new flooring thanks to Elizabeth Gleichauf after her passing.
- In person services will resume June 6 with one service at 9 am if our area Covid levels remain in the yellow.

June

- Unable to repair our existing alarm equipment. July 12 online motion and vote unanimously passed to de-install our existing system and go with SimpliSafe securities the most economical of several alternatives researched. Also, to use Capital Campaign funds, as repair and maintenance funds are over budget.
- Summer coffee hour on hold while we transition from Covid 19 restrictions. Will resume in the fall.
- Looking forward to upcoming events in the fall, Bishop Gail's visit, September 19 and welcome back Sunday.
- Many thanks to Sai Baba group for planting berry plants under trees in the food forest.
- Looking forward for groups, who use the church, coming back in the fall.

No Vestry meeting in July

August 7-Vestry Retreat-No minutes

September

- Decision made to return to some normalcy with coffee hour available after each Sunday 10 am service.
- New alarm system needs some adjusting.
- Due to Covid concerns, the planned October 16th dinner was cancelled.
- We are back to 8am and 10 am services
- Blessing of the Animals service set for October 3rd.
- Plaque to dedicate the new floor in Elizabeth Gleichauf's name will be on October 19.

October

- Christmas tree delivery expected November 21. New signage discussed
- Water seeping into small areas in Food Pantry room despite attempts to stop it. Remains an open problem
- Stewardship letter to be mailed out soon, Stewardship Sermon planned for October 17 ingathering mid-November.
- Blue Christmas planned for outside, December 18, same format as last year.
- Grant update for B-SAFE, we will be receiving \$1000.

November

- Motion made, seconded and passed to liquidate the past 3 year's investment, totaling \$12,582.16, from the Covenant Endowment Fund to the Capital Campaign Fund, and to see if it is "prudent" to do so each year thereafter.
- 2022 Budget for Repairs and Maintenance will be left at \$500, big expenditures will come from the Capital Campaign Fund.

- Repairs of basement water leaks in the Pantry room requires digging down to the foundation. Discussed estimate from several masonry companies and when it can be done.
- 29 pledge promises returned for 2022 totaling \$68,140. Continuing follow-ups as needed.
- Leslie has been sending out “Veggie Tails” via the internet to appropriate parish families.
- Maintenance issues continue for the rectory.
- There will be 4 students attending confirmation classes.
- Cookie Walk December 11, 2021. Cookies will be prepackaged.

December

- Budget for 2022 set.
- Still working to get clarification of some questions from 2 contractors about repair of basement leaks in food Pantry area.
- Thirty-seven pledges totaling \$78,900 for 2022 have been received. Christmas tree profit \$12,000. Thanks to all involved selling trees including people from Sai Baba.
- Hopes that several people will learn to live stream during Sunday services.
- Plans to zoom “The Chosen 2nd segment” with Sarah’s church for Lenten Study starting Wednesdays, February 9th at 7 PM. Thru holy week, excluding Ash Wednesday .

January 3, 2022 Online Vote Regarding Garage deterioration

- After explanation and clarification of the deterioration of the center pillar of the garage, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to hire Mr. Paul Sea to repair the center pillar of the garage regardless of its condition with an estimate of \$1,900.

RECTOR'S ANNUAL MESSAGE

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of our hearts, be right and acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and redeemer. Amen

The Epistle reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians has been read at about 90% of all the weddings I have attended or officiated. And it's easy to see why—the words are poetic, the message is timeless, the goal lofty:

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

In this letter, St. Paul gives a real goal for living, in general, and for being married, in particular.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

There is a little segue before this wonderful finale where St. Paul writes about maturing in understanding:

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.

All this I have read and understood, but it's this phrase that arrested my attention this time:

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

The ancient mirrors of Jesus' time were polished metal often bronze or copper that could, over time, tarnish and become less perfectly reflecting—thus they *reflect dimly*.

Now put this verse from Corinthians together with the final clause of my Eucharist blessing:

And may everyone you meet, see the face of the Lord Jesus in you

If we are made in the image of God—all of us collectively and each one individually—then we get to know God by examining ourselves. However, we are only pale, incomplete reflections of God, and this is magnified by our pale, incomplete understanding of ourselves.

Our goal, our hope, our journey in life, then, is to see God *face to face* and not just in our inadequate, partial human reflections of God, and that in then knowing God fully, I as an individual will be fully known to myself and all— *then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known*.

So let's take this principle of how to God from St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians and use it to examine our life as a parish over the last COVID year of 2021, what do we discover about ourselves and God?

I found three reflections of God: persistence in love and caring; God's presence even in small numbers; and God's delight in surprising us.

