

# GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH



# ANNUAL REPORT 2026





# GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

- 25 JANUARY AD2026 -

Page 4	Annual Meeting Agenda
Page 5	Rector's Report
Page 6–7	Director of Family Ministry's Report
Page 8–9	Campus Missioner's Report
Page 10	Coordinator for Women's Min/Hospitality Report
Page 11	Associate Minister's Report
Page 12	Children's Ministry Report
Page 13	Parish Administrator's Report
Page 14	Musician's Report
Page 14	Tech Director's Report
Page 15	Junior Warden's Report
Page 16	Senior Warden's Report
Page 17	Treasurer's Report
Page 18	GAC's 2025 Income & Expenses
	GAC's 2026 Vestry-approved Budget
Page 19	Giving and Attendance Trends
Page 20–21	Mission Fund Ministries & Guidelines
Page 22	Vestry Highlights from 2025

# Grace Anglican Church's Annual Meeting—January 25, 2026

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. Bylaw Change (deletions are in red; additions are in green).

4.1 The Vestry shall consist of no fewer than six (6) and no more than nine (9) elected members of the parish, customarily divided into three (3) groups consisting of three (3) members each to serve for a three (3) year term on a rotating basis. ~~The Vestry shall be divided into three (3) groups consisting of two (2) members each, each group to serve for a term of three (3) years on a rotating basis.~~ At each Annual Meeting, the vacancies created by the retiring group shall be filled by election, in the manner hereinafter provided. No member of the Vestry who has served two full, regular terms may begin to serve another regular term until one (1) year following the expiration of such second term.

4.2 A Nominating Committee consisting of ~~four (4)~~ non-retiring vestry persons ...

**Plan for Implementation.** We vote to change our bylaws at the 2026 Annual Meeting. After an approved change in the bylaws, future vestry elections will add one new vestry person per year (starting this January) until the number eventually reaches 9 members. If we were to elect all three new members at once this year, making the number of the vestry 9 right away, this would mean that those 3 new members, elected the same year, plus the 2 previously-serving vestry members, would roll-off the vestry at the same time, thus making an election of 5 persons every few years, which won't work very well. So, we are *gradually* adding vestry members until we reach 9.

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

<u>Ends Jan, 2026</u>	<u>Ends Jan, 2027</u>	<u>Ends Jan, 2028</u>	<u>Ends Jan, 2029</u>
Ken Smith	Cindy Marsch	Rob Mueller	<i>new elected member</i>
Emily Jefferis	Randy Welker	Chris Franklin	<i>new elected member</i> <i>new elected member</i>

3 nominees from the Nominating Committee: Ken Smith (re-election), Sarah Potter, & Kristina Pazehoski

## V. Reports

[Rector's report](#)  
[Mission report](#)

## VI. Questions and Answers

## VII. Adjournment (Vote)

## VIII. The Lord's Prayer

## FROM THE REV'D ETHAN MAGNESS, RECTOR

You've heard about my sabbatical and my Ireland experiences (both the green and the gray of it). Returning from sabbatical and reconnecting with Grace has been a joy for me. I missed you all while I was away, and coming back did feel like coming home. Let me now share a few things from 2025 that were especially noteworthy.



### GRAND THINGS

- **Stability.** Thanks to the stalwart and effective efforts of David Beck, along with Grace's committed and consecrated staff and vestry, the parish had a time of stability and development during my sabbatical. This isn't always guaranteed while the rector is away (sometimes the mice do play ... but they didn't, so thank you!).
- **Parish Refresh.** Last year the parish conducted a spiritual audit of sorts, focusing on areas of strengths and challenges of our parish. The challenges focused on affording rest for the rector in areas the parish could develop. Among the conclusions were a sabbatical and more lay leadership.
- **Teams.** To answer the growing needs of our parish, we selected many lay leaders to assist with new teams to help oversee ministry, from worship to pastoral care to the building to administration/communication to cell groups to children's ministry – so many got involved!
- **Junior Warden.** Rob Mueller, our first and newly minted Jr. Warden (a role which focuses on grounds/building) has done an outstanding job, and this year he helped to revamp our nursery room.
- **New Treasurer.** Gabe Gordon is our current treasurer and helps to keep our financial systems clear, clean, and responsible.
- **Redeemer Anglican, Franklin, PA.** As of the end of last year our church plant has become independent, and Eric and the team continue to do an excellent job (they've grown to about 60-70 on a Sunday!).
- **Holy Trinity Anglican, Zelienople.** A new church plant was born this year! Our own Ryan Wise – slated to be ordained soon – has started a new plant in Zelie!

### IMPORTANT ITEMS

- **Baptisms:** 11.
- **Marriages:** 6.
- **Confirmations:** 0 (no bishop's visit during 2025).
- **Susan Brown,** beloved wife of Doug Brown, and faithful member of this parish, entered immortality at the end of 2025. We miss her very deeply as we, together, await the restorative Resurrection.

### EXTRAS (things that I do in addition to / as a supplement to the "rector role")

- **Grace From the Ground Up: A Theological and Personal Prologue to Church Planting.** I just got the first bit of feedback from the editor re. my book (which is 40% finished). I hope to finish it this year, and will do a writing-retreat in the summer (Ireland again, God willing) to help with that.
- **Reawakening Conference.** I gave four talks for the Anglican Diocese of New England's annual Reawakening Conference (this was the second year in a row that I was the speaker). I spoke about covenantal theology, and it seemed to go quite well!
- **Trinity Anglican Seminary Board.** I continue to serve on the board of Trinity Anglican Seminary, the flagship seminary for the ACNA.

### 2026 PLANS

- **Revisioning Values and Priorities.** Part of the parish Refresh deduced that we at Grace have many strengths that need to be further honed and defined after several years of unexpected, expansive growth. During the first quarter of 2026 I'm going to clarify our mission, vision, and priorities as we together walk, by God's grace, into a lovely future. This discernment will include clarifying a potential new pastoral role at Grace that will assist us with executive matters. You'll be hearing more about this in coming months!

I'll give Saint Paul the final word today, as he summarizes my feelings toward this parish: "For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?" (1 Thessalonians 2:19).

