



# Grace Episcopal Church Annual Meeting



February 2, 2025  
~ Review of 2024 ~

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
555 E. Mountain View Avenue, Glendora, CA 91741  
626.335.3171 ~ [Grace@GraceGlendora.org](mailto:Grace@GraceGlendora.org)

The Rev. Susan L. Scranton, Rector  
The Rev. James Seipel, Assisting

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**~ ANNUAL MEETING ~**  
**February 2, 2025**  
**AGENDA**

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- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- II. Welcome and Opening Remarks by the Rector
- III. Approval of the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
- IV. 2024 Slideshow
- V. Senior Warden's Report
- VI. Junior Warden's Report
- VII. Farewells to Departing Vestry Members
- VIII. Introduction of Vestry Candidates and Election
- IX. Diocesan Convention Delegates and Alternates
- X. Treasurer's Report: 2024 Year End and Presentation of the 2025 Parish Budget
- XI. Open Forum for Questions
- XII. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE RECTOR, WARDENS, AND VESTRY OF  
GRACE CHURCH PARISH, INC.  
(a.k.a. Grace Episcopal Church)  
January 28, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

Grace Episcopal Church held its Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, January 28, for Grace Episcopal Church located at 555 East Mountain View Avenue, Glendora, California, 91741, Diocese of Los Angeles. By operation of the Bylaws, a quorum was present. The Reverend Susan Scranton, Rector, called the meeting to order at 11:59 AM and led the opening prayer.

II. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS BY THE RECTOR

Nancy Rice was nominated and elected clerk for the meeting. David Aldrete moved and Lucie Pelleriti seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Pat McAlmond made a motion to accept the 2023 Minutes of the Annual Meeting as presented. Lucie Pelleriti seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Slideshow and information regarding the website.

IV. SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – David Aldrete

V. JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Lucie Pelleriti

VI. FAREWELL TO DEPARTING VESTRY MEMBERS

Thank yous were offered to Jared Anders and Bobbi Patterson for their three years of service on the vestry and to Cassy Shields who served a two-year term. Marylen Hart also announced that she would be unable to complete her 3<sup>rd</sup> year on Vestry. Cassy Shields, having served 2 years, was appointed to complete Marylen Hart's 3<sup>rd</sup> year of her vestry commitment.

VII. INTRODUCTION OF NEW VESTRY CANDIDATES AND ELECTION

Linda Rice and Heather Moore placed their names in nomination to serve as Vestry members. Seeing no nominations from the floor, Karen Huss moved to accept the nominees by acclamation. Lucie Pelleriti seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## VIII. DIOCESAN CONVENTION CANDIDATES AND ALTERNATES

Nancy Rice, Kathi Ferris, Jade Petteruto and Miles Bresee placed their names in nomination to serve as diocesan convention delegates. Jade Petteruto will serve as the vestry representative. Miles Bresee and Janese Grady placed their names in nomination to serve as alternate delegates. Frank Boyd moved to approve the delegate and alternate delegate nominees and Pat McAlmond seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## IX. TREASURER'S REPORT AND PRESENTATION OF THE 2024 PARISH BUDGET

Miles Bresee gave an overview of 2023 (sheets listed below).

1. Income Statement Compared with Budget for the Twelve Months Ending, December 31, 2023.
2. Balance Sheet, dated December 31, 2023.
3. Fund Summary for the Year Ending December 31, 2023.
4. Scrip Income for 2023
5. Budget of 2024 as prepared and approved by the vestry

## X. OPEN FORUM FOR QUESTIONS

Heather Moore would like to bring attention to the Sunday School report and pointing out that the children are the future of the church. Please encourage other families to grow our Sunday School program with children.

Rev. Susan named David Aldrete to continue as the Senior Warden.

## XI. CLOSING PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

We concluded our meeting with David Aldrete leading the congregation in the doxology.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Rice, Clerk

## FROM YOUR RECTOR

M. Scott Peck, author of The Road Less Traveled once wrote: *Life is difficult. This is one of the greatest truths. It is a great truth because once we truly see this truth, we transcend it.* Or as we might say as Christians, “Life may be difficult or have its difficult paths, but we are a people of hope because the worst thing is never the last thing.”

2024 was a tough year, especially for a few of us who lost those whom we love. My mother died in May, and a day later, Marlene McCormick died. We also lost Bob Hemstreet, father of Ruth Aldrete and Julie Ann Orozco, mother of Deborah Hoffman, and Dave Petteruto, father and father-in-law of Andrew and Jade Petteruto. Our All Saints’ Memorial list was extensive. To those who loved and lost, we know our hope is in Jesus who has granted us eternal life and promised us that none of us is ever lost, nor is our love ever vanquished. These truths were witnessed and lived by you the community of the faithful at Grace Episcopal Church as you reached out and surrounded with love those of us grieving.

2024 was also full of life and new beginnings. Trevor Dean Camargo and Margaret (Maisie) Frances Petteruto received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and began their new life in Christ, a life-long journey of faith. Mitchell and Morgan Patterson affirmed the Baptismal Covenant for themselves when they were confirmed by Bishop Taylor. Mizuki Williamson graduated from Glendora High School, gave a wonderful senior sermon and has gone on to college at California State University, Fullerton. And what a joy it has been to see Nathaniel Olmos, Garrett Patterson, and Stephen Rice thrive in college! The gift of community here at Grace Church is an amazing blessing.

