

# 2025 Annual Report

## 162nd Annual Meeting of Grace Church Parish



February 1, 2026

Grace Episcopal Church  
Amherst, Massachusetts



**2025 Annual Report  
Grace Church Parish**

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161st Annual Meeting of Grace Episcopal Church  
Amherst, Massachusetts  
2 February 2025

## I. Order of Business

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist	9:30 am in the Church and via live stream
Call to Order	Libby Maxey, Clerk of the Vestry
Acceptance of Roll of Membership	
Reception of Minutes of the 160th Annual Meeting, February 4, 2024	
Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members	Kathy Glime, Senior Warden
Report of Nominating Committee and the Election of New Vestry Members and Delegates to Convention	
Report from the Stewardship Committee	Charlie Tebbetts, Chair
Reception of Reports from Officers and Commissions	
Treasurer's Remarks	Tim Hampson, Treasurer
Remarks of Wardens and Rector	Kathy Glime, Senior Warden Tom Dougherty, Junior Warden The Rev. Thomas Synan, Rector
Other Business	

### Closing Hymn and Prayer

*O God our Creator, make the door of our parish church wide enough to receive all who need human love, fellowship, and care, and narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride, and rancor. Here may the tempted find succor, and the sorrowing receive comfort; here may the careless be awakened to repentance, and the penitent be assured of thy mercy; and here may all thy children renew their strength in thee and go on their way rejoicing; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## II. Membership 2025

Abbott, Hannah	Ayres, Elihu	Bedet, Charlotte
Abdiken, Zhamilya	Ayres, Emma	Beebe, Jane
Ackerman, Inge	Ayres, Jim	Benfer, Katherine
Adler, Doug	Baird, Andrea	Berenson, Mary Kay
Aldrich, Brenda	Baird, Cameron	Bergin, Lucy
Aldrich, Rick	Baird, Ian	Bernal, Angelica M.
Allbritton, Bill	Baird, John	Blain, Beatrice
Allison, Barrett	Baird, Mackenzie	Blain, Rachel
Allison, Benjamin	Baker, Chris	Blanchard, Kerry
Allison, Caroline	Baker, Elizabeth	Blay, Jack
Allison, Donald	Baker, Joey	Bogal-Allbritton, Elizabeth
Allison, Edith	Baker, Kate	Bogal-Allbritton, Rose
Allison, James	Baker, Nancy	Botelho, Maria Jose
Anderson, Gordon	Baker, Samantha	Boy, Sarah
Anderson, Gordon "Gordy"	Baker, Tom	Bracciotti, Paul
Anderson, Lydia	Balderston, Jacob	Brace, Dee
Andrews, Jess	Bancroft, Frances	Breon, Emily
Appelbaum, Patricia	Barnes, Toby	Breton, Amber
Arwade, Cyrus	Barnes-Bernal, Bodhi	Breton, Chris
Arwade, Sanjay	Barnett, David	Breton, JaeLynn
Ash, Alison	Barnett, Tamara	Brooks, Cheryl
Ash, Jonathan	Barrett, Ruth	Brooks, Gregory
Ash, Raiden	Barrett, Steve	Brown, Beth
Ash, Sophie	Barry, Monica	Brown, Beth
Ash, Tori	Barry, William	Brown, Catherine
Atkinson, Chandler	Bashour, Emelyn	Brown, Elizabeth R.
Atkinson, Katherine "Kate"	Bashour, Gabrielle	Brown, Georgianna
Atkinson, Lane	Bausor, Randall	Brown, Gillian
Atkinson, Rollin	Beall, Andy	Brown, Gregory
Atkinson, Stephen	Beall, Charles	Brown, Liam
Atkinson, Wade	Beall, Eileen	Brown, Malcolm "Max"

Brown, Nate	Costa, Dennis	Dineen, Daniel
Bryant, Karen	Coughlin, Brendan	Dineen, Denise
Buckloh, Don	Coughlin, Kevin	Dineen, John
Buckloh, Jane	Coughlin, Lauren	Dineen, Matthew
Bull, Mary	Coughlin, Marie	Dineen, Patrick
Byler, Lynne	Coy, Sheila	Ditzler, Anne
Callard, Patricia	Cram, Al	Dolbeau, Clothilde
Callard, Tim	Cram, Diane	Dole, Nancy
Carlson, Melvin	Crandall, Cara	Dougherty, Jackie
Case, Wendryn	Creaser, Patricia	Dougherty, Kellen
Casey, Kathleen	Currin, Cecil	Dougherty, Kitty
Cataldi, Marlaina	Currin, Lou	Dougherty, Stewart
Chadwick, Harry	Dale, Duane	Dougherty, Tom
Chadwick, Sarah	Damon, Beth	Drake, Helen
Chapman, Veronica	Damon, Dick	Duda, Elizabeth
Chase, Andrew	Dann, Cecily	Duda, Gillian
Chase, Calla	Dann, Chelsea	Duda, Jessica
Chase, Lucy	Dann, Jennifer	Duda, Jim
Chase, Samuel	Dann, O'Keefe	Durfee, Janet
Christakos, Deborah	Davila, Jaime	Dye, Maria
Clark, Casey	Davila-Bustamante, Gabriel	Easton, Lee
Cleary, Daniel	Davis, Brenda	Emerson, Sarah
Coleman, Emily	Davis, Elizabeth	Enhstrom, Christophe
Coleman, Jack	Denit, Lucas	Erard, Jeanette
Coleman, Jeremy	Denit, Lyle	Erard, Michael
Coleman, Juliet	DeSantis, Jeffrey	Erickson, Heidi
Collette, Carolyn	DeSantis, Karen	Etinde, Alpha
Collier, John	Devine, Donna	Etinde, Annie Lokangu
Collins, Sue Ann	Dick, Carol	Etinde, Floribert
Comeau, Lindsay	Dickinson, Anne	Eve, David
Connerton, Winifred	Dickinson, Charlie	Eve, Kira
Connerton-Ryan, Maizie	Dickinson, Emma	Eve, Max
Constantine, Maria	Dickinson, Will	Eve, Tomi

Eziri, Emeka M.	Goodwin, Mary	Ho, Carlton
Eziri, Kelechi	Goodwin-Brown, Alice	Ho, Jonathan
Fabing, Suzannah	Goodwin-Brown, Ross	Ho, Linda
Faerber, Kent	Gosling, Oscar	Ho, Marissa
Federa, Danielle	Gralenski, Linda	Hocken, Mary
Fiddian-Green, Prunella	Gralenski, Michael	Hoffmann, Anne
Finkel, Hattie	Grant, Rebecca	Hoffmann, Chris
Fowler, MJ	Gregory, Matthew	Hoffmann, Sarah
Frantz-Dale, Heidi	Haff, Susan	Hoffmann, Willy
Freitag, Christopher	Haight, Andrew	Holladay, Margaret (Meg)
Freitag, Melanie	Haight, Charles	Holland, Ann
Freitag, Melissa	Haight, Susan	Homme, Anne
Freitag, Rebecca	Hamel, Marc	Honig, Adam
French Finn, Elizabeth	Hampson, Amy	Honig, Charlotte
Fukushima, Barb	Hampson, Carter	Honig, James
Gaeke, June	Hampson, Liza	Horn, John
Garrett, Greyson	Hampson, Quinn	Horn, Raisin
Gergely, Sophia	Hampson, Tim	Howe, Edy
Gerzina, Gretchen	Hanke, Laura	Howe, Ralph
Gilsdorf, Anna	Harris, Colleen	Hunter, Jefferson
Gilsdorf, Benjamin	Harris, Loy	Hunter, Pamela
Gilsdorf, Sean	Harron III, William	Huston, Walter
Glace, Andrew	Hartblay, Amber	Hwang-Carlos, Camila
Glace, Mya	Hartblay, Cassandra	Ireland, Caleb
Glime, Kathy	Hartblay, Marian	Ireland, Emily
Gnatek, Andrew	Hathaway, Charlotte	Ireland, Michael
Gnatek, Dan	Hazlip, Bennett	Ireland, Ruthie
Gnatek, Gail	Hazlip, Ilona	Jacobson, Adam
Goff, Abigail	Hazlip, Joseph	Jacobson, Adrienne
Goff, David	Healy, Lorie	Jacque, Deborah
Goff, Yolanda	Herrington, Anne	Jacque, Ronald
Golden II, Norman	Hertel, Marsha	Jenkins, John
Goodell, Jack	Hix, Camille	Jenkins, Miriam

Jewell, Tony	Konieczny, Jo-Ann	Liberty-Laylin, Sara
Jones, Kimberly	Konieczny, Joseph	Lillydahl, Sandra
Judge, Sharon	Konieczny, Maria	Lillydahl-Schroeder, Elija
Judge, Steve	Konieczny, William	Lillydahl-Schroeder, Hosanna
Julliard, Kell	Labor, Jasper	Linberg, Catherine
Keedy, Jeffrey	LaMotte, Erik	Lloyd, Julia
Keedy, Maddox	LaMotte, Kirsten	Lowance, Susan
Keedy, Mia	Lane, Cameron	Lowell, Ann S.
Keefe, Nancy	Lange, Betty	Lowry, Bridget
Kellogg, Charlotte	Lapis, Jennifer	Lowry, Fiona
Kelly Jr., Robert	LaPointe, Jennifer	Lowry, Janet
Kelly, Charlotte	LaPointe, Michael	Lowry, Nancy
Kelly, Janine	LaPointe, Nancy	Lowry, Sam
Kelly, Patrick	Lattanzi, Robert	Lowry, Susannah
Keneally, L. Finley	Lattanzi, Susan	Lukas, Lisa
Kennedy Costa, Gabriel	Lavine, Isaac	Lukas, Tilman
Kennedy Costa, Michael	Lavine, Louise	Luschen, Kristen
Kennedy, Brown	Lavine, Michael	Lynn, Liberty
Kiefer, Marvin	Lavine, Noah	Lynn, Violet
Kinney, Murph	Lawson, Merrick	Malsch, Sally
Kirk, Gavin	Laylin, Peter	Malzone, Sarah
Klock, Benjamin	Laylin, Peter	Malzone, Wesley
Klock, Laura	Leavitt, Joan	Mammen, Sheila
Klock, Lynn	Leonard, Bill	Mangaliso, Bande
Klock, Suzanne	Leonard, Deborah	Mangaliso, Mzamo
Klug, Elizabeth	Leonard, Katherine	Mangaliso, Nomazengie
Klug, Stephanie	Leonard, Margaret	Mangaliso, Unati
Knapton, Harrison	Leonard, Samuel	Manning, Arlene
Knight, Caseem	Leonas, Andrew	Marino, Kevin
Knight, Kelley	Leonas, Mark	Marino, Nathan
Kohler, Walter	LeSage, Edward	Marino, Sharon
Kohler, Wendy	Leung, Helen	Marino, Tyler
Konieczny, Alan	Lewin, Ann	Markovits, Elizabeth