- Hebrew scriptures talk of God’s *hesed*—God’s continuing love for us. God is committed to loving us. Nothing we say, think, or do can change that. *Hesed* is unconditional.

Now, none of us are capable of such love, but this year there has been some actions that approximate this unconditional love that is **persistent**.

The meditative orchard proved to **persistently** attract volunteers from Xavierian in the heat of the summer to spread woodchips; the Sai Baba folks to plant raspberry bushes and two pear trees on their own initiative; and other neighborhood people to help transition it from a meditative orchard to a meditative food forest.

Deb Terry and her Be-Safe crew **persistently** not only solicited our donations, but organized volunteers ready to negotiate the social distancing guidelines.

Sue Breen led us to **persist in** our Outreach Efforts with ashes on Ash Wednesday, palms on Palm Sunday, flowers to flower the cross on Easter, a Blue Christmas tree and service in Advent and hundreds of Bombas socks for the homeless.

Katherine and David and many others were **persistent** in their pursuit to clean up Russell Hall in time for the new floor to be laid.

Paula, Michael, Cathy, and Katie were **persistent** in providing music in our Sunday services even when masked and distant.

Chris and Laura Jordan, John Stanley, and the Bedard’s led us to **persist in** our Christmas tree sales with a lovely new corral to see the quickest sales in our history with perhaps the largest profit to the parish.

So, I believe I saw God’s persistence in the loving and caring that went on this year in the parish in spite of all the COVID obstacles.

- In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus talks about how he will be in the midst of his followers when they gather: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” I guess I discovered this year that God is not **only** present when a large number of followers crowd into His house, but God will be there even when just a few are present.

That’s good news because we have not been setting records for large attendance numbers. It was hard before COVID to have people come on Sunday, but now it has gotten doubly-difficult.

For the first five months of this year, we utilized Zoom and Facebook Live, but did not really see many take advantage of these alternatives. We used Free-Conference Call for non-computer savvy parishioners, but even these numbers stayed low.

So, we indeed have experienced God’s presence even when only two or three are gathered for example at Blue Christmas. One of the few people who came to our Blue Christmas service wrote about it later, and her words surely suggest to me that God was present even in those few who came:

The introductory chords of “Silent Night” waft towards me, transforming the quiet stillness into a soft surround. Only a few gather in His name on this dark, rainy eve. In alternate rows of polished wooden pews, we sit holding lit candles. Each candle a soul. Some weep openly. Masks cannot hide pain. We scribble names of loved ones on white paper stars and hang them, one-by-one, on the tree of prayer. Scriptural readings, interlaced with silent pauses, allow time for reflection and contemplation. This diminutive chapel a safe haven. There are no expectations nor pretenses. In the quiet, I feel my heartbeat softly pulsing, a reminder I am still here alive in the moment, having been left behind. Each person slowly carries his or her burden forward and drops it into the blaze. With the ensuing invocation, we trust our prayers are heard. A momentary sense of relief floods my being. Then there’s an unmistakable scent of incense where none exists. I receive a message. A still, small whisper.

So, I believe I saw God’s presence even when only a few gathered in his name.

- In the first chapter of John’s Gospel, two followers of John the Baptist, Andrew and John, are standing near him when John sees Jesus walking by and John the Baptist says: *Look, see God’s Lamb!* So Andrew and John go after Jesus. Jesus turns, sees saw them coming after him, and asks, *‘What are you looking for?’* Andrew and John say, *‘Teacher, where do you live?’* Jesus ambiguously responds with, *‘Come and see.’*

“Come and see” is not very specific—in fact, it’s VERY open-ended. It suggests that, if one is to follow Jesus, then one must be open to surprise.

One of the most **surprising** things that happened this year was the Wednesday night Zoom viewing of Season 1 of The Chosen video series about the lives of the disciples surrounding Jesus. Folks from our parish joined folks from my wife Sarah’s Rockland parish who joined folks from my Education for Ministry classes, and even someone from the middle of Florida.

(We will begin Season 2 viewing this winter and Lent beginning ten days from today on February 9 to take us right up to Holy Week in April.)

You don’t have to have seen Season 1 to enjoy and get a lot out of Season 2—but I find it very interesting to discover that “Come and see” is “mission statement” of the folks who are making the seven seasons of The Chosen off of thousands of small donations from around the world using Go-Fund-Me techniques...and it’s working.

So I discovered God as imaged in our parish is a God of surprise, a God who asks us over and over to just “Come and see” and allow God’s surprising grace to break though a world of plans and schedules, time tables and expectations.

