



2019 ANNUAL REPORT
of
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
New Bedford, Massachusetts

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MISSION STATEMENT

As a Christian community, we seek to know, glorify, and serve God.
We do this through:

WORSHIP

by using traditional and contemporary forms of liturgy with prayer and guidance;

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

by teaching the love of Jesus Christ through scripture, education,
and daily life applications;

FELLOWSHIP

by nurturing and supporting each other; and

OUTREACH

by being Jesus' heart, voice, hands, and feet in our community and the world.

We invite you:
Whoever you are;
Wherever you are on your journey of faith;
Come to the table and receive the supper of the Lamb.

A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

O God, our heavenly Father, graciously behold this congregation. Bind together its members with cords of friendliness and sympathy. Give us the vision of our common duty to Church and State and make us glad and strong in the doing of it. By all the memories of a great past, rouse us to hear the calls of the present. Grant wisdom, courage, and patience to our leaders, and fill us all with the spirit of loving service; that whatsoever we do in word or deed may be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, through whom we offer this our prayer.

Amen.

GRACE CHURCH GOALS

YOUTH MINISTRY - Re-envision Grace's program for the youth of the parish and the greater New Bedford community and develop an overarching framework for growth and maintenance of the program. This includes: 1) to hire and continuously fund the position of a full time Assistant Rector/Curate with oversight of the program; 2) identify appropriate structure for the program and provide appropriate resources to support it; 3) ensure an appropriate number of program mentors and succession planning for their replacement; and 4) support the growth of our youth outreach activities and involvement in the life of our parish.

INCORPORATION - Increase the involvement of all parishioners in Grace's programs by mentoring their interests and strengths. Continue to grow a new members program that welcomes all and provides avenues for their involvement in the richness of life of the parish community. Develop offerings representative of the diversity of the greater New Bedford community. Improve communication of the parish's organizational structure and needs in all areas including worship, formation, music and outreach, in order to support increased involvement by all.

OUTREACH/MISSION - Expand services and support for the local community and the world as a whole by nurturing the body, mind and soul. Open our hearts and minds to opportunities to continuously fulfill the needs of those who are vulnerable or on the fringes of our society and nurture programs of support. Support and grow, with our time, talents and treasures, existing programs that assist those in need.

FACILITIES - Continue to make capital improvements to provide a safe, secure and efficient environment within and outside of our church buildings for the use of the parish and the community at large. Make major repairs and raise funding for the projects' completion. Develop an ongoing maintenance plan for church facilities in order to conscientiously budget for work required over the coming years. Recognizing Grace's unique position in the community, ensure that our facilities are available, for generations to come, for worship, formation, outreach/mission programs, fellowship and general use by the Greater New Bedford community.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY – Concentrate on bringing our operational expenses in line with our income without a disproportionate reliance on non-operational funds. Better educate ourselves on the church's budget and accounts in order to bring about an improved understanding of the financial resources required to support a congregation with a commitment to its worship and formation programs as well as the needs of those we serve in the community and beyond. Promote discussion of our Endowment and how it can be grown and used to support our ongoing needs.

PAROCHIAL STATISTICS

Baptized Members: **651** Communicants: **489** Confirmation/Reception: **14**
Baptisms: **7** Youth Group: **19** Church School Enrollment: **23**

REGISTER OF CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist: Sundays: **144** Weekdays: **51** Private: **112**
Other Services: **17** Marriages: **1** Burials: **15** Total Services: **340**
Average Attendance: Saturday / Sunday Services: **180** Wednesday Morning Services: **8**

THE VESTRY 2019

Senior Warden	Jean Pitcairn
Junior Warden	Charles Green
Treasurer	Sharlene Begley
Assistant Treasurer	Roberta Iglar
Clerk	Diana Ukleja

Vestrypersons

Term expires 2020: John Evans, Nadine Gomes, Michael Goulart, Ryan Shea
Term expires 2021: Kathleen Ferreira, Judy Knox, Elizabeth Pye, Dana Sargent
Term expires 2022: Travis Bowie, Rob DaSilva, Maureen Decker

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Christopher R. Morck, Rector ¹	The Rev. Randall Chase, Sabbatical Priest ²
Brian Roderick, Director of Music	Donna Pires, After School Program Director ³
Katie Brengle, Parish Administrator	Patrick Victor, Sexton

¹ The Rector was on sabbatical from August 26th to January 7th.

² The Rev. Mr. Chase served as sabbatical priest from August 26th to January 13th.

³ Donna resigned in August 2019

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 10, 2019

Call to Order and Prayer

The Rev Chris Morck opened the meeting with prayer.

Reflection

Rev. Chris offered a reflection on the theme of sabbath and solitude, the text of which will appear in the March-April Grace Notes. There will be a forum on his sabbatical at a later time.

Refer to the Warrant

The warrant, which has been posted on the doors of the church and published online in the Enews and the website, was referred to but not read aloud.

Chris asked Diana Ukleja, Clerk, if there was a quorum; yes.

Approve the Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting

Chris asked for a motion to approve the 2018 Annual Report; Moved, Seconded, Approved (MSA) [*See further below for corrections to the annual report*]

Budget

The 2019 budget was passed in November and we are currently working from that. After conversation in January, we voted to redraft it. We are at the end of that process. The financial portion of the Annual Meeting will be done at a Special Parish Meeting, as soon as possible after that process is completed.

Nominating Committee Report

Sharlene thanked the Nominating Committee, made up of outgoing Treasurers, Wardens and Rector, for their work and announced the nominees for officer positions and vestry, asking each to stand. She asked for nominations from floor; there were none.

In addition, Eric Jaikes has agreed to serve as a representative to the Interchurch Council and Charlene Ryder has agreed to serve as a deanery representative. Five openings to the deanery and two for the Episcopal City Mission remain. Volunteers are invited for any of the open positions.

Sharlene asked for a motion to approve the slate of nominees, representatives and delegates;
MSA

Recognition of Retiring Vestry and Officers

Chris asked all current Vestry members and officers as well as the newly elected to come to the front. He thanked the outgoing Vestry members who were present, Kristen Morgan, Pat Nieman, and Roxanne Garcia, for their service to Grace. He recognized Sharlene Begley's four

years of service as Senior Warden, Charlie Capizano and Ruth Jolliffe for their service as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, and Scott Cook for his service on the Vestry.

Commissioning of the Vestry

The new and current Vestry members were commissioned, with Sharlene Begley taking the role of senior warden in place of the newly elected Jean Pitcairn, who could not be present. A copy of the commission document can be found on the website, under Events / 2019 Annual Meeting.

Lunch with Discussion from Wardens

Sharlene thanked Rev. Ran for all he did for us while Chris was on sabbatical. She also thanked Charlene Ryder and all those downstairs who are entertaining the children at Kid's Jam. Not least, she thanked the retiring vestry members and all who helped set up and serve the meal today.

She invited everyone to return for the Special Parish Meeting in a few weeks.

Questions and comments: In the Senior Warden's report, she mentions the need for additional paid support in the office. Several comments indicated that the need for additional financial support was particularly acute; one comment specified the need for a full-time financial secretary.

Charlie Green said that this has been a challenging year for him as Junior Warden. He noted that in our Goals, the fourth goal is about our facilities, which we share with the community. He has been asked "When will we stop spending money on the church?" – his answer is "Never." Team Property will not continue as a group that meets, but he will continue to call on people to help as needed when there is work to be done. If you see something that needs to be done, please let him know. If there is anyone who wishes to volunteer to oversee maintenance for a particular area, in the spirit of "adopt a highway", please let him know.

Questions and comments: What's the next big project? The rubber roof over the chapel; the extent of needed repairs is not yet known.

Feedback on the Annual Report

Chris referred attendees to the Annual Report, published and available for the past week, and expressed his hope that everyone has read it. Chris welcomed anyone with additional information to speak or anyone with questions about any part of the Annual Report to feel free to ask him, either during the meeting or after.

Corrections to the Annual Report

Some early printed versions had the 2018 Vestry nominees' names in place of the 2019 names. A later version, and the online version, have been corrected.

The online version and both printed versions unintentionally omit two Vestry votes from the November 2018 meeting, where both the church and the GASSP budget were approved.

Bittersweet Bazaar

Betsy Pye provided an update on the receipts from the Bittersweet Bazaar and the disbursements. Next year, on November 9th, at the 40th and FINAL Bazaar, Grandma's Attic will return.

The net was \$9400. Disbursements:

\$5000	Roof repair
\$1500	Pastoral Leadership
\$500	each to Community Breakfast, Laundry Love, Martha's Pantry at Grace, Youth and Children's ministries

Betsy invited everyone to plan to help out, with donations and help on the ground, before, during and after.

Motion to accept the report as corrected and place on file. **MSA**

[Note that we thus also accept the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting, included in the report.]