Marshall, Mark	Miskovsky, Glenn	Olakanpo, Olusoji
Martineau, Erin	Mix Barrington, Jessica	Olakanpo, Sally
Martini, Mary	Moner, Emily Anne	Olson, Erika
Masinter, Ania	Moner, Meriel	Ortega-Bustamante, Isolda
Masinter, Samuel	Moore, Douglas	Owaki, Alesha
Mathews, Betsy	Moore, Janet	Packard, Wendell
Mathews, Cindy	Moore, Lisa	Page, Kenneth
Mathews, James	Moore, Robert	Palaia, Amy
Mathews, Philip	Moran, Charlene	Peavey, Douglas
Mattrey, Gianna	Moran, Frank	Peltier, Heidi
Mattrey, Jack	Morse, Dorothy	Pemberton, Jane
Mattrey, Jada	Moss, Castor	Perry, Alex
Mattrey, Ruby	Moss, Eliot	Perry, Evan
Mattrey, Stephanie	Moss, Natalie	Perry, Fred
Maxey, Amory	Musgrave, Alan	Perry, Thomas
Maxey, Henry	Musgrave, Elizabeth	Peterman, Janice
Maxey, Libby	Muspratt, Sandy	Peterman, Mark
Maxey, Trent	Muszynski, Anthony	Pickron, Carlton
McDermott, Megan	Muszynski, Jozef	Pickron, Lisa
McDonald, James	Muszynski, Samuel	Plette, Christine
McDonald, Lisa	Nagasaki, Kanae	Polino, Antonio
McKelvey, Bridget	Nasman, Corey	Polino, Francesca
McKelvey, Diane	Neill, Elizabeth	Polino, Gemma
McKelvey, Kira	Nelson, Julie	Polino, Joseph
McKelvey, Stephen	Nelson, Rosario	Polino, Maria
Mead, Amelia	Niswonger, Dee Dee	Quinlan, Catherine
Mead, Jim	Norris, Harold	Quinlan, Victoria
Mead, Kimberly	Obbard, Catherine	Rachootin, Hannah
Miller, Audrey	O'Brien, Jeffrey	Ramos-Velazquez, Virginia
Miller, John	O'Brien, Joan	Rankin, Jean
Mincheff, Cristine	Olakanpo, Annabel	Rankin, Larry
Mirick, Georgann	Olakanpo, Bethany	Read, Matthew
Mishkin, Peter	Olakanpo, Florence	Read, Rick

Redfern, Garrett	Seaman, Amanda	Spence, Catherine
Reed-McNally, Karla	Seelig, Harry	Spence, George
Reed-McNally, Linus	Seelig, Sharon	Spence, Jack
Reed-McNally, Rudy	Sessions, Phebe	Spence, Rob
Reid, Melinda	Seterdahl, Anna	Spurgin, Caroline
Ricard, Andre	Seterdahl, Elsa	Spurgin, Kate
Ricard, Laura	Seterdahl, Peter	Spurgin, Richard
Rice, Robert	Seterdahl, Trudie May	Spurgin, Richard
Riddington, Dahlia	Shaffer, Sally	Spurgin, Sarah Grace
Riddington, Forset	Shaughan, Mary Ellen	Stair, Adrian
Riddington, Leif	Sheehan, Marcia	Starkweather, Emily
Riddington, Sara	Sikowitz, Peter	Stebbins, Bruce
Riddle, Chris	Silvia, Angela	Stebbins, Owen
Riddle, DeAnne	Silvia, Bjorn	Stelzner, Sara
Riddle, Emily	Silvia, Teghan	Sternau, Barbara
Robinson, John	Siudzinski, Bryn Margaret	Stewart, Doug
Robinson, Lucy	Siudzinski, Madeline	Stewart, Ericka
Rogalski, Stephen	Siudzinski, Meghan	Stifler, John
Rogers, Diana	Siudzinski, Robert	Stimler, Piper
Rosazza, Jacob	Smith, Anna	Stoneham, Joel
Rosenau, Marion	Smith, Betsy Cannon	Stoneham, Luke
Rosengarten, Mindy	Smith, Donovan N.	Stoneham, Pete
Rosengarten, Peter	Smith, Ellie C.	Stoner, Sarah
Ryan, Jennifer	Smith, Kevyn	Stromgren, Elise
Samonds, Ken	Smith, Lucy A.	Sullivan, Brendan
Saulsberry, Gaylord	Smith, Randall P.	Sullivan, Brooke
Saulsberry, Janet Elias	Smith, Randall P., Jr.	Sullivan, Cornelia
Scarff, Anne	Snedecor, Peter	Sullivan, Kyle
Schaeffer, The Rev. Susan	Soper, James	Sweeney, Thomas
Schendel, Katie	Soper, Jennifer	Synan, Thomas
Schreiber, Stephen	Soper, Joshua	Szumowski, Pat
Scott, James	Soper, Katherine	Taghon, Meredith
Scott, Nina	Spell, Cynthia	Talan, Catherine

Talan, Kenneth	Wanninger, Sebastian	Wobst, Gregory
Tebbetts, Charles	Wanninger, Tatjana	Wobst, H Martin
Tebbetts, Walter	Webster, Eve	Wobst, Judith
Teng, Janet	Webster, The Rev. Raymond	Wobst, Natalia
Thompson, Colin	Weeber, Charles	Wood, Ann
Thompson, Zachary	Weeber, Nancy Rose	Wood, John
Thornton, Benjamin	Wells, Andrew	Wright, Arline
Thornton, Dean	Wells, Nicholas	Wright, Jonathan
Thornton, Shannon	Wells, Sharon	Wright, Meg Kelsey
Thurber, Jane	Westhead, Charlotte	Zamora, Andrew
Thurber, Kate	White, Ethel	Zhang, Enhua
Tillona, Patricia	Wilburn, Adam	Zobel, Chris
Todd, David	Wilburn, Aidan	Zobel, Katie
Treyz, Eric	Wilburn, Emma	Zobel, Noah
Treyz, Frederick	Wilburn, Jeanette	Zobel, Sydney
Treyz, Justin	Wilkinson, Pam	Zou, Lili
Treyz, Mary Sidney	Williams, Dani	
Treyz, Peter	Williams, David	
Tupper, Laurie	Williams, Elia	
Turgeon, Sarah	Williams, Fox	
Tyng, C W	Williams, Isabel	
Van Cleef, Aidan	Williams, Kate	
Van Cleef, Bryce	Williams, Keith	
Van Dyke, Ann	Williams, Kevin	
Vaughan, Mary Elizabeth	Williams, Lee	
Velazquez, Archie	Williams, Marion	
Vigeland, Bonnie	Williams, Melinda	
Wald, James	Williams, Sophie	
Wald, Jane	Wilson, Sherry	
Wald, Marianne	Winslow, Reynolds	
Walter, Micah	Wissemann, David	
Wanninger, Natascha	Wissemann, Kimberly	

### **III. Minutes of the 161st Meeting of Grace Church Parish, Amherst, Massachusetts, Convened February 2, 2025**

Clerk Alice Goodwin-Brown called the 160th Annual Meeting of Grace Church to order.

The Rev. Megan McDermott opened the meeting with a prayer, which addressed the absence of the Rev. Tom Synan on account of illness.

#### Role of the Membership 2025

Alice Goodwin-Brown asked for any additions or corrections to the Role of Membership 2025. None were offered, and the role was accepted unanimously.

#### Minutes of the 160th Annual Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on February 4, 2024 were accepted by unanimous vote without emendation.

#### Retiring Vestry Members

Senior Warden Kathy Glime recognized Vestry members who had completed their terms: Alice Goodwin-Brown as clerk, John Jenkins, and Suzannah Fabing. They were presented with gifts in thanks for their service and continuing contributions to the church community. Kathy also thanked Vestry members Patrick Kelly, Donna Devine, Cara Crandall, Sarah Chadwick, Rachel Blain, and Peter Sikowitz.

#### Report of the Nominating Committee

Members of the Nominating Committee are the retiring members of the Vestry, Senior Warden Kathy Glime, and the Rector, the Rev. Tom Synan. Kathy Glime explained that the Committee sought to assemble a balanced team that would encompass the rich diversity of the congregation. Following approval by the Vestry, the slate was made available for review by parishioners.

The candidates for the Vestry, Officers of the Vestry, and Delegates to the Diocesan convention are as follows:

Vestry (each for a term of three years)

Michael Gralenski  
Katie Schendel  
Carolyn Collette

Vestry Youth (a term of one year)

Joe Hazlip  
Nate Marino

Officers of the Vestry (each for a term of one year)

Senior Warden: Kathy Glime  
Junior Warden: Tom Dougherty  
Treasurer: Tim Hampson  
Clerk: Libby Maxey

## Lay Delegates to Convention

Nancy Lowry

Donna Devine

Alternate: Chris Freitag

Junior Warden Tom Dougherty asked for any additional nominations from the floor. None were offered. Patricia Tillona made a motion to close the nominations and to direct the Clerk to cast one vote for the slate of candidates as presented. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously. The candidates as presented in the slate were welcomed to their positions.

## Report of the Stewardship Committee

Bruce Stebbins presented the report of the Stewardship Committee. He thanked the 138 parishioners/families who had contributed to the 2025 pledge total of \$504,090. We had 156 pledges last year, by which we raised just under \$500,000; accordingly, our pledge goal for 2025 was \$500,000, which we've exceeded, despite a smaller number of pledges.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tim Hampson thanked the Finance Committee, the counters who tally the collection, and Rich Spurgeon, who sends monthly financials to the Vestry. He encouraged anyone who has not yet pledged to do so, to help the Finance Committee plan for the year. He also shared the good news that in 2024, Grace Church did not need to draw on its endowment—a contingency that we anticipate, but one that we're grateful to avoid when possible.