## FROM STEVE MATSON, DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES

What a year it's been in Family Ministry at Grace! As I reflect on 2025, two words come to mind: **momentum and growth**. Each week Casa welcomed new middle- and high-school students. We celebrated nine graduating GCC leaders, some with us since freshman year, and welcomed thirteen new leaders to the team. I am so grateful for the Lord's provision of volunteers year after year! We introduced new events like the Boost Retreat for high school students, brought back the Casa Scavenger Hunt, and continued favorite traditions like Wings & Soda Night.



### Family Ministries

- **5th Annual Christmas Tree Bonfire:** In February, over 100 people gathered at the Jefferis's home for fantastic live music, hot drinks, cookies, wonderful fellowship, and a **MASSIVE FIRE!**
- **Advent Wreath-making:** In December, families filled the church basement for a festive time of wreath-making, cookies, and hot cocoa. A huge thank-you to Margaret Herbener, Rosemary Wasilko, Kristen Schools, and Logan Gwynn for sharing their incredible talents and skills.

### The Casa (6th–12th Grade)

- **Weekly Meetings:** On Tuesday evenings, 50–70 students in grades 6–12 and 25 GCC student and adult leaders gathered for games, food, worship, teaching, small groups, relationship-building, more food, special parties, and compline. Some special events included Nerf Wars, Christmas caroling at two local nursing homes, and end-of-the-school-year Capri Sun **JUICE WARS**.
- **Girls' Bible Study:** Thursdays at 6:30 a.m., 8–10 HS girls and two college leaders gathered at the Matsons' for breakfast and Bible study led by Kristen Schools in the spring and Jodi Brown in the fall and winter, while Adelia graciously hosted and provided coffee and breakfast.
- **Boost Retreat:** In March, Casa held its first Boost Retreat at Whitehall Conference Center with 25 students and eight leaders. We were grateful to join forces with Ethan and Monique Magness.
- **Middle School Retreat:** In April, we partnered with Don Shepson and 5 GCC students from one of his classes to run this epic weekend retreat with 35 students and 10 leaders.
- **Middle School Girls' Gatherings:** Two gatherings were tailored specifically for MS girls, focusing on gaining a deeper understanding of how God sees us (led by Jodi Brown & 4 leaders with 6–8 girls).

### Summer Events

- **Weekly Disc Golf:** Included a devotional and picnic lunch at Memorial Park (20–25 students).
- **Pickleball:** Included a devotional, and a popsicle cool-down in Pine Township (15–20 students).
- **Middle School Guys' Epic Disc Golf Trip:** In July, Matthew Bennett and I took five MS boys to Deep Creek Lake. We camped, disc-golfed, mini-golfed, and ate the best salsa on the planet (made by Laura Ochoa). Despite heavy rain, we all had a lot of fun and community-building.
- **Girls' One-Day Mystery Trip:** Emily Morgan and Adelia took 15 girls to Pittsburgh for the day, with breakfast at Pamela's, the Pittsburgh Illusion Museum, a charcuterie picnic overlooking the rivers, and a quick stop for boba tea on the way home.
- **Mountain Bike Trip to Butler:** In mid-July, 8 students and 4 leaders spent the day "sending it!" Everyone returned home safely thanks to the great skills and leadership of Arthur Cain.
- **End-of-Summer Swim Party at the Muellers':** Students and leaders gathered in August to swim, enjoy delicious smoked BBQ, and make s'mores around the fire pit. It was the perfect way to end the summer.

As we close out the year and look ahead, I am incredibly thankful for the leaders who showed up each week and helped make ministry happen. I am continually amazed by the commitment of our families—not only to our programs, but to building the Kingdom of God in their children’s lives. I look forward to carrying on many successful traditions and trying some **new** ideas in 2026!

## 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. Our mission statement: *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.*



Each year I think we have topped out on our college student engagement and I'm wrong. We keep growing! Recently I was told by a leader in the Province that it is likely that Grace has the largest college ministry in the ACNA. Imagine that – a small town producing the largest college group. I am certain this is a result of the long-running conversations we have had together about the importance of relationships with students. Rather than simplistic programming, which our students get ad nauseum from the college, we have developed a number of ways for students to integrate into Grace. As a result, they see themselves as a vital aspect of all our ministries, like these:

Children's Ministries:	12 students (7 Christian Education, 5 Children's Liturgy)
Casa:	15 students
Music Ministry:	18 students
Liturgical Support:	20 students (5 cup, 3 crucifer, 3 prayers, 4 ushers, 3 altar set-up, 2 readers)
Mentoring:	26 students

As you can see, we are not only ministering to over 300 college students but have 146 students participating in ministry with us. What a blessing! This willingness to have students serve at our side is crucial in developing them for a lifetime of service and church participation following their graduation. Here is a list of the college programming:

Students Mentored by Residents:	16 women (mentored by 16 residents, 10 men (mentored by 10 residents)
Spring Bagels & Coffee (AM):	60 students
Spring Spaghetti Dinner (PM):	48 students
Easter Dinner:	8 students
Spring Bonfire:	23 students
Spring Soup & Conversation:	40 students/12 residents
Host-A-Student Meals:	2 times (60 students, spring/50 students fall/15 families)
Premarital Counseling:	4 couples, 2 weddings
Fall Hike:	25 students
TAS Ministry Leadership Lunch:	12 students
Cell Group:	25 students average
A Study on Living in Exile (spring), Questions of Dating & Marriage (fall))	
Pastoral Counseling Sessions:	Spring: 71 visits (up from 40 last spring) Fall: 58 visits (up from 27 last fall)

This coming year we will continue these ministries, but of note is the addition of one more significant aspect of college ministry at Grace. In my pastoral care on campus I have come to realize the depth of addiction many students (men and women) are struggling with regarding pornography. To that end, the vestry approved a training program that I am currently working my way through called The Freedom Fight to become a Sex Addiction Counselor. The plan is to have a cell group program established for the fall semester (2026). Anyone from the church will be encouraged to participate, not just college students.

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 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 past fall I spoke at seven consecutive weeks for CRU in Slippery Rock, and as a result a number of their students attend GAC.

