



# GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING 2024



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-28 JANUARY AD2024-

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# Grace Anglican Church's Annual Meeting - January 28, 2024

The purpose of the Annual Congregation Meeting shall be the election of members of the Vestry to succeed those retiring from office and such other business as may properly come before the Annual Congregation Meeting. (Bylaws, 3.1)

## I. Call to Order

## II. Opening Prayer

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

## III. Vestry Election. (Current Vestry Composition and Terms)

<u>Ends Jan, 2024</u>	<u>Ends Jan, 2025</u>	<u>Ends Jan, 2026</u>	<u>Ends Jan, 2027</u>
Cindy Marsch	Dennis Jacob	Ken Smith	-----
Ross Kucks	Rubie Franklin	Emily Jefferis	-----

2 nominees from the Nominating Committee: Cindy Marsch has served one term and is eligible for a second term, and Randy Welker who has yet to serve in a vestry position.

## IV. Reports

## V. Questions and Answers

## VI. Adjournment (Vote)

## VII. The Lord's Prayer

## FROM THE REV'D ETHAN MAGNESS, RECTOR

You likely know the term 'edification' – it means 'to be lifted or built up.' I think of 2023 as a year of BUILDING. I don't mean 'building' (at least not primarily) in terms of a physical structure, like the lovely Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. I love this bricks-and-mortar space and am grateful for it, but I'm talking about the House of God that Christ is constructing among US. We, after, all, are the House of the Living Stones (I Peter 2:5), the spiritual and tangible body of the church. With that in mind, let me remind us of what God is building lately:



**BUILDING PARTICIPATION.** If you include the numbers for the church plant, our worship attendance has increased by 20% this past year. Not only has worship attendance increased, but cell group membership and volunteerism has dramatically spiked as well.

**BUILDING GENEROSITY.** Your Spirit-enabled giving has flourished, with a 33% income-increase!

**BUILDING A NEW MORNING SERVICE.** Our 8:30am service began in September, and that service averages 170 souls (which is much higher than expected). We originally thought this service would dilute some of the numbers from our crowded evening service, which has happened to some degree, but it also attracted a whole new batch of folks to Grace.

**BUILDING A NEEDFUL STAFF: MELISSA, DAVID, & GABBY.** Several new hires occurred this year, including David, our full-time curate; Melissa, our Coordinator of Women's Ministries & Hospitality; and Gabby, who helps Steve Matson with administration. They came along at a providential moment!

**BUILDING CONNECTION.** Through our growing cell groups (the newest list has 10!) and Chad's leadership there, Sharing Grace dinners, New-Comers gatherings, Sunday Extravaganzas, picnics, etc, we are trying to build personal and friendship-connections within the growing Body.

**BUILDING DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE ... BUILDING.** We've had official conversations with the Lutheran leadership re. a potential, future purchase. Please keep those conversations in your prayers. We are grateful for the good-will and generous relationship between Grace and Holy Trinity.

**BUILDING A CHURCH PLANT.** Our plant in Franklin holds strong. They average 35 worshippers a week, and ended the year in a financially viable place. I know they appreciate visits from Grace-members, so please do drop in and pray for them. Encouragement means the world!

**BUILDING A YOUTH & COLLEGIATE MINISTRY.** Our Casa gathers 40 or more students per week and creatively disciples our youth in the gospel. Steve continues to train a large leadership team with skills in ministry. Don, too, and his relationally oriented college ministry are having a beautiful and fruitful effect on campus, as his report demonstrates.

**SO MANY OTHER THINGS WERE BUILT!** Our children's ministry, our fantastic Christmas pageant (thanks to the help of Janice Brown!) that led many of our children and adults to re-engage with the core of Christmas, etc. How could we not be moved by these things?

**LOSSES.** Yes, along with building-up, we've experienced some real losses. Many key and long-term-members from Grace moved away this past Summer (goodbye after goodbye), and I'm still feeling their loss. But we are a *sending* parish, and sending-out is often accompanied by some grief.

**OTHER DETAILS – Baptisms: 15**

**Marriages: 6**

**Confirmations:** 17 people confirmed their baptismal promises during the bishop's visit.

**Ordination (on-site).** Our own David Beck was ordained a priest and became our curate!

IN 2024 we hope to continue to build in all the aforementioned areas. We want to see our church – made up of the minds, hearts and sinews of God's own people – well-connected and edified. Remember Cardinal Beoffe's wonderful phrase: 'We are all wretches whom God has built together to form a glorious Church.' That simple truth can give us plenty of pluck, zeal, integrity, and creativity for the Kingdom-cause.

## FROM STEVE MATSON, DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES

As I reflect on Family Ministries at Grace Anglican, here are my thoughts: 또 다른 환상적인 한 해였어 translated from Korean: “It’s been another fantastic year!”



Seeing kids filtering from one program to the next has been a fun reminder that time is not standing still! It seems that I blink and newborns are already in Christian Ed (CE) and Children’s Liturgy (CL). Church growth has added a number of new wonderful families into the mix. It has been a joy seeing lots of new faces in the programs! All of this growth made it clear that help was needed. In September, Gabby Kucks was brought on as an administrative assistant for me, what a joy (and relief) to have her help! All of this has made the programs and family ministries at Grace strong and healthy. Through the hustle and bustle that you can read about below, one thing is sure: I continue to find myself extremely grateful for all of the incredible volunteers who give of their time to care for our children and students! I’m blown away by how our families are committed to the programs here at Grace Anglican and more importantly to building the Kingdom of God in their children’s lives. Here are the highlights for the various ministries within my care:



### Family Ministries (events and activities for families of all ages)

- On February 10th, over 70 people gathered for our 3rd Annual **Christmas Tree Bonfire** at the Jefferis’ home for hot drinks, cookies, wonderful fellowship and FIRE!
- We also – with David Beck’s amazing help – hosted the Sunday Extravaganza in the early Fall, with fun for everyone!
- Once again, **Advent Candleholders and devotionals (written by Pastor Ethan)** were handed out as a way for families to connect their hearts to the Lord during the advent season.

### Barnhouse Ministries (PreK-5th Grade)

- **Christian Education:** on Sunday afternoons we gathered for songs, games, and bible stories. We averaged 30-35 PreK-8th graders each week.
- We had one BIG end of the year **special party** during CE to create a fun and community bonding time for PreK-5th graders. There were games, crafts, songs, DONUTS, & lots of laughter! The middle schoolers were helpers for the party and lots of adult volunteers came together to make this event a success!
- **Children’s Liturgy:** held during the sermon time of the service. We averaged 12-15 kids (3-6 years olds) each week! We have a dedicated group of rotating teachers that show up faithfully to teach. They use songs, illustrations, crafts and more to teach Biblical concepts so that young minds and hearts can connect to our Lord.