Final Thoughts

Betsy Pye commented about volunteers – the office could use more hands and asked for acknowledgement of the many hours contributed by Jerré Croteau, in the office, as organizer of liturgical matters and garden gnome-in-chief.

Norma Bosse recognized the many hours Charlie Green has spent here as Junior Warden.

Chris asked for all who can to stay and help with cleanup.

Closing Prayer

Rev. Chris closed the meeting with prayer.

Motion to Adjourn

Chris asked for a motion to adjourn. **MSA**

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Ukleja, Clerk

SPECIAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 31, 2019

The Rev. Chris Morck opened the meeting with prayer.

Diana Ukleja, Clerk of the Vestry, declared that a quorum of 25 members was present.

Rev. Chris called upon the treasurer and wardens for the presentation on the financial conditions of the parish, in accordance with our bylaws, Article VIII, Section 1.

Sharlene Begley, Treasurer, presented the 2018 financial report; copies are available separately. She noted that there is an excess of over \$21,000 of income over expenses; at its March meeting, the Vestry voted to move this money into the Pastoral Leadership fund. Money was also added to capital improvements; the Junior Warden has noted that the chapel roof will need to be replaced.

Questions:

How many times was the 2019 budget revised? Once. Normally, there would be no revision; this was due to the way that the sabbatical had been expensed.

Who creates the budget? The Vestry, the finance committee, and the treasurers.

What's happened in the office? The administrative assistant works part time; a bookkeeper comes in once a week; several volunteers flesh out the office staff. The commenter believes that a full-time person is needed to handle financial matters. The new signing policy was discussed, which no longer requires two signatures for outgoing checks under a certain amount. This is in accordance with diocesan recommendations

Monthly reports have not been posted. The Clerk acknowledged that this wasn't done for the first part of 2018 but has been current since the fall.

Who does the audit? Last year, it was Terry Robinson. His report becomes part of the Vestry minutes and is posted with the minutes. The 2018 audit is scheduled for June 2019. The commenter expressed his belief that the audit should be done for the annual meeting.

What is the Riley fund? A fund set up by former members to benefit the annual operating expenses.

What are the key differences between the 2019 budget as approved by the Vestry in November and the budget presented today, approved by the Vestry in February?

- Retain the 5% draw from the unrestricted endowment using the calculation as historically done

- Set aside significant funding for Pastoral Leadership
- More funding is allocated for capital items (specific building needs)
- Retain funding for Children and Youth ministries
- Changed some line items in accordance with input from the holders of those budget lines
- Reduced the Rector's salary to the diocesan required minimum

Where is the money that goes to scholarships? It is not part of the operating budget. The commenter believes that this should be presented to the parish; the treasurer agrees.

When Rosemary, Grace's former administrative assistant, planned her retirement, we reviewed office scheduling; we then had 79 hours a week with three staff. Very few parishes in the diocese have a full-time finance person. A former treasurer commented that in his period of service we had a designated finance person for whom we did not have enough work.

Rev. Chris summarized the work we went through at that time, which was documented in Grace Notes and presented at Annual Meetings. We could not find one candidate who had the full set of skills required, which led to the hiring of a bookkeeper, who handles the financial reports and the payroll. The part-time position which managed the discretionary fund was eliminated when the person who did that so well passed away; this is now handled, most capably, by volunteers. At the same time as the staffing was reviewed and revised, we shifted from the Shelby system to Quick Books; this transition did not work well. We are now in a very good position as regards the management of the office and of our finances.

Jean Pitcairn, the Senior Warden, commented that she views this transition as good stewardship of our funds.

Rev. Chris noted that we continually reevaluate the work being done in the office. We may need more hours in the future from the administrative assistant, not because of financial issues, but because of the heavy volunteer load. Leaflet preparation is a recurring example—Jerré Croteau is doing this now and spends many hours in the office each week.

Billy Boyce shared that, in his roles at the diocesan level, he has seen twelve parishes closed in the past year, and we are nowhere near that. Indeed, we are 5th or 6th largest in the diocese in financial terms, and our level of oversight is far beyond what he has seen elsewhere.

Sharlene urged anyone with questions to ask them; if the reports you expect to see are not posted, ask about that. She invited anyone interested to join the Finance Committee, which will now be meeting quarterly.

It was suggested that the work of the office volunteers should be publicly acknowledged.

Sharlene moved that the parish adopt and place on file the report of the parish financials, as an

addendum to the 2018 Annual Report. Moved, Seconded, Accepted (**MSA**)

Rev Chris asked if there was any additional business; hearing none, he invited a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made to adjourn the special parish meeting. **MSA**

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Ukleja, Clerk

2020 NOMINATION SLATE

Officers

Senior Warden	Jean Pitcairn
Junior Warden	Charlie Green
Treasurer	Sharlene Begley
Assistant Treasurer	Roberta Iglar
Clerk	Diana Ukleja

3 Year Vestry Term, 2020-2023 (four)

1. Cheryl Gammell
2. James Doe
3. Beth Sharp-McKay
4. Lisa Thibeault

2 Year Vestry Term, 2020-2022 (one)

1. Sean Corwin

Convention Delegates (two)

1. Anne Gundersen
2. Diana Ukleja

Convention Alternates (two)

1. Allen Decker

Deanery Representatives (five)

1. Charlene Ryder
2. Mike Goulart
3. Ryan Shea

Episcopal City Mission Representatives (two)

1. Roberta Iglar

Inter-Church Council (one)

1. Eric Jaikes

Teller (one)

1. Norma Bossé

RECTOR ANNUAL REPORT

As we end one year and begin another together, I want to start by inviting you to please share with the vestry and me how you are experiencing the journey and what you are seeing, hearing, and feeling about God's call on our common life as you pray, work, and fellowship here at Grace Church.

This past year has seen some significant change at Grace. One long-standing program, the Grace After-School and Summer Program, has closed gracefully while a 40-year annual tradition, the Bittersweet Bazaar, has come to a very successful end. We have even had a change in our worship ceremonies as our Epiphany service, Festival of Lights, moved into the Sunday, 10am service.

Change this year is not only in endings, but also in beginnings. We witnessed the start of both Lenten and monthly Taizé services and a new parishioner-initiated Umbrella ministry which includes "Christ in the Kitchen" and ridesharing. The impact is already being felt as we strengthen our relationships and care for one another.

Another change is in the emphasis of Grace's leadership as we make an intentional pivot from a focus on finances and our building (which, yes, will always be important) to the nurturing and nourishing of the community we are, while we continue to minister to the wider community of which we are a part.

Of course, this past year of change follows the last several which included significant adjustments in our parish administration, financial system, and personnel... even our office hours. We welcomed new ministry like Laundry Love and bid farewell to long-standing traditions and programs like the Thrift Shop. There have even been remarkable aesthetic changes, like a new steeple and office area.

This has all resulted, I believe, in Grace Church being in a better place to continue and grow its ministry. Yet, in the midst of endings and beginnings, we naturally could feel a sense of instability, even distress or grief, as change happens and our sense of identity shifts.

In other words, it could feel like we are on the J Curve.

The Rev. Scott Stoner speaks of the J Curve as a particularly helpful concept to explain why change, whether planned or unplanned, creates stress and uncertainty.

As you can see on the graph, the J Curve has a vertical axis, "Stability", and a horizontal axis, "Openness/Growth".



Especially when positive change is planned and freely chosen, the dotted line shows the trajectory we expect to see or, at the least, would like to see - a path where each day we experience increased feelings of both stability and growth.

While we expect planned change to follow that path, the reality is that all change, not just unplanned or negative change but even positive change, initially creates a period of instability. This is shown on the curve, as the initial movement toward openness and growth is accompanied by an initial decrease in stability.

The Rev. Stoner uses the example of the Exodus, when Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. The people choose to leave and, understandably, are excited to set out on the journey to freedom. But after they set off, the people get frustrated. The journey is not what they had expected, and they want to turn back. This is the bottom of their J Curve as they yearn for the stability of the past, of the status quo. Of course, they are led by Moses to continue on and they eventually enter a new season of fruitfulness.

We know how that story turns out. In another story we can only imagine. It is in John 9 that we hear of Jesus healing a man born blind. Presumably, the man desired healing and this miracle was a welcomed, life-giving opportunity for him. It sounds great! Yet, the instability that this miracle effects in his life would have been tremendous. Healing means radical change - to old patterns, identity, ways of doing things, that which was familiar. In his case, it even would have altered his livelihood. What is known and what “worked” doesn’t work anymore. Jesus gives him his sight, and now he has to do the heavy lifting of living into a new way of being and letting go of the old.

At first, all change creates instability and yet to experience the fruits of growth we must be willing to persevere through the discomfort and stress that naturally come with this. As the Rev. Stoner puts it:

Such perseverance is greatly aided by the support of others and by the support of one's hope and knowledge that such times of stress and change are not signs that things are falling apart, but rather are signs that things are coming together in a new and different way. This very understanding can help us develop the patience and perspective needed to move through the challenging times of transition, planned and unplanned, that we all face.