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 pastoral counseling – the opportunities (almost daily) to listen, pray, and encourage our students is priceless. What a privilege to walk beside our students! Finally, Sara and I are so pleased and grateful to Wes and Kristen Schools, who continue to serve with us leading the college ministry. The same is true for Connor & Cecelia Truitt, who have joined us in ministry, too. 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. These relationships are profoundly transformative, and each of you is significant in this ministry. Here are some comments by our students related to their experiences with us:

“Over the past year Grace Anglican has played a pivotal role in building me up in my faith. I am especially grateful for the intentional community that helps orchestrate and conduct cell groups with the purpose of pouring into church members outside of Sunday gatherings.”

“I am encouraged by Grace’s desire to bring students together in fellowship. There is not much better than cell group at Doc’s house squished together on wooden chairs, piano benches, couches, stools, pillows, and the floor discussing God’s word, praying for each other, and building each other up through Christian fellowship. I am encouraged by the faith of my peers, the wisdom of my elders, and the kindness of those littler than I. On of the most joyous ways I have grown through the ministry of Grace is the opportunity to serve the church with older and younger saints.”

“Grace Anglican has encouraged and uplifted me in so many ways. The main thing that has grown me is the weekly service of Communion on Sundays. The liturgy of the service is very edifying, and it always helps me to get into the mode of worship. The hike with the college ministry was awesome, and I hope we do more things like that. Cell Group at the Shepsons’ has also been wonderful and has encouraged me in dating and open communication. The weekly Christian Education has also been very informative, and uses the resource of professors in our congregation well.”

To God be the Glory!

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

Greetings Grace Anglican Church! Thinking back over the year, I resonate with Psalm 107:1, “Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good and his steadfast love endures forever.” 2025 was undoubtedly imprinted with God’s goodness and faithful guidance. I’m especially grateful for the Women’s Ministry Team and the Hospitality Team for their steadfast service, wisdom, and leadership. It is such a joy to serve alongside you all!



### Women's Ministry

Team: Wendy Lawrence, Katie Foster, Cindy Marsch

Mission Statement: The Women’s Ministry at Grace exists to provide meaningful pathways for women to grow together into the likeness of Jesus through rich relationships, prayer, study and service.

Highlights at a glance...

- Hosted 3 Women’s Coffeehouses @ Collage Coffee downtown: 40 came in January, 17 in February, and 16 in March.
- Movie Night in May: 25 attended, we had a blast eating garden-themed food and watching *This Beautiful Fantastic*.
- Leader Appreciation Dessert: Celebrated the contributions of 12 women who served over the year as cell group leaders, leadership team members, and Shower Committee members.
- Bible Study for the women’s cell groups: 45 women used the study (36 in cell groups) written by our team.
- Fall Kick-Off @ the Cowan residence: 48 attended for a memorable evening.
- Fall Hike + Roosters Coffee: 12 women participated - great conversations!
- Advent Gathering @ Collage Coffee (outlets location): 55+ attended for reflections, incredible worship, and art.

### Women's Cell Groups

In addition to our regular spring groups, we piloted a new kind of cell group called “Quads” in January, where four women met weekly to foster deeper relationships while following Jesus together. Overall, the pilot feedback was very positive and we hope to offer Quads again in the future.

This fall, we offered 3 groups for women - one each for morning, afternoon, and evening. We found the co-leadership model of 2 leaders per group to be extremely beneficial in fostering connection across generations, and we look forward to the ongoing work of cultivating a community of leaders so women’s cell groups can thrive.

### Hospitality Ministry

Team: Sarah Potter, Grace Barber, Alex Ridderhoff

Mission Statement: The Hospitality Ministry exists to coordinate events, welcome newcomers, and care for the practical needs of our congregation.

Highlights at a glance...

- Meal Train: Grace Barber continued to coordinate meals.
- Showers: Eliza Gordon developed official “Shower Guidelines” and continued to take the lead on planning showers for new mothers.
- Welcome Table: Thanks to Margaret Herbener’s artistry, we continued to offer amazing cards and Christmas stars for resident newcomers. We continue to have an excellent team of greeters and special gifts for students.
- Lenten dinners: We served around 60 in March and around 70 in April.
- Newcomers’ Events / CE Fellowship: 3 events over the year, welcoming dozens of individuals.
- Appetizers on the church lawn: Thanks to our cooks and bakers, we enjoyed time together after church.
- Welcome Back Picnic - 300 attended to celebrate the start of the semester.

None of this work would be possible without the support of so many amazing volunteers! I could not be more grateful to serve at a church where the gospel is made so tangible through the ways we invest in and care for each other. I am looking ahead with great expectation for what the Lord will accomplish through these ministries in the coming year!

## FROM THE REV'D CHAD LAWRENCE, ASSOCIATE MINISTER

As I think back upon my past year of service at Grace Anglican, I am reminded of the position in baseball known as the utility player. As defined online, “A baseball utility player is a versatile bench player who can competently play multiple defensive positions and is valued for flexibility, often filling in for starters, acting as the team’s ‘Swiss Army Knife’ for adaptability.” I suppose this is an adequate description of my priestly role at Grace over the past twelve months. During the first part of the year, I served in a non-stipendiary role, primarily helping during worship as needed, assisting with the Casa ministry, and leading the men’s Friday morning cell group.



When the time for Ethan’s sabbatical drew near, I was asked if I would serve in a stipendiary role which entailed providing guidance for David Beck as he stepped into the Interim Rector position, assuming a larger role in leading worship and preaching more regularly, helping to organize and coordinate the fall cell groups, serving on the Sabbatical Leadership and Support teams, and generally pitching in where needed, in addition to continuing to lead the men’s Bible study and supporting Steve Matson in Casa. It meant a full second half of 2025, but I count it a great joy to have served as a “utility priest” in the life and ministry of Grace Anglican.

As I reflect on the past year, I have a profound sense of gratitude for the many ways God has provided, protected, and moved mightily in our midst as He continually poured out His grace upon His church and this community. And, I look forward in anticipation for what He will do in the coming year!

## KRISTEN SCHOOLS, ADMINISTRATOR FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

This past year for Children's Ministry has been incredible! I am so thankful to be serving as your Children's Ministry Coordinator and to work with all of your amazing kids.