### The Casa (6th-12th Grade)

- On **Tuesday evenings**, 40-45 jr. and sr. high students along with 20 GCC student & adult leaders gather at the church each week for a time of games, food, worship, talks, small groups, Bible Study, more food, special parties, and compline.
- We said farewell to a large number of high school students and college leaders who graduated. We welcomed a new crew of “chomping at the bit” 6th graders into Casa and were blessed with a new crop of fresh volunteer leaders.

- Each week at the Casa, 15 students along with 5 adult leaders made up the *rotating Casa Worship Band*. Instruments include guitars, piano, box drum, djembe, flute, and violin.
- On April 30, the Casa worship band (consisting of 9 musicians) led the music at both the morning and evening services at Grace Anglican.
- On April 14-15, Casa held its third annual **Overnight Retreat** at Whitehall Camp and Conference Center (25 students & 8 leaders). We were grateful to have the Rev. Chad Lawrence as our guest speaker and Will Mueller, Nolan Cowan and Ross Kucks lead our worship time.
- Before Christmas, all of Casa loaded in cars and headed to the Quality of Life Elderly Home to sing Christmas Carols for the residents. We were VERY warmly received and plan to make this a yearly event!
- **Casa Prayer Team:** FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS, 8 adults each week are sent a list of specific, confidential prayer requests that students and leaders write down during their small groups. I feel particularly indebted to this group of prayer partners!
- **Over the summer months**, we did the following events:
  - **Disc golf:** included a devotional and picnic lunch at Memorial Park (15-30 students weekly).
  - **Weekly pickleball:** included a short devotional and cool down with popsicles in Pine Township (10-25 students). Thanks to Monique for her part in organizing this weekly summer event!
  - **BBQ and Pool Party at the Mueller's Casa.** Once again the Mueller's generously opened their backyard and pool allowing a mob of students and families to enjoy an afternoon of swimming. Rob's Famous BBQ and s'mores at the fire pit were a treat for all.
  - **HS Guys' Epic Disc Golf Trip** In mid July Chad (Rev. Lawrence) and I took 9 high school boys and two college leaders to play two of the best disc golf courses in the country - Maple Hill in Leicester, MA and Sabattus in ME. This trip was a great community building time (not to mention it WAS extremely competitive!).
  - **Girls' Mystery Trip** Gabby Kucks and Adelia Matson hit the road with 7 girls for Casa's first ever "Mystery Trip". They slept in tents, swam, played putt-putt, ate s'mores and the final stop was the Alive Christian Music Festival in Ohio. The girls had a blast!
  - **Fishing trip** at Lake Wilhelm. This day trip was lead by the dynamic duo of Judah and Eric Phillips (aka: outdoor extraordinaires). Fishing, canoeing, kayaking (thanks to the last minute help of Jon Graiser providing boats and transportation) and a picnic lunch made this event one for the books!
  - **Day Bike Trip.** In August, we gathered in the church parking lot, packed-up bikes in our trailer and headed to Butler County Parks and Rec for a mountain biking trip. What made the trip fantastic was the expertise of Arthur & Laura Cain. Students and leaders alike made numerous trips up and down the mountain trails with not one trip to the ER, I'd say that's success!
  - **End of the Summer Bonfire @ the Jefferis'** was the perfect way for Casa to finish-up the summer!

**2024 Hopes and Goals:** I have quite a few hopes/goals for 2024 including (but not limited to) bringing back Family Board Game Night, organizing a church-wide parent or grandparent/child bocce tournament, create deeper weekly small groups that meet outside of the Tuesday night Casa gatherings, hold a ONE NIGHT outreach gathering for students (and especially their school friends) to ask BIG QUESTIONS about faith, God, and the Bible (credit for this idea goes to Colsen Frank), do a week long local mission's project, and many of the same programs and events from 2023. Whatever 2024 has in store, the Family Ministries at Grace Anglican plans to continue to be here to support you in a variety of creative and engaging ways!

As we finish 2023 and begin a new year, my aim, as always, is to make Grace's Family Ministries a place in which parents and children are encouraged in the grace of the Lord and to build a community that reflects that grace! I'm honored to be a part of this place called Grace Anglican! It's a joy and honor to come alongside you, to join you as you nurture, care, and cultivate a grace-filled life for your family.



## FROM THE REV'D CANON DR DONALD SHEPSON, ASSISTANT PRIEST & CAMPUS MISSIONER



It is a privilege to serve Grace in these ministry roles, especially engaging our college students in life and faith. I am honored to be able to preach, teach, and celebrate, in support of Ethan and the growing ministry team. The college mission statement reads, *“The college ministry at Grace Anglican Church seeks to create opportunities to: connect students with the larger Grace Anglican Church community, nurture spiritual growth through mentoring relationships, and explore Anglican rhythms of life, worship, and prayer.”*

This past year our college student numbers have exploded! We are now bursting at the seams with engagement. One of the key areas of ministry that continues to grow is in the area of mentoring. More students than ever have requested and received mentors through our congregation. I am growing worried about having enough mentors for them and in the coming weeks will offer a training to add to our resident mentors.

Students Mentored by Residents:	8 women (mentored by 8 residents) 10 men (mentored by 8 residents)
Spring Bonfire:	12 students
Graduation Bonfire:	10 students
Soup & Conversation Meals:	2 times averaging 53 students
Host-A-Student Meals:	2 times (41 students, spring; 56 students fall)
Premarital Counseling:	2 couples, 1 wedding
Hikes:	2 hikes averaged 12 students
Fall Frisbee Golf Outing:	2 students, 8 residents
Fall Pumpkin Carving:	2 students
Study Break and White Elephant:	10 students
Mentored Ministry:	3 students
Cell Group:	20 students average (both semesters) – Life Questions (spring), Liturgical Formation (fall)

It is such a blessing to see students engaged in ministry throughout the church programs. We started a babysitting program this past fall and currently there are 15 students background checked and available for free babysitting (37 signed up). Many students participate in leading and teaching the children and Casa students, music ministry, choir, sacristy, and various service projects around the church. The highlight of the programming for college ministry is and has been the soup lunch/dinners and host-a-student Sundays. Both semesters we had over 40 students participate. I am also quite pleased about the ongoing participation of families hosting students to lunch events at their homes. This fall we had one third of our students enjoy home-cooked meals. There were more families offering openings than students who signed up. I am so pleased by our resident-student engagement throughout our congregation, this is a significant influence upon our student population and communicates our love and appreciation for them. These relationships and interactions are crucial for spiritual transformation with our students. Finally we have three BA/MA students from the college who have been placed in Mentored Ministry to prepare for vocational lives of ministry. It is awesome to spend time with these students and walk them through their development for full-time ministry.

