



Grace Church

THE REV. DR. MATTHEW CALKINS, RECTOR



ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 19, 2025

Table of Contents

Agenda	3
Nominating Committee Report	4
Rector's Report/Worship Report	5-8
Treasurer's Report	8-9
Financials	10-14
Stewardship Report	15-16
Property Report	16
Fundraising	17-19
Ministry Reports	
Music	19-20
Altar Guild	20
Episcopal College of Congregational Development	21
Weekly Grace News	21
Millbrook Community Pre-school at Grace	21-25
Women of Grace	25
Prayer Shawl	25
Invite, Welcome, Connect	25-26
Grace Church Lunchbox Mission	26

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

OPENING PRAYER AND WELCOMING REMARKS

RECOGNITION OF QUORUM

ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS AND WARDEN

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

RECEPTION OF MINISTRY REPORTS

BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP PRESENTATION

NEW BUSINESS: STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Nominating Committee Report

2024 Vestry

Wardens:

Evelyn Garzetta (elected 2022, re-elected to second term 2024)

Ron Mustello (re-elected to second term 2023)

Vestry:

William Cox (elected 2023)

Molly Hurley (elected 2022)

Lisa Lacey (re-elected second term 2023)

Valerie LaRobardier (elected 2021, serving as clerk, re-elected to second term 2024)

William Taylor (elected 2021, re-elected to second term 2024)

Marian Thompson (elected 2021, re-elected to second term 2024)

Amanda Williams (re-elected to second term 2023)

Rotating off

Ron Mustello

Evelyn Garzetta

2025 Nominations:

For Warden:

Barbara Rudy – one-year to finish Evelyn Garzetta’s Warden term.

Bill Taylor – First two-year term.

For Vestry:

Marli Higa – First three-year Vestry Member term.

James Prudden – First three-year Vestry Member term.

Molly Hurley – Second three-year Vestry Member term.

Rector's Report 2024

2024 was a year of transitions, some welcome, some not; some planned, others unexpected.

An unwelcome change came in mid February as our beloved Evelyn Garzetta suffered a stroke that left her unable to continue her work as Executive Director of Northeast Dutchess Immigrant Services, the successor organization to Grace Immigrant Outreach. Without Evelyn it was a struggle to find a way for NEDIS to continue as a single organization. The recently formed board decided to disperse the functioning units. The food program came under the umbrella of St Thomas Amenia's Food of Life/Comida de Vida. The social work service was carried on through Berkshire Taconic foundation supervision, and the youth program has moved to a new partnership with Rural and Migrant Ministry under Mark Clizbe's direction.

Although this tragic event started off the year with unwelcome change, the Vestry met later in February for a planning retreat that had been previously scheduled and were led through a discussion of congregation change models and discussion of visions for the future of Grace. We ended up affirming four priorities, three for the current year and the fourth for the longer term. These are:

1. Develop next generation leadership and membership
2. Strengthen the connection to community
3. Broaden our financial base
4. Plan and execute a capital campaign

Also unwelcome (at least by me) but not unexpected, the Rev. Alison Quin retired as associate priest, and our Grace Year Episcopal Service Corps program was shelved for the foreseeable future. We simply did not receive enough applicants and without Alison as director we decided to return the Vicarage to its function as general purpose housing. At first the Rev. Richard Suero and his wife Yomar occupied the house, but they found a house to buy and by the end of the year was empty. We have used the time to make repairs, paint, and clean in anticipation of rental in 2025. Likewise the Rectory, no longer housing the assistant director of Grace Year and an apartment for our Music Director, has been repurposed to provide housing for an occupant who also serves to maintain the property and provide retreat accommodations to visiting clergy and church musicians.

The Rev. Molly Frank, newly ordained in September 2023, continued in 2024 periodically to join us as preacher and celebrant and was also able to assist our neighboring parish St Peter's Lithgow in a transition period there. We look forward in 2025 to continuing occasional joint services with St Peter's, as well as continuing partnership with St Thomas, whose rector, AJ Stack, was well received as preacher and celebrant one Sunday this year.

Another change was that we ceased hosting a monthly Wednesday evening Spanish language Eucharist service after attendance dwindled in late spring. The religious needs of this regional community are being met in Holy Trinity, Pawling, as Fr Suero, serving as rector there, provides

a Spanish language service every Sunday. We look forward to increasing collaboration with him in 2025 in many areas.

Our music program also underwent change as Suzanne McDonald left for a position closer to home—she had made the trip from Brooklyn faithfully since 2020 and understandably was ready for a closer church position. We searched through the summer for a new Music Director and our search was rewarded by finding James Ruff, a wonderful musician who had worked previously with Alison at Christ the King Stone Ridge. He began in September and has carried on the work Suzanne began of building an impressive choir, led by our soloist Rachel Bazaz. James and the choir, assisted with a cast of guest musicians put on a magnificent service of Christmas Lessons and Carols at the end of the year.

Before she left, Rev. Alison formed a team to take over children's chapel on Sunday mornings. A dedicated team of volunteers, Marilyn Schiller, Cindy Guardiola. Pam Freeman, Connie DiPuppo and Lynda Boice have helped with our small but mighty cohort of young children, and we look forward in 2025 to growing this program and resuming our Christmas pageant.

Adult formation continued in traditional ways as we had a Journey to Faith confirmation and reception class that were presented to Bp. Shin at his visitation in May. We also had a notable retreat led by Elizabeth Cunningham, daughter of a former rector of Grace, who led a workshop on "Life as Prayer." A diocesan program that we participated in as a team, the College of Congregational Development, was held for a week at a time over two years and members of Grace who have completed the two year course include Val LaRobardier, Will Cox and myself; Ben York did his first year this year and finish next year. He also attended a program for Latino Ministry and worked with AJ on the food program there.

Helping with two strategic priorities—developing a new generation of leaders and active members and enhancing revenue streams—James Prudden and ML Ball stepped up to lead the restored fund-raising event, a golf and dinner benefit held at Millbrook Golf and Tennis Club. We had not had this event in 2023, and since 2021 had moved to different venues. Pam Freeman, Lynda Boice and Robin and Doug Capers (and many others) had shouldered the hard work of planning and execution for years but this year they were able to step back a bit and assist James and ML (and others). We honored Pam, Lynda and the Capers as Grace Pillars, and Walter Cadette as our Community Pillar. He gave a wonderfully gracious speech, speaking of Evelyn and others. Jack Banning gave a nice introduction to Walter and Bp Doug Fisher was gracious in talking about our stalwart crew. The event raised a record amount. We also continued the new tradition of hosting a party for children and adults at Shady Knolls Orchard and Distillery (thank you Andrew and Lindsey Richards). Other fund raising events were the Whale of a Sale Rummage Sale and the Christmas Bazaar—all contributed mightily to our mission budget—one of our priorities being to strengthen revenue streams.