It was a lovely surprise to see so many people on Easter outside in the parking lot for the service; it was a surprise to see what a wonderful celebration of Stan Wharton’s life occurred in May in the sunken garden; it was a surprise to have my birthday celebrated by wonderful dancing ladies; it was a surprise to see the delight on John Stanley’s face every time a monarch butterfly visited his little garden; it was a surprise to see so much ripe fruit on the trees in August and September.

My report then this morning to all of you about what aspects of God I saw dimly reflected in our 2021 life together as a parish come down to three:

In our 2021 life together as a parish, I saw God’s **persistence in loving and caring.**

In our 2021 life together as a parish, I saw God’s **reassurance that God is present even in our small numbers.**

In our 2021 life together as a parish, I saw **God's wonderful delight in surprising us** over and over as we respond to "Come and See."

Thank you one and all for all you have done to reveal portions of God in the COVID year of 2021 to my eyes.

Amen

Fr. John

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

The parish of Grace church did an amazing job in 2021 managing the challenges of another year where Covid -19 (Delta now Omicron) continues to impact our lives. With vaccines and boosters available we anticipated a quite different scenario than we find ourselves in almost two years into life with Covid. Grace Church members continue to step up and support the church and its many activities.

For the first half of 2021 we continued to have online services on Zoom thanks to Tracey Johnson and Father John continued holding multiple services for members of the parish. At Easter we had our first service together outside on a sunny April Sunday morning, complete with live music. It was wonderful to see everyone again. By June, the Diocese had indicated that churches were able to open once certain protocols were met. Father John was one of the first to ask for a diocesan review and we opened for in person services in June. In person services have continued since with appropriate distancing and masks as the Diocese recommended. Sue Breen continued offering outdoor outreach activities with Ash Wednesday Palm Sunday and stations of the Cross available to all. Tracey Johnson has continued her efforts to keep our website and presence on social media up to date. We anticipate putting our services online (in addition to continuing in person services) this year with more volunteer help. Carol Johnson arranged for coffee hour to begin again in the fall. All are welcome to visit with others while having a cup of coffee or juice and a baked good in the Fowler Room following the 10 am service.

The Junior Warden has been busy again in 2021 doing repairs and updates to the church. Russell Hall, Food Pantry, classrooms, church office and the sacristy all received new floors. Many were involved in clearing out the space and putting everything back in place. Everyone worked together again to make things happen. There are more updates and repairs detailed in the Jr. Warden's report.

B-Safe activities continued, at a different venue, but Deb Terry ensured Grace Church participation continued.

Dorothy Sabourin and her volunteers offered Kitchen Kindness with meals and food for those ill or needing a meal. Once again Dorothy organized the annual Cookie walk so we could enjoy cookies for Christmas.

In late summer, the parish stepped up in preparing the Memorial Garden for an outdoor funeral. Under John Stanley's guidance, dozens of parishioners helped clear out and weed the garden, put in more plants and give the garden much needed renewal. Chairs were set up, music and a sound system and even the weather cooperated. It was overwhelming and so appreciated to see so many participate in such a short time to have an outdoor funeral for my husband. I feel blessed to be a member of Grace Church.

We had another success with the Christmas trees and wreaths in 2021. Chris Jordan built a new corral for the trees plus a station to keep all the needed tools. The trees sold out early this year. Many thanks to both Chris and Laura for all their work and to all the parishioners who volunteered to sell trees and John Stanley was also very present in helping out. This is our major fund raiser for the church and our efforts resulted in over \$11,000 in sales.

The Stewardship committee, John Stanley and Deb Morton, reported pledges for 2022 have increased 11% over last year. Thanks again to the parish for continuing to support Grace church in this challenging time. I am looking to seeing everyone and am excited to see what 2022 brings.

Katherine Wharton, Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Unlike previous years the Junior Warden took on the role of Project Manager for many of the projects undertaken in calendar year 2021. Actually, this role was often shared by the Senior Warden. A brief description of the work performed follows.

Because a planned project to bolster the large stained glass windows using funds earmarked for this purpose as part of the capital improvement fund, was subsequently canceled due to the determination by a stained-glass expert that the mounting of the glass was in good repair, the allocated funds could be used for something else.

That something else included exterior painting of the church building and the rectory by the Blues Brothers, installation of a new window on the south side of the rectory also by the Blues Brothers. Contractor Jim Looby was also hired to put a new roof on the rectory and repair part of the ridge of the church by replacing some of the ridge shingles which were starting to pop up. Jim also worked on the church gutters and downspouts that were either disconnected or needed rerouting.

We should not forget that Jim advised the Junior Warden that the state of the church roof was such that in perhaps two years the entire roof should be replaced. He also informed us that because of the steep pitch the replacement cost would be higher than was typical for the square footage. The reason: the steepness of the roof increases the likelihood of a falling accident, therefore many of the workmen would not want to work on that roof.