Sunday by Sunday, fast days and feast days, our worship was the bedrock of our life together at Grace Church. Our outstanding music ministry thrived and was especially enlivened by the glorious organ music of Thomas Mellan. We had him but a year, and in November of 2024, Thomas left us for a much bigger position. We all miss him, but we will never forget his grace in playing our organ. Our LEMs and lectors, altar and flower guilds, ushers, acolytes, office staff, and teachers blessed us all year.

Persevering in grace, our outreach ministries continued to make a difference. Food outreach thrived, whether through our Adopt-A-Lunch program or our various food drives that benefited both local food bank at Shepherd’s Pantry and residents in need in Glendora. Our Hillside’s Toy Drive, Blood drives, Back to School Backpack blessings, the Blessing of the Animals, Christmas baskets for those who are alone, and outreach to Union Station in Pasadena were highlights of our year.

My thanks to our Vestry for providing vision and leadership, and for their love and service of our church. And I thank all of you for the privilege as serving as your Rector. I am grateful for you, the blessed people of Grace Episcopal Church.

In Christ’s love,  
Rev. Susan

## SENIOR WARDEN

Some of the highlights of our year:

In January, we held our annual Red Cross blood drive; a great success thanks to Catie Anders' leadership.

In February, the youth took their annual trip to Mammoth for skiing, snowshoeing and fellowship, shepherded by our rector, Susan Scranton, and youth group leader Jade Petteruti. Our resident Boy Scout Troop 486 sponsored a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and got a huge turnout of over 300 people.

We had a wonderful Bishop's visit in March where we celebrated the confirmation of Morgan and Mitchell Patterson.

June also saw our annual "Donuts with Dad" Father's Day celebration.

July was Vacation Bible School month, led by Heather Moore and the Sunday School team. We also hosted a wonderful concert on the lawn with the talented band "Jen and Tonic" featuring our own Kim Boyd.

After the relative calm of summer, things got busy again starting in August with our annual Blessing of the Backpacks and Welcome Back BBQ as the school year began. We also took a trip out to Rancho Cucamonga Epicenter to watch the Quakes play and enjoy some wonderful fellowship.

In September, we honored our Grandparents with a special service and blessing and October we had the annual blessing of the animals. In October, we also hosted an organ recital featuring Thomas Mellan.

In November, we lost our organist Thomas, who had to make the difficult decision of leaving for another position in Santa Barbara. We were blessed to have him for a year, and it was a pleasure working with him. We also held our Stewardship Ingathering in November with a wonderful luncheon.

December, we celebrated our Savior's birth with our well-attended Christmas services.

All of this came amid the usual weekly worship, carried out by so many talented and dedicated people; monthly meetings of the vestry, who work hard to address your needs and concerns and keep Grace Church on a firm financial footing; and all the other activities of an active and devoted congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

David Aldrete

Senior Warden

## JUNIOR WARDEN

"Reflecting on the 2024 church year at Grace Episcopal, we encountered a blend of joy and sorrow. We experienced the profound sadness of losing several valued parishioners. These losses deeply impacted our community, reminding us of the importance of our time together. Despite these challenges, the unwavering spirit of our congregation shone through. We supported one another through grief and found solace in our shared faith.

I am deeply grateful for the dedication of our many ministries that continued to serve our community throughout the year. The faithful work of our lectors, the tireless efforts of our LEMS, the warm welcome extended by our hospitality team, the nurturing environment provided by our Sunday School teachers, and the compassion shown by our outreach volunteers all contributed to the strength and vitality of Grace Episcopal.

As my two-year term as Junior Warden comes to a close, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all members of our congregation for their support and encouragement. It has been an honor to serve alongside you, and I am confident that Grace Episcopal will continue to be a beacon of hope and a source of spiritual nourishment for years to come."

Respectfully submitted,

Lucie Pelleriti

## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Together we accomplished much in 2024. Most preventative projects were already planned and then of course we were challenged by the unexpected. Regular preventative maintenance like cleaning, painting, plumbing, sprinkler repair, gardening and tree trimming continue throughout the year. The unexpected was an air conditioner going out during the summer and a gas line leak that was so bad SoCal Gas had to come out and shut us down. The AC Unit is a key cooling source for the sanctuary and the gas line feeds both Baxter Hall and the rental. Both vital projects were thoroughly reviewed on sight with representatives from Grace including both contractors, Air-Tro, KB Engineering, and the SoCal Gas Company. The detailed scope of each project was reviewed by the Vestry and approved.