What might this mean for Grace Church? For one, the J Curve could help us to reflect on all of the changes that have happened in our common life during the last few years, where we are now, and where the Spirit could be leading us.

It also highlights that successfully navigating the J Curve depends on us – on all of us. We are called to continue the journey while expectantly listening and fruitfully sharing together. As we prayerfully support each other, I truly believe that we are moving into a new place of stability, openness to new opportunities, and growth in its many forms. We are even experiencing some

of this right now.

These past years have been a wonderful time of ministry. It is so good to be together as we continue to discern and follow where God is leading us in the future!

With gratitude,
Chris +

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

I would like to start my report at the end. It has been a year of growth and change for Grace and that always presents its own sets of challenges for our parish. But what I have grown to know about our Grace family is that we are a group of caring, dedicated, loving people who are completely signed up for the challenges, the growth, and the discomfort that comes with growth and change because we are stronger on the other end. It has been a year of learning of the incredible talent and devotion so many have to making Grace a community that continues to look for ways to live our lives in the fullness of Christ and with an openness of what God has for us. So, thank you Wardens, Officers, Vestry, Lay Leadership, Volunteers, Parents, Families, and every Parishioner for being present with one another on our journey together.

When Chris asked if I would consider being Senior Warden, I did hesitate some. Those who have gone before having done an amazing job of steering Grace through many challenges and opportunities with great skill and dedication. Quite frankly I was not sure I was the right choice. I am not a Grace cradle Episcopalian and do not know all of the many connections that others do. But I have raised my family here, and have been blessed with so much, that with gratitude I hope to be able to give back a small amount of the many gifts my family and I have received. The only possible way that I have been able to serve as Senior Warden is with the incredible continued efforts of the existing leadership, starting with Sharlene Begley, Charlie Green, Roberta Iglar, Diana Ukleja, and Betsy Pye. And the second gift is that we have a vestry of individuals who are deeply committed to collaboration, discussion, carefrontation when we have different opinions, and a deep love for Grace and God's world. To that end we have accomplished many things in a short period of time. We have hosted the Presiding Bishop and our local community with incredible hospitality and openness. Charlene Ryder and others helped the Gay Men's Chorus concert be not only successful but remind us how valuable we are in our greater New Bedford Community. We have hosted Confirmation for the Deanery; Betsy Pye, Trish Morck and Mark Jeffries brought about the most successful Bittersweet Bazar to date. We have continued our many outreach opportunities as well as welcomed new ones like Christ in the Kitchen. But what is invisible and seamless in all these opportunities is the effort of so many behind the scenes- many hands make light work! What inspires me through all of this is that being a member of Grace regardless of what your involvement might be, is an opportunity for collaboration, to learn about the many gifts of others, and to participate as you

are able in the work God has given us to do.

So, I said I began at the end because the end of this season reflects what has occurred and supposedly the point of this report. But really it is a brief reflection of what is to come. There is much that lies in front of us- opportunities we see and those yet to be revealed; challenges that are acknowledged and ones we will discover; times for celebration and times for grieving; and yet all of it to be openly embraced because we have this loving community who can walk together in collaboration.

Practically speaking what do I see that we are building on from the past year? As I read last year's Senior Warden report from Sharlene Begley, I would say we are continuing many of the same efforts. Chris has led us and walked beside us with great humility and care. But there is a lot to be done and we need to continue to be fully committed to adding a second clergy person. Putting it quite simply, he needs the help. Our youth program has been gifted with amazing volunteer mentors, but we still need to find ways to support their leadership and nurture their ministry. We have closed several chapters at Grace- the After-School Program and the Bittersweet Bazaar- leaving space for what will Grace move toward next. How will we nurture ourselves and our community? What are our needs? How do we stay connected to each other and learn how to be together in this ever-challenging fast-paced world? Do we know our fellow parishioners, and do we know our neighbors? What are the places that we all can show our gratitude for our Grace family and ask for the support of our Church Family when we are in need? So, I end with the beginning – please prayerfully consider where you see yourself and Grace in the next year. And then I invite you to talk with your leadership team to help us continue to grow together in a deeper understanding of God's call to us as individuals and as a community.

With deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve, respectfully submitted
Jean Pitcairn, Sr Warden

HIGHLIGHTS OF VESTRY ACTIONS

January 5th, 2019: The Vestry approved the serving of beer and wine at the parish supper scheduled for January 12th, by EVote.

January 11th, 2019: The Vestry approved the Nominating Committee's recommendation of Roberta Iglar for Assistant Treasurer, following the withdrawal of the previous nominee, by EVote.

January 14th, 2019: The Vestry voted to have the Rector, with a small group, develop a revised budget.

January 30th, 2019: The Vestry approved the overage of \$844.23 spent from the Laundry Love equity fund.

The Vestry approved the disbursement of the Bittersweet Bazaar income as described:

- \$5000 Roof repair
- \$1500 Pastoral Leadership
- \$500 each to Community Breakfast, Laundry Love, Martha's Pantry at Grace, Youth and Children's ministries

The Vestry voted to put a \$5000 bequest into the Unrestricted account of the Endowment.

February 10th, 2019: At the Annual Meeting, the slate of nominees, representatives and delegates was approved. The Annual report as corrected was accepted and placed on file.

February 27th, 2019: The Vestry voted to use \$800 from the Outreach Equity Fund to offset the increased cost of coffee to our ministries in 2019, bringing us into line with the diocesan resolution recommending that all parishes use free trade coffee.

The Vestry voted to pre-approve 2019 expenditures, for the designated purposes, from the following Grace Church Equity funds within the stated parameters:

<u>Equity Fund</u>	<u>Total Max Expenditure Amount for 2019</u>
Laundry Love	\$8500
Outreach	\$1100
Music Concert Fund	Up to the balance in the account
Community Breakfast	\$6000
Bazaar	Up to the balance in the account
Organist/Continuing Education	Up to the balance in the account
Youth Program	\$5000
Pilgrimage	Up to the balance in the account
Martha's Pantry	\$13,000

The Vestry voted to approve the use of \$20,751 from the Operating Fund for the purpose of funding the balance of the cost of replacing the Grace House roof.

The Vestry approved a policy that requires only one signature on Grace/GASSP checks that of one of the Treasurers, except for checks over \$2000, when the source of the funds is a Grace equity fund. For checks over \$2000, when the source of the funds is a Grace equity fund, two signatures, a treasurer and another officer, which could be the other treasurer, will be required. A monthly report listing all Grace/GASSP checks issued shall be provided to the Rector and Wardens. This policy does not apply to checks written for the Rector's Discretionary Fund, ECW or Martha's Pantry. This policy replaces any previous check signing policies. The

Vestry voted to approve the revised budget as distributed.

The Vestry voted to call a special parish meeting at which the Treasurers will present the 2018 financials and the revised budget following at the 10 am service, at 11 am on Sunday, March 31st.

March 27th, 2019: The Vestry voted to approve allocation of balance of funds in Clean South Room Rug Equity Fund, \$330.91, towards summer 2018 cleaning of church rugs.

The Vestry voted to move the excess income in the approved 2019 budget to the Pastoral Leadership fund.

March 31st, 2019: At the Special Parish Meeting, those present voted to adopt the report of the parish financials and place it on file as an addendum to the 2018 Annual Report.

May 1st, 2019: The Vestry heard several presentations on the Living Compass program and voted to approve the parochial report as amended.

May 29th, 2019: The Vestry voted to thank Ruth Jolliffe for her service as assistant treasurer and vestry person.

June 19th, 2019: The Vestry voted to approve expenditures above the budgeted amounts for the following categories up to the limits stated below:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Revised Expenditure Limit</u>
Sexton Supplies	\$ 2500
Gas/Church	\$15,000
Gas/Rectory	\$ 2500

[The Junior Warden's report noted that the Gas and Electric increases are requested mainly due to December 2018 invoices that were paid in January 2019, while the sexton supplies increase was due to multiple factors, including our three spring cleanup days.]

The vestry voted to remove monies for all ministry funds previously invested with the DIT investment vehicles and to place them in accounts that ensure maintenance of principal, pending review and recommendation by the Finance Committee as to the type of account they should be placed in, so long as there are no penalties; should there be penalties, a follow up Evote will be required.

August 28th, 2019: The Vestry passed a motion of appreciation for the service of Donna Pires, the staff and the advisory board members over the twenty years of the Grace After School and Summer Program.

The Vestry voted unanimously to close the Grace After School and Summer Program (GASSP).