Because of a tripping accident on the back stairway, it was decided to repair the stairway by retreading it. Contractor Jim Keenan was hired to remove and replace the existing stair treads with new vinyl ones that featured a "coin" tread and white tape across the tread noses to improve the visibility of the tread. The Junior Warden is happy to report that there have been no reports of accidents or near accidents on that stairwell since.

The largest project undertaken in the year was to put new floor tiles in much of the church. Excluded from the reflooring were the sanctuary, the Fowler Room, the upstairs hallway and the Rector's office. Another way of putting it is that new flooring was installed in secretary's office and the Sacristy.

The Under-croft, which is to say Russel Hall, the part of the hallway that met the foot of the above-mentioned stairway that was tiled, the classrooms including the areas rented from us by the Food Pantry. This excluded the children's chapel and the kitchen. Contractors hired to do this work were Anselone for the actual tiling, Casey Movers for moving furniture etc., from one side of the hall to another, as the flooring progressed. This moving work was both downstairs and upstairs where Patty's office and the Sacristy had most of the furniture and equipment moved into the Fowler Room and then back.

Careful measurement was made of the square footage of the areas that were to be retiled in order to determine the fraction of the area rented by the Food Pantry. An agreement was made amicably to determine the share of the cost attributable to what the Food Pantry was renting.

Because the Food Pantry people had noticed an influx of mice in their rented area, we were notified and we responded by hiring Keady Pest Control on an ongoing basis. Like the cost of the tiling, we have divided the total cost between us.

One of the areas used by the Pantry is a small storage room in the northwest corner of the church. When there is a heavy rain water forces its way through the foundation into the storage room making storage of food stuffs there hazardous due to the possibility of mold showing up. We hired a crew to coat the foundation with waterproof paint and found that some of the seepage was eliminated, mainly around where electrical cable was routed through the foundation, but in other areas the seepage was as usual. What needs to be done is to have the foundation sealed from the outside. Another vendor has been identified, but we are awaiting a response from them about the insurance they carry to reimburse us if damage to the church occurred.

This year the Security Alarm system failed because the PIN pad wore out. An attempt was made to locate a person who can repair the PIN pad, but that was unsuccessful. After some searching the Junior Warden determined that the best replacement was made by SimpliSafe. The determination was based largely on customer ratings. There are a couple of problems with the system that are being overcome. First is that the number of separate PIN names was smaller than hoped for and second, that the radio range of the base station has been found to be lower than the distance from the base station to a couple of sensors. These problems are being resolved.

Because the installation involves more work than usual, the Junior Warden is restricting his efforts to getting the entire system running and the Senior Warden will be taking over the management and training aspects of the alarm system.

The Junior Warden would like to thank others, especially the Senior Warden and the Rector, for assisting him in these accomplishments. Several other improvements to the property were made and those will be covered in the Rector's report.

David Button, Junior Warden

ASSISTANT TREASURER REPORT FOR 2021

The Assistant Treasurer's primary duty is to record donations, and to send individual reports to each parishioner at least 3 times a year. Any parishioner is welcome to addition reports simply by asking.

In total:

11 parishioners were over their pledge by a total of \$3,817.

15 parishioners paid their pledge exactly.

12 parishioners were short of their pledge by a total of \$1,305.

For a net over pledge/budget of \$2,512.

Many thanks to Karen Stanley for her assistance through the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Escher

HOSPITALITY/FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to stop and enjoy a cup of coffee, and/or a cup of juice, and a sweet or two after the 10am service! We have been meeting in the Fowler Room soon after the visit of Bishop Gayle Harris to Grace Church in September. Various members of the Vestry have been taking turns hosting Coffee Hour. Recently we shared the space with the Holiday Boutique. There were many beautiful items arranged on tables along the wall intended to enhance our Christmas home decor. If you missed it this year, you can look forward to it next year.

With the present guidelines to keep each other safe, we are limited as to our gathering opportunities. Grace Episcopal Church will always be a friendly place where our members, guests, visitors and strangers are welcome!

All will be well!
CAROL
Aka Carol T. Johnson
Hospitality Chairperson

MUSIC AND CHOIR REPORT

The choir and the congregation are still affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The music program is constantly evolving to accommodate this situation. Music continues with soloists and instrumentalists who stand more than 12 feet apart and wear face shields. With the ever-changing protocols during COVID-19 and restrictions on group meetings, many choir members have stopped attending services due to concerns about catching and spreading the virus. Cathy Noble, Michael Regner, and Katherine King continue to lead the singing, while socially distanced.