Strengthening ties to the community, we participated for the first time in the New York Landmark Conservancy's annual Sacred Sites Open House event on May 18-19. Our work in researching our history of Needlework Guild craftsmanship was on display as well as talk and tours of our stained glass windows and architecture. Elliott Lindsey gave a talk on the architecture and history of Grace. At the end of the year we also hosted the community for First

Nights festivities: music, children's theater, and the marvelous Bubble Bus. We look forward to hosting new community events in 2025, including a newly formed Millbrook Music Salon.

In terms of outreach, our primary remaining form is through the Preschool, under the excellent leadership of Maureen Sarma. This program serves a critical need in our community—and infuses the campus with laughter and joy. I do a weekly chapel, telling Bible stories and singing songs. How otherwise we might reach out to the needs of our community is an open question we will address this year. We do not need to do what others are already doing well—though we will continue to assist in immigration assistance and food programs with our partners—but are there needs in the community that we can serve that would be otherwise unmet? Let's pray together and see where the Spirit is leading. In the meantime, we will continue our Lunchbox and volunteer assistance. Great thanks to Ron and Katheryn Mustello for their work of many years on this, alongside others (like the Laceys). As of the end of the year 2024 Ron stepped down from his position as Warden. He deserves great thanks for all of his hard work and steady leadership. He contributed to Grace Church in ways large and small and will be sorely missed.

Looking ahead to the future is the point of our fourth priority, preparing for a capital campaign. Whether the needed repairs and improvements—in the parking lot, energy systems, worship space—will be done as part of a single campaign or in pieces remains to be decided. But we moved forward in the planning process as Ryan Manning, a member of the parish and the landscape architect responsible for the design of the new Bennett Park, provided us with a master plan, which will be presented in the coming months. We also moved forward on the designs for stained glass windows on the west wall. These will be presented in the coming weeks as we raise money for their fabrication and installation. It is especially timely given that one of the figures represented, Charles Johnson, posthumously received the Medal of Honor in a ceremony in early January of 2025. The windows feature portraits of Johnson, a former parishioner and Millbrook resident who gave his life saving others in the Korean War, Eleanor Roosevelt, honored for her role in crafting the UN Declaration of Human Rights, and Dame Julian of Norwich, a medieval mystic whose portrait will complement that of St Martin, and balance the themes of action and contemplation. Other aspects of our planning process continue as we receive estimates for energy and parking lot improvements. We hope in 2025 to develop the capital campaign case, which will also include an appeal for contribution to our endowment through donation and legacy giving. All of these are part of the ongoing work of “worshipping the Lord in the beauty of holiness,” serving our neighbors in need, teaching our children and growing in faith throughout our lives.

May God bless us as we continue the journey, in Christ.

Worship Report 2024

102 Sunday Eucharist services over 52 Sundays (and one Easter Vigil), total attendance 2810, average Sunday attendance 54 (not including online), down from 3342 total and ASA 63 in 2023.

7 Spanish language Eucharists led by Padre Rigoberto Avila; total attendance 105, average attendance 15; also a marriage, burial and quinceanera; regular service discontinued in July.

Regular Morning and Evening Prayer service M-F led by Will Cox

58 Wednesday midday Eucharists, including 10 at the Fountains

3 baptisms: Penelope Cabrera, Nathan and Hannah Shanks

2 Receptions; 1 Renewal of Vows: Marilyn Schiller, Cindy Guardiola, Nina Prudden

6 burials: Guadalupe Garcia, Karen Quinn, Bryce Ainsley, Angela Siebert, Noreen Barney, John Byron

2 marriages: Kristen Perkins and Ted Bushman, Andrea Stephanich and Juan Velaquez

Active clergy: Matthew Calkins, rector; Alison Quin and Molly Frank, associates; Rigoberto Avila, Spanish language services; priest associates (retired) Elliott Lindsley and Michael Shafer

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Calkins, Rector

Treasurer's Report

The attached financial information is presented as of the yearend 2024 as well as the Vestry approved proposed operating budget for 2025. Reports are broken down by Operating Income and Expenses, Non-operating Restricted funds, and Outreach Ministries. Balances of our investment funds are also included.

Total income from Pledges, Plate and Support, Grant Income, Fundraising Income Program Income, Investment Income and Other income totaled just over \$375,000. We were extremely fortunate to be able to get back to the Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club to hold our Golf Outing which raised over \$35,000. We also had an outstanding Rummage Sale thanks to the generous items received and raised over \$11,000. Our other large fund raising is the Holiday Sale with brought in over \$4,000. I want to personally thank everyone involved in these events. As I have noted before, a lot of hard work goes into these events, but the reward is not only the money raised it is the fellowship and relationships built within the Grace Church family. Program income was lower than previous years. We do continue to run an outstanding Preschool program and collect program income from that source; however, I am sad to say that Grace Church no longer participates in the Grace Immigrant Outreach Program. This program was run by Evelyn Garzetta and is now broken into smaller programs run by other organizations.

We recently entered into a lease with a therapy organization who is now renting two rooms in the Parish Hall and this will bring in additional income.

On the expense side, the Vestry does an excellent job keeping expenses in check. During 2024, we saw the retirement of Reverend Alison as the Clergy Associate. We all miss her dearly. In addition, we had a change in our music program with Suzanne McDonald leaving to take a position closer to her home. We hired a new full time organist, James Ruff. Prior to hiring James, we had a lot of "fill in" and our music budget for 2024 was different than originally budgeted. We did have the Vicarage rented for most of the year to Rev. Suero, Rector in Pawling. He has subsequently moved out and the Vicarage is now available for rent. We did see an overall expense in 2024 for the Vicarage of \$9,000 as we did repairs and painted the interior. Some of the repair costs were taken out of the Capital Improvement Fund for which we received a grant. We also do still have a small mortgage on that building. Once this is rented, we expect to see a positive return from that building. We also have someone living in the Rectory, who is overseeing our "clergy retreat rental". In addition, he helps with utility costs and keeps an eye on the property while living there. This income can be seen on the Chart of Accounts in the restricted funds.