September 25th, 2019: The Vestry voted to approve expenditures, above the budgeted amounts, for the following categories, up to the limits stated below:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Revised Expenditure Limit</u>
Rector Travel Allowance	\$ 1200
Payroll Service Fees	\$ 1150
Church Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 20,000
Security/Fire Alarm	\$ 3500
Rectory Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 3000

The Vestry voted to accept a \$5000 grant from the Karina Foundation with the stipulation it will be used as follows:

\$ 2500 for the benefit of the Pastoral Leadership Fund
\$ 2500 for the benefit of the Unrestricted Endowment Fund

The Vestry voted to approve allocation of the balance (\$1700) cost of refinishing the Library floor, after direct donations of \$1000, to the Outreach Ministry Fund.

October 30th, 2019: The Vestry voted to accept a \$4500 gift from St Aiden's Chapel and allocates it to the Outreach Fund with the understanding it can be used for indirect (like building) costs associated with our Outreach efforts.

The Vestry voted that all funds remaining in the GASSP accounts, after final reconciliation, be transferred to the Grace bank account and allocated to the church's Building Fund.
(Note: It appears this will be about \$5000.)

November 20th, 2019: The Vestry voted to approve expenditures, above the budgeted amounts, for the following categories, up to the limits stated below:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Revised Expenditure Limit</u>
Rectory Electric	\$ 1300
Church Security/Fire Alarm	\$ 4500
Web Site	\$ 850
Rectory Telephone/Internet	\$ 1320

The Vestry voted to accept the 2020 budget, pending approval at the Annual Meeting.

[The December meeting was cancelled in favor of an E-Vote to approve the Nomination slate.]

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Ukleja, Clerk

ALTAR GUILD

The Mission of the Grace Church Altar Guild is:

To prepare for the worship of the Church as directed by the clergy; to provide for suitable furnishing and decoration of the Altar, and to take due and reverent care of its appointments; and to care for the font.

The ideals and general rules governing the Altar Guild:

Participation of equal status on the basis of inclination, talents, ability with consideration for traditional weekend rotation of existing members.

All are called "Sacristans", The hierarchical titles Directress, Subdirectress, Subdirector, Chairperson will no longer be used.

There is no set number of members, no age or sex limitation to membership. Any member may help with training new members. Patience, understanding and recognition of physical or temporal limitations are required of all members. No rules are written in stone. When in doubt common sense should govern.

Weekend prep may be done on Friday or Saturday, at members' discretion and mutual agreement.

All members are invited to help on any Sunday or Wednesday that they are present and may trade and substitute for others by prior arrangement as needed.

A notebook is kept in the sacristy to record changes in procedures or as reminders. Any member who is first informed may enter the information as briefly as possible, in this notebook, for any member to consult when setting up. Temporary changes for a specific week would be posted with post-its on the notebook, to be discarded after time affected elapses.

If supplies are needed, all are invited to inform the sacristan who does the ordering.

Budget submission and monitoring will be the responsibility of the sacristan who volunteers as treasurer, the sacristan ordering supplies, with one other member who may be interested in helping with this. The committee will meet approximately four times a year to monitor expenses and to submit the budget.

Problems should be worked out by the members among themselves, only major questions or problems being referred to the Rector's consideration.

Periodic meetings of the members of the Altar Guild will take place at least once a year when called by the Rector. Meetings for a specific purpose may be requested of the Rector as a need may arise.

Recognition of members of the Altar Guild and commissioning of new members of the Altar Guild will be scheduled on the rota and take place on a Sunday, in the same way that members of other guilds and organizations are done during the year.

The Altar Guild is in need of new members, anyone interested in the details of liturgical preparation, please contact the clergy. The existing members are thanked for their loyal service to the guild.

Submitted by, Jerré Croteau, Sacristan

BITTERSWEET BAZAAR

Forty years is a long time for an undertaking such as the Bittersweet Bazaar – and this year’s event truly exceeded our expectation – to go out with a bang!

Mark Jeffrey thoughtfully arranged and exceeded a heart-warming gathering at the Wamsutta Club on the night before the Bittersweet Bazaar, bringing together generations of Grace to reminisce and celebrate.

Mark and his crew assembled an awesome Silent Auction; as usual, it drew a crowd and raised the lion’s share of funds. Thanks to Jim and Diane Doe for organizing and staffing the Chinese Auction – and a special shout-out to Kingsley Doe for delivering all the tables used in Rodman Hall! The Episcopal Church Women of Grace did a wonderful job of recruiting bakers and treats for the Baked Goods table!

Eric Jaikes permitted us to crown him “Chair” of Grace Market and Country Store – just this once – and did a masterful job with assistance from Mike and Karen Goulart and Andy Sylvia. Travis Bowie had her heart set on a Plant Table, so she pulled it together and persuaded her friend Lori Anderson to help! Gwen Skinner and Jane Garcia not only retained their perennial place, presiding over the Raffles, they contributed the Christmas Extravaganza basket to boot! Ann Kenney and Diana Bullard did a beautiful job with the Crafts and Holiday table, while Pamela Souza handled Jewelry sales, with a little help from her friends (and family)! Charlene Ryder organized a crew of money collectors – Patti Bedard, Courtney Botelho, Jessica Cabral, Nadine Gomes, Andrea Medeiros, Mei Mak and Pauline Roderiques – and Billy Boyce recorded all the data. Thank you to Zelinda Douhan for her expertise with advertising and promotion, as well as greeting guests, along with Jeanne Greenhalgh, in the School Street entry.

A big hurrah for Lunch! Jean Brown and our Youth kept the lunchroom humming, while Kathy

Ferreira, Jean Pitcairn, Pat Gonneville, Len Boyce and many others created and delivered a tempting menu for all who visited – or worked – at the Bittersweet Bazaar.

Starting on July 13, seven drop-off Saturdays gave parishioners lots of opportunities to clean out their useful, no longer needed household items for Grandma’s Attic – and we had an abundance! For days afterward, leftovers were packed for local non-profits, including the thrift shop of St. Luke’s parish in Fall River, Project Independence in New Bedford, and – our personal favorite – Savers! A debt of gratitude is owed to Michael Jodoin and Judy Knox who unpacked it all and arranged it for sale. The “Furniture Gallery” in the Food Pantry storeroom was a big hit, with Beth Sharp McKay and Brenda Sylvia in charge. Grandma’s Attic hummed with activity and ran very smoothly thanks to the assistance of Louise Kelly, Judy Knox, Charlene Nelson and Holly Cipriani.

To all our sponsors – named and anonymous – a great big Thank You! By underwriting and offsetting costs, you made the 40th – and Final – Bittersweet Bazaar a phenomenal success! And to all of you who donated, who helped, who attended – our heartfelt gratitude. Well done, Grace Episcopal Church – we couldn’t have done it without you!

Betsy Pye and Trish Morck, Co-Chairs

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

A total of 23 students are enrolled this year in Church School: seven in PreK/K/1, taught by Pamela Souza, Mimi Monteiro, Courtney Botelho, Andrea Medeiros and Nadine Gomes; six in Grade 2-3, taught by Patti Bedard, Mark Bernardo and Erin Mingola; ten in Grades 4/5/6, taught by Charlene Ryder and Jessica Cabral.

We used the “Holy Moly” and “Connect” curriculum during our Winter/Spring semester in 2019. In September we began using Spark Classroom Curriculum. This curriculum explores stories from Genesis to Paul’s letters in a two-year cycle. Children’s Chapel during the 10:00am service uses Godly Play teaching modules, and several have been added to our inventory this year.

The three classes have joined together in many hands-on activities this year, from making Mother Day’s tissue paper flowers for all the women in our parish to filling baggies with pet treats before the Feast of St. Francis. During our December Kids’ JAM the children made gifts for their parents, enjoyed pizza and garlic bread and played many games.

In August, the teachers and children hosted a parish wide event. We gathered together for a cookout and being together in community. The children enjoyed many outdoor games. The food was delicious with many volunteers grilling and serving. Everyone had a wonderful time!

If you are interested in learning more about the Children’s Programs or registering your

child(ren) for church school, please let me know.

Respectively submitted,
Charlene N. Ryder, Coordinator

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

The Community Breakfast Program provides a hot breakfast to the homeless and needy in the New Bedford community every Sunday morning. This breakfast is the only free community meal available on Sunday mornings and we typically serve 50 to 70 people each week.

We have a core group of 5 to 7 volunteers who volunteer each week. Another fifteen plus people volunteer throughout the year. Some of these people are parishioners (individuals and families) while others are non-church members from the community who have heard of our work.

Some of our customers are also volunteers, who want to give back at the breakfast, either with setup (i.e. putting placemats and utensils on the table) to cleanup (i.e. sweeping and mopping floors, cleaning bathrooms and taking out trash and recycling). And, some of our customer/volunteers, have also attended church services at Grace.