Below is a brief detail outlining what we accomplished last year:

- Painting – All woodwork and trim were properly repaired or replaced, prepped, and painted.
- Gutters - The existing gutters were removed to provide access to the wood fascia for repair and paint. We installed new 6” wide gutters and downspouts to handle the heavy flow of water you can anticipate from the roof during heavy rainstorms.
- Playground – All wood was prepped and sealed to preserve and provide a nice place for our children to play.
- Sanctuary Doors – The doors to the primary Sanctuary, Chapel, and Office were prepped and sealed.
- HVAC – Mid Summer, we replaced a unit that provides AC to the Sanctuary. WIFI thermostats were installed in the Sanctuary and Baxter to provide remote management of temperature levels.
- Lighting – Updated lighting was added to the front of the church along with WIFI switches to provide remote management across the entire campus.
- Gas Line – Starting at the main we replaced the entire gas line to Baxter Hall and the Rental. New shut off valves were installed at the street and both supply lines going into Baxter and the Rental.
- Back-up Water Line – While the trench was open for the gas line, we ran a back-up waterline from the main to Baxter and the Rental.
- Tree Trimming – Annually we bring in Leo’s to trim the Oaks during the summer and the Evergreens during the winter.
- Cleaning Service – The weekly cleaning crew is now pretty much dialed in and are hitting their stride.

Sharing our talents in his service,  
Todd



## HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Hospitality is a genuine way to show love for others. In my opinion, God's two greatest commandments are to love God and to love others. At Grace Episcopal Church in Glendora, it is our mission that hospitality is about loving others through Christ and making people feel special!

Every Sunday, we have coffee, tea and a special treat for our "Baxter Buddies" who meet together in Baxter Hall to celebrate after the worship service, sharing their weekly activities and sharing their lives with their friends at Grace Episcopal Church. Many of our members have been friends for decades and enjoy talking, socializing and sometimes even discussing and debating with their very dear friends. I love watching our "Baxter Buddies" enjoying their time fellowship time together. This year more and more of our members are joining the "Baxter Buddies" every Sunday joining in fellowship with each other. This makes my heart happy!

I have a phenomenal committee of volunteers, who work effortlessly to serve the church in any way they possible can, making treats, working in the kitchen, washing dishes, etc. I want to thank Donna McAlmond, Pat McAlmond, Linda Rice, Susan Sherman, Lucie Pelleriti, Susie Seielstad, Rob Van Derbur and Denise Barcelo. I also have another back up team that is always ready to help when we need more manpower. Thank you Nancy Rice, Janese Grady, Todd Rice, and Trevor Barcelo. I am truly blessed to have a wonderful support team sharing their hospitality and talents with the members of Grace Episcopal Church Hospitality Ministry.

If I ever need help, I only have to ask and many volunteers from the congregation are there to help the hospitality team. I am truly blessed! Thank you so much to everyone that helps hospitality serve our Grace community.

My hospitality team enjoys spending time working together, laughing, making memories, and enjoying each other's company. I could not ask for a better group to be a part of at Grace Episcopal Church.

My team hosted hospitality 12 times this past year, we helped 4 times with Vestry functions, (Annual Meeting, Church Picnic, Bishop's Visit, and Welcome Back Barbecue), baptism, 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday party and hosted 3 Memorial services this year. We have been very busy and blessed to be able to serve our church.

Respectfully submitted by  
Debbi England, Hospitality Chair

## OUTREACH MINISTRY

Grace church has a thriving Outreach Ministry. In January 2024, we did our annual Red Cross blood drive. During this drive 33 donors registered, and 24 units were collected.

The church collects food weekly for Shepherd's Pantry. This year our holiday basket drive took place in October, and we had more food for them just in time for Thanksgiving. Additionally, we had a special Reverse Advent Calendar food drive, aimed at maximizing our food collection while enjoying the fun of an Advent Calendar. As we continually collect food for the needy, please remember that anyone can contribute non-perishable food or hygiene items.

We also ensured that the children and young adults at HillSides in Pasadena had a Merry Christmas. Over \$740 was collected and gift cards were bought through our scrip program. Toys were also purchased and donated.

Once a month, Grace Church makes 50 sack lunches for the homeless at Pasadena Union Station. Everyone is welcome to sign up to bring items for lunches or just show up to put everything in bags.

### **Outreach goals for 2025:**

MLK blood drive - January

Birthday cards to active parishioners every month with special cards designed by Nancy Rice

Lunches for Union Station every month

Shelf stable kits to Union Station – collection and purchases during lent

Hygiene kits to Union Station – collection and purchases during July

Holiday basket drive for Shepherd's Pantry – October/November

HillSides – We will see what their needs are for this year – November/December

For a small congregation we make a big difference in our community. There are so many people in this congregation who contribute and help, that everyone is a member of this ministry whether you know it or not. Thank you to everyone.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Laurel McKenzie

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

### PARISH CHOIR

*Sing praises to God, sing praises; Sing praises to our King, sing praises.*

Psalm 47:6

This year has been another blessed year for all of us in the Parish Choir. Those of you who hear the music on Sunday may not realize that the Choir members devote each Thursday night and several other additional rehearsals to our music ministry. Without this effort, our music program would not be what it is today, and I thank each member of the choir for this extraordinary effort.

In November, we said goodbye to Thomas Mellan as our organist. Thomas had to make the difficult decision to leave Grace for a job in Santa Barbara. It was a pleasure to work with him for a year. He is a very talented organist and musician, and we wish him the best in his new endeavor.

We brought the year to a close with the glorious music of our Savior's birth, celebrating with our Christmas Eve service at 5pm.

I want to thank Susan for jumping in and helping us with choir rehearsal and keeping the bell quartet going after the loss of Marylin.