Overall, the Operating Income shows a positive bottom line. This is a tribute to our Grace Church community of which we are ALL included.

The Vestry approved the 2025 budget which shows a small deficit. As in the past, the Vestry will monitor and make any adjustments as needed.

Before I end my report, a big THANK YOU to Cindy and David. Cindy reminds us of everything we need to do, and David keeps our books in balance. I could not do any of this without them.

Do forget, we are all part of the little Church that sits at the top of Franklin Avenue that does so much. My best to you all for a wonderful 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Shanks

Grace Episcopal Church - Millbrook NY
List Chart of Accounts as of December 2024

ary 12, 2025

Page 1 of 6

Account Name	Fund	Period Activity	YTD Balance
Grace Church Cash-Checking		35,254.19	64,540.06
<i>Restricted Accounts</i>			
Cash - Altar Guild		(1,014.00)	309.23
Cash - The Abby Fund		0.00	2,516.88
Cash - Food Table		5.00	3,056.30
Cash - Grace Year (Old)		423.81	173.81
Cash - Lunch Box		(240.17)	423.42
Cash - Memorials		0.00	8.10
Cash - Memorial Garden		0.00	1,276.89
Cash - Men@Grace		0.00	1,367.38
Cash - Pre-School		(1,657.63)	33,053.53
Cash - Vicarage		0.00	38.84
Cash - Window/Stained Glass		0.00	12,901.00
Cash - Youth		(121.36)	756.64
Cash - Franklin Ave Window		(3,255.73)	9,473.87
Climate Change Conference		0.00	100.00
Alison Quin Youth Account		0.00	1,435.00
Cash - Rectory (starting July 2024)		0.00	9,276.03
Cash - GIO - ECNY - North Star		0.00	280.00
Cash - Hidden Angels Grief Support		0.00	1,000.00
Cash - Green Energy		0.00	1,400.00
Cash - Music and Arts		0.00	195.00
Building/Grounds Planning & Projects		0.00	5,000.00
Cash - New Robes For Choir		0.00	2,000.00
<i>Total Restricted Accounts</i>		(\$5,860.08)	\$86,041.92
Cash - Capital Improvement		(600.00)	1,678.61
Rector's Discretionary Fund		(950.00)	4,792.26
NY Episcopal Federal Credit Union		0.02	50.02
Credit Union C/D		25,000.00	25,000.00

Account Name	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Budget
Income			
Plate	\$11,255.47	\$7,500.00	\$ 10,000.00
Pledge	\$130,962.30	\$150,000.00	\$ 140,000.00
Regular Support Donations	\$10,320.00	\$10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
3. PLEDGE, PLATE, SUPPORT	\$152,537.77	\$167,500.00	\$ 160,000.00
Dyson Grant	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
Tribute Garden Donation		\$15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Grant Income	\$75,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
Fundraising - Golf	\$35,396.33		\$ 25,000.00
Fundraising - Holiday Sale Inc.	\$4,126.74	\$3,500.00	\$ 4,000.00
Fundraising - Jewelry Sales	\$240.00		\$ 250.00
Fundraising - Rummage Sale	\$11,645.78	\$6,000.00	\$ 7,500.00
Fundraising - Shady Knoll	\$710.00	\$10,000.00	\$ 500.00
Fundraising Other	\$(15.00)	\$5,000.00	\$ -
Fundraising Income	\$52,103.85	\$24,500.00	\$ 37,250.00
(R) Altar Guild Income	\$2,047.00	\$3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
(R) Music and Arts income	\$2,700.00		
(R) Sunday School	\$420.00		
(R) Youth Income	\$1,964.00		
Income From Programs	\$6,375.00	\$10,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Parish Hall Income	\$4,200.00	\$3,000.00	\$ 8,700.00
Program Income	\$17,706.00	\$16,000.00	\$ 16,700.00
Vicarage Rental			\$ 8,650.00
Memorials - Unrestricted	\$41,608.50		
Other Income	\$8,891.30	\$30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Other Income	\$50,499.80	\$30,000.00	\$ 38,650.00
5. OTHER OPERATING INCOME	\$195,309.65	\$160,500.00	
Invest. - Distributions	\$27,621.73	\$28,000.00	\$ 29,000.00
4. MONEY FROM INVESTMENTS	\$27,621.75	\$28,000.00	\$ 29,000.00
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$375,469.17	\$356,000.00	\$ 371,600.00
Total Income	\$375,469.17	\$356,000.00	\$ 371,600.00
Expenses			
Diocesan Assessment	\$41,364.00	\$40,000.00	\$ 41,555.00
12. ASSESSMENT	\$41,364.00	\$40,000.00	\$ 41,555.00
Cleaning Expense	\$7,881.04	\$6,600.00	\$ 6,600.00
Electricity	\$5,729.13	\$6,000.00	\$ 5,500.00
Fuel Oil	\$14,958.71	\$17,000.00	\$ 10,200.00
Grounds Expense	\$5,902.02	\$4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Housekeeping Supplies	\$234.93	\$600.00	\$ 600.00
Repairs & Maint. - Ordinary	\$2,741.13	\$4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Sanitation	\$2,025.18	\$1,500.00	\$ 1,700.00
Security Service	\$1,812.36	\$1,725.00	\$ 1,725.00
Snow Removal	\$3,920.00	\$3,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Tree Care	\$1,400.00		\$ 1,000.00
Water/Sewer	\$1,604.64	\$1,700.00	\$ 1,500.00
Property Total	\$48,209.14	\$47,125.00	\$ 42,825.00
Employee Benefits - Clergy	\$16,731.00		
Payroll Service Fee - Rector	\$114.00		
Pension - Clergy	\$18,021.84		
Rector - Professional Expenses	\$1,743.44		
Salary -Rector	\$107,780.40		
Rector	\$144,390.68	\$144,200.00	\$ 150,697.00
Payroll Service Fee - Music	\$84.00		
Payroll Taxes - Music	\$1,573.26		
Salary - Music Director	\$21,747.46		
Music Director	\$23,404.72	\$27,810.00	\$ 37,725.00
Payroll Service Fee -Secretary	\$108.00		