At various times throughout the year, we have received discounted or free (when available) supplies from the Boston Food Bank. This includes free eggs and low-cost cereal, ketchup, syrup, pancake mix and sausages. Every Saturday we receive day old baked goods from Stop and Shop (Dartmouth Street location) in New Bedford. These items are free and include breads, muffins, cakes, pies, cookies and other desserts.

The baked goods are served to our customers with coffee and bread products, when we open our doors at 6:30AM (one hour before our hot breakfast). These baked goods are very beneficial to those who are hungry and/or have missed a meal, as well as for those who just want to show up for the baked goods and then go home. There is something for everyone at our Community Breakfast. We encourage all our customers to take the baked goods home with them. Any leftover baked goods are frozen and given to our Food Pantry, for possible use during the week.

Throughout the duration of our Community Breakfast, we always take the time to listen to our customers. And, sometimes a customer just needs someone to listen to them, and, perhaps say a prayer with them. Sometimes, we may have a clothing donation (i.e. gloves and hats) to give to a client in desperate need. On occasion, we also use the Community Breakfast as a time for handing out winter coats (in conjunction with the Boy Scouts), like we did this year on December 2nd. In addition, our youth group at Grace coordinated with the Community Breakfast crew, to hand out toiletry kits and other items on December 22nd of this year (right before Christmas). These are a couple of examples where we try to truly give back to those in

need, and, put a lot of smiles on the faces of our customers.

We also pass out New Bedford “Street Sheets” and inform our clients of Martha’s Food Pantry and Laundry Love, which are both offered during the week (Laundry Love is offered on the last Monday of every month). Finally, we offer spiritual guidance by handing out prayer cards, wooden crosses and bibles on request, as well as telling our clients about the various days and times that church services are offered at Grace.

The Community Breakfast program was supported this year by a Case House grant of \$5000, an Intercity Grant from the City of New Bedford for \$1635 and individual donations of \$684.

Jim McKay

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Grace Episcopal Church, New Bedford

Grace Church ECW members gather for a noon monthly luncheon and meeting the third Thursdays of October, December, March and May at the James Arnold Mansion (home of the Wamsutta Club). We are a community of women who give, care and share God’s love through mission and ministry as does the National Episcopal Church Women who offer support to all women in their mission and ministry in the world.

We are blessed to receive disbursements from restricted (designated) endowment funds for ECW. This allows us to donate to our five fields of service.

1. Parish
 - Community Breakfast
 - Laundry Love
 - Martha s Pantry
 - Grace Restoration Fund
2. Community
 - Neediest Family Fund
 - Southcoast Breast Care
 - Humane Society
 - SHARE Foundation
 - Inter church Council
3. Diocese
 - Episcopal Diocese of Mass
4. Nation
 - Rosebud Reservation
5. World
 - St Margaret’s in Haiti
 - Episcopal Relief and Development (pair of goats and flock of chickens)

The Grace Church Memorial Fund received a donation in memory of deceased members Joan Ann Niles and Anne Cormier.

Hats, gloves, mittens and scarves were collected and distributed at Martha's Food Pantry. The ECW organized and ran the baked goods table at the Bittersweet Bazaar and hosted an after-church Coffee Hour.

The following speakers received a donation from ECW to help them continue to pursue their good works in the community and the world.

- The National ECW
- New Bedford Woman's Center (Adelaida Santiago)
- Friendly Sons of St Patrick (Timothy Murray)
- Musicians Katherine Brum and Matthew Souza

Our meetings offer socialization, education and participation in service projects and are open to guests as well as members.

Currently the following individuals serve as officers of ECW:

Co-Presidents: Priscilla Guillemette and Debbie Clark*

Secretary: Norma L. Bosse

Assistant Secretary: Janice Baker

Treasurer: Judy Knox

Assistant Treasurer: Harriet Shaw

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Guillemette and Debbie Clark, Co-Presidents

*The resignation of Debbie Clark was regretfully accepted at the December meeting.

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

Chris, our Rector, and the congregation send us forth on our Eucharistic visitations saying "I send you forth bearing these holy gifts; that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup." This takes place at the altar prior to the postcommunion prayer as the Eucharistic Visitors are handed the Consecrated Elements by the Celebrant.

Our Eucharistic Visitors are licensed and trained by the Diocese of Massachusetts and take the Consecrated Elements following a Celebration of the Eucharist to members of the congregation

who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present. Our licensed Eucharistic Visitors are Louise Kelly, Pauline Roderiques, Charlene Ryder and Joan Swain

We meet quarterly to share our thoughts and feelings on our visitations and to discern where our ministry is leading us. Our ministry reaches out to our parishioners and friends of Grace who are unable to attend services.

The Eucharist is also taken to members who are hospitalized. One hundred twelve private Eucharist Services were shared with members of our parish family. In addition to the Eucharist services, fifty-eight pastoral care visits were made to parishioners and friends of Grace Church.

Ministration at the Time of Death, Funeral Services and Cemetery Committals were offered during 2019 for fifteen members and friends of our parish family, including Sandra Klaren, Albert Buckles Jr., Cecelia Sykes, Edward McConvill, Thomas Kenney, David Biggs, Elsa Herrington, Michael Taylor, Marjorie Findlay, Carole Delano, Kathleen Snitzer, Eleanor Jardin, Richard Arnold, Joan Ann Niles and Anne Cormier. Also, Henry and Mary Simon who we visited regularly died in 2019. May the souls of God's faithful servants departed rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them.

It is a joy for all of us to share the Eucharist with our shut-ins. If you know someone who could benefit from this ministry, please let us know so we can add them to our list by contacting Charlene or our Rector.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene N. Ryder, Coordinator

FOOD AND FAITH

2019 was a quiet year for the food and faith team; we are planning more activities for 2020, in line with the resolution adopted at our diocesan General Convention encouraging each congregation to take the Next Step to support the Creation Care pledge.

Trish Morck and Diana Ukleja, for the Food and Faith team

GRACE AFTER SCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAM

For nearly 20 years, Grace Church has sponsored a caring and productive After School and Summer Program for children ages five to fourteen. The program was licensed for 39 children.

The Grace After School and Summer Program (GASSP) was self-supporting. Resources included private pay, vouchers from People Acting in Community Endeavors (P.A.C.E.), donations, grants and fund raisers. On average, 60% of students were private pay.

Costs were defrayed through participation in a program provided by the New Bedford School

System which supplied free snacks during the school year and both lunch and snacks during the summer, along with participation in The Greater Boston Foodbank.

Led by program director Donna Pires, staff included Group Leader/Site Coordinator Courtney Souza, Group Leader, Brianna Pires, and Group Leader Assistant, Lindsey Oliveira.

Upon the resignation of the director in August 2019, it was decided to close the program with heartfelt thanks to Donna and her staff for their contributions.

Donna brought almost 20 years of dedicated service to so many children and families through her leadership, and she has gone above and beyond to support not only GASSP but also this church and the wider community. We celebrated the gift that the Grace After-School and Summer Program is, and has been, to us and to New Bedford at the Homecoming picnic in September.

LAUNDRY LOVE

Laundry Love Community Outreach, which serves the poor and homeless in our community, continues to flourish. The last Monday of every month we take over the E Z Clean Laundry Center on Summer Street in New Bedford.

- In 2019 we served 720 guests, an increase of 17% over 2018.
- Our guests processed 1359 loads of laundry, a similar increase.
- On average, each month 65 guests do 124 loads of laundry at a cost of \$690 for the washes, with an estimate of \$52 for supplies, supported by 24 hours of volunteer effort.
- Southcoast Health has sent their Wellness Van quarterly, offering checkups and immunizations for our guests.
- For the fourth year, we participated in the New Bedford Connect program, held in October at the New Bedford YMCA, to connect homeless people to available programs.

The Laundry Love program receives no financial support from Grace Church, but we are grateful to individual members who donated \$2333 to the program in 2019, as well as the regular provision of laundry supplies, which we have not needed to purchase.

First Citizen's Federal Credit Union has been a faithful supporter of the program, donating \$1000 in 2019, as well as supplying volunteers to staff twice this year. We received a Bristol County Case House grant of \$1000. Southcoast Health awarded us a grant of \$2500, and the 2018 Bittersweet Bazaar donated \$500. The laundry owner, Matt Andrade, added \$250 to the cards used to operate the machinery this year.

With our finances in good order, we have added water, snacks and warm hats and mittens to our offerings—all much appreciated by our guests

Additional hands are always welcome. Please speak to any of the volunteers if you'd like to pitch in! Volunteers include Travis Bowie, Len Boyce, Carol Braga, Sarah Barkhuff, Chuck Cotter, Pat Fowle, Louise Kelly, Judy Knox, Gerry Lopes, April Medeiros, Jim Parker, Marilyn St. Aubin, Diana Ukleja and George Whitley.