We have officially completed our first full year using *God's Big Story* in Christian Education (our 4:00 PM Sunday School hour for Preschool through 5th grade), while our Middle and High School students used Biblical interpretation tools to dig deeper into our sermon series on the "I AM" statements of Jesus.



In Children's Liturgy (ages 3–6), we have also reached the one-year mark of using *Movements of the Service*. This has been an especially joyful time as we've explored the elements of the "upstairs" service together: Worship, Praise, God's Word, The Creed, and Prayer.

I want to give a huge shout-out to all of our Teachers, Floaters, and Wranglers—**we could not do this work without you!** Thank you for helping me care for the children of our church and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

---

### 2025–2026 Year in Review

#### Average Weekly Attendance:

- Preschool–5th Grade: 20 Students
- Middle & High School: 15 Students

#### Our Dedicated Volunteer Team:

- Resident Teachers & Floaters: 16
- College Teachers & Floaters: 8
- College Wranglers: 5

Teen Wranglers: 8

## FROM ALAYNA VAN KIRK, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

It has been a privilege to serve as Administrator at Grace Anglican for the past 10 months, and I have had the joy of working alongside of a stand-out staff and coordinating exceptionally flexible and dedicated volunteers. Our church is growing in exciting ways—not simply numerically, but in the life-giving involvement of all age groups across all sectors of service.



### Communications and Church Database

Each week, I am responsible for updating and sending out Grace Notes, our church's primary channel of communicating ministry updates and pertinent church / community news. We now have 848 people receiving this newsletter, a 19% increase from last year. Likewise, our congregation has grown, with a 12% increase in both the number of residents (243) and students (318).

### Service Teams: Scheduling and Training Volunteers

There are currently 13 volunteer service teams at Grace, including Children's Liturgy, Christian Education, Nursery, Prayer Team, Chalice Bearer, Crucifer, Chancel Guild, Hospitality, Music, Offering Counting, Scripture Reading, Sound, and Ushering. These teams include 177 individuals: 100 residents, 56 students, and 21 teens.

It has been a joy to organize such willing volunteers who plan ahead yet are eager to step in to meet last-minute needs, with some even *asking* if there are additional places they can serve on a given Sunday. I am deeply grateful for those who are already involved and excited to train the upcoming queue of residents and students.

Furthermore, during 2025, I worked on updating the guidelines for many service roles to better meet the needs of our ever-growing church. Bryce Lowe was instrumental in developing a robust Chancel Guild packet, which has become a helpful tool for that team.

### Worship Team

Bethany Mayo has continued to lead the Worship Team of 43 residents, students, and teens with her usual expertise and care.

### Nursery

Dianne Gordon has done excellent work scheduling nursery volunteers and working closely with Kristen Schools to implement Safe Church Policies.

## BETHANY MAYO, PARISH MUSICIAN

It is a joy and privilege for me to coordinate music at Grace Anglican! I am in my 10th year in this role, and it is amazing to look back and see how our music program has grown. When I started playing, we were in Slippery Rock, and I usually had only one musician (a guitarist) who would sing with me for our evening service. Now, we have as many as 8 musicians at each service.



- My responsibilities include leading music from the piano for all of our services as well as coordinating, training, and rehearsing with the music team.
- In 2025, there were 44 volunteers serving on the music team (18 of the volunteers were students).
- Despite having several committed seniors graduate in May, we've still been able to maintain a strong group of musicians. I've had more residents volunteer which helps with consistency throughout the college breaks. I am always recruiting more musicians for both services so that volunteering never becomes a burden.
- During Ethan's sabbatical, we added 9 songs during communion and 10 hymns.
- This fall we developed a new procedure for introducing new songs. I sent a pdf out with Grace Notes and a link for people to listen and learn the song ahead of time. Also, I leave printed copies of the sheet music next to the bulletins so that those who read music can participate more confidently.
- In the fall, I began giving suggestions to David and then Ethan with hymns and communion songs for the service.

Our church is full of strong, joyful singers, and it brings me great pleasure to worship with you all. I look forward to continuing this in 2026!

## MATTHEW BARBER, TECH ADMINISTRATOR

Since the first Sunday in March 2025, I have been the Audio-Video Tech Manager for Grace Anglican, with the honor of building on the foundations laid by Adelia Matson, Mark Wasilko, and others. I lead a team of volunteers who make possible our sound production for each service, and our livestream for those watching online (parishioners, prospective visitors, and friends far and near).



In 2025, the following changes occurred under my leadership:

- Purchase and installment of higher-quality cameras to improve video quality on our livestream, as well as provide greater ease for volunteers. (Livestream is now output at 1080p "HD" quality)
- Livestream in nursing mothers' room/cry room
- Grace Anglican's YouTube channel updated to display most recent recordings first, with some other, behind-the-scenes adjustments to channel maintenance and organization
- Training of one new volunteer video controller

Entering 2026, we have two new volunteers, with room for one or two more.

Challenges for the coming year:

- Volunteer training
- Improved consistency of sound production online and in the sanctuary
- Inventory management, and organization/storage (we have a lot of equipment but no complete inventory and no properly-organized storage)

## FROM ROB MUELLER, JUNIOR WARDEN

Ministry/Team: Facilities (Rob Mueller, Jake Jefferis, Gillis Harp, Ken Smith, David Beck)

The first year of the official vestry position Junior Warden (in charge of Facilities) comes to a close. First, thanks to Jake Jefferis for his unofficial role in this position over the past several years and his continued sustenance of the relationship with the owners of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church building. I am honored to serve as Junior Warden here at Grace Anglican Church and pray for guidance from our Heavenly Father as we continue to grow.

Accomplishments of the Facilities committee to date center in two main areas: (1) repairing and shoring up Nursery facilities and (2) exploring possibilities for our future physical plant.