Payroll Tax - Secretary		\$1,934.03			
Retirement secretary		\$2,127.12			
Salary - Secretary		\$25,282.02			
	Secretary	\$29,451.17	\$29,870.00	\$	30,187.00
Payroll Service Fee - Books		\$120.00			
Payroll Tax - Books		\$870.73			
Salary - Bookkeeper		\$11,381.31			
	Bookkeeper	\$12,372.04	\$12,875.00	\$	12,681.00
Clergy Associate		\$6,222.00	\$6,695.00		
	Program Development	\$6,222.00	\$6,695.00	\$	-
	Personnel Total	\$215,840.61	\$221,450.00	\$	231,290.00
(R) Altar Guild		\$4,472.00	\$3,000.00	\$	3,000.00
(R) Music Expenses		\$3,100.00	\$1,000.00	\$	-
Guest Music (Supply)				\$	1,000.00
Altar - Other Supplies		\$419.77	\$400.00	\$	1,000.00
Music Expenses		\$7,206.16	\$3,000.00	\$	6,000.00
Organ Tuning & Maint		\$1,277.95	\$2,800.00	\$	2,400.00
Special Services / Spanish, etc.		\$1,943.20	\$4,000.00	\$	800.00
Supply Clergy		\$1,000.00	\$700.00	\$	1,800.00
Technical Support			\$400.00	\$	4,000.00
	Worship/Music	\$19,419.08	\$15,300.00	\$	20,000.00
Advertising		\$510.00	\$534.00	\$	550.00
Hospitality/Fellowship		\$316.80	\$500.00	\$	500.00
Grace Notes				\$	250.00
Stewardship		\$205.50	\$250.00	\$	200.00
	Parish Life	\$1,032.30	\$1,284.00	\$	1,500.00
Sunday School		\$396.74	\$500.00	\$	300.00
Nursery Care				\$	500.00
	Children/Family	\$396.74	\$500.00	\$	800.00
(R) Youth Group / Connect		\$1,182.36		\$	500.00
Confirmation Class		\$19.99	\$200.00	\$	250.00
	Youth Group	\$1,202.35	\$200.00	\$	750.00
Adult Programs		\$15.00	\$400.00	\$	500.00
Convention/Retreats/Leadership		\$1,503.60	\$1,000.00	\$	1,200.00
	Adult Programs	\$1,518.60	\$1,400.00	\$	1,700.00
	Program Total	\$23,569.07	\$18,684.00	\$	24,750.00
Bulletins & Printing & newsletter		\$224.24	\$375.00	\$	375.00
Computer and website Expense		\$3,032.71	\$1,500.00	\$	1,500.00
Elevator		\$1,100.00	\$1,150.00	\$	1,150.00
Equipment Leases		\$2,624.55	\$3,100.00	\$	3,100.00
General Insurance		\$17,708.04	\$18,000.00	\$	18,000.00
Kindred, bank, Paypal fees + loan interest		\$921.16	\$600.00	\$	1,000.00
Miscellaneous			\$200.00	\$	-
Periodicals/Subscriptions		\$232.50	\$350.00	\$	350.00
Postage & Delivery		\$829.96	\$1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
Supplies - Paper, Misc.		\$1,643.75	\$2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
Telephone & Internet		\$2,832.71	\$2,500.00	\$	2,500.00
Worker's Comp/Disability/Unemp/Payroll processing		\$1,146.68	\$1,500.00	\$	1,500.00
	Administration Total	\$32,296.30	\$32,275.00	\$	32,475.00
	14. OPERATING EXPENSES	\$361,279.12	\$ 359,534.00	\$	372,895.00
Outreach Program Support		\$12.98	\$2,000.00		
	13. OUTREACH	\$12.98	\$2,000.00	\$	-
Mortgage Payments and Vicarage Expenses		\$9,002.05			
	Vicarage Expenses	\$9,002.05		\$	-
	15. MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS	\$9,002.05			
	Total Expenses	\$370,294.15	\$361,534.00	\$	372,895.00
	Difference	\$5,175.02	\$(5,534.00)	\$	(1,295.00)

2024 - 25 Preschool Cash Flow Statement (September - August)

Starting Balance	\$	(2,209.94)
OPERATING INCOME		
Preschool Tuition	\$	31,165.00
Grants	\$	40,000.00 (\$20,000 from EGCMN received in June) (\$20,000 from Dyson, year 1 of 3)
Donations/Gifts	\$	500.00
Support from Church	\$	<u>-</u>
	\$	71,665.00
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Teachers (Diocese Salary)	\$	12,209.91
Teachers (Diocese Hourly)	\$	21,730.80
Unemployment	\$	-
Teachers (Non-Payroll)	\$	2,237.00
Enrichment	\$	-
Church Overhead	\$	2,500.00
To Reserves	\$	-
Misc. Operating Costs	\$	<u>2,457.52</u>
	\$	41,135.23
Net Income/Loss	\$	30,529.77
Balance	\$	28,319.83

1/12/25

Investment Fund Balances		
PEMS	\$ 51,721.09	11/30/2024
DFMS	\$ 552,526.52	11/30/2024
Meeker (Organ)	\$ 13,102.89	11/30/2024
DFMS (Preschool)	\$ 7,362.69	11/30/2024

	Historical DFMS Fund					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Beginning Balance	\$ 487,706	\$ 567,496	\$ 636,996	\$ 659,336	\$ 465,387	\$ 473,912.00
Dividends	\$ 25,136	\$ 24,968	\$ 24,604	\$ 25,985	\$ 25,483	\$ 25,276.00
Addition/(Withdrawal)	\$ -	\$ (13,000)	\$ (10,000)	\$ (40,000)	\$ (20,000)	\$ 20,000.00
Ending Balance	\$ 567,496	\$ 636,996	\$ 659,336	\$ 465,387	\$ 473,912	\$ 552,526.52
						06/30/2024

2024 Stewardship Report

People give to the church for a variety of purposes and in a variety of ways. The most common way is through a pledge made in the stewardship season of the prior year and fulfilled either as a prepaid pledge immediately or during the calendar year. We account for these donations to the church under the category “pledge” income. However, a fair number of regular contributors give as well; some simply pay as if they had filled out a pledge card, perhaps because they are enrolled in an automatic deposit system through Paypal or their bank. These are considered virtual pledges and are included in the “pledge” income. A second category, “regular support donations” reflects the income from donations of parishioners who contribute during the year and whom we acknowledge for their support; we hope these folks will in time become regular pledging members. A third category is “plate,” which counts the offerings given in cash or check during Sunday services. Many other donations are received for particular ministries or purposes, such as donations for flowers, or food pantry, Bishop’s Fund or, this year, Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza. These are accounted for in their own restricted accounts. Memorial donations, grant income, fundraising income are self-explanatory and, finally, “other income” includes donations that do not fit otherwise into categories, such as an unexpected family foundation grant. People are very generous—and we appreciate that!