LAY LITURGICAL MINISTER & ACOLYTE GUILD USHERS' & GREETERS' GUILDS

At the end of 2019 the Lay Liturgical Minister and Acolyte Guilds are composed of 35 active acolytes, as well as an additional 6 who serve on a limited basis; 24 Eucharistic Ministers, and 4 subdeacons; four of the above are Licensed Worship Leaders. There are also 29 Lectors, most of whom are also either Acolytes or Eucharistic Ministers. The total of Lay Ministers in all categories is 68. (There are many ministers who appear in more than one category total; these are only counted once in the total.) Those Lay Minister licenses that were due for renewal in December were renewed with the diocese and a request for new licenses for those who had been trained in the last year were submitted. In addition, within the allied guilds, there are currently 16 Ushers and 26 Greeters. There have been several resignations. There have been 4 new members of the guilds trained and commissioned this year.

Assistant Verger Charlene Ryder and Verger's Assistants Michael Doe, William Boyce, Seaver Boyce, and Kimberly Doe ably continued in their rôles. The Verger is greatly aided by their organizational skills and devotion to duty.

Several Lead Acolyte Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers have gone on inactive or semi active status as they are now in college. They continue to serve a few times a year when home. Four new acolytes were trained, and several lectors or Eucharistic Ministers joined the guild.

Acolytes who have shown leadership ability, participated in training and helped the younger acolytes, have mastered the more difficult functions and have good attendance records, are designated *Lead Acolytes*; There are currently 20 active Lead Acolytes.

The Acolyte Guild continues to enjoy the cooperation and support of the Director of Music, the Youth and Children's Coordinators, and the acolytes' parents, thus reducing scheduling conflicts and facilitating training for those children and young adults who belong to more than one guild or entity.

An article has been submitted and published in "Grace Notes" outlining and describing details of the liturgy for the next two months as well as explaining liturgical traditions and/or innovations here at Grace and within the Church in general. The liturgical bulletin board and

outside noticeboard have been maintained so that liturgical services and other meetings and events are posted within the parish in a timely manner.

We are proud of all our Lay Ministers and commend them for their loyalty, reliability and sense of responsibility. Attendance and morale have been good in the past year and our ministers and acolytes have responded professionally to changes in some liturgical events. We continue in our commitment to make every lay liturgical minister's experience at the altar safe, comfortable and rewarding, and to instill in them the importance of their ministry in leading their parish family in the worship of God and serving the clergy and other ministers at the altar, both through their practical functions and their ceremonial duties.

Respectfully submitted:

Jerré Croteau, Verger, Director of Liturgical Ministries

LIVING COMPASS

This year we applied our Living Compass experience in assisting the Vestry to re-focus our goals for growth for Grace. Kathy Ferreira and Jean Pitcairn presented the concepts of the J-curve and the Comfort zone which encourage us to continue to grow and discern where Grace will be in the present and future. The J-curve acknowledges the discomfort that comes with growth and the expected anxiety that change brings; this allows us to continue to move forward and not become stagnated.

As we move forward into 2020, we have plans for Parent Wellness circles and other opportunities to apply the Living Compass experience.

Respectfully submitted

Jean Pitcairn

MARTHA'S PANTRY AT GRACE

Martha's Pantry, named for our founder, Martha Reed, continues to serve Greater New Bedford clients in need. In 2019, we provided the equivalent of 63,000 meals to those who visited the pantry. Additionally, during the holiday season we were able to provide complete holiday meals to about 200 families in the community. This year we were again able to assist the Haitian Church in Dartmouth with turkeys for their members for the Thanksgiving holiday. Our thanks to the Greater Boston Food Bank for all the turkeys and chickens they provided for this endeavor and to Shaw's Supermarkets who provided turkeys and "fixins" for this effort. An additional thanks to Ocean Spray for a large donation of canned cranberry sauce and Jesse Roderiques who facilitated this donation.

The pantry is open every Wednesday and Friday morning, from 9:30 am to 10:30am. We

provide 3 meals per day, for 3 days, for each household member. Each household can come to the pantry once a month. We continue to expand our offerings to include more produce and dairy items thanks to the Greater Boston Food Bank. Over the past several years, in recognition that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits do not cover those much-needed paper products and personal items, we now attempt to supplement our food offerings with such items.

The pantry's mission is truly the work of a community of people dedicated to helping others and this work has been ongoing for over 25 years. Everyone brings their unique talents to the table, some serve on Wednesday and/or Friday mornings, some help with twice a month deliveries from the Greater Boston Food Bank, some do our "shopping" during the week or pick up bread donations and some knit hats, gloves or scarves for our clients to use during the cold winter months. And some help with our annual Thanksgiving meal distribution. A sincere thank you to the following for the endless hours they devote to this ministry:

Mary Sweet	Len Boyce	Sue St Gelais
Gerry Lopes	Frank Carbone	Pat & David Fowle
Bill Reed	Jack Whiteside	Chrissy Green
Norma Dyer	Judy Yard	Diana Ukleja
Norma Bosse	Pauline Roderiques	Larry Correia
Bobbie & Bob Ketchel	Ned Hines	Colleen Roy
Shirley Beck	Steve Barkhuff	Barbara & Richard Bell
Angie Mello	Fred Smialek	Connie Sweeney
Judy Knox	Travis Bowie	Janis Gomes
Tom Lynch	Barbara Trecker	Peter Medeiros
Kingsley Doe	Roland & Harriet Shaw	Barbara Pearl
Charlene Nelson	Nancy Krueger	Charlene Nelson

My apologies if you were not listed, know that your work has been appreciated.

Each year I express my gratitude to Shirley Beck who assists with the work of the pantry, and this year is no different. Shirley oversees volunteers and operations on Wednesday mornings—every Wednesday of the year! She is always there to offer assistance and guidance —my sincere gratitude for all she does.

For many years, Chuck Cotter has done the "local shopping" for the pantry. These are items to supplement what is provided by the Greater Boston Food Bank and individual food donations we receive. At the beginning of this year, Chuck "retired" from this duty. We are grateful for his dedication over the years. We are also extremely grateful to Pat Fowle who volunteered to take over this responsibility for us. And our thanks also go out to her husband David who helps out with this.

Shaw's Supermarkets are our foremost area partner and a tremendous contributor to our program throughout the year. When shopping at their location on State Rd in Dartmouth, customers can leave food donations for our pantry. In addition to their support to the holiday meals we are the recipients of their annual Spirit of Giving campaign which helps abundantly stock our shelves. We are grateful for their continuing support.

We also are indebted to Stop & Shop in Dartmouth who provide us with bread and pastries every Tuesday.

We continue to serve as a vocational training work site for People, Inc. A team of their clients continue to be a vital part of our work. They join us each Wednesday and Friday morning when the pantry is open. They help bag orders and deliver those orders upstairs to pantry clients. They also come for Tuesday morning deliveries of food from Boston. People, Inc. is a human services agency serving the Greater Fall River, New Bedford and Taunton areas, which provides unique opportunities to people with life challenges. We are blessed to have their help.

As always, we are grateful for the assistance provided by the Grace staff, Rev Chris Morck, Katie and Patrick. Each provided invaluable assistance throughout the past year.

We are particularly in need of assistance with set-up on Wednesday and Friday mornings, between 8:45 and 9:15. Additionally, assistance on the mornings of the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month when we unload the delivery from Boston is always appreciated. If you think you would like to join the team, once a month or once a week, please let us know.

Your continuing donations of food, funds, time and plastic or paper bags are always needed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharlene Begley, Coordinator

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Memorial Gifts Fund is a restricted fund consisting of donations given in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a person or event and which have not been given for a specific project. The Committee receives requests for funds to be used for a specific purchase that would fall outside of budgeted expenditures. The seven committee members vote on the request and then forward the recommendation to the Vestry for approval. Our committee business is done by email and telephone.

A request was received for funds early in 2019 from the Music and Lay Liturgical Ministries to replace worn cassocks for the Junior Choir and Acolytes. Total cost of \$366. Thereafter, a moratorium was placed on spending further money from the Fund as the balance was under

\$1000.

There have been on-going reminders in church bulletins and e-news for earmarking donations to this important Fund throughout the year. We ask that the parish consider directing donations to the Memorial Gifts Fund so that we may restart taking requests for additional projects and ministries. We thank parishioners and the ECW for their generous donations in 2019 amounting to just over \$2100.

I thank all past and present members of the Committee for their faithful stewardship of the Memorial Gifts Fund.