We look forward to glorious music and fellowship in the upcoming year.

In Christ's service,  
David Aldrete  
Choirmaster

### USHERS MINISTRY

Being an usher at Grace Episcopal Church is not only rewarding, but it is an enjoyable service that allows us to give back to our members. This is a special calling that allows you to support the Church membership in a very positive way. We greet parishioners, we ensure the safety and comfort to all who attend Grace, and lastly we assist members who need a lending hand or support during the service. As always, we try to bring a smile to everyone's face by wearing Hawaiian shirts and dress to the nines for more formal services.

We extend our most sincere thanks to all members of the ministry including Carl Colley, Rick Sandona, Alex McKenzie, Todd Rice, Micah Palpant, and Rob Van Derbur.

If you are interested in becoming an usher, please come talk to me. Everyone is welcome in becoming an Usher! No experience necessary.

With great thanks for those called Grace Ushers,  
Alex McKenzie

## ACOLYTE MINISTRY

One of the first things that I told the Acolytes and I try to remind them is “this is your ministry”, and they continue to take that to heart. They are the ones that make this Ministry successful; my role is just to provide them the tools and guidance that they need to accomplish it.

Each one of the Acolytes has stepped up to serve and do their part to ensure successful worship services every week. They continue to learn and adapt as I keep throwing more responsibilities their way, learning new roles, and adjusting as things change on a regular basis.

This is a great group to work with and there is no way that I can do justice in this report for their hard work and dealing with new and unexpected situations on a regular basis. As well as stepping up to help each other out, they make sure that everything is covered when there are schedule conflicts and unforeseen situations. The more experienced members have done a wonderful job mentoring the younger members as they begin to learn new responsibilities even while adjusting to greater responsibilities themselves.

I would like to offer thanks to each one of our Acolytes who serve week after week: April Moore, McKenna Parra, Karen Williamson, Mitchell Patterson, Morgan Patterson, Claire Wainwright, Oliver Wainwright, Elizabeth Anders, Amelie Palpant, and Ethan Seielstad. We are also delighted to welcome Evie Palpant as the newest member of the Acolyte Ministry. It is my hope that in 2025 we can convince some of our other bright young Parishioners to join this Ministry.

I would also like to Thank Rev. Susan. While the Acolytes’ role is to support her during the service, she has also been a support through constant changes to make sure that they have everything needed to be successful. I would also like to thank the other ministries that work together to make each and every service successful and special: The Lay Eucharistic Ministers, the Altar Guild, Flower Guild, the Ushers and the Parish Choir. Each of these other ministries has played a role working with the Acolytes, and it is a joy to have all the ministries working together so smoothly and successfully. Finally, I would like to thank all the Parents for all their support in communicating and making sure the Acolytes arrive on time.

Thank you to all our Acolytes. I look forward to the exciting and dynamic year that 2025 promises to be, and to continue working together in this successful ministry.

In Christ’s Love,  
Jared Anders  
Acolyte Master

## **ALTAR GUILD 2024**

Altar Guild responsibilities were to prepare the altar for worship and care for the sacred vessels and vestments. Like our ancestors in the faith, going all the way back to the Old Testament, our many vessels, hangings, and vestments required care. Silver and brass items were regularly cleaned and polished, linens were laundered and chalices and candles cleaned, inspected, and made ready for the next service.

Altar guild members set out the already prepared trays and vestments on Sunday mornings before services, and then cleaned up and set up for the next weeks' services after the 10:00 AM service. Occasionally, there were additional services as with Holy Week and funerals that required extra set-ups. A few times a year there were mid-week jaunts to the French Hand laundry and brass and silver cleaning sessions when necessary. My thanks to our dedicated Altar Guild members Debbie Pullen, Janese Grady, Patricia Meyer, Dawn Mellon, and Cathy St. Onge. Additional thanks go to Alex McKenzie, Frank Boyd, Todd Rice, Jared Anders, and others for helping with the heavy lifting, putting up of the wall hangings, and the scariest of all – veiling the large and high Jesus.

It is incredibly rewarding to stand at our Lord's altar and lovingly care for it. I invite others who would enjoy this ministry to join the Altar Guild team. Please see me if you are interested.

Respectfully submitted by  
Janese Grady

## **HANDBELL CHOIR**

Sounds of Grace Handbell Quartet and Quintet continued to ring and make music throughout 2024. It was, however, a very difficult year. Our handbell director and my mother, Marilyn Scranton, suffered a serious fall in January, leaving us to work without her for a couple of months. Her ear was never far from us, as I received detailed instructions for practice and performance. We played in church for Bishop Taylor's visit, Easter, and the Glendora Mayor's Prayer Breakfast with her leading us from her wheelchair.

My mother never fully recovered from the fall and died at the age of 99. In honor of her long and lasting bell legacy spanning 21 years at Grace Episcopal Church, which featured three handbell choirs, Christmas concerts, Nixon Library concerts, and playing for Sunday worship services, we continue to ring and make music.

Our handbell quartet of Jared Anders, Crystal Hoffman, Jade Petteruto, and Susan Scranton, became a quintet in September thanks to Stacey Aldrete joining us. We are a self-directed, collaborative group and have even begun to arrange our own music. You are invited to come to the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on Wednesday, April 30 to hear us play.