As per my job description, I have been able to speak to a number of student groups as a liaison to the college, representing the church: I engaged the International Justice Mission Chapter on prayer/fasting as their advisor, and gave a number of talks/discussions to various housing groups. I'm the faculty advisor for AEX (Brothers in Christ). This fall I spoke in chapel once and led the All-Campus Bible Study on Formation Fridays where we studied the Gospel of Luke. These invitations continue and I'm grateful to represent Grace Anglican in them.

Three highlights from the past year stick out. First, the willingness of our students to serve the church is fantastic! They are realizing that this is their place to engage and participate. Second, I love my weekly one-on-one meetings with students to talk and pray about their life concerns. This year I averaged almost one meeting per day on campus. What a privilege to walk beside our students! Finally, Sara and I are so pleased and grateful to Wes and Kristen Schools, and Amy Frank, who have joined us leading the college ministry. They are amazing!

Thank you for your support and prayer. Grace Anglican Church has a unique role and ministry with so many college students joining our common life of worship and prayer. I encourage you to participate in their lives as you are able. Please contact me and I will connect you with a student for prayer, coffee, or a meal. These relationships are profoundly transformative and each of you is significant in this ministry. Here are a couple of comments by our students related to their experiences with us:

“The Lord answered a few of my prayers when I decided to start attending Grace Anglican. One of those prayers was for a church community in which I felt welcomed and loved while also challenged in my faith. Joining a new church can sometimes be uncomfortable, but it is vital to push past that discomfort and take steps to meet new people and create connections. In light of this common challenge, I was very blessed by the opportunity to attend the Soup and Conversations event. I took a new friend to this event with me, and it was a sweet time to bond with her through our church-going experience. Also, the open Q&A with the priests was very enlightening for me as they shared about various books, authors, and resources that played a vital role in their walk with the Lord in getting where they are.”

“The College Ministry at Grace Anglican has helped me grow in Christ in a few ways. First, as the Bible says, the Christian walk should be done in a community and the College Ministry has provided that with other students, professors, and the staff. Second, I have grown in Christ because of the conversations about faith, the Bible, and the Christian life that I have had at the cell group, with peers, and with the pastors as well.”

“Grace taught me the beauty and importance of being a part of a body of believers who all spur each other on in pursuit of Christ. The vestry encouraged and helped me go from a spectator to a participant.”

To God be the Glory!

## FROM THE REV'D CHAD LAWRENCE, ASSISTANT PRIEST FOR CELL GROUPS & MISSIONS

January of 2023 sent a real curve ball when my part time teaching role at Grove City Christian Academy overnight morphed into a very full-time Senior Administrator position during some tumultuous times in the life of that institution. By the grace of God and the support of Ethan and many others, I was able to help guide the school forward through the remainder of the school year and into the next. Through it all, it remained my great joy to continue to serve as an assistant priest here at Grace Anglican. In addition to assisting with preaching, teaching, preaching, and liturgical duties, I continued to spearhead the Mission Team and cell group ministries.



By the end of the 2022, the Mission Team had developed an application process and criteria for helping to discern financial support for missionaries. These were soon utilized as we heard presentations from two young aspiring missionary families with deep ties to Grace Anglican. We are now honored to partner with Ruben and Lydia Henriquez (and their young daughter) as they have begun a long-term mission to Papua New Guinea where they will translate the Bible for a people group that does not have access to the Scriptures. We are also supporting another young family who is serving as long term missionaries in a nation in North Africa. This particular country has very few Christians and virtually no knowledge of the Gospel. We have also begun a monthly Missions Spotlight in the weekly Grace Notes. These snippets provide the congregation with information about the ministries/missionaries we are supporting and direct ways we can pray. As we head into 2024, I have begun exploration of how we can establish a long-term international sister relationship with another Anglican church. I ask that you join me in praying that the Lord would open the doors and make plain the path.

At the beginning of 2023 I inherited oversight of the cell group ministry from the supremely capable Mandi Beck. The vision of cell groups here at Grace is to help deepen bonds through our RELATIONSHIP with God, with Scripture, and with each other. We have offered 7 distinct cell groups in each of the past two semesters involving approximately 120 people. Even still, as Grace has continued to grow the need for additional cell groups and leaders also has grown. I am thankful that as we head into 2024, we now have 10 cell groups for the upcoming semester with the emergence of 4 new cell group leaders. Also, a real highlight for me personally was leading a new cell group for men on Friday mornings.

As I conclude, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention two other ministry highlights from the past year. The first was helping to organize two Grace men's gatherings along with Gabe Gordon. Both the men's steak night and Christmas party helped to welcome new men and to strengthen existing bonds. The second highlight has been helping the remarkable Steve Matson with the youth ministry. Serving as the speaker for the spring retreat, assisting with the summer guys trip, and helping with the weekly Casa gatherings have allowed me to disciple many youth which I count a great privilege and joy.

2023 offered some unanticipated challenges, but I am ever grateful for the Lord's grace and sustenance, and for the privilege of serving in this gospel-centered, Grace filled church.

## FROM THE REV'D ERIC PHILLIPS, CHURCH PLANTER

This past October Redeemer celebrated the 2 year anniversary of our first public worship service. As I scanned the room during our 2 year anniversary potluck, I was struck by the amount of change, growth, and transition that has occurred over the past year. The mission in Franklin has been challenging, but God's hand in this work has been apparent. Entering this third year of planting, I'm encouraged and grateful that our family at Grace Anglican stepped out in faith to see a new church planted in order that the good news of God's unwarranted grace might be proclaimed within the Franklin region.



Below is a brief update on what has been happening in Franklin along with some of the transition and growth we have seen this past year.

### Sunday Attendance:

- We have averaged 35 people on Sunday this past year.
- The makeup of our attendance has transitioned significantly this year with families and individuals from the Franklin region now making up the majority of our attendance.
  - We have 20 people from the Franklin region that consider Redeemer their church.
  - This year we have added 2 families from Franklin that have become leaders within Redeemer. Additionally, we have 2 separate individuals who previously did not attend church, but now are actively involved in Redeemer.
- We average 10 GCC students on Sundays when school is in session, most of whom did not previously attend Redeemer.
- Recently we have seen an uptick in visitors, many of whom are return visitors.

### Leadership:

- We began Redeemer with a core leadership team of 3 families from Grace Anglican Church (Morgans, Cowans, Illigs) who made a 2 year commitment to help establish Redeemer. The Cowans have transitioned back to Grace as Melissa took on a new position at Grace Anglican. The Illigs and Morgans remain involved in the core leadership at Redeemer and we have recently added a new couple from Franklin to our core leadership team.
- Additionally, over the past year we have had multiple other Franklin area families begin taking on greater roles at Redeemer.