Respectfully submitted,
Pauline Roderiques, Chair

Michael Shea, Lisa Thibeault, Joan Swain, Pamela McNamara, Carole J. Johnson, John Amaral

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

2019-2020 School Year

Grace Church is blessed to be in a unique position to offer scholarships to college students from the generous bequests of the Eccleston, Heptonstall, Holmes, Menzer, Rapp, Robbins, Teves/Moreau, Tilton, Tripp and McKeachern families. These generous gifts and their prudent investments have enabled Grace Church to offer scholarships each year to assist our parishioners with their endeavors of higher education. The Grace Church Scholarship Committee is pleased to report that the following parishioners were awarded scholarships for the 2019-2020 school year:

Lindsey Bedard
Margaret Boyce
Kimberly Doe
Alison Frazee

Jared Gammell
Abbey Luth
Ronni Mak
Erin Mingola

Mia Morgan
Christopher Ng
Elizabeth Sylvia

The Grace Church Scholarship Committee members: Colleen Cook, Rob DaSilva, Maureen Decker, Carole Johnson, Ann Kenney and Kristen Morgan.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen V. Decker, Chairperson

SOUP KITCHEN

Members of Grace Episcopal Church volunteer on the second Wednesday of the month at Sister Rose House, operated by Catholic Social Services.

A full meal is served, cooked by staff; the Wednesday regular is Shepherd's Pie, which is very popular! Guests also have dessert, bread and butter and beverages.

Grace volunteers are Judy Knox, Sharlene Begley, Pauline Roderiques, and Norma Bossé. Charlene Nelson, Dyan Martin and Jeanne Greenhalgh substitute as needed.

With the layout of the kitchen and serving counter at Sister Rose House, we are now able to function with two volunteers each month, so that we serve on alternate months, or as needed to cover for other crew. Volunteers arrive at ten am and leave at 1 pm.

The Soup Kitchen was started many years ago by Sister Rose's Market Ministries at Pilgrim United Church. Sister Rose also operated the shelter on Eighth Street. At that time, soup and sandwiches were served; although full meals are served now, the name "Soup Kitchen" remains.

When Sister Rose retired, the program was taken over by Catholic Social Services and moved to a former church at Division Street and Acushnet Avenue. The men's shelter and overflow shelter used on nights of severe weather are located there as well. The women's shelter is in the former rectory and is called "Grace House." The men's shelter is appropriately named Sister Rose House in her honor. Sister Rose died in 2018.

New volunteers are welcome! Come and visit to learn the routine.

Norma L. Bossé, Coordinator

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Quiet time was offered in our regular monthly Taizé services, recorded music before the 10 am service on Wednesdays in Lent and Advent, and in the quiet times offered by the Rector on Palm Saturday and at the end of November, and by Brother John of the Trinity in August.

Brother John also shared his views on the veil between this world and the next, and some of his personal experiences as a monk in two forums held after the 10 am service this fall.

The Rector led a book study for adult candidates for confirmation and reception, which was open to the whole parish, based on the Right Reverend Rowan Williams' book [Being Christian](#).

Wednesday noontime Bible studies included:

- Conversations with Scripture: Revelation, by the Rev. Dr. Frederick W. Schmidt. This book looked at how, over time, the mystical book, the Revelations of St. John, has been viewed sometimes as a roadmap for history, sometimes as pure myth, sometimes as future history. The author argues for viewing it as a look at a deeper reality, a different kind of time, and a choice of two cities.
- Karen Armstrong's autobiographical works, The Spiral Staircase and Through the Narrow Gate. Armstrong is a well-known author on theological issues—some here read and discussed her book The History of God some years ago—but this pair of books recount her experience in the convent and afterwards, her struggles with depression and health issues too long misdiagnosed, and the recovery of her faith.
- The Psalms—a reflection on the psalm of the previous Sunday, ably augmented by general research presented by Professor Emerita Memory Holloway.

We experimented with a second time for book and Bible study, Sundays at 4 pm; this was not a success, but interest in the chosen topic, Job and the Mystery of Suffering, by Richard Rohr has moved to Wednesday noontime and continues into the new year.

Diana Ukleja for the Spiritual Formation Ministry Team
Rev. Chris, Brother John, Louise Kelly, Doug Dailey

STEWARDSHIP

Shining our Light

Shining our Light was the theme for 2020 Pledge Campaign, which ran from September 21st through October 20th. During this season, we were asked to reflect on how we individually show God's love and grace through the various ministries here at Grace Church:

- Participating in our worship, as a choir member, lector, subdeacon, acolyte, usher, greeter, caretaker of the young children in the nursery
- Ministering to our youth and children
- Providing food and transportation to our own parishioners in time of need
- Volunteering in the ministries that support the community of New Bedford and surrounding areas such as Martha's Pantry, Laundry Love, and Community Breakfast

We also heard from Manny Santo who volunteers at the Community Breakfast every Sunday morning. He expressed how the Community Breakfast impacts the homeless and disadvantaged people in New Bedford and surrounding communities. The volunteers shine the light of Christ by providing both physical and spiritual needs to the participants weekly. As the homelessness rates are increasing compared to last year, the need for services continue to rise. With help from Grace Church, as volunteers and providing physical space, the homeless and disadvantaged people will continue to see the light of Christ.

Our goal was to have 100% participation in pledging (individuals, couples, or families who filled out a pledged card) for a total of \$230,000. As of December 31, 2019, we received 152 pledges totaling \$232,618. In the previous year's campaign, the amount of pledging units was 135 for a total of \$209,741 as of January 2019. We have exceeded our goal for the total amount to be pledged. More excitingly, for the first time in over six years, we achieved the most units pledged and exceeded our goal of pledged amount before the new year began. Overall, these numbers show that parishioners here at Grace Church are dedicated and devoted to our ministries and want to shine the light of Christ by helping their brothers and sisters in need throughout the community.

When you compare the final total of pledging units for 2019 (135 pledges for total of \$209,741), to the current 2020 numbers, (152 pledges for total of \$232,618), we have an increase in number of households pledging by 17 and the total amount of money pledged increased by \$22,877. This is great news!! I continue to witness daily how the people of Grace Church work together for the greater good. In addition, the number of new pledges and of renewed pledges have increased by almost double from the previous year. Finally, the number of parishioners who had to decrease their pledge has reduced by more than half compared to previous year.

We are blessed to have 23 new households pledging compared to 18 new pledging units from last year. Also, 40 households decided to increase their pledge compared to 38 households from last year. Eight households decreased their pledge compared to 6 households from last year. Finally, 15 households have not pledged for 2020 who had pledged in 2019. If those 15 people would commit to God's ministries here at Grace, we would have approximately \$16,226 more to add to our ministries and outreach! As well, we would surpass our goal of \$230,000 by approximately \$19,000. Overall, each of our parishioners' situations are different which can lead to increase, decrease, or maintain their pledge from the previous year. We continue to support each other and our church through faith in God.

Thank you to all of those who have pledged for 2020. For those who have not yet pledged, please prayerfully consider making your pledge today to support and expand the ministries here at Grace Church. We are all truly blessed to be part of such a generous and gracious church family.

I would like to thank our rector, Rev. Chris Morck, and the committee members, Anne Gundersen, Ned Hines, Terri Nowell, and Robbie Watkins for their dedication and conscientious work over the past year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Sharp-McKay
Stewardship Commission Chairperson

WORSHIP COMMISSION

The Worship Commission met twice during the year 2019. The following was discussed and decided:

Cassocks: Given the need for new cassocks, it was decided that the Junior Choir members would use the same cassocks as the Acolytes, and we received funding from the Memorial Committee to purchase more red cassocks.

Taizé: We began holding a Taizé service in the chancel on the five Wednesdays in Lent at 6:00 pm, just before youth choir rehearsal, with live music. Beginning this fall, we now have a Taizé service on the second Wednesday of every month, and we held one Taizé Eucharist service on Saturday, September 28.

Pauses during intercessions and psalm verses: The intercessors have been consciously allowing for the congregation to add their thanksgivings and petitions at the appropriate parts of whichever prayers of the people are being used, while also using conscious pauses when leading the psalms. There are many ways to lead the psalm (in unison, by verse, by half-verse, alternating men and women or one half of the congregation then the other, etc.), and this is left to the discretion of the leader. At the ten o'clock service they are usually sung by the cantor, the congregation singing the refrain. The intercessors and psalm leaders (when the psalm is not being sung) are most often the subdeacons. The consensus was that intercessors should make more conscious pauses for congregational petitions and explain the expectations of the congregation's participation in the psalm.

Announcements now after the Peace: Chris has changed the placement of the Announcements to the middle of the service as many do not arrive until the last minute and do not hear them.

Lessons & Carols Conflict: On the date we would usually have Lessons & Carols (Gaudete Sunday), the Unitarian Church in Fairhaven is having its Lessons & Carols, and there is a concert at the same time at St. Anthony de Padua. Two options were discussed: Moving our Lessons & Carols to the Fourth of Advent (Dec. 22), or skipping this year and advertising it more next year. It was felt that December 22 was too close to Christmas itself and would not attract a very large congregation. A consensus was reached that Lessons & Carols would not be held this year.

Acknowledgement of birthdays and anniversaries during weekend services: Many churches acknowledge members anniversaries and birthdays during the service. We decided that the celebrant would offer a prayer at the time of the peace. Also, that anyone wishing to memorialize the anniversary of the death of a loved one would be given that opportunity and we would add the person to the names mentioned during the prayers of the people.