We also want handbell music to continue at Grace Church. If you are interested in learning how to play handbells and be a part of a new handbell ensemble, please contact one of us.

My thanks to Stacey, Jared, Crystal, and Jade for keeping handbell music alive at Grace Church.

In Christ's love,  
Rev. Susan

## LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND LECTORS

Grace Church's LEMs are happy to be back at the altar rail and distributing communion without gloves or masks, though we still use hand sanitizer and are careful not to serve when we are fighting a cold or other ailment.

Our current LEMs are: David Aldrete, Jared Anders, Frank Boyd, Miles Bresee, Janet Kawamoto, Pat Meyer, Bobbi Patterson, Debbie Pullen, and Todd Rice. In 2024, we welcomed Donte Apperwhite, who also serves as a lector and is a wonderful addition to our team. Due to changing circumstances, Pam Bryant has retired as a LEM; we give heartfelt thanks for her service.

Readers (lectors) deliver Old Testament and New Testament lessons and lead the Prayers of the People at services on Sundays and special days such as Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. During the summer or other times when the choir is not present, the Old Testament reader leads the Psalm as well – sometimes a formidable amount of text. All our readers do a great job.

Current readers are: David Aldrete, Stacey Aldrete, Donte Apperwhite, Jared Anders, Frank Boyd, Miles Bresee, Lynn Colley, Janet Kawamoto, Laurel McKenzie, Bobbi Patterson, Lucie Pelleriti, Jade Petteruto, and Jon Sharp. Micah Palpant has rejoined the lector squad after a hiatus, and we're so happy to have him back.

I repeat from last year: We could use some new LEMs and lectors, if anyone feels called to join this ministry. If you're interested, please see me or the rector to learn about requirements and responsibilities. (Asking does not oblige you to serve, so please do speak up if you think you would like to serve in either capacity.) I especially invite young people to step up as lectors – many of you do a great job on youth Sundays and other occasions, so if you're comfortable reading in church and would be interested in doing so on a regular basis, please talk to me after a Sunday service or contact me by email at [jskawamoto@gmail.com](mailto:jskawamoto@gmail.com) or phone at 213.220.5566.

On behalf of Grace Church, I thank our LEMs and lectors for their faithful service.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Kawamoto  
LEM/Lector coordinator

## FLOWER GUILD

Thank you to our 2024 Flower Guild: Denise Barcelo, Rosann Kindt, Amelie Palpant, Hannah Palpant, Liz Sandona, Susie Seielstad, Nancy Rice, and Todd Rice. Julie Schonland joined the guild in December! She is ready to learn and I have enjoyed working with her. We also welcomed Donte Apperwhite as he volunteered to create a beautiful Christmas tree for our church. He purchased the tree and all the trimmings and then took on the responsibility to decorate the tree to all its splendor! What a gift as we enjoyed it through the month of December. It is wonderful having them join our efforts to make our church beautiful!

We lost a long-time member in May with the passing of Marilyn Scranton. She was a very dedicated member for years and created lovely arrangements. She did all the arrangements during Covid for Susan's online services from their home, usually taking the flowers from her rose garden. She was always happy to help in any way and I enjoyed working with her as her partner for Week 3. We miss her enthusiasm and her loving commitment to flowers.

The Flower Guild worked to make Memorial Services beautiful with flowers and memorial photos. (These additional services are separate from our regular Sunday services.) We had memorial services for Marilyn Scranton (June), Robert Hemstreet (September), and Dolieta Lugunday Villarta (December) this past year. Thank you to the guild for your willingness to help to make these special services beautiful and meaningful for the families. Thank you to the entire guild and to Peggy Wallace and Emmy Wang for helping with the flowers for Marilyn Scranton's service. We all worked to make many arrangements to ensure the celebration of her life was perfect. It was the largest arrangement I have created, as we wanted the church to resemble an English garden for our dear Marilyn.

In December, we continued our outreach to bring a special basket to those who are alone on Christmas. Thank you to Debbi England, Donna McAlmond, Laurel McKenzie, Liz Sandona and Susan Scranton for the homemade baked goods and candies for the baskets. Thank you to Debbie Pullen, Laurel McKenzie and Susan Scranton for your help delivering them! It was a lovely sentiment to show our love for those that may be missing loved ones they have lost at Christmastime. We made and delivered 20 baskets!

I would like to thank Rev. Susan for her support and help to juggle my budget. Thank you to Todd Rice for his vision using succulents, rocks, and adding driftwood to our season of Lent. I would also like to thank Jared Anders for helping with the palms on Palm Sunday as he adds the palms to the center aisle. Thank you to Jerry Seielstad for his faithful commitment to putting out our flowers every Sunday morning.

I enjoy working with this amazing group when we come together to create and show our love in our creations. We spend time purchasing the flowers, preparing the containers and creating our arrangements to add beauty for our church services and other festivities. We have so much fun working together and I am truly blessed by their love and commitment to this ministry. If anyone would like to join our ministry, please talk with one of our Flower Guild members. There is no experience necessary!