## Senior Warden's Report

Senior Warden Kathy Glime gave thanks for the ways Grace Church serves its members, the broader community, and the wider world through time, talent, and financial contributions. She thanked Tom and Megan for their leadership, and also the building staff, Terrie Korpita in the office, Jaana Cutson our bookkeeper, and David Goodhind our sexton, who do so much behind the scenes. She thanked Noah Horn and Dick Damon for the church's music program, Sheila Mammen and her team for candles and flowers, and all the others who contribute to our services.

She noted that Rachel Blain and Cara Crandall have been focused on the important work of increasing engagement with newcomers, but they need the congregation's help to notice new attendees and reach out to them. Meanwhile, Pat Kelly and other members of the Vestry have been considering how to identify and reach out to potential attendees. The Vestry has updated our parish life information online to more accurately represent Grace Church, and is trying to expand our communication footprint.

Donna Devine and Suzannah Fabing were recognized for their fundraising work as Vestry members, the Dougherties were commended for running the service auction, and Joan O'Brien was praised for her tireless work organizing the Saint Nicholas Bazaar.

Additional gratitude was extended to Megan for her educational programming, to the Pastoral Care Commission, which is quiet but mighty, and to the Haiti Ministry, which continues to do good work abroad, and to the many who contribute food to the Survival Center every week. Final thanks were extended to ClimateAction@Grace, the Garden Ministry, and to Junior Warden Tom Dougherty, for doing so many things to manage and care for our complex campus with great dedication. Kathy's final bidding was to find a group if you haven't already joined one! It will deepen your experience.

### Junior Warden's Report

Junior Warden Tom Dougherty thanked Charlie and Walter Tebbetts, along with Patrick Kelly, Chris Freitag, and Kenneth Page for helping to upgrade the technology for broadcasting our Sunday services online. He also thanked Mike Gralenski, Charlie Tebbetts and Paul Bracciotti for their work to arrange tree and stump removal in the garth. The Brother Lawrence Guild was also praised for their service—at this event, as well as others.

### Parke House Report

John Robinson, in his capacity as church member and architect, spoke about plans for the Parke House, which would have to be replaced rather than renovated if we were able to go forward with any such work. The current structure does not meet the needs of Grace Church, and it meets neither the requirements of the ADA, nor the energy requirements of the Town of Amherst. Nothing can be done with the Parke House unless we improve the undercroft, so as to make better use of that space. The previous Grace Church renovation included plans to finish the undercroft, but they were set aside because of cost. At present, the undercroft is the church's attic, but it could become meeting and Sunday School space and more. John will put a suggestion box in the connector, so that congregants can help to identify needs that that space might address, and he'll be meeting with those who manage music, the bazaar, etc. He will report back to the Vestry in March, with the aim of reporting to the congregation by April, so that we can decide when and if we might be able to move forward with a new Parke House.

### The Rector's Report

In Tom's absence, Megan delivered his sermon, which focused on the example Simeon and Anna offer of the patient faithfulness of true believers. Like them, "We are called to show up and do our part, living lives of faith, hope, and love—ever trusting the promises of God," The sermon highlighted some of the many ways we show up at Grace Church, in our collective prayer life, at Sunday services, and in all the other liturgies that we make possible. Tom particularly acknowledged the youth of the church and college-aged attendees, and noted the humbling generosity of the parish in its outreach. He also noted our celebration of the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church, and encouraged us to continue to stand up for a more equal and just world.

As the meeting drew to a close, Tom Dougherty invited final questions from the floor. Heidi Dale noted that there seemed to be no money in the music budget, but Tom explained that that money wasn't visible on the summary sheet because it came from the "little funds," earmarked donations or bequests. With no further business, Tom thanked Kathy Glime for helping to lead the meeting, and invited Megan to offer a closing prayer. The meeting adjourned following the singing of the doxology.

*Respectfully submitted by Libby Maxey, clerk*

## **IV. Rector's Sermon and Address, February 1, 2026**

Good morning, Grace Church!

Believe it or not, we're about halfway through the season of Epiphany, the season of light. And a prominent theme throughout is discipleship. The last few weeks, we've heard about the call of disciples: two people follow Jesus from the River Jordan, wanting to know where he dwells, fishermen drop their nets at the Sea of Galilee, and sons walk away from their father.

Today, however, everything shifts from who to what, from who is a disciple to what exactly is discipleship. So far according to Matthew, five people have walked away from the shore and headed inland, with at least four of them (Peter, Andrew, James and John) not really knowing what it is they're off to do.

Answering the call, claiming the title of disciple or child of Abraham, is phase one. Phase two is what are the obligations of discipleship? What's required and expected?

The prophet Micah was one of the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C. prophets. He came from a small village in Judah and was primarily concerned about social justice and ethical issues as he railed and denounced the corruption of Israel's political and religious leaders.

In today's first lesson, God, in effect, has gone to court. God brings a case against his people, in which the mountains, the hills, the foundations of the earth are to be the judge and jury, deciding whether God has a valid complaint. The complaint is that after all God has done: liberating the people from slavery, getting them out of Egypt, and settled them in the Promised Land – God feels abandoned.

The people's response is: that's not true. We haven't abandoned you. Look at all the oil and all the lambs we offer up, isn't that sufficient? We sacrifice things to you, and you give us prosperity.

God responds that ritual offerings aren't what please God. God doesn't need things. What God really desires is:

*To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.*

What God really wants is for his people to be better morally and ethically, to see life through compassionate eyes.

*Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.*

That's the message of the Beatitudes – a radical way of living life, being God's agent, being a disciple of Jesus that's contrary and opposite to the ways of the world.

That's right, discipleship requires a witness to a world that's willingly moving toward darkness to show there's another way. The world scoffs at the message of the Beatitudes, twists them into a grotesque caricature, and mocks the message that this is what's expected of us. The Beatitudes are for losers.

I mentioned once before that a survey done by the South Baptists found that the majority of people didn't know who said, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." And then upon being told it was Jesus, the majority then claimed this statement was no longer relevant. That's frightening and it's also not discipleship.

And it also means we have our work cut out for us.

Jesus' one command to us is "Love one another, as I have loved you." As he displays what it means for us to love one another, we discover that we're to bear one another's burdens to the farthest reaches of the planet. From the starving in Gaza, to the threatened and frightened in Minneapolis, to the lonely, the marginalized, and powerless here in our area.

Jesus call us to be deeply engaged in life, to be fully involved, to be, with God's help, better morally and ethically, to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

We are called to care.

God doesn't want to take us out of the world or numb us against pain. God calls us to live with one another, and know what that means. And anyone who tells you that the Christian life is easy and painless, with no obligation to repair the world and to make it a better place, or says that commandments like "love one another" and "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God" no longer apply – are beyond wrong. They are fatally flawed and dangerous.

We're called to be better morally and ethically, to see the world through compassionate eyes, to love.

We are called to care.

And blessed are you for answering that call in so many ways.

I can't thank you enough for your love and care for the Gospel, for the message and ministry of Jesus Christ, and for Grace Church. Your love and concern shines through and permeates the many ways you minister near and far.

As your Rector, I am so proud of and so humbled by the multitude of things you do out of dedication and commitment to God, starting with our shared life of prayer. We gather Sunday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, and Friday evenings, and we offer graciously the Rites of the Church – Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Weddings, the Renewal of Wedding Vows, and Requiems. We're a full service operation.

Our worship life is truly a work of the faith community. Trust me when I say – all that goes on here could never be done by clergy alone, and mice don't come in in the middle of the night either and make magic happen. You are responsible.

Christmas, as always, was beautiful. Across our four services, attendance was up from last year, with over 600 people deciding to celebrate the Feast of the Incarnation at Grace Church. Each service is a one of a kind gem, and everything was done so well and meticulously prepared. Blessed are you Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Acolytes, Lectors, LEMS, Ushers, Counters, Hospitality, and our talented and gifted Choir along with Noah and Dick – our Music Director and Organist.

Blessed are you, who had any role in the Christmas Pageant – all the children, our beloved camel, and of course the goats. This year, one of them was pregnant, bless her, carrying most likely one of the goats that'll be in the next pageant, so technically we had three goats at the crèche. And we have the finest crèche. Where else does all of creation come to the stable? Blessed are we, thanks to the many children who come forward and place the animal figurines in the crèche. Their faces shine with the glory of the incarnation.

And let's not forget last year's Advent Lessons and Carols, which was done in honor and in thanksgiving for the work and ministry of our beloved Bishop Doug, who is retiring this April. Talk about love and care. That service and the reception following was a love letter to the greater glory of God and to Bishop Doug. Bless you for that.

Holy Week and Easter, rightfully so, are central in the life of this parish. The richness and the beauty of those holy mysteries is made possible thanks to you. Pentecost Sunday, with a youth presentation in lieu of a sermon, the Gospel proclaimed through a host of languages, and our annual picnic was beautiful as always, and last year we also had a Solemn Evensong in the afternoon which was sublime. Blessed are you, welcoming the Holy Spirit.

And speaking of the Spirit, I want to give a shout out to the children and youth of this parish. This last fall, we were blessed with the start of a Children's Choir which sings periodically with the Adult Choir. Bless you for blessing us with the gift of your voices. And once again, I have to thank everyone who participated in the creation of my Christmas card. Many hands, some rather small, made it a tangible and visible manifestation of love.

Every year I proclaim the same, and I'm going to do it again right now: that Grace Church, in the Town of Amherst, in the year of our Lord 2026, has the most wonderful young people I've ever met in my years of ordained ministry. God bless you for being who you are and for being part of this parish. Always remember, you matter to God and to the rest of us, and this is your church. That's right – yours!

A shout out to Megan McDermott in Virginia who left in the middle of last year for graduate school. Speaking with her this last week, she's started her second semester, misses us, sends her love, and wishes Richmond cleared the snow as efficiently and effectively as it's done here in western Mass. We wish her well in her studies and look forward to see where God is calling her. Last year, we welcomed Arianne Abela who stepped into the breach and is overseeing the children's choir and youth ministry. We give thanks for the good work she is doing and for Bella, Chloe, and Taylor who assist her. We can't wait to hear the children sing next week. Blessed are you.