### 1. Nursery Repairs

- a. Shored up some outside downspout drainage to help reduce likelihood and severity of Nursery flooding from future storms (HTLC has made a few improvements in drainage as well)
- b. Installed an industrial dehumidifier in the Nursery in response to flooding caused by significant downpours this past spring.
- c. Cleaned Nursery carpeting, walls, and ceiling; conducted mold testing via an online service and hands-on testing by GCC Chemistry department – thanks to Tim Homan and his colleagues! Mold types and levels were within expectations and raised no concerns from our professional consultants.
- d. Painted Nursery and accompanying bathroom walls and ceilings, and repaired pipe insulation. Painting was especially challenging due to the porous concrete block surface. Special thanks to Ken Smith and Matt James for considerable efforts to complete the task. This was not a small effort – volunteering is very much appreciated!

### 2. Physical Plant:

- a. Exploration of HTLC building vs. alternatives - Met with construction/engineering consultants and Grove City Borough officials to discuss procedures for hypothetical new building construction vs. purchase and perhaps expansion of HTLC. While no decisions have been made, the biggest takeaway from that exploration is that acquisition of HTLC would be in our best interest (by far) financially based on (lack of) current property availability in the area and the very high cost of new construction.
- b. We met with HTLC officials to further explore a purchase timeline. While we still have no defined transfer of ownership date in place, we did receive an official letter of intent from HTLC indicating that their intention is to sell the building to Grace Anglican Church – great news indeed!
- c. We are currently evaluating a variety of alternatives in how to move forward to provide the necessary facilities at HTLC and the estimated cost of each.

I close with news from the Church Treasurer that Grace Anglican has received year-end financial gifts designating the “Building Fund” – one of which amounted to \$10,000. This generous donation combined with \$25,000 designated by the vestry from the 2025 surplus gives us a designated Building Fund of \$235,000. This provides a very strong foundation for a future capital campaign should one be warranted.

## FROM KEN SMITH, SENIOR WARDEN

Serving as the Senior Warden at Grace provides a unique opportunity to see just how God has blessed this church in so many ways, particularly in 2025. You might say the Senior Warden has a front row seat to all the behind-the-scenes action. Well, 2025 was a big year for behind-the-scenes action, and it occurs to me that if this were the Oscars, there would be a huge number of individual awards to give out for the many more obscure roles that people play to make it all happen. In a year that started with a fair amount of uncertainty when the vestry approved Ethan's request for a four-month sabbatical, it is amazing to see how the people of Grace stepped up in every facet, not only to make sure we got by in Ethan's absence, but to do it with an unwavering desire for excellence to glorify God in everything. In retrospect, this really was Best-Picture-worthy!



The primary responsibilities of the Senior Warden are to provide vestry leadership, assist in overseeing parish operations, finances, and property, and to support the Rector. Regarding leadership of the vestry, it has been a real pleasure working with this group of people. The year 2025 brought many meaningful discussions, some challenging. No one on this vestry hesitated to raise an issue or offer a perspective that they sincerely felt was in the best interest of our parish. A special thank you to Emily Jefferis, who completed her six-year term and has always brought incredible care, wisdom, and discernment to the group.

Relative to operations, finances, and property, just a few comments. The formation of many new teams, including an Admin Team, has resulted in the start of many operational improvements. Updates are being made to many back-office operations such as bookkeeping and payroll systems, technology, and administrative processes. There is more work to do, but good progress has been made. Finances continue to be amazingly strong (more on that in the Treasurer's Report) and some progress has been made regarding the building, with HTLC providing us with a Letter of Intent to sell us the building at some point in the future. In reflecting on our building situation, while not owning the building has brought some frustrations and challenges, I believe we should be incredibly grateful to the HTLC leadership and members for sharing their building with us the way they have. What a blessing it has been to Grace.

Finally, as it relates to supporting our Rector. When the subject of Ethan's sabbatical came up, I must admit, it made me nervous. He is such a huge part of who Grace is – could we sustain things for four months without him? In my role, it is my responsibility not only to look out for the parish but to look out for our Rector and support him. I knew he needed the break, but how would the parish feel about it? Well, it became very clear just how special this parish is when everyone not only supported Ethan taking the sabbatical but then stepped up to make sure things would be in good shape when he returned. Teams were formed to make sure plans, structures, and processes were in place to carry out ministries and operations. Our assistant priests David, Chad, and Don and worship team, Bethany and Matt, really worked hard to make sure worship continued at a high level. Steve, Kristen, Melissa, and Alayna worked hard to keep ministries and operations moving forward. And it was clear that everyone in the parish stepped up, first because of their love of Jesus, then their love for Ethan and his family, and finally to serve the parish. I am so grateful to have Ethan back, refreshed and rejuvenated to lead us forward in 2026. What a beautiful thing it has been to watch from the front-row seat!

## GABE GORDON, PARISH TREASURER

During Ethan's sabbatical, an administrative team was formed to review the church's administrative and financial processes. This review examined how the church operates day-to-day administratively and identified opportunities to improve controls, efficiency, and transparency. One of the most significant outcomes of this work was the recommendation to modernize our accounting and financial systems.

As a result, the Sr. Warden and Treasurer oversaw the transition from QuickBooks Desktop to QuickBooks Online. This move strengthens the church's financial infrastructure by improving visibility, data security, backup and recovery, and continuity. It also enables secure, role-based access to financial information, which supports better oversight and long-term sustainability.



The church also completed its annual financial audit. This independent review (conducted by the church's bookkeeper and overseen by Jessica Graeser and Laura Cain) confirmed that Grace's financial records are being maintained appropriately and in accordance with the diocese's accounting standards. The audit process provides important accountability and reinforces confidence in the church's stewardship of its resources.

Several operational improvements were also implemented. Payroll was migrated to a third-party provider, reducing administrative risk and ensuring accurate, compliant processing. We also engaged a local bookkeeper to provide ongoing support and timely recording of financial activity.

In addition, the staff expense reporting process was refined to make it easier for staff to submit expenses, more transparent for leadership to review, and more real-time in terms of financial visibility. These changes improve both accountability and administrative efficiency.

Taken together, these efforts represent a meaningful strengthening of Grace Anglican's financial and administrative foundation. They improve reliability, transparency, and sustainability, positioning the church well for the years ahead.