Triduum services: Last year the Commission decided to move all evening services to 6 pm, and there is a need to promote these services as much as possible.

Confirmation: A deanery-wide confirmation was held here at Grace on Saturday, October 19th, with six parishes attending and Bishop Gayle Harris officiating. Grace had 16 people who were confirmed or received.

Christmas Eve Services: This year, a lengthy and thorough discussion was held about changing the rota of Christmas Eve services after which it was agreed that the Crèche service would be held in the chapel during the 5 pm Eucharist, the 7 pm service will be unchanged, and the 11 pm service will be without choir.

June 2020: Pending approval of the Children and Youth Commission, the Senior Youth Recognition will take place on Pentecost, May 31, 2020, and Trinity Sunday, June 7, will be Sundaes Sunday.

Change in Communion Wine: The change was made in order to save wear on the linens. The Commission sampled two sherries and two tawny ports, one of which is used at the Cathedral. The consensus favored the Taylor Tawny Port, which is much lighter in color and agreeable in taste.

Presiding Bishop's Visit: As part of his visitation in the Diocese of Massachusetts, Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry, along with The Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris and The Hon. Byron Rushing were at an event hosted by Grace Church on Sunday, April 28. This was a panel discussion in the church, "Our Episcopal 'Big Tent': How Big Is It?" Over 60 Grace volunteers came together to organize and host this event.

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus: May 19th was an incredible success. Many parishioners helped to make this happen, from 'heavy lifting' on the publicity and funding side to literal heavy lifting in the set-up and tear-down of the risers.

The current members are William Boyce, Paula Cabral, Jerré Croteau, Allen Decker, Michael Goulart, Rebecca Iglar, Christopher Morck, Patricia Nieman, Brian Roderick, Charlene Ryder and Diana Ukleja.

Respectfully submitted
Jerré Croteau, Secretary

YOUTH MINISTRY

The youth program continues to find ways to build lasting relationships between our youth and our Grace Community. Thanks to the continued contributions of our youth mentors we have been able to enjoy a fulfilling year. In the Spring of 2019 Paula Cabral and Jesse Rodriques oversaw a modified Rite 13 program for our junior high youth, while Heather Bernardo, Jackie L'Hereaux, and Roxanne Garcia continued the Meaningful Mentoring and a modified Living

Compass curriculum with our older youth.

Our outreach activities included handing out supplies and personal items, along with some clothing items, at Community Breakfast. Fundraising efforts include our annual Apple Pie making, and Easter brunch for the Parish with free will donations. The youth were present at the final Bittersweet Bazaar luncheon and did a great job of serving. As a worthy note the youth raised \$1000 from apple pies (thanks to our always supportive parish) and pledged 10% of it as a group pledge to our Stewardship Campaign.

The 2019 Fall season brought Confirmation Conversations overseen by Allen Decker, Kathy Ferreira, and Jean Pitcairn. This included a trip to the local Mosque, and discussion of different religious beliefs systems as well as an in-depth exploration of our own Episcopal and personal beliefs. The conversations demonstrated how important the Grace Community is in the lives of our youth who are confronted with so many new and evolving challenges. Resoundingly the youth express how the Grace Community is the place for them to just be and feel safe.

Our list of fun activities included a lock-in and a Holiday Yankee Swap. We are planning lots more fun like tubing, skiing, and (hopefully) zip-lining.

All of this would not be possible without the continuing commitment of the Grace parish and our dedicated volunteers.

Respectfully submitted
Jean Pitcairn

2020 BUDGET

4000 - OPERATING INCOME

4100 Regular Donations & Support	
4110 - Pledges (Current Year)	230,000.00
4120 - Pledges (Prior Year)	2,000.00
4130 - Plate Collections	50,000.00
4140 - Christmas/Easter Offerings	7,500.00
4150 - Pastoral Rites	5,000.00
4160 - Flowers	3,050.00
4170 - Church School	75.00
4180 - Misc. Donations	2,000.00
Total 4100 - Regular Donations & Support	299,625.00
4200 - Withdrawals From Funds	
4210 - Restricted/General Repairs	2,500.00
4220 - Restricted/Instrument Maintenance	2,000.00
4230 - Restricted/Music	400.00
4240 - Restricted/Flowers	150.00
4250 - Restricted/Church School	150.00
4260 - Restricted/General Fund	35,000.00
4270 - DIT Account Distribution	2,000.00
4281 - Pastoral Leadership Fund	6,257.15
4290 - Endowment/Unrestricted	168,543.85
Total 4200 - Withdrawals From Funds	217,001.00
4500 - Receipts From Activities/Other	
4510 - Building Use	8,500.00
4520 - Bank Interest	1,400.00
4530 - Riley Fund	22,000.00
Total 4500 - Receipts From Activities/Other	31,900.00
TOTAL 4000 - OPERATING INCOME	548,526.00

5000 - EXPENSES

5100 - Worship & Clergy

5110 - Rector Compensation	94,171.00
5114 - Asst. Rector Compensation	35,677.00
5120 - Clergy Pension	
5121 - Rector Pension	16,951.00
5122 - Asst. Rector Pension	6,422.00
5120 - Clergy Medical/Dental	
5131 - Rector Medical/Dental	37,272.00
5132 - Asst. Rector Medical/Dental	18,636.00
5150 - Clergy Continuing Education	
5151 - Rector Continuing Education	1,000.00
5152 - Asst. Rector Continuing Education	500.00
5160 - Clergy Travel Allowance	
5161 - Rector Travel Allowance	1,200.00
5162 - Asst. Rector Travel Allowance	500.00
5163 - Asst. Rector Search	1,500.00
5171 - Supply Clergy	1,200.00
5172 - Guest/Hospitality	600.00
5174 - Parish Life	1,000.00
5176 - Track Rack Pamphlets	600.00
5180 - Sacristy Supplies	1,800.00
5190 - Flowers	3,200.00
TOTAL 5100 - Worship & Clergy	222,229.00

5200 - Music Ministry Expenses

5210 - Organist	
5211 - Organist Salary	30,900.00
5212 - Organist Medical/Dental	4,400.00
5213 - Organist Cont. Ed	500.00
5220 - Substitute Organist	1,000.00
5230 - Youth Choir Scholarships	800.00
5240 - Guest Musicians	1,400.00

5250 - Choir Section Leaders	8,000.00
5260 - Instrument Tuning/Maintenance	2,300.00
5270 - Other Expenses	1,500.00
Total 5200 - Music Ministry Expenses	50,800.00
5300 - Education Ministry Expenses	
5310 - Church School	
5312 - Church School Programs	4,000.00
5320 - Youth Ministry	
5321 - Youth Ministry Salary	8,500.00
5322 - Youth Ministry Expenses	3,500.00
5350 - Adult Education/Small Groups	300.00
Total 5300 - Education Ministry Expenses	16,300.00
5500 - Administration	
5512 - Layworker Wages	38,468.00
5514 - Layworker Medical/Dental	13,545.00
5516 - Layworker Pension	2,175.00
5518 - SS & Medical Taxes	5,307.00
5520 - Temporary Workers	500.00
5522 - Web Site	650.00
5530 - Stewardship Expenses	950.00
5542 - Printing/Postage	6,000.00
5544 - Print Advertising & Communication	1,600.00
5548 - Office Equipment	2,200.00
5550 - Office Supplies	2,500.00
5555 - Accounting	6,000.00
5565 - Leadership Formation	1,700.00
5570 - IT Support	750.00
5580 - Payroll Services	200.00
5595 - Miscellaneous	2,500.00
Total - 5500 Administration	85,045.00

5600 - Buildings & Grounds	
5610 - Church	
5612 - Gas	15,000.00
5614 - Electric	16,000.00
5616 - Water	1,700.00
5618 - Internet	5,200.00
5620 - Repairs/Maintenance	20,000.00
5624 - Security/Fire Alarm	3,500.00
5626 - Sexton Supplies	2,500.00
5628 - Kitchen/Bathroom Supplies	1,200.00
5630 - Rectory	
5632- Gas	2,500.00
5634 - Electric	1,000.00
5636 - Water	600.00
5638 - Telephone/Internet	1,100.00
5640 - Repairs/Maintenance	3,000.00
Total 5600 - Buildings & Grounds	73,300.00
5700 - Major Operating Expenses	
5710 - Diocesan Assessment	53,852.00
5720 - All Insurance	35,000.00
5740 - Annual Audit	1,000.00
Total 5700 - Major Operating Expenses	89,852.00
5900 - Pass Thru	
5930 - Building Fund	10,000.00
5955 - Future Sabbatical Fund	1,000.00
Total 5900 - PassThru	11,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	548,526.00
NET ORDINARY INCOME	0.00