We also welcomed the Rev. Rebecca Grant as our Deacon. The diaconate is a special and unique ministry, and we are blessed having you among us. I cannot thank you enough for your support and for all that you've been doing in the short time you're here. Please stay a while.

I also want to acknowledge the college and university students who are making Grace Church their spiritual home. We're delighted you're here and we're blessed through you. Let us be a support to you in this time of your life and beyond. Many thanks and many blessings!

In terms of outreach and mission, blessed are you for your generosity.

In 2025, we donated somewhere close to one ton of food to the Survival Center. With so many federal cuts and their effects on local agencies, we also had special food drives for Not Bread Alone and the Survival Center, and we also provided once again over 500 packages of bread stuffing at Thanksgiving. We also partnered with Ascentria Refugee Services and held three clothing drives for winter clothes, children's clothes, and work clothes.

Here what the Spirit is saying to God's people, Leviticus 19:33, and may this be heard far and wide:  
*The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.*

While the leaders of our nation ignore or consider such a clear mandate no longer relevant, blessed are you for taking this mandate to heart, being kind and caring.

Last year almost 90 children had a better Christmas thanks to you and your generosity. Once again, we adopted 40 families and provided assistance to the Family Outreach of Amherst, which valiantly helps struggling families in the area. Our missions in Haiti and Ramallah are crucial, especially given the state of affairs in both places. There are over 200 students at St. Mathieu and all went to school this year with new uniforms. A new classroom was completed to accommodate the expansion of the school to ninth grade – and talk about news of great joy for all people – all the students of the first ninth grade class passed the mandatory national exam that certifies their completion of elementary education. That is fantastic! Please remember the annual Dine in Help out Soup Extravaganza is coming up, this Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, place your orders before it's all gone.

In the West Bank, we continue to sponsor the education of a deserving student at the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center through the monthly sales of Palestinian olive oil at coffee hour. Joyce Harish, who we had been supporting, graduated in the spring and was the valedictorian. She's now studying computer engineering. Bless her. As of August we have a new student, Subhi Tannous. He's Christian, in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, and studying IT. His background is incredibly modest. His father is ill with special needs and his mother is cleans homes. Our scholarship is a lifeline for Subhi and the ticket to a better life. May God be with him and his family.

Monetarily, this congregation once again, showed its love and care by generously giving away over \$30,000 to such deserving agencies as: Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, Amherst A Better Chance, the Diocese of Navajoland, Episcopal Relief and Development for the flooding in central Texas and for Hurricane Melissa, the UMass Emergency Response Fund, and Casa Maria – a food shelf and clothing closet ministry, serving immigrant families from across the Minneapolis and St. Paul area, many of whom are undocumented. Can I get an Amen?

This last year, there was a host of opportunities for Christian formation and raising awareness. There were Epiphany Art Meditations, Lenten Poetry Meditations, and the Beautiful Bright Festival of Easter Art Meditations. In Lent, we read Bishop Mariann Budde's book: *How to Learn to be Brave – Decisive Moments in Life and Faith*, and during Advent, we read *The Book of Joy – His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu*. In May, we had a grand celebration of Hildegard of Bingen, and in November a delightful Harvest Concert, both of which were acts of love by so many of you. Climate Action offered thoughtful and meaningful presentations. During Creation Season there was a presentation on sustainable aging and another on tending the soil, and at the start of Advent a fun informative presentation on how to sustainably celebrate the holidays. On the Sunday closest to Earth Day, the Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp from Yale Divinity School preached, and I'm happy to announce that she will be with us again to preach, Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>, so please mark your calendars.

There's so much that goes on here – done out of love and compassion. Blessed is the Pastoral care team, providing not only assistance but also opportunities to get together and socialize: coffee with friends and a ukulele sin-along. Blessed is Sunday morning hospitality, Archives, the Over 60's Gathering, the Funeral Reception committee, the Brother Lawrence Guild, Iconography, the Men's Group, the Joy of Living, the Garden committee (the Garth looks great), Planned Giving, Raising the Questions, Saturday morning Bible study, Tea and Titles, Life Story Writing, and all who hosted and attended an Advent Supper or Brunch.

Blessed is the Stewardship Committee and to each and every one of you for your generous outpouring of financial support for Grace Church. The church budget is a tangible and physical manifestation of a congregation's faith, hope, and love. Blessed are you for your love of God and your love for this church.

And blessed are you who participated and helped make the St. Nicholas Bazaar the success it was. It's not just a fundraiser, it's also a tremendous gift from you to one another and to the greater community, and in plain English – it's fun!

My friends, who knows what the future holds and what God might be calling us to do. Whatever happens, I do believe with my heart, mind, and soul that if we stay the course and remain faithful to what we believe and hold true – that God desires that we seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with the Almighty – that God will fortify us with God's grace and strength.

Yes, change is coming. This time next year I will not be here, but God will remain faithful to us all.

This is my thirteenth year, and I am incredibly honored and humbled to be your Rector.

Blessed are you for all that you do, and blessed is Grace Church.

God bless you all.

Amen

*The Rev. Tom Synan*

## **V. Vestry Reports**

### **Senior Warden - Reflections on a Vibrant Year at Grace Episcopal Church:**

Grace Church continues to be a beacon of faith, community, and service. We are profoundly grateful for the countless blessings bestowed upon us, manifest in our vibrant church community, the deep bonds we share, and the meaningful relationships we cultivate within the wider world. Our mutual reliance and commitment to our neighbors underscore the constant, dynamic, and generous spirit that defines Grace Church.

#### **\*\*Spiritual Life and Worship:\*\***

Our worship services remain at the heart of our mission, offering plentiful opportunities for communion and bearing witness to God's transformative work. We are particularly blessed by the exceptional musical contributions of Dr. Noah Horn, whose inspiring and touching compositions enrich our worship experiences with many layers of beauty. Arianne Abela, Director of the Choral Music Program and Senior Lecturer in Music at Amherst College has further enhanced our musical offerings by establishing a flourishing children's choir, which is successfully engaging young people and drawing them into our Sunday services. We also extend our gratitude to Dick Damon, who continues to share his musical gifts, a dedication that has spanned many decades. The Reverend Tom Synan consistently guides, leads, and inspires our congregation with his thoughtful leadership. We have been joined this year by Rebecca Grant as our newly appointed Deacon. Furthermore, the dedication of our Liturgical Committee and Alter Guild is indispensable, providing vital support for the numerous services scheduled throughout our busy week.

#### **\*\*Operational Excellence and Leadership:\*\***

The seamless daily and weekly management of our church's business operations and the meticulous care of our facility are ably handled by our devoted support staff, including Terrie Kkrpita, Jaana Cutson, and Dave Goodhind. Their unwavering commitment ensures our church functions effectively and remains a welcoming

space. We are also incredibly fortunate to have the dedicated leadership of our Vestry's Executive Committee: Junior Warden Tom Dougherty, Treasurer Tim Hampson, and Clerk Libby Maxey. Their insightful understanding and diligent attention to the daily, monthly, and fiscal needs of our parish are absolutely critical to maintaining our healthy buildings and viable budgets.

**\*\*Stewardship and Community Generosity:\*\***

We are continually humbled and deeply grateful for the extraordinary generosity of our parishioners. Their willingness to contribute their treasures, alongside the significant time and talent shared by so many within this community, creates a truly vibrant and giving testament to our collective faith. It is through these contributions that we continue to maintain healthy and viable budgets, enabling Grace Church to fulfill its mission. For more detailed insights into the Vestry's ongoing work and fiscal oversight, I encourage everyone to review the monthly Vestry minutes, which are regularly uploaded and linked on our main webpage.

**\*\*Personal Reflection and Transition:\*\***

As I complete my second full year as Senior Warden, I will be stepping down from this role at the end of this term. It has been a profound honor and privilege to serve the church community in this capacity. This experience has allowed me to connect with new individuals, embrace challenging new projects, and deepen my understanding of the myriad ways God touches the lives of so many. I extend my sincere thanks for the opportunity to serve.

*Katherine Glime, Senior Warden*

**Junior Warden:**

In my 5th year as the Junior Warden, I was involved with many undertakings around the Grace Church campus in 2025. Some of those undertakings are highlighted as:

- Assisting with various garden committee clean-ups, specifically the installation use and maintenance of the sprinkler system in the Garth,
- The new bank of niches was installed in the Columbarium,
- Arranged with help from Edith Allison and the Climate Committee, adding insulation to the Rectory roof by Artis Energy,
- With Vestry approval we put all our fire system inspections and maintenance under one umbrella with Fire Equipment
- Added another wireless microphone to our current sound system in the church

Through all the inspections and meetings with vendors I have to continue to praise our Sexton Dave Goodhind for his energy and ability to make repairs. Also, Terrie Korpita in the office for her help with scheduling the various yearly inspections and Jaana Cutson our bookkeeper for paying vendors expediently.

## Future Projects:

The project to air condition the church is moving along, we have hired Salas O'Brien to conduct a feasibility study which we can expect in February or early March. Once the study is received, we will share it with the church. John Robinson and Chris Freitag have been instrumental in helping move this project along.

At this date replacing the Parke House and or refinishing the Undercroft are put on hold. We will continue to use both spaces as is.

We continue to work hard to keep this large beautiful campus clean, less energy dependent and safe for our staff, parishioners and community.

*Tom Dougherty, Junior Warden*

## VI. Commission Reports

### LITURGICAL COMMISSION

#### **Altar Guild:**

It takes many hands to make Grace Church, our sacred space, a special place. The Altar Guild plays an important role in this effort by preparing the sanctuary for worship and taking care of all the items used in our worship. The AG has many specific responsibilities that are fulfilled by numerous individuals who are involved throughout the year. They include members who set up and clean up the Altar at all regular services (8am and 10:30am Sunday services, Wednesday Healing service) as well as at special services and seasons (baptisms, funerals, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter). Members of the flower guild under Lou Currin's leadership create beauty in the sanctuary with floral displays throughout the year. They also provide gorgeous backdrops of poinsettias and lilies during Christmas and Easter respectively. A small group of volunteers launder linens all year round; they remove wine stains and restore our beautiful linens to be used at all our services. None of this would be possible without Georgann Mirick who is responsible for the roster of weekly duties, keeping track of and ordering Altar supplies, and maintaining an inventory of supplies in both the upstairs and downstairs sacristies.