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Rice  
Flower Guild Director

## **GEC LIVE STREAM TEAM MINISTRY – Keeping our Service’s LIVE!**

Since our first live stream on March 5, 2020, we have produced **276** live service productions in 250 weeks. For the year of 2024 we had a total of 1,954 views of YouTube (according to the YouTube viewing count) and 7,074 “hits” on our advanced advertising on Facebook. The total for the two public interactions for our 57 live stream services last year was 9,028 interactions outside the walls of our Church.

Your Stream Team is a dedicated group that takes pride in our weekly productions of our services to viewers across America and sometime throughout the world. Yes, GEC is seen worldwide on Sunday mornings and often a very broad reach with special services such as memorial services.

Your dedicated team is led by Mizuki Williamson with Trevor Barcelo, Ethan Seielstad, and Karen Williamson. Each week these dedicated members of our Church work diligently to balance the sound within the church, produce the actual video, live to our members outside the church and keep the equipment in good working order. We expanded our system this year to include a new camera from the choir loft to better see the choir, organist and a different perspective of the activities at the altar. And thank you to the Rice family, we were able to install a large screen television monitor in the front of the Church, now allowing us to view the Choir and Organist in front of the congregation, when desired. Something new and useful, thank you both Todd and Nancy.

For now, great thanks to Mizuki, Trevor, Ethan, and Karen for a great job that sometimes goes unnoticed by those inside our church, but is an important element to our ability to reach others outside our church. We are making a contemporary, high tech difference.

Rick Sandona  
Coordinator



## EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

### BIBLE STUDY

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

(John 1:1)

I can think of nothing more rewarding than studying the “word” of the Word. The Wednesday morning Bible Study is a long-running study that has continued for more than 30 years, transcending both members and the rectors of Grace Episcopal Church. The shape and direction of the Bible Study has seen different foci, but its purpose of understanding God’s Word has never changed.

2023 saw us firmly in hybrid mode. Actually an unlikely gift of the Covid years, our hybrid in-person/zoom study has allowed for greater participation while eliminating the problems of transportation and distance, even as far away as Texas.

During the year, we enjoyed studying Ezra/Nehemiah, Jonah, and Philippians from cover to cover. Taking a slightly different approach, we used Adam Hamilton’s book and video series, John: The Gospel of Light and Life, to read the entire book of John during the 40 days of Lent. We took an in-depth look at John’s prologue from whence comes the famous lines, *in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*. Additionally, we took a thematic look at Jesus’ seven signs, his “I am” sayings, and the extended scenes Maundy Thursday through Jesus’ resurrection. We challenged the congregation to join us in reading through John’s Gospel during Lent. Away from the direct study of a single book, we enjoyed Hamilton’s book/video entitled Why: Making Sense of God’s Will, and during Advent we engaged the Christmas story and all that led up to it through a book entitled An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People of the Christmas Story by Rachel Billups.

We learned much, enjoyed sharing our experiences with one another, and hopefully gained a deeper understanding of the Bible and our faith. Please feel free to join us on Wednesday mornings either in person or on zoom.

In Christ’s love,  
Rev. Susan +

## SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

2024 was a good year of learning and fun for our youngest parishioners. We learned about Jesus's baptism and calling of his disciples, and shared our knowledge about epiphany and evangelism in church. We had a super fun VBS program centered on the Greatest Commandments with a carnival theme. We enjoyed games, prizes, raffles, and - of course - a water bounce house. The second half of the year we focused on the Sermon on the Mount and all of Jesus's teachings for our lives.

We graduated our fifth graders – Amelie Palpant and Elizabeth Anders - into Youth Group, and welcomed them back as helpers for VBS. We welcomed new students to Sunday school as well. We remain a small but mighty group of kids who are growing in their faith and relationships with God and each other.

Thanks go out to our Sunday School families and teachers for supporting the program throughout all manner of interesting and messy art projects. Thanks also to our parish at large for your donations to VBS, letting us share our learning with you during services, and loving our kids!

Submitted in faith and love,  
Heather Moore

## TREASURER'S REPORT

As this is written, we are more than aware of the loss of property and life from the Palisades and Eaton (Altadena) fires. Homes, businesses, and yes...Churches within our Diocese have been destroyed. Recovery is going to take a long time to recover those once thriving communities and people's lives.

A sad segway into last year... Financially, we remain strong with a healthy balance sheet (assets and no liabilities), and better than expected 'actuals' against an assumed \$20K budget deficit. Grace Episcopal Church has been fortunate (and perhaps 'lucky'); but more than likely, fortunate to have members who pledge, as well as contribute outside of pledging to our success.

As alluded to, last year our Vestry approved a 2024 Budget with a \$20K deficit. Contributing to this, was the hire of Thomas Mellon...a fabulous organist, after almost 3 years of searching for a permanent one. I haven't run into anyone at church who did not think his musical talent to our church was nothing short of extraordinary. To 'jump to the chase', as it were... our estimated \$20K budget deficit at year's end was actually \$8,445!!!

Several reasons are evident for our less than expected shortfall (which might not have been one at all... ). We were fortunate for some greater than expected Pledge contributions, another is our Open Plate donations were almost 3 times greater than budgeted, interest income by laddering (or purchasing) various Certificates of Deposit (CD's) at varying interest rates and lengths of term was almost 2 ½ times our budget. Overall, our Revenue or Income was just under \$3K from planned.