In 2024 we received a total of \$130,962 in pledge income. This is considerably above the amount formally pledged: \$118,081 from 41 filled out pledge cards. In 2023 the difference was even more pronounced, with \$144,344 actually received, far above the \$92,011 pledged in 39 formal pledges. So far in the 2025 stewardship campaign we have received 39 pledge cards totaling \$98,160; surpassing the total from 2023 but below last year’s total. This is worrisome and we have adjusted our budget expectations accordingly. We will continue to receive additional pledges over the year, but I think this decline in formal pledges reflects the departure of several older members. Newer and younger members need to be cultivated and brought into the pledging system.

For planning purposes, the “Plate, Pledge and Regular Support” amounts are the top line totals to consider year over year. If you look at the attached historical spreadsheet, you can see there is a sharp decline in 2020, when COVID hit. Top line income dropped from \$182,000 to around \$150,000. We climbed back to about \$166,000 in 2022, then up again in 2023 to just under \$168,000. But in 2024 we only received \$152,537 in plate, pledge and regular support (though a few checks for 2024 are still coming in).

The challenge before us is clear: 1) to build membership and attendance, which has a direct effect on plate, pledge and regular support. 2) To encourage more members already attending to pledge. A relatively small percentage of attending members do so. And 3) to continue diversifying our revenue stream, as we have been doing, through grants, rentals, fund-raising and so on. On the expenses side of course we have other challenges.

It is not easy for any church, and perhaps more generally non-profits, to plan with any degree of certainty about income. Grants come and go, as do memorial donations. But strategic mission development and legacy giving plans help develop sustainable income. Most of all, we need a

stewardship committee led by a well-trained and enthusiastic chair who can look into various methods, help decide what works best here, and help build back our annual stewardship campaign. Any volunteers?

Submitted January 19, 2025
The Stewardship Committee

Property Report 2024

Franklin Avenue Window.

The donor plaque for the Franklin Avenue window is complete and will be installed inside the church on the right wall just after the second set of doors. Franklin Avenue side of church will be repainted shortly as stain marks are visible. Restoration window project will be considered complete once wall is painted.

Memorial Garden.

Plaque formerly on the Franklin Avenue side of the building with names of those in our Memorial Garden has been removed and cleaned, and will be placed on a pedestal in the Memorial Garden.

Vestry

Vestry building has been refreshed inside and out, and is currently listed for rent at the price of \$3,000.00 a month, plus utilities.

Exterior Gardens

New garden donated by an anonymous donor was planted in front of the Parish house. A site plan with ideas for landscaping the entire campus was completed. No action planned at this time.

Other Stained Glass Windows

The Vestry voted to approve starting the first portion of the 3 stained glass windows featuring Charles Johnson, Eleanor Roosevelt and Julian of Norwich. Fundraising to cover the balance of the cost of the windows will start immediately, as project completion is dependent on raising the full amount of money first.

Submitted by Molly Hurley

Fundraising

This report highlights the diversity and success of the fundraising events throughout the year, showcasing the church's commitment to both supporting its mission and fostering community engagement.

St. Nicholas Bazaar, Fine Craft, Confections, and Holiday Cookie Sale, December 14, 2024

On Saturday, December 14, Grace Church hosted our annual St. Nicholas Bazaar, a festive celebration that brought together our church community and local neighbors for a day of shopping, baking, and goodwill. Our talented Grace Church bakers crafted and sold 118 pounds of decorated cookies and candies, spreading holiday cheer to all who attended.

In addition to our delicious treats, the bazaar featured 26 local vendors showcasing a wonderful variety of handmade crafts and confections, filling both floors of the parish hall with unique gifts and festive finds. The event also included a selection of gently used items, with unsold goods being donated to the food pantry at St. Thomas to help spread the joy of holiday giving.

The event was co-chaired by Pam Freeman and Lynda Boissey and raised \$4208.

Shady Knolls Farm Family Day, October 12, 2024

A family fun day at the Shady Knolls Orchard and Distillery took place on October 12. Shady Knolls Orchard is a family-owned farm and craft distillery located in Millbrook. The event featured giant bales of hay for the children to play on, music, and great food for everyone to share. Thanks to Thea, Paul and Stephanie for the food, Andrew and Lindsey Richards for hosting us, Rima and Olivier for the drinks, and everybody for the good time! Thank you Ed Kading for the hay bales. The Shady Knolls Farm event raised \$710.

Grace Church Golf and Dinner Benefit, September 9, 2024

In 2024 our 14th annual golf tournament and dinner was held at the Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club. We returned to the club in Millbrook after a five year change in sites due to COVID. This year we honored Walter Cadette, Pillar of the Millbrook community, and Pam Freeman, Lynda Boissey, and Robin and Doug Capers, stalwart volunteers who organized this event for many years (with a host of many vital helpers), led other church programs, and served on the church vestry. We played golf, enjoyed dinner, and participated in a silent auction. It was wonderful to welcome Bishop Fisher and Jack Banning who returned as guest speakers. The golf tournament has raised well over \$300,00 since its inception.

This year's event was co-chaired by Mary Louise Ball and James Prudden and raised \$35,396 through sponsorships, and participation by our parish members and community.

Whale of a Rummage Sale, April 13-21, 2024

The rummage sale never fails to bring together the most amazing combination of gently used items to sell under the parish hall roof. Over the years we have added on-line listings as well. Each year we have been fortunate enough to receive item from folks who have sold their homes and donated the items to sell.

This year's event was co-chaired by Cathy Shanks, and John and Lisa Lacey, and Janelle Styles and raised \$11,646.

Grace Church Crosses

This year we raised \$240 in the sale of Grace Church sterling silver crosses.

These events hosted by Grace Church not only raise money for church programs and community outreach but also provide a warm and welcoming space for fellowship and connection. We are deeply grateful for the support of our volunteers, congregation, vendors, and guests, and look forward to continuing this tradition of giving and community engagement in the years to come.