Each member of the Altar Guild plays an extremely important role. While the efforts of some are more readily visible than others, all the work carried out is significant to our worship. Let's thank them for their dedication to this important ministry: Tom Baker, Bill and Monica Barry, Paul Bracciotti, Veronica Chapman, Marie Coughlin, Sheila Coy, Cara Crandall, Lou Currin, Kitty Dougherty, Helen Drake, Maria Dye, Heidi Erickson, Hattie Finkel, Kathy Glime, Gail Gnatek, Alice Goodwin-Brown, Mary Hocken, Laura Klock, Lisa Lukas, Sheila Mammen, Betsy Mathews, Georgann Mirick, Eliot Moss, Elizabeth Musgrave, Virginia Ramos, Kevyn Smith, Cindy Spell, Janet Teng, Laurie Tupper, Micah Walter. Incoming members: Beth Brown, Betty Brown, Donna Devine, Kanae Nagasaki, Lynn Rose. Thank you all!

*Sheila Mammen*

#### **Music:**

The music program continued to thrive in the year 2025 at Grace Episcopal Church, Amherst, Massachusetts. The choir performs on Sunday mornings at the 10:30 service throughout the academic year and at numerous special services. Additional weekly music includes several hymns, a sung psalm, and service music offerings

such as the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, and Fraction Anthem. Organist Dick Damon plays excellently and fluently, and handles keyboard duties for both the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning services. He performed over a hundred solo keyboard works this year. We were also delighted to welcome back the Grace Church Youth Choir under the newly appointed direction of Arianne Abela, represented in a separate report.

Special choral services throughout the year included Ash Wednesday, Holy Week (Tenebrae, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil), a Hildegard of Bingen celebration, a full choral Evensong for Pentecost, Advent Lessons and Carols, and Christmas Eve. The third annual Messiah sing-along was another highlight and filled the church again. The church continues to be a popular venue to rent for choral concerts, hosting local groups such as Illumine Vocal Arts Ensemble and Arcadia Players.

We had many parishioners perform as instrumentalists throughout the year. These include (in score order): Kell Julliard, flute; Susan Altabet, flute; Miriam Jenkins, clarinet; Sarah Boy, clarinet; Lisa McDonald, bassoon; Lynn Klock, saxophone; Laura Klock, French horn; Noah Horn, trumpet; Alice Goodwin-Brown, trombone and djembe; Natalie Moss, djembe; Micah Walter, violin; Caleb Ireland, violin; Sam Lowry, violin; Mary Hocken, cello; and Barbara Sternau, cello. Guest musicians throughout the year included Victoria Fraser, soprano; David Nielsen, oboe; Jeff Holmes, trumpet; Colleen Jennings, violin; Maria Mendez, violin; Capella Sherwood, violin; Janine Roberts, violin; and Chris Benfey, viola.

With thanks to all for contributing to our lovely music program, respectfully submitted,

Dr. Noah Horn  
Director of Music, Grace Church

### Choir Roster

<b>Soprano</b>	<b>Alto</b>	<b>Tenor</b>	<b>Bass</b>
Alice Goodwin-Brown	Rev. Adrienne Stair	Angus McLeod	Dick Damon
Anna Smith	Ania W. Masinter	Caleb Ireland	Duane Dale
Libby Maxey	Danielle Federa	Dennis Costa	Harold Norris
Lorie Healy	Elizabeth Hart Damon	Hal Grotevant	Rev. James McDonald
Maizie Connerton-Ryan	Rev. Heidi Frantz-Dale	Hanif Lawrence	John Healy
Marsha Hertel	Joan O'Brien	Henry Maxey	Rev. John Horn
Mary El Vaughan	June Gaeke	Jim Mead	Kell Julliard
Mary Hocken	Lisa McDonald	John Stifler	Mark Marshall
Natalie Moss	Rev. Raisin Horn	Ross Goodwin-Brown	Peter Mishkin
Sarah Boy	Susan Altabet		
	Rev. Susan Schaeffer		
	Winifred Connerton		

### Choral Repertoire (2025)

January 5	Peter Cornelius	The Three Kings
January 12	Derek Healey	The White Dove
January 19	Richard Horn	I heard the voice of Jesus say
January 26	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Ave verum corpus
February 2	Herbert Howells	Nunc dimittis (Collegium Regale)

February 16	Elizabeth Hart Damon	The Lamb
February 23	Morten Lauridsen	O nata lux
March 2	Noah Horn	Arise, shine
March 5	Richard Farrant	Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake
	Richard Farrant	Call to remembrance
March 9	Richard Farrant	Hide not thou thy face from us
March 16	Morten Lauridsen	O magnum mysterium
	Kell Julliard	The Light!
March 23	William Byrd	Ave verum corpus
March 30	Karen A. Guthrie	What Is Man?
April 6	Felix Mendelssohn	O for the wings of a dove
April 13	arr. Mark Andrews	The Palms
April 16	Johann Kuhnau	Tristis est anima mea
	Marco Antonio Ingegneri	Tenebrae factae sunt
	Jacob Handl	Ecce quomodo moritur
	Giovanni Croce	Velum templi
	Felice Anerio	Christus factus est
	Gregorio Allegri	Miserere mei
April 17	Maurice Duruflé	Ubi caritas
	Richard Damon	Lord, for ever at Thy side
April 18	Johann Sebastian Bach	Ruht wohl, ihr heiligen Gebeine
	Felice Anerio	Christus factus est
April 19	Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina	Sicut cervus
April 20	Edward C. Bairstow	Sing ye to the Lord
May 4	Johann Sebastian Bach	Psallite Deo nostro in laetitia
May 10	Hildegard von Bingen	O viriditas digiti Dei
	Hildegard von Bingen	Ordo virtutum (excerpt)
	Hildegard von Bingen	O ignis Spiritus paracliti
May 11	John Rutter	The Lord bless you and keep you
May 18	Stephen Dydo	Now the Powers of Heaven
May 25	Arianne Abela	Rise
June 1	Healey Willan	Rise up, my love, my fair one
June 8	Thomas Tallis	O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit
	William Smith	Preces and Responses
	Herbert Howells	Magnificat & Nunc (Collegium Regale)
	Felix Mendelssohn	Hear my prayer
June 15	Alice Parker	Trinitarian Blessings
July 20	Noah Horn	The King of love my shepherd is
July 27	John Rutter	The Lord bless you and keep you
September 7	Johann Sebastian Bach	Psallite Deo nostro in laetitia
September 14	Undine Smith Moore	We Shall Walk through the Valley
September 21	Richard Horn	O taste and see
	Amy Beach	Peace I leave with you
September 28	Richard Damon	And war broke out in heaven
October 5	John Rutter	Look at the world
October 12	Keith Hampton	Praise His Holy Name!
October 19	Louis Vierne	Sanctus from Messe solennelle
	Amy Beach	With prayer and supplication

October 26	Micah John Walter Amy Beach	Trisagion (2018) Nunc dimittis
November 2	Alice Parker	Saints Bound for Heaven
November 9	Ralph Vaughan Williams	O how amiable are thy dwellings
November 16	André J. Thomas	Keep your lamps
November 23	George Frideric Handel	Lift up your heads, O ye gates
November 30	Heinrich Schütz	Rorate coeli desuper
December 7	Richard Horn	A shoot shall come forth
December 14	Boris Ord Felix Mendelssohn Noah Horn Richard Horn Arianne Abela Charles Wood	Adam lay ybounden Behold a star from Jacob shining Arise, shine A shoot shall come forth Rejoice and Await O Thou the central orb
December 21	Charles Villiers Stanford	Magnificat in G major
December 24	Tomás Luis de Victoria Harold Darke Richard Damon Richard Damon David Willcocks	O magnum mysterium In the bleak mid-winter Love came down at Christmas Holy Savior, yet so tiny Sussex Carol

### Organ Repertoire (2025)

January 5	J.S. Bach J.S. Bach	Sinfonia from the Christmas Cantata Fugue in G major
January 12	César Franck Alexandre Guilmant	Pastorale Movement #1 from Sonata #3
January 19	César Franck Felix Mendelssohn	Prière Allegro Moderato from Sonata #1
January 26	Dietrich Buxtehude J.S. Bach	Prelude and Fugue in G minor Prelude in G minor
February 2	Claude Debussy G.F. Handel	Passepied Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
February 9	Siegfried Karg-Elert Giuseppe Torelli	Chorale Preludes Allegro in B-flat major
February 16	Healey Willan J.S. Bach	Chorale Preludes Prelude in F major
February 23	Felix Mendelssohn J.S. Bach	Adagio from Sonata #1 Prelude in F major
March 2	G.F. Handel G.F. Handel	The Harmonious Blacksmith Allegro from Organ Concerto #1
March 9	J.S. Bach	Fantasie in C minor
March 16	Daniel Pinkham J.S. Bach	Pastorale Fugue in C minor
March 23	J.S. Bach Healey Willan	Andante from Trio Sonata #4 Epilogue
March 30	J.S. Bach Giovanni Pergolesi	Adagio in B-flat major from Trio Sonata #2 Trio Sonata #1, Moderato

April 6	Nicolas de Grigny Pierre du Mage	Grand Chorus on a Pedal Point Grand Jeu
April 19	Dietrich Buxtehude	Fugue in C major
April 20	Dietrich Buxtehude Louis Vierne	Prelude in G major Finale from Organ Symphony #1
April 27	Louis Vierne Dietrich Buxtehude	Chorale from Organ Symphony #2 Prelude and Fugue in D major
May 4	J.S. Bach J.S. Bach	Adagio in A minor Fugue in D major
May 11	John Alcock J.S. Bach	Voluntary Toccata in C major
May 18	Alexandre Boely Camille Saint-Saëns	Style Modern Fantasie in E-flat
May 25	Alexandre Guilmant Alexandre Guilmant	Pastorale Chorale and Fugue
June 1	John Bull Johann Sebastian Bach	Praeludium Prelude in A minor
June 8	J.S. Bach David N. Johnson Johann Sebastian Bach	Sheep may safely graze Trumpet Tune Sonata, BWV 1029
June 15	Sigfrid Karg-Elert Gaspard Corrette J.S. Bach	Praise the Lord with drums and cymbals Cromhorne en Taille Prelude in G major
June 22	Ralph Vaughan Williams Cesar Franck	Rhosymedre Chorale #3 in A minor
June 29	Jules Massenet J.S. Bach	Angelus Fugue in B minor
July 6	Charles Gounod Scott Joplin	The funeral march of a marionette The Maple Leaf Rag
July 13	J.S. Bach Dietrich Buxtehude	Two Adagios from Trio Sonatas Prelude and Fugue in E minor
July 20	Gabriel Fauré John Stanley	Pavane Trumpet Voluntary
July 27	J.S. Bach Giuseppe Torelli	Chorale Preludes Allegro in B-flat major
August 3	Girolamo Frescobaldi G.F. Handel	Ricercar Prelude and Fugue in F minor
August 10	Theodore Dubois Theodore Dubois	Prelude Toccata in G major
August 17	Nicolaus Bruhns Johann Sebastian Bach	Praeludium in E minor Prelude in C major, BWV 547
August 24	César Franck Johann Sebastian Bach	Prière Fugue in G minor
August 31	Johann Sebastian Bach Johann Sebastian Bach	Chorale Preludes Fugue on a theme by Corelli
September 7	Georg Böhm Alexandre Guilmant	Herr wie du willst Sonata Number 1