### Events and Outreach:

- **2nd Annual Lessons and Carols:** We recently held our second community Lessons and Carols at Iron Furnace Coffee in Franklin. We had roughly 60 people in attendance, most of whom were Franklin area residents not affiliated with Redeemer.
- **Worship in the Park:** This Summer we held 2 outdoor worship services in Bandstand Park (center of downtown Franklin). Both services were well attended and included multiple visitors and onlookers.
- **Discussions in the Park:** This Summer we held a bi-weekly discussion series in Bandstand Park focused on how the Gospel enables us to find true rest.
- **Redeemer Happy Hour:** This year we began hosting a monthly fellowship time every last Friday of the month at Trails to Ales 2 in Franklin. This has been an intentional opportunity for our congregation to fellowship, provide a regular presence in the community, and invite friends and coworkers to engage with people from Redeemer outside of a church context.
- **Franklin's Applefest:** This year we sought to serve our community by providing a crew from Redeemer to help with the cleanup following Franklin's annual Applefest.

### On the Horizon for this New Year:

- **Cell Groups:** I have been in conversation with 2 families that live in and around Franklin about launching our cell group ministry in their respective homes. Coleen and I will begin leading a trial cell group with those families with the plan that they will then begin their own groups this year.
- **Christian Education:** We are planning to begin offering an adult christian education opportunity this coming year.
- **Men's Ministry:** One of our newer members at Redeemer has recently expressed interest in helping coordinate a regular men's ministry at Redeemer, which we tentatively plan to launch this February.
- **College Group:** I'm currently in conversation with a student from GCC doing his mentored ministry at Redeemer about establishing a small group in Grove City for students involved at Redeemer.
- **Revamped Marketing and Outreach:** Over the past few months I have been working with a team from Redeemer to revamp our approach to marketing, communication, and outreach to find ways to better connect with our community and communicate who we are as a church.

I'm so very grateful for my family at Grace Anglican. I'm honored and humbled to be commissioned to lead this mission initiated by Grace Anglican to bring the Good News of Christ to the Franklin region. It has not been easy and there are many challenges ahead, but your prayers, encouragement, and support have been invaluable.

## FROM THE REV'D DAVID BECK, CURATE

It has been a great joy and privilege to join the staff on May 1, 2023. I am delighted for the training opportunity as a young minister at a thriving parish. But I am also deeply grateful for the benefit of living in this community that is marked by grace and generosity. Gabby Kucks was a significant help in learning the role, in addition to Mandi Beck, who previously held similar administrative duties at Grace.



The term curate comes from the Latin *curatus* and historically designated the clergy person who has the cure (care) or charge of souls. In earlier times it simply referred to the parish priest. In modern Anglican lingo, curate refers to a pastor (often freshly ordained) who is an assistant to the rector. My position was handcrafted, in partnership with Trinity School for Ministry, to develop essential on-the-job training in ministry. To that effect, about two-thirds of my position consists of parish administration and the remaining one-third is ministerial training and professional development. Here are a few highlights of my last year in ministry:

### I. Administration

A central part of my position is to recruit, train, and schedule servers to help ensure smooth services on Sundays. We currently have 144 volunteers serving across 10 teams. I also function as the central hub for parish communication. This entails church-wide emails, our weekly newsletter (Grace Notes), and monitoring our post office mailbox. We currently have 195 residents and 242 college students signed up to receive email updates. There were 25 new resident adults added to the list in the past calendar year. Grace Notes is currently sent to 587 subscribers (many college graduates and relocated congregants stay tuned in).

I was tasked to refine and establish systems to streamline communication and integrate technology solutions for administration. Building upon the momentum of my predecessors, I have continued to build out the resources available through Planning Center. This past fall we launched a digital parish calendar and online directory. I also organized and assisted with hospitality events through the summer. I partnered with Steve Matson to recruit, train, and schedule teachers for Christian Education and Children's Liturgy. We have 31 teachers, 16 college students and 15 residents. I also support other staff members with communication and administrative duties.

### II. Pastoral Training

The other main effort of my position is practicing the pastoral "craft." This past year it involved preaching, teaching, leading worship, pastoral visits, mentoring, leading teams, etc. A key part of my development is learning from staff members and clergy in the parish and diocese. I am immensely grateful to serve at Grace and for the opportunity to grow into my pastoral vocation in such a supportive and gracious community.

## FROM GABBY KUCKS, CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY ADMINISTRATOR

I am in my 5<sup>th</sup> month of working five hours a week as the Children's and Youth Ministry Administrator. Currently, I assist Steve Matson with Grace's youth group, the Casa, but I occasionally help with CE & CL. It has been a joy working with Steve Matson as we meet weekly, plan events, and manage Casa together. I create weekly Casa schedules, lead Casa meetings, and communicate with the leaders and families. This year we have 21 leaders and 56 students in the system, which is the most "visiting students" Casa has ever had. Also, we threw some special events this past semester: a girls' soccer event, a Halloween party, a Nerf Wars night, a Christmas caroling event at a nursing home, a Christmas party, and a Game night. I am extremely grateful for this unique job where I not only get to organize and plan, but I also get to play games and worship God with teenagers.



## FROM MELISSA COWAN, COORDINATOR FOR HOSPITALITY & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



It has been such a joy to serve this congregation in my new role as the Women's Ministry and Hospitality Coordinator! I am definitely learning as I go and feel grateful to be a part of such a gracious church family.

When I began in mid-September, my first aim was to form a ministry team for each area of my role. By mid-October, the Hospitality Ministry Team including Grace Barber, Janice Brown, Sarah Potter and Eliza Gordon was up and running! This team meets quarterly to focus on member care, coordinating events, and newcomer integration. As for member care, Grace Barber continues to oversee meal trains for new babies and those in duress. Eliza Gordon has stepped forward to organize baby showers and sprinkles. I am so grateful for the way these two bless our community!

It was exciting to enjoy a new event this past November as our team worked together to make the "Grace Night Out" party happen at the Keystone Event Center! With over 75 people in attendance, we were delighted to see our church enjoying such a rich time of connection and FUN! Creating opportunities to deepen the bonds of community will continue to be a focus for the Hospitality Ministry Team in the year to come!

As Grace Anglican has grown in number, we remain mindful to help newcomers integrate well. In the fall, Jake and Emily Jefferis hosted a "Newcomers BBQ" for anyone new to the parish within the calendar year, plus staff and vestry. There were 75+ in attendance that evening, including several new families and many students!

With regards to Women's ministry, this team has begun monthly meetings and includes Kristen Schools, Wendy Lawrence, Amy Frank, and Rachel Verbois. As this ministry grows and takes shape, our desire is to give women access points for drawing closer to the Lord and to each other in meaningful ways. Quarterly fellowship gatherings provide a chance for all women (residents + students!) to connect with one another. One such gathering happened in October, when 13 women enjoyed a seasonal hike at Jennings State Park. Even when it poured halfway through, the women were great sports and good conversations abounded! Thankfully, we were able to dry off and regroup at Rooster's Coffee Bar. It was such a treat to be together and several women suggested we hike together once each season!