Easter service for 2021 was held outdoors on a beautiful spring day. Speakers, microphones and an amplifier were set up to accommodate the singers, who remained in separate areas, socially distanced. I plugged in my electric keyboard and we were ready to start.

Christmas included a small socially distanced choir which included Katherine King, Iris Falcone, Michael Regner, and Dave Escher. It was nice to be able to have four-part harmony sung again! I filled in on the alto parts due to our having two sopranos, a tenor, and a bass. The Offertory anthem, *O Holy Night*, sounded beautiful. Preludes included Michael Regner singing *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* while Antonio King accompanied on guitar and I played soprano recorder. For a postlude, the choir sang *Carol of the Bells*, their voices enhanced by handbells played by Michael and Katie.

The Christmas Shop to help raise funds for the St. Cecilia Music Fund was held this year. Katie and I collected items, many from my cluttered attic, set up two tables, and sold enough to cover a few future purchases of microphone cables and an organ tuning.

Who knows what the future will bring to the music program at Grace for it is ever evolving. If we remain flexible, we can be imaginative, coming up with new ways of creating music.

Many thanks to all who actively support the music program, especially David Button, and the choir members who, in their dedication and service, enhance the worship experience.

God's Blessings and Peace and may your day be filled with song.

Submitted by
Paula King, Music Directress

OUTREACH 2021

February

- **Souper Bowl Sunday Collection \$300**

March

- **Annual Sock and Flip Flop Drive to Benefit Children, Women and Men**

The Outreach Sock Drive program reached out to our neighbors. We collected 425 pairs of socks from our community and Grace Church members as well as \$247 in monetary donations to purchase additional socks and flip flops.

Total 475 Pairs of socks 110 pairs of Flip Flops

Donated to: 1. Cradles to Crayons (helps children from newborn to age 12)
 2. Women's Lunch Place (helps women)
 3. Pine Street Inn and St Francis House (helps men and women)

April

- **Palm Sunday Drive-thru Palms** – accomplished by Helen Rintala
- **Good Friday Stations of the Cross Drive-thru** – by church members

May

- **Rogation Day Drive Through** - petunia plants given out
- **Mother's Day** - petunia plants given to mothers during outdoor service

July

- **B-SAFE** - Debbie Terry and church members partnered with Church of the Holy Spirit to participate in B-Safe summer camp at a new location in Dorchester by providing nourishing lunches. They also had a fun filled Friday field trip to the Patriot's Place Showcase Cinema then pizza, sundaes and games at Grace.

October

- **Blessing of the Animals in Service and Drive Through** – Animals blessed and St. Francis Holy Cards and dog biscuits given out

November and December

- **Christmas Trees and wreaths** – ordered and sold by the Jordan Family as well as John Stanley and Church members and Sathya Sai Center members
- **Blue Christmas Service** – inside service for those challenged by the Holidays
- **Bombas Socks Grant Delivery** - Bombas delivered 2500 pairs of socks after a grant was written by Sue Breen. To be distributed to children, women, men's shelters.

Submitted by

Sue Breen, Outreach Chair

PARISH HISTORY 2021

The Covid 19 pandemic continued to affect our lives in 2021 – whether it is our personal, work or church lives. We have been forced to embrace technology such as Zoom and YouTube. We continued to miss out on special times with family and friends. Social distancing, mask wearing and frequent handwashing have become routine. With the arrival of vaccines and boosters we may feel more comfortable being with others but with new variants continuing to pop up we all remain vigilant to keep ourselves and loved ones safe and healthy.

Early in 2021 all services were virtual through Zoom, Facebook or YouTube plus phone-in church service conversations. As churches slowly began to open for in-house services, we began (and continue) to adhere to diocesan protocols enacted to keep us as safe as possible.

Celebration of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter services were challenging yet again in 2021. We provided drive-through opportunities for parishioners and Norwood neighbors to pick up palm on Palm Sunday and this past year we also provided packets of ashes on Ash Wednesday. We celebrated Easter together on the side parking lot on a beautiful spring morning. Local news again covered our drive-through opportunities and a TV van was parked out front filming our outside in-person Easter service. The Cross was placed at the foot of the front steps on Easter morning and people were invited to bring flowers or select from flowers provided to flower the cross in front of the church.

Yet again our annual church picnic, NPS sculpture art show in the sunken garden, book club, and other special annual events were canceled. But Christmas tree sales were brisk and the Cookie Walk and a self-serve Christmas Shoppe were held. Coffee hours and senior luncheons were started up again in the fall. We were able to participate in B-SAFE but at a new location in Dorchester in response to new space requirements. We continue to partner with Church of the Holy Spirit to provide nourishing lunches and this year's fun-filled Friday field trip at the Showcase Cinemas at Patriots Place followed by pizza, sundaes and games at Grace on a perfect summer afternoon.