September 14	Ottorino Respighi Dieterich Buxtehude	Selections from Ancient Airs and Dances Prelude and Fugue in A minor
September 21	Phillipe Gaubert Nigel Ogden	Madrigal Penguin's Playtime
September 28	Johann Walther Benedetto Marcello	Lord Jesus Christ be Present Now Psalm 19
October 5	Jean Langlais Jean Langlais	Selections from Suite Medievale Acclamations from Suite Medievale
October 12	Louis Marchand Felix Mendelssohn	Andante in D Sonata #4 Allegro Maestoso
October 19	Felix Mendelssohn Diderik Buxtehude	Organ Sonata #4 - Allegretto Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne
October 26	J.S. Bach	Fugue in G major
November 2	Cesar Franck J.S. Bach	Prelude, Fugue and Variation Toccata and Fugue in D minor
November 9	Louis Marchand John Alcock	Fugue Voluntary X
November 16	J.S. Bach J.S. Bach	Fantasia in C minor Prelude and Fugue in A major
November 23	Cesar Franck Felix Mendelssohn	Fantasia in C major Sonata #1 movement #4
November 30	Georg Böhm	Postlude & Fugue in c major
December 7	Robert Schumann G. F. Handel	Fugue on Bach Allegro in G minor from Organ Concerto #3
December 14	Georg Muffat Johann Pachelbel Louis Claude Daquin G.F. Handel	Toccata Fugue and Allegro Noëls Organ Concerto #5 Movement #4
December 21	J.S. Bach J.S. Bach	Komm Heiliger Geist Toccata and Fugue in E major
December 24	J. S. Bach Louis Vierne	Prelude in G major Organ Symphony #1 Final
December 28	J. S. Bach J. S. Bach	Allabreve Fugue in G major

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION & EDUCATION - ADULT

In 2025, Grace Church offered programs engaging and exploring our Christian faith from a variety of angles. On an ongoing basis, parishioners can participate in:

\*Saturday morning Bible study with the Rector, which meets on Zoom

\*Tea and Titles, group coordinated by Jude Wobst that meets every third week to drink tea and discuss adventures in reading

\*Raising the Questions, group coordinated by Nancy Lowry that meets monthly for reading and discussion, focusing on theology and liturgy

\*Joy of Living, group coordinated by Kell Julliard that combines meditation, practices integrated in the flow of life, and discussion, for people of all faith backgrounds.

Newcomers are always welcome to any of these groups! Additionally, Grace offered a variety of programs by season. Last year's seasonal offerings included:

### **Epiphany**

Epiphany Art Meditations

### **Lent**

Lenten Poetry Meditations

Bishop Mariann Budde's Book: *How to Learn to be Brave – Decisive Moments in Life and Faith*.

### **Easter**

A Celebration of Hildegard of Bingen

The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Sharp preached, commemorating Earth Day.

### **Ordinary Time**

Climate Action had a presentation on sustainable aging and another on tending the soil.

There was a Harvest Music Concert in November.

### **Advent**

Climate Action offered a presentation on how to celebrate the holidays sustainably.

*The Book of Joy – His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

### **Raising the Questions**

Raising the Questions has continued to meet monthly during 2025. We bring our liturgical and theological questions and have a great time discussing them. We talk about books we have been reading and pass around articles, prayers, and bulletins from other churches we have visited. We laugh a lot. We were co-instigators and members of the troupe for the joyful celebration of St. Hildegard of Bingen in May. Meetings are always open, so join us if you are curious. We meet the second Tuesday at 9:30 am, in the Connector.

*Nancy Lowry*

## **CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND EDUCATION COMMISSION - CHILDREN & YOUTH**

### **Junior Choir**

Since September we have been rehearsing weekly from 9:15-10:15 each Sunday. We began with around 6 kids and today we have close to 13 ranging in age from 5-17. We have 3 excellent staff members assisting.

Projects include:

- Creation Tree where congregation contributed leaves. It hangs in the sanctuary now. Fully designed and made by the youth.
- Sing in service once a month-- pieces include Rutter, Look at the World, Hlononofasta, traditional South African piece, and Horn, A Shoot shall come forth.
- Performed Christmas Pageant

Upcoming projects:

- Performance in February with adult choir
- Art project about light and darkness
- performing at nearby Nursing Home
- social activity to be determined by the kids
- Easter project and music, possible skit

*Arianne Abela*

### **Campus and Young Adult Ministry**

In August 2025, a group of parishioners with a combined and varied wealth of experience with college students, Raisin Horn, John Horn, Nancy Rose-Weeber, Chuck Weeber, Helen Leung, and Mark Marshall, met to discuss ways of engaging and connecting with college-aged people, both those who are students and those who are not. Particularly for the students with their busy lives, the group decided to focus more on providing connections than programs, and to strive towards providing a space where they (as we hope for all who walk through our doors) can come as their real selves and feel accepted. During the fall made a special effort to greet the young adults we noticed in church before or after Sunday morning services and also at Friday afternoon Evensong when one or more of us were there. A special welcome was extended to college-aged newcomers at the St. Michael's brunch. We find it critically important to strike a balance between being welcoming and not being over aggressively so. As a means of demonstrating our desire for connection, we encourage parishioners to "show up" in students' spaces, such as college and university athletic, artistic, dramatic or musical events. This was very meaningful to several students in the fall semester, and we hope to continue this involvement with the start of the spring semester.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Marshall*

## **PARISH LIFE COMMISSION**

The mission of the Parish Life Commission is to spread the joy of Christian fellowship and hospitality throughout Grace Church and the larger community. Many committees and events strive to maintain a strong, social connection throughout our membership. In 2024 we were able to hold these events:

*Our Annual Meeting*

*Shrove Sunday Pancake Coffee Hour*

*The annual Pentecost Picnic*

*The annual St. Michael's Picnic*

*The annual Stewardship Feast of Grace*

*Annual Advent Suppers*

*The café at the St. Nicholas Bazaar*

Our Parish Life committees serve our members in many important ways. The Hospitality Committee provides coffee hours after our services, schedules ushers, and welcomes newcomers. The Brother Lawrence Guild provides delicious cuisine at various gatherings. The St. Nicholas Bazaar Committee not only provides a community event but also raises money that is crucial for our budget. The Garden Ministry continues to maintain our gardens and to address areas of need.

The Parish Life Commission would like to thank all these committees for all that they do. Your dedication and support of Grace's programs and projects is most sincerely appreciated. Great may your reward be in heaven.

### **Funeral Reception Committee:**

The Funeral Reception Committee is made up of Kitty Dougherty (chair), Tom Dougherty, Hannah Abbott, Mary Hocken, Laura Klock, Lucy Robinson, Mike Gralenski, and Karen Desantis.

It is an important ministry of Grace Church. We strive to offer a calm, welcoming presence to the friends, family and loved ones of those celebrating and honoring the departed.

The receptions held this year were in memory of:

Beattie Blain	February 22, 2025
Andrew Glace	March 8, 2025
Margo McMahan	March 24, 2025
Valarie Gracechild	May 31, 2025
Dee Dee Niswonger	July 5, 2025
Arlene Wright	November 3, 2025

Kitty Dougherty

### **Saint Nicholas Bazaar:**

The St. Nicholas Bazaar was a great success, both for the fellowship shared and the money raised for the parish. Our net income was about \$16,000 thanks to the contributions of time, talent and treasures from our generous congregation. This was truly a parish-wide event, with over 70 people (including a few newcomers!) helping before, during and after, plus those who donated and those who came to shop. Every individual's contribution is

greatly appreciated. Thank you to everyone involved - the bazaar couldn't happen without so many doing so much!

*Respectfully, Joan O'Brien*

### **Garden Ministry:**

This has been quite a year for all of us on the garden committee and all the parishioners that have helped us with projects. Our stated goals for the year were the clearing and planting of the Garth garden that is behind the church and installing plants in the adjacent southwest corner of the lawn area. We also wanted to remove all the invasive plants.

In the spring, we planted 54 shrubs and plants in 2 distinct gardens: the hillside garden and the shady garden. And some of our members also re-planted plants around the patio area. During the summer months, we worked every Friday from 7:30 AM to about 9:00 AM weeding the upper area next to the Town Hall parking lot.

At the same time, we successfully installed an irrigation system that waters all the new plants and shrubs on the hill. For the other areas needing water this summer, volunteers came and hand watered.

A donated memorial bench was placed next to the wall that is situated in the shade during the summer months. From this bench you can enjoy the hillside and shady gardens in bloom.

During the 10:30 service on October 4th, the Grace Garden Committee was Commissioned and after the service, Rev. Tom blessed the gardens during a delightful walk around the property.

In the fall, we worked in the Columbarium Garden and trimmed and weeded that area. We also did our regular maintenance of the 4 other garden areas around the church.

Blessings to the Garden Committee and all that helped us.

*Sara Liberty Laylin  
Grace Garden Ministry Chair*

### **2025 Report of St. Luke's Icon Workshop:**

In the year 2025 St. Luke's Icon Workshop at Grace Church held regular sessions for 8-13 iconographers in the parish hall after the 10:30 service on Sundays, in additions to two 3-day intensive weekday workshops.