Submitted by Pam Freeman

Grace Church Golf Tournament and Dinner/Silent Auction

After a long and fruitful period during which Pam Freeman and Lynda Boissey spearheaded Grace's annual golf tournament and dinner auction, the time had come to pass the torch. During the Freeman-Boissey years it was estimated that the team collected well over \$300,000 for the church's outreach programs, a Herculean achievement! Accordingly, this year's honorees were Pam Freeman, Lynda Boissey, and Robin and Doug Capers, acknowledging their many years of service to the church, and Walter Cadette, indispensable pillar of the Millbrook community.

ML Ball and James Prudden together took up the challenge to commandeer this year's event, the 16th, which was financially more important than usual because the previous year had been skipped due to the pandemic. Also of note was the return to The Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club after a five-year hiatus – it was good to be back! Hopefully we can return there again, year after year. ML and James pounded the pavement and worked the phones to bring in donations, prizes and auction items, with enormous help from Pam and Lynda who may have thought they were off the hook but were instead regularly consulted about the many details needed to put on a huge event like this. They went back to donors from previous years and brought in even more donations. Rev. Matt and Chris Dyson focused on golfer participation and signed up 36

enthusiastic competitors! Thea Scotti donated and served a luscious gourmet breakfast and lunch during the tournament, and Linda Kolts provided coffee for both flights of golfers. Susan Quigley, Marian Thompson, Brenda de Martine, Cathy Shanks, Barbara Rudy and Marli Higa were volunteers *par excellence* the day-of, and Cindy in the church office kept all the plates spinning in air magnificently. Several long-time contributors, such as the Dyson family, once again stepped up to answer our call to donate. We thank them and all the area businesses for their generosity. And we especially thank all the Grace Church members who gave both their time and money to make this annual fundraiser so effective.

Submitted by ML Ball

Music Program

It has been my pleasure to lead the Music Program at Grace as Director of Music beginning in September 2024. I've very much enjoyed playing for and singing with the members of Grace's choir in our choral anthem each week: Rachel Bazaz, Lynda Boisey, Dawn Galente, Katherine Mustello, Thea Scotti, and Marion Thompson. Their fine singing voices, good musicianship and kind, supportive manner have made my transition into this position an easy one! It's also been a joy to get to know Grace's beautiful Beckerath organ, and all the amazing sounds it can produce to stir, inspire and lead the congregation in singing.

It's been a time of some experimenting with liturgical singing at Grace: balancing speaking and weighing different new possibilities with Fr. Matt and taking the temperature of the congregation's feeling and interest with these; Trying our hand at chanting the weekly psalm in modified Anglican chant found in St. Marten's Psalter, incorporating the call and response Alleluia and verse, from the traditional minor propers, preceding the Gospel reading, as well as trying out together Service Music, new to us, (major propers: Gloria, Sanctus and Fraction Anthem) by living composers, alongside some of the more familiar settings from our Hymnal.

It was a joy to join with Fr. Matt and local clergy to present the *Many Marys* spiritual retreat at Grace during Advent, myself teaching a chanted version of Mary's familiar song of joy, the Magnificat, as well as discussing and presenting the traditional Irish Lament of the Three Marys as part of this program.

I so enjoyed organizing, rehearsing and presenting Grace's Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols on Advent IV, December 22nd of 2024, adding to our talented choir some musical members of the larger community to fill out the choral ranks and help us all meditate on the Christmas story through this beautiful form of nine read lessons supported by carols both familiar and new. Followed by a delicious chili dinner, this event was both well-attended and seems a good model we can build upon of a musical and spiritual way to bring people into Grace.

It was a treat to have fine cellist Christine Gummere join us Christmas morning to play solo Bach as well as duets with me on organ and harp. It is both a pleasure and important investment in music at Grace to have Rachel Bazaz singing weekly with us, helping keep the

work of the choir on good footing as well as presenting solos on Sunday mornings and during the Christmas Eve musical prelude.

We've received a kind financial gift soon to be put towards replacing some of the choir robes and towards musical guests.

James Ruff

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is responsible for ordering the candles, wine, wafers and for dressing the Altar for services.

The colors on the Altar change according to the church calendar that indicates when each season begins: Advent blue, Christmas white, Lent purple, Easter white and Red for the first Sunday in Pentecost. Green is for the rest of the season of Pentecost. The Guild makes these changes.

Decorating the church for Advent, Christmas and Easter is also done by the Altar Guild with help from the Laceys, Mustellos and other members of the church congregation. Polishing the brass vases and candles is done by the Altar Guild.

The flowers used by the church are ordered from Deidre at Millbrook Florist. Donations for flowers help support the budget, also with support from the general fund. Restricted donations to the Altar Guild for flowers, etc. in the amount of \$3,577 helped to offset Altar expenses of \$4,472.

The Guild is in need of new members, who can help before and after each service and at weddings and funerals.

Members are Jean Hayes, retired Director, Lynda Boissey, Marli Higa, Karen Whitton, Susan Nestel, Jimmy Pearson and Lorie Whitely. Lynda takes care of hand and machine repairs to any of the linens, and Susan handles much of the flower responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Quigley, Director

EPISCOPAL COLLEGE OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This summer Fr. Matt, Will Cox, and Val LaRobardier spent a week at Graymoor in Philipstown, NY, for year two of the Episcopal College of Congregational Development, all graduating. Ben York joined us, completing his first year, and adding his talents to the team. We made new friends and reconnected with old ones. All groups made a field trip to a nearby church, a great addition to the curriculum this year. Our small group visited St. Peter's in Peekskill, and we were pleasantly surprised to learn our guide was a friend from our 2023 small group. On the way back to Graymoor we stopped at the historic Old St. Peter's Church in Cortlandt Manor to visit the cemetery and Revolutionary War memorials.

This year's small group included, in addition to the four of us, Patty Glancey and Eric Zavadil from St. James in Hyde Park and Rosa Adotey and Dong Zhang from St. John's in New City. We gained insights on using our interview project from the St. James friends as they shared with us their "Windows on St. James" project using a soup dinner fellowship for sharing parishioner responses—what they liked, what they want to see added or changed. We added tracking and data gathering to our interview project this year, but the team has not increased the responses to the degree we had hoped. We do still plan to use the idea, either as a soup dinner or an after-church brunch. Meanwhile curriculum learning has helped our team with ideas for improving parish life.