Bishop Gayle Harris visited Grace in September and before meeting with the vestry we enjoyed a brief outside coffee hour by the front steps with her and her new pup. Blessing of our pets took place, as well as a Blue Christmas service and two Christmas Eve services. Slowly our services are returning to a new kind of normal.

Another year is behind us and we continue to pray for better, healthier, and safer times.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Terry

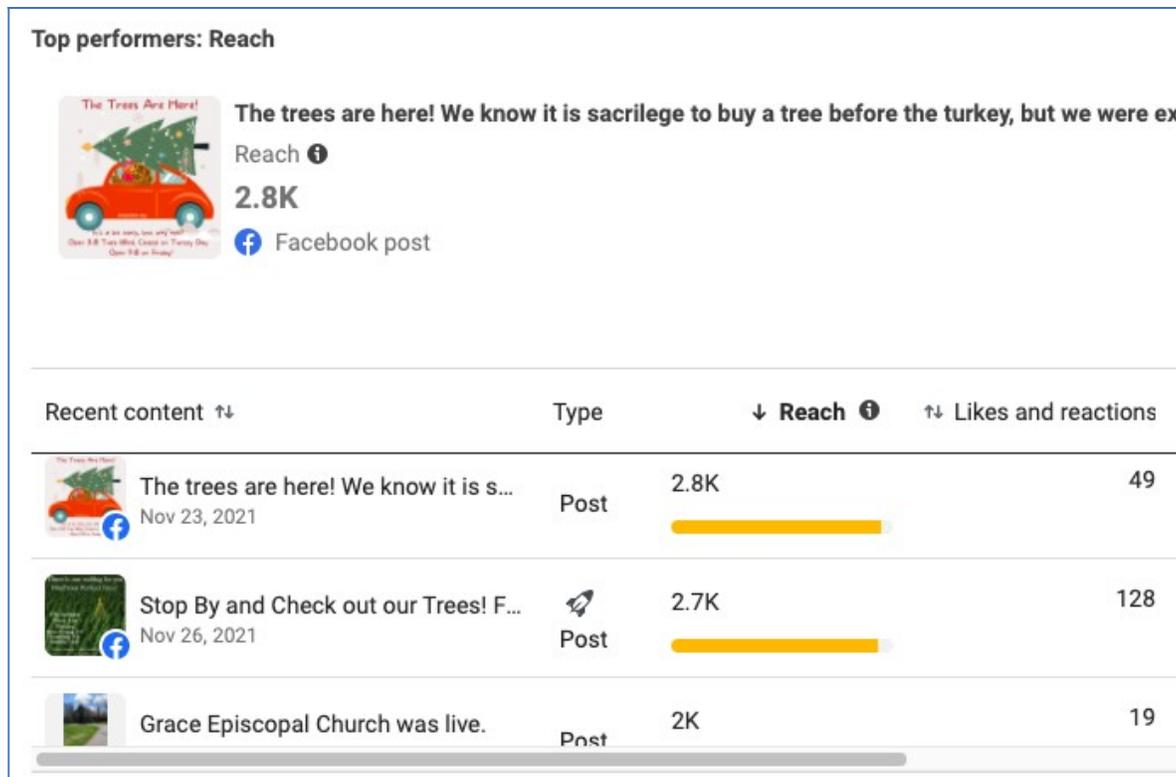
Parish Historian

PUBLICITY

This past year included posted pictures of events and miscellaneous content from our reopening this Spring. An Instagram account was added during the fall which has started getting off the ground. Most weeks, there was 1 Facebook post each week, with 3-4 posts per week during our busier events and holidays. There continued to be advertisements and graphic design elements featured in memes and online ads. In addition, the Facebook page featured several pictures submitted during holy week, B-Safe, blessing of the animals and also Christmas.