Icons are a window into the realms of light. Rich in symbolism, icons are considered to be theology in color, and their creation is a meditative spiritual practice.

As a collective project, the icon workshop created an icon of the Archangel Raphael as a contribution for Grace's 2025 Services Auction.

Icons created by individuals in the workshop in 2025 included:

Archangel Michael  
Archangel Raphael  
Archangel Barachiel

2 icons of The Angel With the Golden Hair  
The Guardian Angel  
Nymphios: Christ with the Crown of Thorns  
3 icons of Mary, Mother of God  
Jonah and the Whale  
Saint John on Patmos  
Sainte Jehanne D'Arc  
Saints Boris and Gleb

*Sandy Lillydahl*

### **Archives Committee:**

The Archives Committee is still working at preserving historical items in their office in the Parke House. We have complete sets of Vestry Minutes, which are legal documents.

Our thanks to Terrie Korpita for assisting us in this effort. She has discovered items and records in many cupboards, file cabinets, and on shelves that needed a home in the Archives collection.

Georgann Mirick from the Altar Guild has joined us to inventory and catalog our large collection from the Church, the Chapel, their Sacristies, and the Robing room where the beautiful chasubles and stoles are kept. She has found many of the Altar Guild items were donated either in memory of or in thanksgiving of a parishioner - even the eagle lectern. The beautiful altar frontals and pulpit falls makers are sometimes recognized.

We still need items such as records, programs from special services, and we always enjoy photos. If anyone has any materials that should be stored at Grace, please leave them in the office with Terrie or contact one of us.

*Anne Homme and Janine Kelly*

### **PASTORAL CARE COMMISSION**

This year the commission continued to offer support to parishioners by providing rides to appointments or church as requested. Provision of meals to those recovering from illness or in times of bereavement remains an important mission function although there were few requests in 2025.

This Christmas we again prepared small gift boxes of cookies and candies for those of our members who were homebound, recovering from illness, or in bereavement. Sincere thanks to our volunteer bakers and to the volunteer deliverers.

This Fall we trialed a program of informal get togethers. Some of these included morning teas, local concerts, and dinners. We hope to encourage more of these opportunities to gather together as a means of strengthening our relationships and combatting loneliness.

As always we continue to welcome new members, new ideas, and new volunteers.

*Gail Gnatek, Chairperson*

## **OUTREACH MINISTRIES COMMISSION**

In 2025, our Fourth Sunday Outreach collections plus additional allocations from the Rector's Discretionary Fund distributed over \$27,000 to worthy groups outside the church. Organizations that you supported included: the Amherst Survival Center, the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, and the UMass students displaced by last year's fire, as well as global and regional groups such as the Episcopal Vocational Training Center in Ramallah, the Episcopal Church in Navajoland, and the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza.

As part of our mission "to sustain outreach ministers through offerings of prayer, practical support, and opportunities to share the joys and challenges of their work as God's hands in the world" (Mission Statement: Outreach Ministries Commission), your Outreach Commission welcomes your ideas on new organizations to support, especially any organizations that parishioners are already involved with.

We thank you once again for your donations of time, talent, and treasure to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ outside the walls of Grace Church.

*Chris Hoffmann, Chair*

### **Adopt-A-Family for Christmas:**

Amazing and oh so generous is Grace Church!

Thank you so much to those who adopted 40 families, 87 children. This was an extraordinary year in that all 40 families were "adopted" more than two weeks before the day to deliver them! Thank you so much for that gift to me and the enthusiasm you demonstrated for participating in this program. So many thanks to each one who adopted a family, contributed money or shopped. These families struggle to make a life for themselves and their children so your gifts make their holiday much brighter. Thank you, thank you!

*Mary Hocken*

### **Haiti Ministry:**

The past year has not been a happy one for the nation of Haiti. Gangs still control much of the countryside and many of the cities. Travel is dangerous, and goods and services are not getting delivered. It has been a challenge for the school of St Matthieu to hold classes, get supplies and food, and keep the children engaged in learning. But school staff have done just that, thanks to the generosity of the people of Grace Church and our partners from St James' Episcopal Church in Indian Head, Maryland. The ministry has also been supported by Saints James and Andrew Episcopal Church in Greenfield, the Federated Church in Charlemont, and the Haitian American Student Association at UMass.

The year began, as usual, with preparations for the Haiti Soup Supper, an event which involved many volunteers - cooks and bakers, packers and deliverers, web order form-builders, publicity coordinators, local restaurant liaison people, order-takers, and so on! More than 200 quarts of soup were sold, raising over \$4,000 for the children at the school – and everyone involved had a great time – and a great meal!

In the spring, we held a targeted one-time fund raiser to enable the school to build a classroom for the new 9th grade. St. Matthieu earlier offered classes up to 6th grade, but the definition of elementary education in Haiti was recently changed to encompass pre-kindergarten through 9th grade. St. Matthieu added a grade every year from 2021 to 2024 and graduated its first class of ninth graders in 2025. To raise the funds for the new classroom, we organized an envelope project – "The Envelope, Please" – during Lent. Parishioners chose to

fill envelopes with graduated amounts up to \$200. On three Sundays, members of the Haiti Ministry who have visited the school in the past spoke about how this ministry has affected their lives. The Lenten campaign raised over \$13,000 toward the cost of construction. The new classroom was completed on time and on budget for the start of school in the fall!

Meanwhile, we had received disturbing news of the scarcity of food for the children at St Matthieu. The school had relied for many years on Food for the Poor, an ecumenical Christian aid organization, to supply rice and beans for a regular luncheon meal. But, given the breakdown of security in the country, it had become too dangerous to deliver anything on the roads, and the food deliveries had stopped. Children often came to school without breakfast, and now without a school lunch they were in danger of fainting in class. We stepped in with an emergency contribution to procure food at the local market and resume school lunches through the end of the school year while we hoped to find other sources of food aid. We needed to step in again in the fall with emergency funds for food, and we continue to search for other organizations that could take on this need until the situation in the country becomes more stable, less dangerous.

An organization called MFK (Meds and Food for Kids) has supplied high protein bars to some schools and has pledged a supply for St Matthieu, though these have not yet arrived. Another possible eventual source to contribute variety and nutrition to the school lunch is breadfruit. Apparently, the Gonaives area is good for growing breadfruit trees. The Smallholder Farmers' Alliance's nursery in Gonaives is giving away tree seedlings to individuals/organizations willing to commit to nurturing and raising the trees. Père Decamps, the priest in charge at the school, is pursuing this, so we may have more to report on the trees next year.

In June, several members of the steering committee traveled to Indian Head, MD, to share a weekend with our St James' Episcopal Church partners there, which concluded with a joyful Pentecost service.

Shortly after we returned, we got the impressive news that all eight ninth graders in this first ninth grade class at St Matthieu had passed the mandatory national exam that certifies their completion of elementary education – a reason to be proud for the students, their teachers and their supporters here in Amherst! We sent money for a small celebration!

Our annual summer uniform and school supplies campaign took place over the months of June, July and August. It was very successful this year and raised \$19,000 to equip a growing student body - now over 250 students - for 2025-26.

In November, our partners from Indian Head came to Amherst for a weekend visit of dinners, meetings, outings, the Harvest Concert and worship together as we strengthened our ties to this ministry and to one another.

At year end we received a grant of \$5000 from the Global Missions Committee of the Diocese of Western Mass. to enhance the electrification of St. Matthieu. The grant will be used, among other things, to add additional solar panels, doubling the electrical capacity of the school. Fifteen tablet computers, the gift of Digital Promise, a global non-profit working in education, will enhance the incorporation of online resources into science learning in first and second grades. The gift follows from St. Matthieu's participation in a pilot project in Haiti over the previous two academic years.

Our annual appeal letter was mailed in early December. This year the funds raised will also address the continuing need to supplement food for the children.

In short, it has been a year of progress and growth for St Matthieu even as it faces grim challenges, the most worrisome of which is hunger. We remain deeply grateful for the privilege of working with our partners, both in Bayonnais and in the US, to improve the education of all these young and promising children. This ministry is a gift to all.

*Submitted by Bonnie Vigeland on behalf of the Haiti Ministry steering committee:*  
Harriet Finkel, Mary Hocken, Brown Kennedy, Laura Klock, Suzannah Muspratt, Sandy Muspratt, Joan O'Brien, John Stifler, Martin Wobst, Alison Ash

### **Brother Lawrence Guild:**

2025 was another eventful year for the BLG as we happily prepared food for the; Annual Meeting, St Nickolas Bazaar, St Michael's and Pentecost Picnics, Shrove Tuesday/Sunday pancakes, assisted with set-up and clean-up at the Feast of Grace also known as "The In Gathering" and with Megan McDermont's farewell party. Serving as a member of the BLG is a great way to get involved at Grace Church. All are welcome to join us. We are very relaxed and light hearted as we prepare and serve meals to the Parish! If you would like to be a part of the BLG but fear you cannot make or help at all the functions, not to worry, help when you can. Brother Lawrence was a seventeenth-century Carmelite monk who experienced the presence of God while cleaning pots in the scullery of his monastery. Accepting what he'd been given to do, Brother Lawrence spent his life attempting to live in God's presence. Like Brother Lawrence, we try to practice the presence of God in the act of preparing meals for our fellow parishioners – and newcomers – at Grace Church. We are grateful for this opportunity and welcome others to join us in this hospitable endeavor.

*Respectfully submitted, Tom Dougherty with many thanks to those who served. r Members in service: Fran Bancroft, Sarah Chadwick, Jeffrey DeSantis, Kitty Dougherty Laura Hanke, Tony Jewel, Mark Leonas, Doug Moore, Sandy Muspratt, Diana Rogers, Katie Schendel, Janet Teng, Virginia Ramos and Chuck Webber.*

### **ClimateAction@Grace**

Our ministry continues to focus on campus improvements to save energy and energy costs, ways to help bring about change at systemic levels and policies, and mutual personal spiritual support for each other and as a group. As joy and beauty continue to abound in our world, we feel moved to respond to what is deeply concerning to us and to many. Our sense of purpose is not just for the natural world: it is woven with all of life. If you feel moved to join, please know you are most welcome.

#### *Campus improvements*

We supported the Vestry and Senior Warden in having part of the Rectory insulated. We use compostable serving ware at our events and encourage recycling, something Brother Lawrence has been taking up. CA@G supports and honors the Garden Ministry in planting a pollinator garden in the front of the church. Vestry has agreed to send a member to our meetings so we can increase collaboration.