Here are a few statistics regarding giving that may prove encouraging:

- Our overall income for the general needs of the parish was about the same as last year.
- We have 248 named donors in 2025, though fewer "fundraiser" donors than 2024. This suggests we had an increase in regular donors.
- Of the 248 named donors, they contributed about \$535K (regular plus designated giving). We also collected about \$15K in cash.
- Of the 248 donors, 144 are consistent donors. The remainder are students or those who offer one-time gifts of less than \$300. All 144 regulars gave \$300 or more.
- Regular donors (40% of donors) represented 80% of the giving! This is a very encouraging number – similar to last year.

**GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
**INCOME STATEMENT AND FUND BALANCES (2025 ACTUALS AND 2026 BUDGET)**

	2025	2025	2025	2026
	Received	Budget	Variance	
Regular Giving	487,618	450,000	37,618	475,000
Alumni Fundraiser	21,975	36,500	(14,525)	36,500
Transfer from Fund Balance (Savings)	-	-	-	0
Interest Income	6,421	5,000	1,421	6,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>516,014</b>	<b>491,500</b>	<b>24,514</b>	<b>517,500</b>
	Spent	Budget	Variance	Budget
Mission Funding	31,200	31,200	-	36,810
Diocesan Giving	39,616	39,616	-	44,471
Children's Ministry	5,242	7,107	(1,865)	7,107
Youth Ministry	10,704	9,250	1,454	9,250
Cell Group and Adult Ed	1,515	2,500	(985)	2,500
Worship Supplies	3,183	4,000	(817)	4,250
Hospitality / Special Events	2,919	4,000	(1,081)	5,000
Facility Rental	25,769	18,000	7,769	21,000
Copying	8,713	7,500	1,213	7,500
Bookkeeping	7,076	6,600	476	7,070
Insurance (Liability, D/O)	4,318	5,400	(1,082)	5,400
Payroll Taxes	12,476	9,926	2,550	12,000
Miscellaneous	3,889	3,600	289	0
Musician	24,521	21,996	2,525	22,656
Rector Stipend	55,200	55,200	-	56,856
Rector Housing	29,664	29,664	-	30,554
Rector Medical	6,993	6,600	393	4,560
Rector Retirement	15,276	15,276	-	15,734
Rector Ministry Expense	2,955	2,400	555	2,400
Rector Med Reimbursement	563	500	63	1,000
Rector Travel Expenses	-	-	-	1,500
Rector Continuing Ed.	435	500	(65)	500
Director / Fam. Min Stipend	64,800	64,800	-	66,744
Director... Health Insurance	6,600	6,600	-	6,600
Director ... Retirement	9,600	9,600	-	9,888
Director ...Ministry Expense	680	900	(220)	900
Asst. Priest Campus Ministry	9,734	9,738	(4)	11,865
Asst. Priest Campus Retire	1,585	1,761	(176)	2,135
Asst. Priest Travel Expenses	-	-	-	1,000
Campus Ministry Expense	1,797	675	1,122	1,200
Nursery Workers	3,513	3,500	13	3,500
Children's Ministry Admin	10,311	16,872	(6,561)	11,586
Clergy & Speaker Supply	675	500	175	500
Tech Support Staff	7,599	7,069	530	7,281
Technology/Online Support	1,914	-	1,914	0
Assistant Pastor	2,192	-	2,192	6,000
AP's Retirement	-	-	-	0
AP's Health Ins	2,047	3,200	(1,153)	3,200
AP's ministry expense	406	-	406	0
Curate for Parish Life	6,007	5,152	855	0
Women's Min. & Hosp Dir	14,763	14,763	-	14,600
Men's Ministry	716	750	(34)	750
Women's ministry	1,096	750	346	1,500
Newcomer gifts/ministry	663	1,000	(337)	700
Administrator	12,495	22,500	(10,005)	11,586
Office Supplies	-	-	-	500
Church Center Software	1,918	2,784	(866)	2,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>453,338</b>	<b>453,749</b>	<b>-411</b>	<b>462,653</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>62,676</b>	<b>37,751</b>	<b>24,925</b>	<b>54,847</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>	2023	2024	2025	2026
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget
Savings Fund	94,842	110,000	113,516	113,516
Building Fund	160,974	200,000	250,000	275,000
Strategic Growth Reserve Fund	-	26,933	21,579	51,426
Other Designated Funds	16,267	12,142	8,918	8,918
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>272,083</b>	<b>349,075</b>	<b>394,013</b>	<b>448,860</b>

Notes:

Did not need in 2025

10% of 2024 Giving - Godly Share

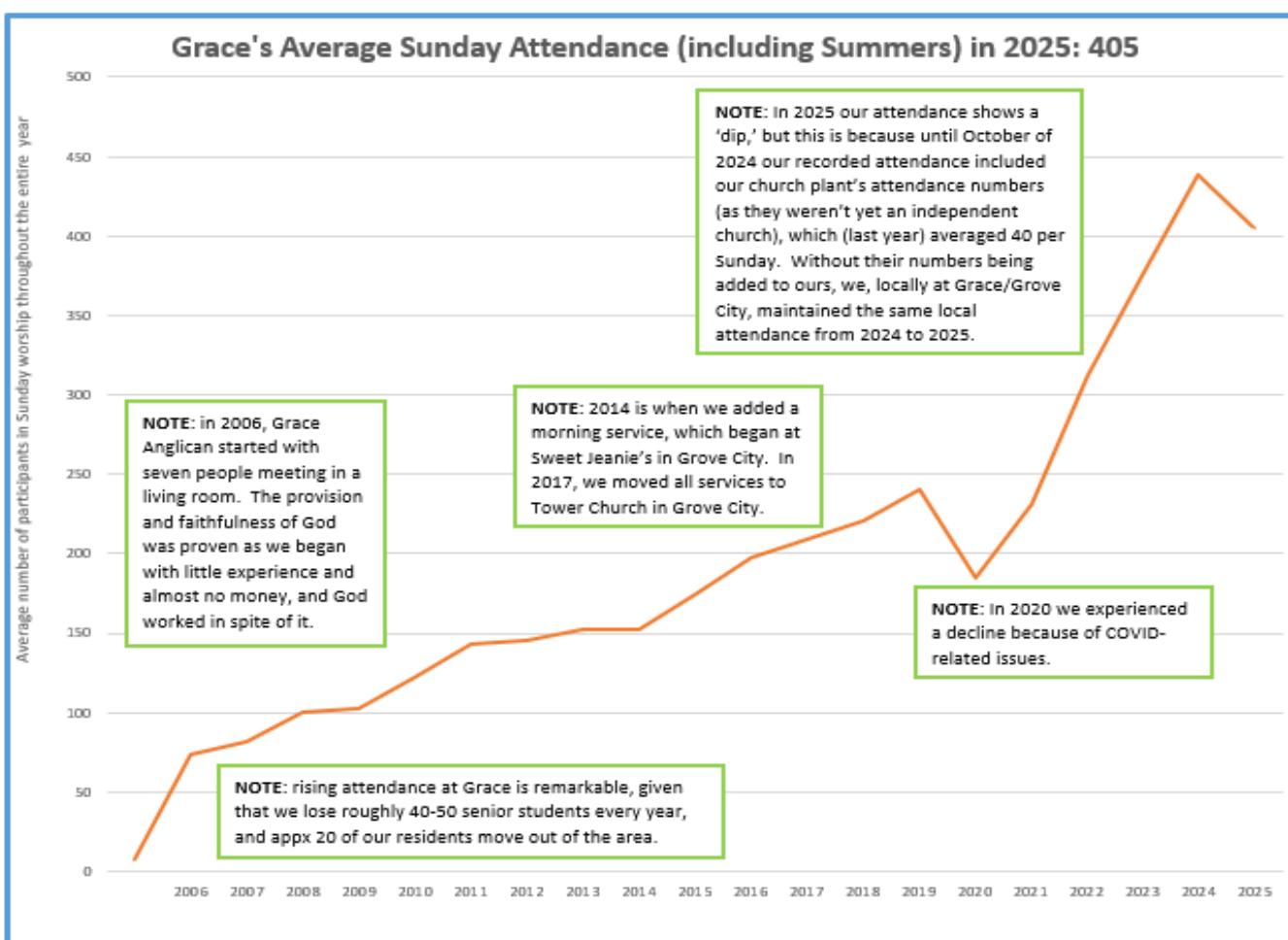
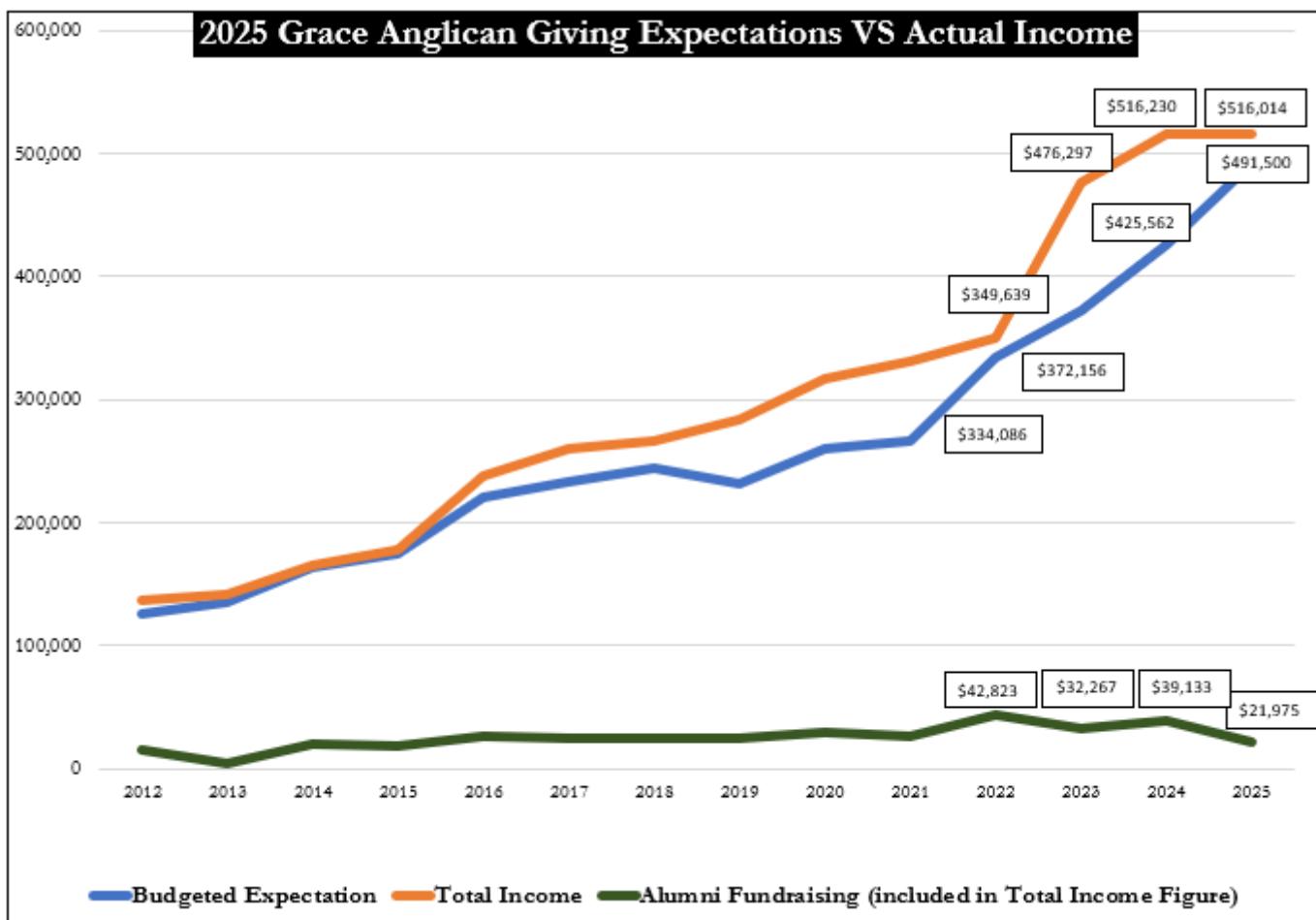
20th Anniversary Celebration  
2025 higher - additional maintenance support

2025 higher because of two month sabbatical

Additional increase per Comp Study

PT to lead Cell Group Ministry & Sunday support

approximately three months of spending  
\$10K Gift in 2025 + additions from surplus  
Reserve for possible PT Exec. Pastor  
Pastor's Discretionary, etc.