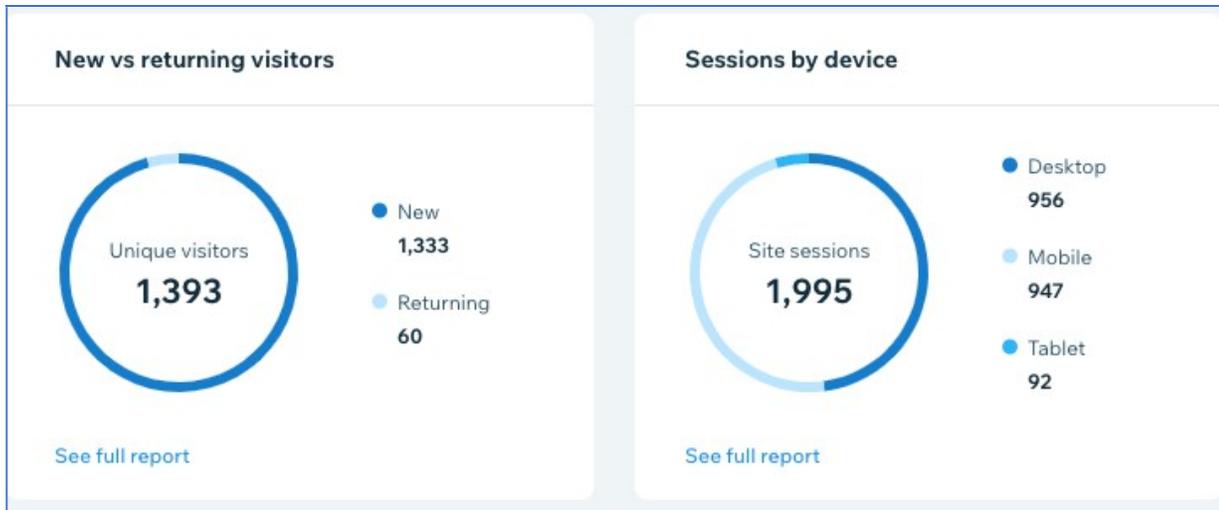
Several Facebook and online ads were placed to provide more visibility to Christmas tree sales, Blue Christmas service and Lent and Easter services. Many cross posts were placed on the Patch and Facebook Community pages (Norwood Now has a reach of 13K people, while other community pages have between 2-5K followers). Sue Breen also posted announcements on Cable TV for Blue Christmas.

These are the highlights from Facebook, with average “boosts” (paid to boost) around 2.8K views from the Norwood and Westwood area. Our best posts were around the Christmas tree sales, with above average interactions from the public with questions and comments.



There was one paid newspaper ad for Christmas this year, to make sure we maintained visibility in the local community.

Our Facebook page now has 169 followers and Instagram has 40 followers, which isn't too bad considering the page was started last year, and we didn't have many church activities to highlight. Our website had an uptick of new visitors this past year, with 1,393 unique visitors, which mean they have not visited before either on their mobile or desktop device.



Submitted by Tracey Johnson

RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND REPORT

The Rector's Discretionary Fund is used to help the needy in our community and to help finance non-budgeted items that come along from time to time.

Individual donations are always welcome and are tax deductible.

Opening balance 1/05/21		\$648.39
	One Contribution	\$250.00
Expenditures	None this year	\$0.00
Closing Balance 12/31/21		\$898.39*

*This does not include the \$150 worth of grocery store gift cards ready to be donated.

The Rev. R. John Brockmann

SAINT FAITH'S ALTAR GUILD

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does. Ephesians 6:7

St. Faith's Altar Guild continues its faithful and devoted service preparing the Altar for worship. The services that take place in-house follow strict social distancing and size limitations due to the ongoing pandemic. The offering of weekly Holy Communion remained suspended early in the year due to the pandemic and when in-house services began again only the bread has been offered. Until in-house services resumed, Altar Guild duties were mostly limited to changing the seasonal colors and providing support however needed.

Altar guild is usually a behind-the-scenes ministry and when done properly no one knows we are there. However, during the Maundy Thursday Service, members perform the Stripping of the Altar Ceremony which reminds us of the coming sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday. The Altar is stripped bare of all its adornments and the sanctuary candle is extinguished. In 2021, Father John performed these duties due to the ongoing pandemic. Our Easter service was celebrated in the side parking lot on a beautiful spring morning. The Palm Sunday drive-through for palms was once again a success and a drive-through on Ash Wednesday provided individual packets of ashes and a prayer to those who wanted to administer the ashes to themselves or to family members.

St. Faith's continues to be very small in number, and we seek new members to serve on this quiet but rewarding ministry. Training is provided and new members are mentored by experienced members until they feel comfortable performing the weekly duties on their own.

Flower offerings continued to be suspended and sadly our flower supplier went out of business during 2021. We will look for a new supplier to provide flowers for special services in 2022. We continue to keep the sanctuary candle always lit. A sign-up list to offer the weekly sanctuary candle is located on the bulletin board outside the rector's office. Suggested donation is \$6.

St. Faith's looks forward to fully serve the parish and to have the ability to adorn the altar each week and prepare for Holy Communion services in 2022.

Submitted by
Deborah Terry

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The 2022 Grace Church Stewardship campaign has concluded with a total of **37 pledging units and a total of \$78,900**. Compared to 2021, this is an **increase** of about \$9,000.