Submitted by Valerie LaRobardier

Weekly Grace News

In August of this year, ML Ball embarked on a redesign of Weekly Grace News, the weekly newsletter email, which covers what's happening now, what's coming up, Matt's Musings (the rector's weekly reflection), Grace-ful Information (office hours, contact info, prayer list), ongoing reminders (Godly Play, altar flowers), and the enormously popular section Did You Know...?, featuring fascinating excerpts from Elliott Lindsley's book, *Years of Grace*. Want something included? Contact ML at mlball23@hotmail.com.

Submitted by ML Ball

MILLBROOK COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL AT GRACE

Overview

Every weekday morning, you'll find the grounds of Grace Church humming with the chatter and laughter of the delightful young children who attend its preschool program. They are busy doing everything that children their age should do - enjoying the playground, exploring the outdoors, running, playing in the kitchen, painting, creating worlds with blocks,

experimenting with sand, clay and water, gathering for circle time to share books, games, songs and stories.. Since opening its doors nearly 18 years ago, Millbrook Community Preschool at Grace Church has represented a high-quality and affordable option for families seeking a great first-school experience for their children. Increasingly, the program has come to be seen as a model of best practice in our area, pushing back on the top-down pressures for measurable academic “results” that have crept into many early learning classrooms. Instead, we fully embraced the philosophy that young children learn best through play. At the time of writing, 16 children are enrolled in the program.

Families come to Millbrook Community Preschool both on the strength of word-of-mouth recommendations from alumni families, and through exposure to the school’s website, which showcases the program with a combination of professional photography, video content, and testimonials. The support of the church community and funding partners has allowed the program to evolve and blossom. Tuition assistance through a grant from the Dyson Foundation as well as general program support from the EGCMN Foundation have ensured the school’s continuity, and supports access for struggling families. Approximately one third of those currently enrolled receive some sort of tuition relief, either in the form of full or partial scholarships.

Additionally, the preschool serves as a starting point for families who are struggling with emergent learning needs. Teachers are ever observant, and in regular contact with families. One of the responsibilities of the preschool is to help identify areas where a child is in need of support, and ensure that services are expedited when necessary. We are there for the first, sometimes emotional conversations with parents when learning issues become apparent. Parents know they have our respect, and they reward us with their trust. We are open to hosting evaluations from special education professionals, and invested in helping parents advocate for their children when necessary. We also provide space on the premises during school time for special support services to be facilitated. These early therapeutic interventions give children a huge advantage when making the transition to kindergarten, and life beyond. Currently, we have children in receipt of speech and language, occupational, and physical therapy during schooltime.

Program Strengths

The beautiful physical spaces and play equipment make a consistently strong first impression on prospective families. These include the studio art room, library, cubby and cloakroom, dramatic play and sensory areas, construction playroom, and outdoor playground. All are truly state-of-the-art. These intentionally planned spaces underpin the philosophical approach of the program and align with the latest research on how young children learn best. The school’s mission is to provide spaces where exploration is valued, and the environment is the first teacher. The approach allows for freedom of movement for young children, enticing choices, and long periods of intuitive and uninterrupted play alongside gentle and compassionate adults. In this environment, children learn and thrive.

Roughly half of the children's day is still spent outdoors, distinguishing it from many other early learning programs. There is huge interest and value in this approach. Class projects often take place under the shelter of the outdoor classroom as the rain beats down, even the morning circle can happen as the snow falls. Father Matt recently conducted Chapel while the children were delightedly perched on mountains of snow. This approach has facilitated many thrilling connections between literacy and the natural world. Children arrive dressed for full and active engagement, in whatever clothing the weather demands. They are joined by their teachers in every aspect of play. The program at Grace is unique in that the teachers, like the children, are ready for whatever the day brings. When it snows, we too are in our snowsuits.. The children are encouraged to fully immerse in play, to run freely, pick flowers, jump in puddles, dig in wet earth, and gently catch frogs and worms for observation. There are many clothing changes during the course of the day! The physical and psychological benefits of being outdoors are clear in the strength, confidence and emotional resilience we see growth in the children with each passing week.

Another strength of the program lies in its openness to family connection and engagement. We began the year with a celebration of Chinese New Year. One of our students was joined by his mother and Chinese born grandmother to share a day of fun and cultural learning last winter. We had stories, dumpling-making, and a parade through the school of children in traditional clothing. The spring saw the arrival of many baby animal visitors from our own families' farms. The children were thrilled when piglets chicks make an appearance at the preschool. This was topped only by "Goat Day", when an alumni family brought a small herd of baby goats to play on the playground with the children. This was truly a day to remember, with both varieties of "kid" climbing onto the pirate ship and descending the slide together. Before wrapping up for the summer, our school community gathered in the Tribute Gardens for a Community Picnic which included all generations. This fall, families gathered for a wonderful Halloween Block Party, with dancing, games and trunk-or-treating. Thanksgiving was celebrated across our whole school community with a beautiful Feast that included 50 guests - families, teaching staff old and new, as well as alumni students from Aiden Place, Millbrook Middle and High School who came to volunteer as servers. Christmas was marked with a brunch hosted upstairs in the Parish House by families, who cooked and served a pancake breakfast for children and teachers. The openness of the school to a true partnership with families, and the celebration of the talents, traditions, and cultures from home in the classroom, makes the preschool very unique indeed.

The heart of our program lies in the talented, compassionate and endlessly energetic teaching staff. Each day, we have 3 sessioned teachers present. This seemingly over generous staffing allowance is necessary in ensuring the safety of both children and teachers. One must consider that unlike most programs, which may have other teachers or administrators down the hall in the event of an emergency, we are effectively on our own in the Parish House during school time. Parents obviously love the teacher:child ratios. With the exception of myself, who returned this year as Program Director, and is scheduled each day, our teachers share classroom hours, working 2 or 3 days per week. We are fortunate to have on our sub list teachers that have long been connected with our school. The benefit of having a diverse number of teachers on hand has resulted in a rich experience for the children, as well as a creative and ever evolving curriculum. We are never short of ideas! The positive culture of

support and respect among the teaching staff is an aspect of our program that we acknowledge and treasure. It is evident to the families whose children are in our care. Each day, we model for the children what love and respect look like. Our teachers have had long connections to our school, as staff, parents, or both. Even those who have had to move on, like our beloved former director Deborah Coconis, return for special celebrations at the school. I have been here for 10 years, and three of our current staff have been here since the school opened 18 years ago. The sticking power of our teachers contributes to the sense of shared history, family connection, and personal investment in our program. It is a huge strength. Another enriching member of our teaching staff is of course our own Father Matt. His weekly Chapel sessions take as their starting point a simple Bible story, then move to a song, and a conversation that frequently ends in giggles all around. The lessons of love, kindness and respect that he reinforces each week are another dimension of our program which demonstrate our strong, unique brand of teaching.