# THE MISSION FUND

- Ministries GRACE supported in 2025 -  
'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 who 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.

**Extending Grace – Hillcrest Circle Block Party** – multiple members of Grace Anglican partnered to host a neighborhood block party sponsored in part by the church. \$500 one time.

**Other local needs** – grocery cards, hotel stays, etc. Approx \$2000 total in 2025.

## NATIONAL

**Franklin Church Plant**, under the leadership of the Rev'd Eric Phillips. \$300 monthly.

**Schuyler Kitchen's InterVarsity** mission work at Berklee College of Music and other arts colleges in Boston, MA. \$145 monthly.

**Christofor Eklund**, Youth Director for Missionary Athletes International, whose goal to use soccer as a platform to build relationships, share the gospel, and disciple young Christians. \$150 monthly.

## INTERNATIONAL

**Kathleen McAlister** is serving in the Republic of Ireland with a missions group called Serge, on a church planting team in the Dublin area that seeks to encourage and provide support to Irish pastors and ministry leaders. She also is partnering with Christian Unions Ireland, an Irish campus ministry. \$125 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 monthly.

**The Henriquez Family.** Reuben, Lydia, and Lucia Henriquez serve as missionaries for Papua New Guinea, where they serve long-term with Pioneer Bible Translators among the Gants people. \$300 monthly.

**Mikayla Gainor**, Resident Director at LCC International University in Lithuania. She leads resident life programs and Bible studies, mentors and disciples, and shares the gospel with students from around the world. \$150 monthly.

**A & A** in Northern Africa with their young family, living the presence and light of Christ in an unreached community. \$300 monthly, and an additional \$500 one-time gift to their business fund.

**Student trip: Nikki Collins** traveled to Ireland in summer 2025 for an 8-week internship with Serge focused on outreach and discipleship, in collaboration with the work of Kathleen McAlister (see above). \$250 one time.

**Mission Team Members: Mike Kildoo, Cara Rumbaugh, Kris Homan, and Jessica Graeser.**

**The Missions Team has developed the following standards for Grace's Mission Support:**

- Biblical orthodoxy and ethical excellence
- A balance between local, national/domestic, and international missions
- Prioritized 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
- Prioritized personal and trusted connections between Grace and the mission or missionary (We have a strong desire to support long-term missionary ventures going forth from Grace Anglican.)
- The need of the mission or ministry

### **Strategic Guidelines for Priorities in Mission Giving (adopted in 2024 for future giving)**

**Tier One: Corporate Calling – Goal is 60% of total mission fund**

- Substantially support long-term missionaries who proclaim the Gospel to the unreached
- Resourcing church plants in our diocese

**Tier Two: Support of Individual Callings – Goal is 20% of total mission fund**

- Disperse biblically equipped, gospel-enriched missionaries as compassionate carriers of good news
- Support of individual callings and honorariums
- Contingency giving

**Tier Three: Support of International and Local Agencies – Goal is 20% of total mission fund**

- Local humanitarian organizations
- International mission organizations

## VESTRY HIGH POINTS FROM 2025

**Members** (in order of term expiration): Emily Jefferis, Ken Smith (Senior Warden), Cindy Marsch, Randy Welker, Rob Mueller (Junior Warden), Chris Franklin

Our vestry meetings have always been a cheerful challenge as we make decisions using your gifts in the Lord's service in the ministry of Grace Anglican Church, and to offer counsel to our rector at his request. We are alert to needs we see in the congregation and often discuss and pray together about those, working behind the scenes as needed for offerings, hospitality, and diocesan duties, and we are always available to discuss parish matters with you. This year our duties expanded as we stretched ourselves to work on the SWOT ministry analysis and to help fill out the teams that carried out new and increasing assignments during the rector's sabbatical.

**Finances** – The Treasurer's Report details the numbers, but as a vestry we continue to marvel at the faithful regular gifts of the congregation.

- The church budget is a living document, and we adjust as needed through the year. The budget increased from approximately \$450k in 2025 to \$475k for 2026.
- Gabe Gordon transitioned into the role of treasurer in April and has actively developed new procedures with the Administrative Team as appropriate.
- Much of our financial work this year included sabbatical needs, combining grants and our own budget to meet the approximate \$45k–\$50k required.
- We transitioned to using Church Center for online giving, saving significant fees formerly paid to Pay Pal, and a new money market account for savings has more than tripled our interest to almost \$7000 for the year.

**Building** – Our facility needs are top-of-mind for the vestry, so we established the role of Junior Warden and Rob Mueller accepted the position, which focuses on these needs. He and Ken Smith put in extensive work to repair and renovate the nursery over the summer. The Facilities Team met with Holy Trinity representatives at various times through the year and are in process with negotiating and strategizing the best next steps.

**Staff** – To make the most of the needs and gifts of those on staff, we adjusted some positions and duties and compensation through the year.

- Matt Barber was hired as Tech Administrator and in May presented an extensive report we acted upon to upgrade our cameras and video capabilities.
- In the sabbatical planning and transition, we voted to approve an offer to extend David Beck's work through the year so he could serve as rector in Ethan's place. Chad Lawrence's duties and compensation were also increased for this purpose.
- In preparing the 2026 budget, we adjusted staff compensation up to diocesan standards.
- Alayna VanKirk was hired for part-time administrative duties.
- At year's end, we hired Dede Wishing as on-site bookkeeper, transitioning into the role now.

Cindy Marsch, Secretary

The Grace of Jesus Christ is not merely one ingredient in Christianity, weighed equally with all the rest. It's the centerpiece. If Grace ceases to be central to our faith, Christianity ceases to be Christian. A de-graced Christianity resembles every other religion, focusing upon the fulfilling of various ethical requirements in order to gain the favor of God. Thankfully, the Prayer Book tethers us to the central pole of Grace. We can't escape it even when we try to, and in the last moments of our lives we'll be grateful that it has the final word.

**-The Right Reverend Ashley Null**