The breakdown of the pledges are as follows:

- 3 pledges of \$5,000 and more
- 7 pledges of \$2,000 - \$4,999
- 16 pledges of \$1,000 - \$1,999
- 11 pledges of under \$1,000

All returning pledgers this year either pledged the same amount or increased from last year. We received 2 new pledges this year and one pledge that returned after not pledging last year.

Thanks to all who have generously contributed this year, not only with your financial commitment but also with your time and talent.

Respectfully submitted,

John Stanley

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to gather in person for Sunday School. In the summer and fall of 2021, the nursery and Children's Chapel underwent some much-needed cleaning and organizing. We look forward to the return of Sunday School some time in 2022.

Sincerely,
Leslie Grant, Liz Pierce, & Anna Sangalang

WORSHIP

We transitioned to in-person services, with gatherings outside in the spring. Our Ash Wednesday services were covered by the local news, as we distributed Ashes outside to anyone who stopped by. We had a very large gathering for Easter, and good attendance for subsequent services. We also had an outside service in the fall for the Blessing of the Animals. We officially reopened the church for “indoor” services on June 6, with one time at 9am. That was our only time until after Labor Day when we went back to 8am and 10am services. We still don’t fill the entire church, but our numbers are getting stronger and we had a banner attendance over the Christmas holidays.

Blue Christmas was again put together by a team of parishioners to include special readings, candle lighting, uplifting ornaments and a burning bowl ceremony (where one could write their troubles on a card and release them to the fire). Due to weather concerns, the service was held indoors with a burning bowl fire outside.

Submitted by Tracey Johnson

From the Parish Register (2021)

Baptisms

Weddings

Matthew G. Brown & Danielle Marie Ringler

Funerals

Carol Ann Scaccia

Donald J. Sabourin

Stanley David Wharton

Scott Andrew Awalt

Parochial Statistics 2021

(During COVID)

	20__	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Avg. Sunday Attendance		76	74	61	63	57	56	57	50	48	45	NA	NA ⁱ
Easter Sunday Attendance		213	182	128	160	188	186	202	129	166	124	NA	75 ⁱⁱ
Number of Holy Eucharists	Sunday		89	96	93	90	86	92	91	90	89	22	47 ⁱⁱⁱ
	Weekday		13	8	14	14	14	8	6	9	8	1	0
Communions	Private		16	21	34	33	26	36	16	35	41	6	8
Daily Office	Sunday		3	5	8	5	2	7	4	6	4	46	17
	Weekday											34	5
Daily Devotion Using Non-digital Media	Sunday											37	15
Marriages		3	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	0	0	1
Burials		3	4	5	8	7	5	6	6	6	5	3	4
Baptisms		5	8	7	5	3	8	3	3	5	3	4	0
Confirmations/Receptions		0	0	0	0	0	4	3	3	5	0	0	0
^{iv}													
Church School & Youth Group Enrollment ^v						19	23	25	25	14	12	12	12
Active Baptized Members as of 12/31 ^{vi}		247	233	236	239	239	245	248	248	210	215	215	215
Communicants in Good Standing ^{vii}		179	181	182	186	186	192	223	223	190	195	195	195
Communicants in Good Standing Under 16		23	26	24	27	22	26	25	25	25	25	24	24
Households as of 12/31		102	102	102	104	102	105	103	103	95	99	99	99

ⁱ From Sunday January 3rd until Sunday June 6th the parish operated (except in unusual circumstances noted next) with a 9 AM Zoomed Morning Prayer with sermon followed by a Free Conference Call Morning Devotion with Sermon at 11.

ⁱⁱ This was one of the first to be held outside in the parking lot to the sunny eastern side. This was followed by a Eucharist 5/9 on the front steps, and 5/23 in the Sunken Garden. Special services included 2/17th Ash Weds in-church noon service followed by two drive-through imposition of ashes. On 4/1 there was an in-church, live-streamed eucharist for Holy Thursday, and on 4/2 for Good Friday, there was a service in the driveway.

ⁱⁱⁱ From in-church return of services on June 6

^{iv} For the next five categories, the numbers have simply been replicated from last year since we have no basis for determining any changes since COVID has prevented in-person services from January until June.

^v A Communicant in Good standing is, according to the canons of the National Church, a baptized member who contributes financially, attends church three or more times per year, and volunteers for a ministry in the parish.

^{vi} An Active Baptized Member is, according to the canons of the National Church, a baptized person who has attended church at least once during the calendar year.

^{vii} A Communicant in Good standing is, according to the canons of the National Church, a baptized member who contributes financially, attends church three or more times per year, and volunteers for a ministry in the parish.