In December, we launched four "Advent Evenings". Our very own, Amy Frank, wrote an incredible devotional centered around Mary's song in the gospel of Luke that she desired to share with Grace Anglican women! Knowing that Advent tends to be packed with activity already, we decided to create just one evening where women could enjoy fellowship, ponder the season, and receive a devotional for individual study. So, four women opened up their homes, 4 different nights to a group of 12-15. Around 50 women ended up being a part of the Advent Evenings, all told. It was such a special and meaningful start to Advent.

The Women's Ministry team has taken on curating a list of study materials (approved by the clergy) to begin a resource library. Our hope is that narrowing down options and having the resources on hand will ease the selection process for women's cell group leaders. We are excited that there are 3 small groups (AND a monthly prayer time) for women this spring! The Lord has been faithful in providing new leaders to serve our women!

Finally, we are in the process of organizing our first women's service project, as I type! We will join in the United Way's Day of Caring in April. More on that in the future!

Thank you for your kind words of support and encouragement over these last few months. I am grateful for your prayers as we discern God's leading in these ministries!

## FROM KEN SMITH, VESTRY MEMBER AND PART OF THE BUILDING EXPLORATION COMMITTEE



The Building Exploration Committee (made up of Jake Jefferis, Gabe Gordon, and myself) was formed to explore building/facility options to accommodate our growing Grace Anglican congregation. The initial focus of the committee has been exploring the potential purchase of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church building which we are currently renting. Members of the Exploration Committee met with the Holy Trinity Council in October of 2023 to express our interest in purchasing the property, to share some vision for a potential agreement, and to request a response confirming an interest in entering a detailed discussion with intent to eventually enter into an agreement.

In November we received confirmation that the Lutheran leadership is indeed interested in further discussion and expressed that they are committed to working with us to come to an agreement. While anxious to proceed, given some challenges the Holy Trinity congregation was experiencing in addition to the busy Christmas season, the committee felt we should delay further discussion until the new year. We are now in communication with the chair of the Holy Trinity Council to set a date for continuing the discussion. We will be in touch with you if there are developments within these conversations.

The Lutheran congregation has been thoroughly and consistently hospitable to Grace Anglican, and even shifted the time of their morning service in order to accommodate our new 8:30am service. We have every hope given the good relationship between congregations that things will proceed quite well.

## FROM DENNIS JACOB, SENIOR WARDEN

Paul writes in II Corinthians 1: “God encourages us in every trouble, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any trouble, through the very encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God.” I wanted to encourage you by sharing some of the things that God has been using to encourage me.

I am encouraged Sunday after Sunday when the Word of God is faithfully preached, not only by our Pastor, Ethan Magness, but also several other gifted ministers in our church. We hear the clear gospel message of loving savior who gave his life for us. A Savior who sees and loves us. I am so encouraged when I see the exuberance of the young children, many of whom participated in our recent Christmas pageant. I love to see these children, along with students, couples with grown children and singles as they fill the aisle to receive the elements during Holy Communion. No matter how I feel upon arriving at church, I am full of joy and thankfulness when I leave.

The church provides so many sources of encouragement. Clearly, we have a vibrant youth program led by Steve Matson whose family not only has opened their hearts, but literally their home to the youth of our church. For me personally, I am encouraged by participation in our church cell group where I feel connected, prayed and cared for as we examine God’s word together and share our concerns. I am grateful for our church and all the programs it provides.

I’m also grateful for the open doors of Holy Trinity Lutheran which has in many ways aided our growth in ministry and mission. I’m looking forward to 2024 and all that it brings our way!



## FROM TIMOTHY HOMAN, PARISH TREASURER

2023 was a year that saw continued economic strains within our country, and some extraordinary changes and growth within our parish. Not only did Grace's attendance, volunteerism, and participation skyrocket, so did our giving.

My primary responsibility is to collect and deposit church offerings week by week, to track giving trends and make a monthly presentation to the vestry. Nicole Adams is our current bookkeeper and has done a meticulous and excellent job in keeping our finances clear and understandable. Nicole takes care of our QuickBooks/accounts, along with those of the larger parishes in our Diocese, prepares statements, and pays the bills and our staff.



The 2023 General Income and Expense report provides a breakdown of income through regular giving and fundraising among our friends and alumni, how the income was spent in the expense portion, and notes of explanation/clarification at the bottom of the page.

Permit me to offer some highlights regarding the included budget reports:

- In 2023 we saw a 33.6% increase in regular giving (by some contrast, in 2022, we saw only a 4.5% increase from the previous year).
- Our alumni and friends gave an additional \$32,267 in 2023 through the fundraising campaign at the end of the year.
- Our income for 2023 was augmented by funds from Savings, as the vestry had believed (when they originally approved the 2023 budget) that these funds would buttress the new expenses of hiring the Rev'd Chad Lawrence for a full year (Chad began with us in 2022)..
- Due to the giving from Grace-parishioners plus our alumni-giving via the fundraiser, the total giving to the church exceeded our expenses and provided us with a surplus of \$80,134! That surplus has been divided by the vestry with \$69,334 of it going into the building fund (which now, after that sum was added, has \$161,506 in it) and \$10,800 of it will go into 2024 operating expenses should we require it.
- The vestry-approved budget for 2024 shows an expected 11.25% increase in plate/pledge giving from the previous year, though 2024's expected plate/pledge total (\$362,453) is actually far less than what we received in plate/pledge in 2023 (which totaled \$424,829). In other words, our 2024 budget is very conservative and prudent, but also reflects the growing needs of our church.
- The 2023 budgetary increases include 3% cost-of-living increases in stipend and housing for Ethan and for the church staff, the growing children and youth programs at the church, a year-long position for our new Curate and Coordinator of Hospitality and Women's Ministry, Mission and Diocesan giving, etc. Once again, the 2024 budget anticipates gleaning some income from annual fundraising.
- The 2023 report for Redeemer Church in Franklin is included detailing income. While plate/pledge giving was under their expectations, so were expenses, and so they ended the year in the black. Their 2024 budget is included.
- It should be mentioned that the profound increase in 2023 giving did not come through special, massive one-time-gifts from benefactors. Rather, the current state of the church's finances derives solely from consistent, generous, planned giving.

Grace Anglican has much to be thankful for in 2023, and much to look forward to in 2024. Ethan, Steve, Chad, Don, David, and Eric keep us rooted in the solid, unchanging mercy, grace and goodness of God. You have responded by faithfully giving of your resources, and the parish is in very strong financial shape. We look forward to God's work in our parish in the year ahead.

# GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH

GENERAL INCOME / EXPENSES (JANUARY – DECEMBER OF 2023)

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Over/Under (-)</u>
1. Regular Offerings	424,829	321,456	103,372
2. 2022 Alumni Fundraiser	9,600	9,600	---
3. Savings	9,600	9,600	---
4. 2023 Fundraiser w/ Alumni	32,268	31,500	768
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>476,297</b>	<b>372,156</b>	
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Over Budget/Under Budget (-)</u>
10. Mission Giving	27,600	27,600	---
11. Giving to the Diocese	28,200	28,221	21
12. Facility Rental	18,409	18,000	409
13. Office Fee (Copying)	5,519	4,200	1,319
14. Bookkeeping & Admin	4,800	4,800	---
15. Worship Supplies	3,365	2,100	1,265
16. Insurances (Liability, Workers Comp, d/o	3,407	2,000	1,407
17. Telephone	0	300	-300
18. Payroll Taxes	7,571	6,840	731
19. Cell Groups / Adult Ed	1,645	1,200	445
20. Hospitality	3,946	2,400	1,546
21. Miscellaneous	4,302	3,600	702
22. Campus Missioner / Assisting Priest	9,090	9,090	---
23. Campus Missioner / A. Priest Retirement	1,665	1,665	---
24. Campus Missioner Ministry Expense	704	400	304
25. Children's Ministry Expenses	5,716	6,000	-283
26. Youth Ministry Expenses	9,033	6,900	2,133
27. Musician	16,900	13,200	3,700
28. Rector's Stipend	45,228	45,228	---
29. Rector's Housing	29,664	29,664	---
30. Rector's Health Insurance	5,815	5,400	415
31. Rector's Retirement	13,428	13,428	---
32. Rector's Ministry Expense	2,741	2,100	641
33. Rector's Continuing Education	503	500	3
34. Rector's Medical Reimbursement	529	500	29
35. Clergy Supply & Guest Speakers	0	1,000	-1,000
36. Dir of Family Ministry Stipend	59,904	59,904	---
37. Dir of Family Ministry Health Insurance	9,824	6,480	3,344
38. Dir of Family Ministry Retirement	8,784	8,784	---
39. Dir of Family Ministry's Ministry Expense	578	900	-321
40. Ministry Coordinator / Admin	3,600	4,500	-900
41. Assistant Priest Stipend (Chad)	28,439	28,439	---
42. Assist. Priest Ministry Expense	684	900	-215
43. Assist. Priest Retirement	1,863	1,863	---
44. Assist. Priest Health Insurance	392	3,000	-2,607
45. Sound Tech	6,000	5,400	600
46. Nursery Worker	2,525	2,400	125
47. Coordinator of Women's min/hospitality	4,375	4,375	---
48. Curate	10,000	10,000	---
49. New Speakers / sound equipment	5,000	0	5,000
50. FIC retreat down payment	1,000	0	1,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>396,163</b>	<b>378,156</b>	

**2023 INCOME: \$476,297**

**2023 EXPENSE: \$396,163**

**2023 SURPLUS: \$80,134 \***

**BUILDING FUND: \$161,506**

**SAVINGS: \$96,304**

## NOTES

**Lines 2 & 3.** We planned in 2022 to temporarily take from Savings to support Chad's new position at Grace.

**Line 27.** Reflects increased pay for our musician due to a second service beginning in Sept of 2023.

**Line 37.** Steve's health insurance saw an unexpected and dramatic increase late in 2023, but has subsequently been lowered by the carrier.

**Line 40.** This was Gabby's position at Grace which lasted until April of 2023, the responsibilities of which transferred to our Curate.

**Line 47, 48.** New positions that began halfway through 2023.

**Line 49, 50.** Extra expenses that were added into our budget in 2023 (NOTE – this is why Total Expenses were higher).

**Surplus.** \$69,334 of the surplus went into the building fund (the new total presented here reflects this sum added into the fund), and \$10,800 of it will go into 2024 income should we require it.

Please contact Dr Tim Homan, treasurer at Grace, if you have any questions: [tchoman@gcc.edu](mailto:tchoman@gcc.edu).

# CHURCH PLANT / FRANKLIN - 2023 REPORT

## GENERAL INCOME / EXPENSES

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Over/Under (-)</u>
1. Regular Offerings	44,833	51,904	-7,071
2. GAC's 2020 Alumni Fundraiser for Plant	9,585	10,885	-1,300
3. GAC's Mission Fund	6,000	6,000	---
4. Grant from Diocese	9,996	9,996	---
5. Eric's Personal Fundraising	18,600	18,600	---
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>89,014</b>	<b>97,385</b>	
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Expected</u>	<u>Over Budget/Under Budget (-)</u>
10. Mission / Outreach	3,600	3,600	---
11. Rent	6,300	11,160	-4,860
12. Planter Stipend	27,192	27,192	---
13. Planter Housing	20,352	20,352	---
14. Planter Retirement	7,843	8,556	-713
15. Planter Ministry Expense	1,529	1,800	-271
16. Bookkeeping	2,400	2,400	---
17. Hospitality	2,192	2,400	-208
18. Diocese	3,000	3,000	---
19. Cell Groups / Adult Ed	11	500	-489
20. Pianist	3,400	4,800	-1,400
21. Nursery	1,200	1,920	-720
22. Advertising	2,199	1,200	999
23. Copying	2,171	3,375	-1,204
24. Payroll Taxes	550	1,080	-530
25. Liability / D & O Insurance	191	500	-309
26. Plant equipment	2,091	1,200	891
27. Intern	1,800	2,125	-325
28. Misc	1,622	1,200	422
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>88,236</b>	<b>97,385</b>	

2023 INCOME: \$88,236

2023 EXPENSE: \$89,014

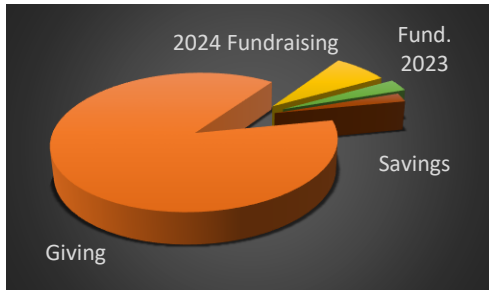
2023 SURPLUS: \$778

FRANKLIN SAVINGS: \$29,631

## FRANKLIN PLANT BUDGET FOR 2024

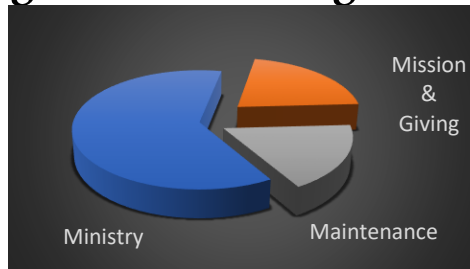
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Expected</u>
1. Regular Offerings	51,000
2. Eric's Personal Fundraising	19,800
3. Grant from Diocese	9,996
4. GAC's Mission Fund	3,000
5. Savings (if needed)	3,264
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>87,060</b>
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
10. Mission / Outreach	1,800
12. Rent	6,000
14. Planter Stipend	27,600
16. Planter Retirement	8,880
18. Bookkeeping	2,400
20. Hospitality	2,400
22. Copying	600
24. Payroll Tax	1,080
26. Misc	1,200
11. Diocesan Assessment	3,000
13. Cell Groups / Adult ed	500
15. Planter Housing	21,600
17. Planter Ministry Expense	1,800
19. Nursery Person	1,200
21. Advertising	1,200
23. Liability Insurance	500
25. Equipment	500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>87,060</b>