#### *Systemic and policy change*

We stay somewhat informed during legislative sessions so that we can write state legislators in support of bills that support creation. This is based on our creation theology rather than political trends. Kevin Young of University of Massachusetts gave us a presentation about UMass' commitments to healthy climate goals, and how those may be shifting. We are waiting to respond if/when the time comes for area citizens to weigh in. See "12 Ways We Can Exploit Fossil Fuel Industry Vulnerabilities--Even Under Trump" Truthout, December 29, 2024. We hosted three presentations in Creation Season. Marianne Connor taught about regenerative systems:

ways of looking at ecosystems that help us see how to make choices that are sustainable and helpful long-term. Marianne is developing a regenerative learning center at Sirius Community and is exploring with CA@G how we might partner in "watershed discipleship". We are also seeking to have a conversation with Wesley Sipes who runs the Sustainability Initiative at Amherst College.

### *Spiritual interpersonal support*

We meet monthly, second Sunday of the month, in the Parker Room at 12:15. We open and close with prayer, often from God's Good Earth, Rowthorn. On occasion we are graced with the singing of a Gaelic song. In April, near Earth Day, we were grateful that the choir sang Hudson's musical piece Holy Earth, Our Ancient Home, from Passion for the Planet. During Creation Season Marianne Connor also gave a presentation on Sustainable Aging and supported our thinking about aging in ways that are less isolating and costly in a community of care.. This was in collaboration with Sts. James and Andrews' in Greenfield, who hosted a retreat the day before, and engaged a number of people from both parishes. On St Francis' day, Rev. Tom commissioned CA@G and the Garden Ministry and led us in Blessings of the Garth and gardens around our campus. Carol Dick helped us prepare for the holidays with a guided conversation about how to choose simple, fun, meaningful, less costly ways of celebrating. We were honored to have been asked by local veterans to toll our bell eleven times at 11 am on November 11. We had a modest presence at the St. Nicholas Bazaar, noting that the Bazaar is itself a very "green" activity. We are pleased that Anna Smith has begun a series of articles for Grace Notes about our natural world. We celebrate the tree on the sanctuary wall, made by our young and very young people, highlighting some of what we parishioners cherish about God's creation. Finally, one of our members serves as a kind of contemplative support for the group, weighing in occasionally and generally supporting us.

### *Ongoing*

We plan to revisit our bell-ringing efforts of the last four years, a nationwide effort to raise awareness of the "eleventh hour" of time to address the many concerns about planet health. We have entered a time of challenges on multiple fronts and multiple levels, and more people are aware of issues surrounding climate change. We have received feedback that the ringing can be confusing and unsettling for people who have not read our signs. To help reach our goals we are considering changes while maintaining this symbolic community message. One effort toward this is an article we are working on for the Daily Hampshire Gazette. In 2024 we offered an apple tree display to record actions that parishioners had been doing on their own for Creation; there were over 70. This was part of noticing how people at Grace show we care. We can notice and appreciate that and then build a sense of moving ahead together. In a similar vein, CA@G has been reaching out to St. John's of Northampton, Sts. James and Andrews of Greenfield, and All Saints' of S. Hadley in an effort to create a shared sense of living together along the beautiful Connecticut/Kinnetikew River: "Long River," in Abenaki. We hope to honor that river and be inspired by "her" as we learn how to be involved with all of our natural world, people included. Again: As joy and beauty continue to abound in our world, we feel moved to respond to what is deeply concerning to us and to many. Our sense of purpose is not just for the natural world: it is woven with all of life. If you feel moved to join, please know you are most welcome.

*Edith Allison*

### **Ramallah Ministry**

Grace Church has been supporting the education of a Palestinian student at the ETVTC (Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center) in Ramallah, on the West Bank for about 14 ½ years. We raise most of the funds through the sale of Equal Exchange Palestinian olive oil, which is bought directly from Palestinian farmers.

Palestine has a well-educated population without enough jobs to go around. The ETVTC provides training for students in the last two years of high school in two subjects where jobs exist: Hospitality/Culinary Arts or Information Technology (IT). Most students who study these two vocational paths find jobs upon graduation. Some use that job to pay their way through college and achieve the knowledge and skills they need to achieve their goals.

Our recent student, Joyce Harish, graduated last spring. She was both an amazing student and a very kind person. She was valedictorian of her class and did exceptionally well on her public exams. She was our first female student to study IT. She is now studying computer engineering in the West Bank and using her cooking skills to support herself and pay for her education.

As of August we have a new student, Subhi Tannous. He is Christian and in the 11th grade, Like Joyce Harish, he is studying IT. He comes from a very poor family. His father is ill and has special needs. His mother is a house cleaner. He is an only child. They survive by with the support of Al Nahda Associatipn, a non-profit organization, which helps people with disabilities and their families integrate into society, but Al Nahda only provides a partial scholarship and the family could use more help.

We hope members of our congregation will enjoy this high-quality olive oil and appreciate that in doing so, they are also helping a Palestinian student and his needy family.

*DeAnne Riddle*

## **STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION**

I am the new Stewardship chair along with Bruce Stebbins and Tom Dougherty as committee members. If anyone would like to talk about their pledge or be a committee member please contact me, Bruce or Tom D. Our 2026 Stewardship Campaign began on November 2, 2025 with pledge announcements at the 8 and 10:30 services. Staff and members of the Stewardship Committee along with The Reverend Tom Synan sent out pledge information and pledge cards to our parishioners of record. This was to prepare us for the in-gathering on November 23, 2025. Following our in-gathering we celebrated the annual Feast of Grace after the 10:30 service. This was well attended and symbolized our abundance and how blessed we are, given our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

Since the in-gathering, we have received \$534,372 in pledges for 2026 from 140 parishioners, and we are hoping to hear from any other households who have yet to pledge.

*With Appreciation,*

*Charlie Tebbets, Stewardship Chair*

## **Planned Giving:**

The Planned Giving Committee, comprised of Doug Adler and Kent Faerber, provides information to parishioners on ways to include Grace Church in their estate plans in conjunction with advice from their legal counsel. Doug and Kent can discuss options to support the long-term needs of Grace through a will or living trust, a designation in an insurance policy or retirement plan, or a life income gift, such as a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. The St. Michael's Fellowship, established in 2004, recognizes those who

have included Grace in their estate plans and parishioners are encouraged to alert the Rector or one of the committee members of such plans.

J. Elizabeth Davis is a new members of the Fellowship this year and she joins Steven and Susan Abdow, Doug Adler, Brenda and Rick Aldrich, Patricia Andrews, Stephen and Jeanne Armstrong, Steve and Kate Atkinson, Tom Baker and Mary Hocken, David and Jessica Mix Barrington, Lee Beaty \*, Shirley Brodigan \*, Don and Jane Buckloh, Heidi Frantz-Dale and Duane Dale, Tom and Kitty Dougherty, Suzannah Fabing, Kent and Scottie Faerber, Evan Fotos \*, Eleanor Fraser \*, Hertha Haensel \*, Jonathan\* and Sarah\* Hanke, Charlotte Hathaway, Bob Hawley\*, Mary McCarthy \*, Mel Heath \*, Royster and Kathryn Hedgepeth, Rob Hirschfeld and Polly Ingraham, Ann Holland, Anne Homme, Dorothy Ives \*, Kell Julliard and Harold Norris, John Lemly and Catherine Melhorn, Mark Leonas, Karen Lowe, Sheila Mammen, Mark Marshall and Helen Leung, Margo McMahon \*, Roberta Morel \*, Eliot Moss and Hannah Abbott, Marilyn Munn \*, Priscilla Parke \*, Larry and Jean Rankin, Jim and Nina Scott, Phebe Sessions, Eugene and Marcia Sheehan, Bruce and Jeannette\* Stebbins, Mary Steigner \*, Mary Steinway \*, Sara Stelzner, Bernice Taylor \*, Janet Teng, Patricia Tillona, Zina Tillona \*, Charlotte Turgeon\*, Paul Vasconcellos\*, Nancy Rose-Weeber and Charles Weeber, Reynolds Winslow, Jude and Martin Wobst, and Jeffrey Wood \*.

\* deceased

*Doug Adler, Chair*

## **VII. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Special thank you to Rich Spurgin who provides monthly financial reports to the finance committee and the Vestry.

Thank you to the finance committee, Mark Leonas, Kitty Dougherty, John Robinson and Sarah Boy for their wisdom and experience regarding all things financial at Grace Church.

Lastly, thank you to the counters who each week help count and organize the offering. Much appreciated. We do not take for granted how fortunate we are at Grace Church. There are many churches that are not as vibrant nor as fortunate to have a congregation who pledge more than \$500,000. Thank you to all of you for your generosity. Your pledges support all the programs we enjoy as well as the amazing staff that we have here at Grace Church.

Please review the attached financials and let me know if you have any questions.

*Tim Hampson*

## VIII. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### Baptisms

John Powell Collier  
Gordon Evans FitzGerald  
Katherine McLeod  
Zelma Antonia McLeod  
Theodore Barrett Miranda  
Lilly Marie O'Brien  
Savannah Rye Whitworth

### Confirmands

None in 2025

### Received

None in 2025

### Reaffirmed

None in 2025

### Marriage

Julianna Hegeman and Richard Wade Atkinson  
Ariana Moreland and Dylan Francis Scinicariello

### Requiem

Beatrice Blain  
Robert Louis Chesnut  
Rev. Fletcher Davis  
Andrew James Higbee Glace  
Valerie Gracechild

Margo Elizabeth McMahon  
Deborah "Dee Dee" Niswonger  
Faythe Turner  
Arline G. Wright

**Added - New members/Reactivated**

Rebecca Casey  
Marianne Connor  
Virginia Durnford, & John McPhee, Carl McPhee, Cara McPhee  
Rev. Rebecca Grant  
Hal Grotevant, Paul Gratevant, Mark Grotevant  
Amber KaCey  
Leslie & Kate Lassiter  
Hanif Lawrence  
Anne Massey & Anne Stright  
Maki Matsui, Magdalena Matsui Paes  
Angus & Katherine McLeod, Zelma McLeod

**Transferred/Moved**

Elizabeth French Finn

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