On the expense side, clergy and other salaries, along with the payroll taxes and benefit remained the same. Our utilities (gas, water, and electricity) were almost \$4,500 greater than anticipated. Had it not been for a leaking gas line, original to our property serving the rental house... that almost \$21K might not have occurred...and created a possible budget surplus. The regrettable departure of Thomas in mid-November had a negligible effect on our budget.

At the end of the day, Grace Episcopal Church is a success story; and without the congregation (YOU!!!) it might be otherwise. It is our parishioners who have consistent attendance and pledges, our stellar choir and music program...along with hopefully, an organist, the 'Stream Team', the Ushers who make sure visitors and members alike feel welcome and inclusive, the Altar and Flower Guilds, are a few who come to mind, who have contributed to the 'success of Grace'!

As noted last year, we are not out of the woods yet. We need more members... or 'PPP's referred to last year (Pledge Paying Pews). These will in turn, continue to fund our music, youth, outreach, building and grounds, and other programs.

Sincerely,  
Miles

Grace Episcopal Church  
Income Statement  
Compared with Budget  
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2024

	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Current Month Variance	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Variance
<b>Revenues</b>						
Pledge Income	\$ 17,463.00	\$ 14,033.00	3,430.00	\$ 195,412.00	\$ 191,396.00	4,016.00
Open Plate	2,735.00	587.00	2,148.00	22,709.00	7,000.00	15,709.00
Rental Income	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	28,500.00	29,600.00	(1,100.00)
Rental Expenses	(23,064.00)	(563.00)	(22,501.00)	(26,257.00)	(6,800.00)	(19,457.00)
Facility Rental	2,896.00	2,567.00	329.00	31,120.00	30,870.00	250.00
Facility Rental Exp Alloc	(12,542.00)	(1,247.00)	(11,295.00)	(26,215.00)	(14,920.00)	(11,295.00)
Other Receipts	1,072.00	413.00	659.00	5,451.10	5,000.00	451.10
Fund Contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,125.00	0.00	5,125.00
Interest Income	494.63	174.00	320.63	5,450.22	2,000.00	3,450.22
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>(8,445.37)</b>	<b>18,464.00</b>	<b>(26,909.37)</b>	<b>241,295.32</b>	<b>244,146.00</b>	<b>(2,850.68)</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>						
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>(8,445.37)</b>	<b>18,464.00</b>	<b>(26,909.37)</b>	<b>241,295.32</b>	<b>244,146.00</b>	<b>(2,850.68)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Clergy Salaries	6,834.00	6,837.00	(3.00)	82,008.00	82,000.00	8.00
Supply Organist/Clergy	700.00	87.00	613.00	950.00	1,000.00	(50.00)
Other Salaries	2,743.84	5,902.00	(3,158.16)	64,983.37	70,846.00	(5,862.63)
Child Care	0.00	163.00	(163.00)	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
Employee Benefits	2,379.53	2,250.00	129.53	27,190.36	27,066.00	124.36
Office Supplies/Repair	351.39	625.00	(273.61)	5,812.65	7,500.00	(1,687.35)
Postage	0.00	50.00	(50.00)	396.00	600.00	(204.00)
Telecommunications	216.22	212.00	4.22	2,363.91	2,500.00	(136.09)
Hospitality	0.00	38.00	(38.00)	1,294.50	500.00	794.50
Christian Education	0.00	38.00	(38.00)	187.50	500.00	(312.50)
Youth Group	0.00	38.00	(38.00)	1,422.87	500.00	922.87
Mission Share	2,705.11	2,707.00	(1.89)	32,461.32	32,462.00	(0.68)
Employer Social Security Exp	213.42	366.00	(152.58)	3,884.90	4,392.00	(507.10)
Employer Medicare Expense	49.90	81.00	(31.10)	1,139.70	1,027.00	112.70
Bank Service Charges	47.01	12.00	35.01	236.11	100.00	136.11
Utilities	3,189.27	1,500.00	1,689.27	22,596.16	18,000.00	4,596.16
Property Taxes	(302.54)	0.00	(302.54)	936.81	1,900.00	(963.19)
Insurance-General	(547.00)	0.00	(547.00)	16,920.76	15,000.00	1,920.76
Janitor & Gardener	1,115.00	1,000.00	115.00	11,171.29	12,000.00	(828.71)
Repair, Maint, Taxes, Rental	23,064.00	563.00	22,501.00	26,257.00	6,800.00	19,457.00
Rental Expenses Offset Revenue	(23,064.00)	(563.00)	(22,501.00)	(26,257.00)	(6,800.00)	(19,457.00)
Facility Rental Exp Alloc	(12,542.00)	(1,247.00)	(11,295.00)	(26,215.00)	(14,920.00)	(11,295.00)

For Management Purposes Only

Grace Episcopal Church  
Income Statement  
Compared with Budget  
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2024