Reflection - Looking Forward

The program at Grace continues to surprise me. When reflecting on the future of the preschool last winter, I identified the availability of free, universal preschool programming for 4 year olds as a challenge to our program. At that time, the program at Grace had 14 students enrolled in the program, all in the 3 year old group. For the first time in the history of the school we did not have a 4 year old class. I'm delighted to report that at the time of writing, we have 16 children enrolled in the program, 9 of whom are eligible for universal preschool, but have elected to either return to or enroll as 4 year olds! Of our current student body, 7 children have already committed to return next year.

I believe this trend represents the need for choice in the early learning landscape. In spite of the availability of free, full time early education for the youngest learners, some families see the inherent value in what our program represents. For some, it is the outdoor leaning, play based program which maximizes connection to nature and lots of active learning. For others, it is the gentle start with an emotional environment where the stakes and stress on young children are kept intentionally low, with the importance of the child always trumping the importance of the activity. For others, it is the openness to family involvement, and the opportunities for an extended shared experience of childhood that are afforded to parents and grandparents that wish to keep their children entwined in their life for a little longer. It is the beautiful spaces, the quality of the play equipment, the reputation of the experienced and compassionate staff. It is the non intrusive nature of the scholarship program, and the ease of support to those who need it. Within the non denominational approach, it is the comfort of the weekly Chapel Program, where Father Matt joyfully instills the values of love, kindness and respect each week. These are the qualities that make Millbrook Community Preschool so unique, and as long as we value the idea of choice, are able to ensure program sustainability, and remain adaptable to the changing needs of the community, I believe this program will remain necessary and relevant.

The preschool has required approximately \$30,000 in grant aid to remain operational over the past 4 years. The program wrapped up the year 2023 in budget, and current grant funding will sustain the program for the continuation of the 2024 academic year, again ending

within budget. However, it is imperative that we secure continuity funding for the future in order to remain operational in September 2024. I have reached out to our funding partners to begin a conversation around sustainability, and will rely on the support of the Grace Church community to ensure that this valuable program continues. I sign off with much hope for what the future brings!

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Sarma, Program Director

WOMEN OF GRACE

Our women's fellowship group has still not recovered from the cessation of live meetings during the pandemic. We've had sporadic, but very enjoyable, potluck dinners with a VERY small group. Women of Grace are still quite active as Altar Guild, Vestry, and Invite Welcome Connect members. Many of us also gathered at Karen Quinn's funeral and discussed having a Women of Grace Reunion to get together with those who have moved away. Katherine Mustello suggested having a special meeting catered instead of potluck to reunite the group and bring in new parishioners. This seems like a good idea for 2025!

Submitted by Valerie LaRobardier

Prayer Shawl Ministry Report

Prayer shawls are always available at Grace, thanks to the many hands that volunteer for this mission. This year we gave out a warm sweater to every child that was christened. We also created an afghan for Mother Alison that was given to her at her last service with us. The items are always labeled "Grace Church Prayer Shawl Ministry" and each is blessed before it is presented. There may only be a few people who regularly create items for this ministry but many hand-crafted items are given out every year thanks to their hard work. I would especially like to thank Lynda Boissey for taking inventory and affixing labels, and Pat Creswell for always coming through when we need something. If you would like to start making items for this ministry, please reach out to Katherine Mustello kmustello@optonline.net

Invite Welcome Connect

Invite, Welcome, Connect, started in 2019, had another successful year in 2024. We remained solid with existing members and brainstormed some new ideas. Current members include Cindy Guardiola, Val Larobardier, Cathy Shanks, Marian Thompson, Beth Willis and Amanda Williams.

In February, we again held our Cabin Fever event. This year, we made the event free to attend and welcomed donations to raise money for an upcoming Grace Youth Group's Pilgrimage to St.

John the Divine. There were more kids in attendance than the last Cabin Fever event and more attendees overall. Many were dressed in lumberjack attire and everyone enjoyed the games and chili selection.

In the spring, we held a Paint and Sip fundraiser. There were a dozen attendees, both from the parish and the community. The talented Theresa Yatsko led the painting session with detailed step-by-step instructions. We painted beautiful nature scenes with spring flowers on a mountainside and snacked on some tasty small bites. Proceeds from the event went to the Alter Guild.

In the fall, we participated in Millbrook's Community Day with a booth along Franklin Avenue. Our group made and handed out goodie bags to kids and shared information about Grace Church to people who stopped by. Like last year, all the goodie bags were gone before the end of the event!

Throughout the year, IWC members also assisted other committees with various church functions including the Rummage Sale and St. Nicholas Bazaar. Looking forward to 2025, we anticipate planning more events that invite, welcome and connect our parish members and the greater community. If anyone is interested in joining our small, but mighty team, please reach out to one of us.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Williams

Grace Church Lunchbox Mission

Grace continues to serve meals at Dutchess Outreach on the last Sunday of the month. When the program started, many decades ago, there were typically around 60 patrons. Now, we serve well over 210 meals on Sunday, up from an average of 120 in 2023. The patrons express their gratitude and thanks for the Grace Church volunteers preparing and serving the meals. The Veterans home in Poughkeepsie often sends a volunteer to deliver meals to them.

Our meals are prepared fresh, and typically consist of pasta with meat sauce, mixed vegetables, buttered bread, a dessert, milk, water, fruit and a breakfast bar for the next morning. The average monthly cost of the food purchased by Grace is \$425. We would welcome your monetary contributions to support this much needed mission.

We would like to thank Ron and Katherine Mustello, Thea Scotti, Susan Nestle, Linda Kolts, Jonathan Boice, Will, Aidan and Evan Cox, James and Nina Prudden, the Hackbarths, and Marc Boisse for all their help this past year!

If you have any questions about contributions or volunteering, please reach out to us!

Respectfully,
Lisa and John Lacey

For the Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Church

Let us pray.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were being cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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