## Grace Anglican 2024 Budgeted INCOME



Regular Giving	\$362,453
Fundraising in 2024	\$36,500
Excess Fundraising from 2023	\$10,800
Income from Savings (should we Require it)	\$12,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$421,753</b>

## Grace Anglican 2024 Budgeted EXPENSES



### MISSION & GIVING:

Giving to the Diocese (for support of the Diocese, local parishes, church planting)	\$31,200	\$28,115
Mission Support	\$31,200	\$27,600
Campus Missioner / Assisting Priest	\$9,450	\$9,090
Campus Missioner / Assisting Priest Ministry Expense	\$675	\$400
Rector's Ministry Expense	\$2,400	\$2,100
Director of Family Min Ministry Expense	\$900	\$900
Tech-Administrator (for live-streaming)	\$6,400	\$4,600
Assistant Minister (Chad, half time) Ministry Expense	\$900	\$900
New Comer Gifts	\$1,000	\$0

### MINISTRY:

Rector's Stipend	\$47,472	\$45,228
Rector's Housing Allowance	\$29,664	\$29,394
Director of Family Ministry Stipend	\$61,704	\$59,904
Medical Insurance for Rector, Director of Fam. Ministry, Assistant Min (Chad)	\$15,600	\$14,880
Assistant Minister (Chad, half time)	\$29,292	\$28,440
Curate (began half way thru 2023)	\$15,000	\$10,000
Coordinator of Women's Min/Hosp	\$15,000	\$4,200
Children/Youth admin assistance	\$3,090	\$0
Musician (now playing for 2 services per Sunday)	\$18,572	\$13,200
Hospitality	\$3,600	\$2,400
Cell Groups & Adult Ed materials	\$2,100	\$1,440
Children's Ministry Materials	\$6,900	\$6,000
Youth Ministry Materials	\$8,100	\$6,900
Worship Supplies	\$3,300	\$2,100
Clergy & Speaker Supply	\$500	\$1,000
Nursery Workers	\$2,700	\$2,400
Women's Ministry	\$750	\$0
Men's Ministry	\$750	\$0

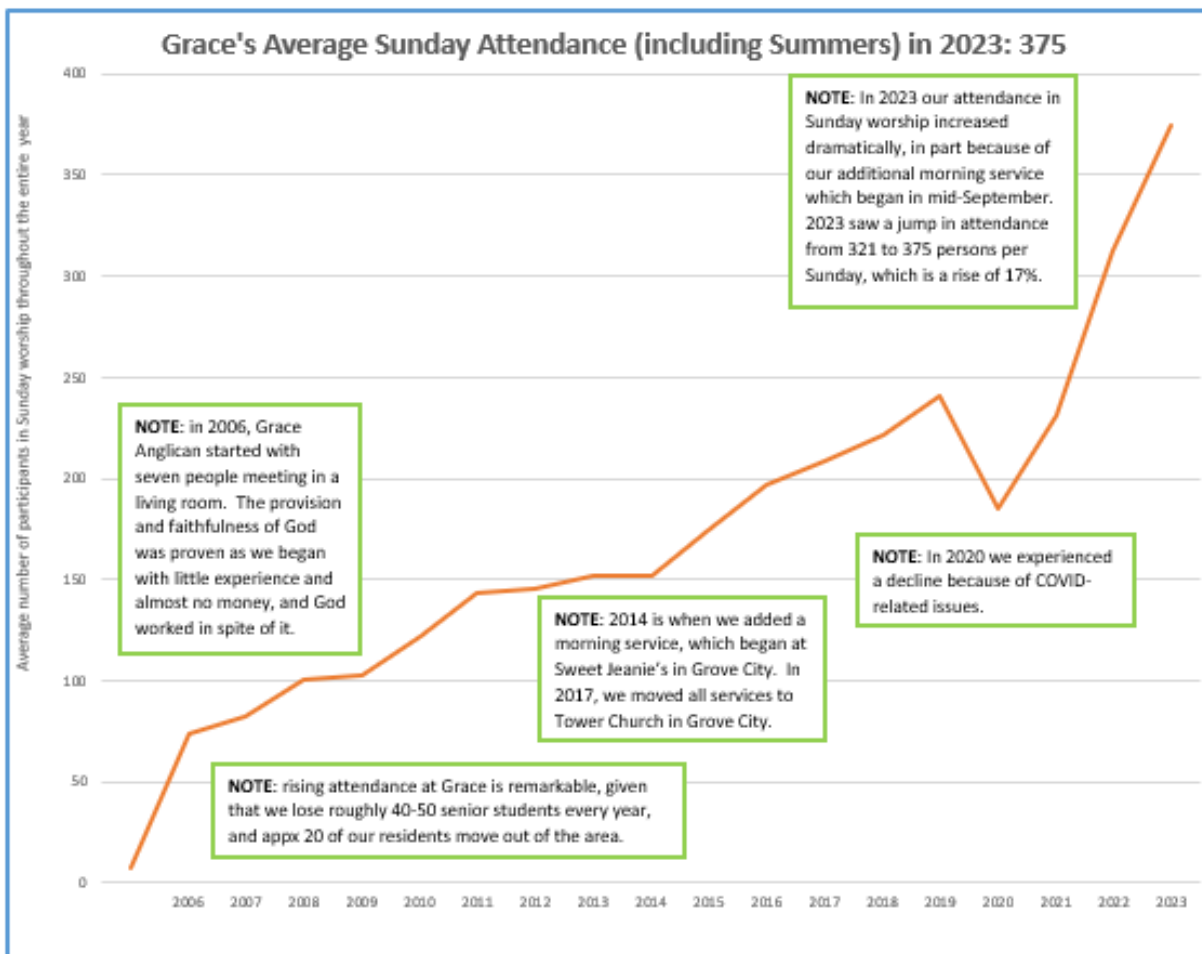
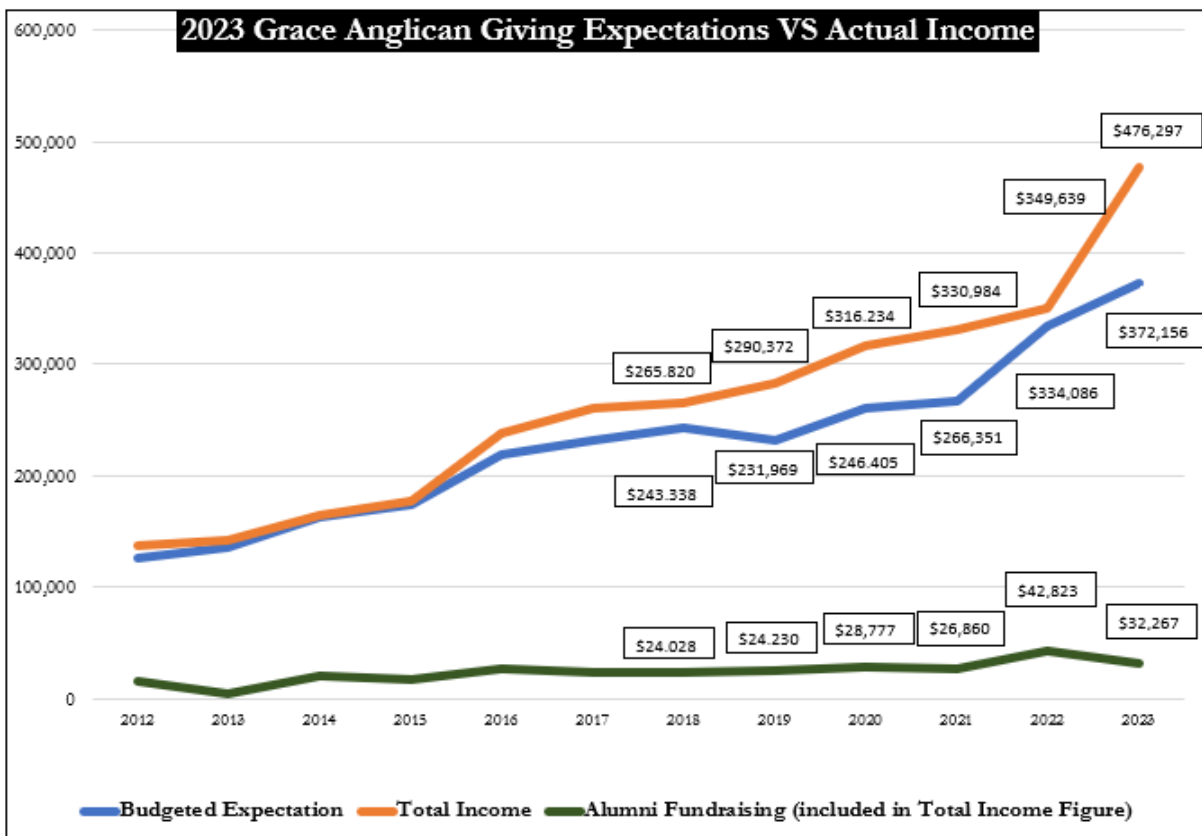
### MAINTENANCE:

Facility Rental	\$18,000	\$18,000
Retirement (for Rector, Director, Assisting priests)	\$29,934	\$29,085
Liability and Workers Comp	\$3,000	\$2,000
Copying	\$4,200	\$4,200
Book Keeping	\$6,000	\$4,800
Payroll Taxes	\$7,800	\$6,840
Rector Medical Expense Reimbursement	\$500	\$500
Rector Continuing Ed	\$500	\$500
Miscellaneous	\$3,600	\$3,600

### TOTAL:

**\$421,753**

*\*the bump in this salary occurs because Chad started on our staff in August of 2022.*



# THE MISSION FUND

- ministries GRACE supported in 2023 -  
'Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, to the ends of the earth.' Acts 1:8

## LOCAL

**Christian Assistance Network** provides assistance to those in the Grove City area that find themselves unable to provide for their basic needs. This includes assistance with utility bills, clothing or transportation for work or job interviews, medical bills, necessary appliances, etc. **\$100, monthly.**

**The Alpha & Omega Center** helps families who are dealing with unexpected pregnancies. They do ultrasounds, screen for STD's, assist women with young children, and counsel pregnant women to choose life. **\$100, monthly.**

**Aware** provides emergency response, support groups, and temporary housing for individuals who are victims of domestic and sexual abuse in Mercer Co. **\$100, monthly.**

**Young Life** is a Christian organization that provides mentoring, weekly club meetings, and retreats for school-aged children. We support the Sharon chapter. **\$100, monthly.**

**Other local needs** – grocery cards, hotel-stays, etc.

## NATIONAL

**Franklin Church Plant**, under the leadership of the Rev'd Eric Phillips. **\$500, monthly.**

**Heather Strong (CCO):** Heather and Ivan are full time campus ministry staff with the CCO serving in Memphis TN in partnership with Hope Church EPC. Together they plant new CCO ministries, reach a wide variety of students to study the Bible and experience the transforming Gospel. **\$200, monthly.**

**Schuyler Kitchen's** InterVarsity mission work at Berkely Music School in Boston, MA. **\$250, monthly.**

## INTERNATIONAL

**Kathleen McAlister** is serving in the Republic of Ireland through 2-year apprenticeship with a missions group called Surge. She is based out of a church in the Dublin area and will be working in partnership with it. **\$150, monthly.**

**SutiSana Ministry in Bolivia.** This ministry helps to stop sex trafficking and prostitution within Bolivia, and trains youth women in various trades in order to create economic viability **\$350 a month.**

**The Henriquez Family.** Reuben, Lydia, and Lucia Henriquez serve as missionaries for Papua New Guinea where they have begun a long-term call with Pioneer Bible Translators. During this first year they are learning the culture and languages, as well as seeking which people group they will work with long term. **\$250/monthly.**

**Isem\*ngers in Northern Africa.** \$250 a month.

**Student ICO trips.**

**The Missions Team has Developed the following Standards  
for Grace's Mission Support:**

- 1.) Biblical orthodoxy and ethical excellence
- 2.) A balance between local, national/domestic, and international missions.
- 3.) Prioritizing work among unreached peoples, i.e., those who have not heard the Gospel and those who do not have access to the Scriptures in their languages.
- 4.) Prioritizing personal and trusted connections between Grace and the mission/ary. We have a strong desire to support long-term missionary ventures birthed from/going forth from Grace Anglican.
- 5.) The need of the mission/ministry.





Because all men are breakers of God's law therefore can no man by His own acts, works, and deeds (seem they ever so good) be justified, and made righteous before God: But every man of necessity is constrained to seek for an alien righteousness, to be received at God's own hands, that is to say, the forgiveness of his sins and trespasses. And this righteousness, which we so receive only of God's mercy and Christ's merits, embraced by faith, is taken, accepted, for our perfect and full justification.

-Thomas Cranmer  
Archbishop of Canterbury  
from the Homily on Justification