	<u>Current Month Actual</u>	<u>Current Month Budget</u>	<u>Current Month Variance</u>	<u>Year to Date Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Variance</u>
Total Expenses	7,153.15	20,659.00	(13,505.85)	249,741.21	264,973.00	(15,231.79)
Net Income	\$ (15,598.52)	\$ (2,195.00)	(13,403.52)	\$ (8,445.89)	\$ (20,827.00)	12,381.11

Grace Episcopal Church  
Balance Sheet  
December 31, 2024

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Cash - ACCU Checking	\$	55,517.72
Cash - ACCU Savings		101,361.07
Cash - ACCU CD		53,658.33
Cash - ACCU CD 2		31,735.53
Cash - ACCU CD 3		36,365.51
Chase Bank		100,014.04
		378,652.20
Total Current Assets		
		378,652.20
Property and Equipment		
		0.00
Total Property and Equipment		
		0.00
Other Assets		
		0.00
Total Other Assets		
		0.00
Total Assets		
	\$	378,652.20

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities		
Rental Security Deposits	\$	5,600.00
Prepaid Pledges		15,610.00
Federal Withholding Tax Payabl		86.70
Social Security Tax Payable		427.52
Medicare Withholding Tax Pay		99.20
State Withholding Tax Payable		26.46
Garnishment Payable		497.80
Altar & Flowers Fund		1,334.20
Building & Maintenance Fund		104,199.79
Music Fund		18,997.93
Scrip Fund		2,897.01
Rector's Discretionary Fund		665.33
Youth Group Fund		8,680.86
Emergency/Special Purpose Fund		157,208.19
Outreach Fund		1,281.88
Columbarium Fund		27,212.31
		344,825.18
Total Current Liabilities		
		344,825.18
Long-Term Liabilities		
		0.00
Total Long-Term Liabilities		
		0.00
Total Liabilities		
		344,825.18
Capital		
Fund Balance /Surplus		13,537.85
Initial Cash Balance Offset		28,735.06
Net Income		(8,445.89)
		33,827.02
Total Capital		
		33,827.02
Total Liabilities & Capital		
	\$	378,652.20

**Grace Episcopal Church  
Fund Summary  
For the Year Ended  
December 31, 2024**

<b><u>FUND</u></b>	<b><u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u></b>	<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>	<b><u>ENDING BALANCE</u></b>
Altar & Flowers	1,233.81	5,178.39	(5,078.00)	1,334.20
Building/Maintenance	98,023.00	44,222.42	(38,045.63)	104,199.79
Music	26,543.97	2,380.00	(9,926.04)	18,997.93
Youth Group	3,642.62	5,128.49	(90.25)	8,680.86
Emergency/Special Purpose	176,467.09	410.00	(19,668.90)	157,208.19
Outreach	613.69	1,970.00	(1,301.81)	1,281.88
Columbarium	28,712.31	0.00	(1,500.00)	27,212.31
Rector's Discretionary	785.33	0.00	(120.00)	665.33
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b><u>\$ 336,021.82</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 59,289.30</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (75,730.63)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 319,580.49</u></b>

## Grace Budget 2025 with comparison to 2022 - 2024

<b><u>REVENUE/RECEIPTS</u></b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
Pledge Income(Gross)	187,400	182,608	193,396	
Less Allowance for Uncollected	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	
Pledge Income(Net)	185,400	180,608	191,396	184,300
Open Plate	6,000	7,000	7,000	18,000
Rental Income (Net)	20,000	22,400	22,800	22,800
Facility Rental Income (Gross)		29,520	30,870	32,000
Other Receipts	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Fund Contributions - Music			6,000	6,000
Interest/Investment Income	700	1,000	2,000	3,500
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>232,100</b>	<b>245,528</b>	<b>265,066</b>	<b>271,600</b>
 <b><u>EXPENDITURES</u></b>				
<b>Labor Expenses</b>				
Clergy Salary	75,338	82,000	82,000	82,000
Supply Clergy/Organist	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Other Staff	57,375	63,846	70,846	65,846
Child Care	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
<b>Payroll taxes, benefits</b>				
Employer Social Security Expense	3,557	3,959	4,392	4,083
Employer Medicare Expense	832	926	1,027	984
Employee Benefits	24,900	26,004	27,066	27,066
<b>Office Support</b>				
Office Supplies/Repair	7,500	8,000	7,500	7,500
Postage	600	600	600	600
Communications/Infrastructure	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Bank Service Charges	100	100	100	250
<b>Worship, Education &amp; Youth</b>				
Music	500	-	-	
Hospitality	300	400	500	1,200
Christian Education	500	500	500	500
Youth Group	500	500	500	500
<b>Mission Share 12% of 2023 NOI of \$248,252</b>	<b>25,531</b>	<b>27,652</b>	<b>32,462</b>	<b>29,814</b>
<b>Facilities</b>				
Utilities	16,500	19,000	18,000	23,000
Property Assesments/Taxes	1,850	1,850	1,900	2,000
Insurance(General)	14,000	14,000	15,000	18,000
Janitor/Gardener	12,200	12,000	12,000	12,000
Property Repairs/Church	-	-	-	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>245,583</b>	<b>266,837</b>	<b>279,893</b>	<b>280,843</b>
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>(13,483)</b>	<b>(21,309)</b>	<b>(14,827)</b>	<b>(9,243)</b>