



Grace - St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

ANNUAL MEETING ~ JANUARY 22, 2023
(RAINDATE, IF REQUIRED, JANUARY 29TH)

THE REV. MICHAEL T. PANZARELLA *PRIEST-IN-CHARGE*

THE REV. THOMAS BARTLETT *DEACON*

JILL BRZEZYNSKI *SENIOR WARDEN*

AMY DAVIS *JUNIOR WARDEN*

TARYN DALTON *TREASURER*

MARK TALBOT *ASSISTANT TREASURER*

BRIAN LEAHY *SEXTON*

OUR VESTRY

CLASS OF 2023

NICHOLAS BENNETT, *CLERK*

MARCIA LEACH

SHIRLEY SKED

CLASS OF 2024

GLADYS LONGMUIR

CATHERINE SOPKO

BARBARA NICHOLS

CLASS OF 2025

GEORGE OLSHANSKY

MONICA POPE

BRENDA SIRACUSA

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AGENDA

- ❖ Opening Prayer
- ❖ Review of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes as pertains to the Annual Report for 2021.
- ❖ Recognizing graduating members of Vestry
- ❖ Nominations
 - Report of the Nominating Committee
 - Nominations from the floor
- ❖ Elections – Warden, Vestry, Convocation Representatives
- ❖ Approval of the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Reports
 - Wardens' Report
 - Priest's Report
 - Stewardship Report
 - Treasurer's Report & 2023 budget approval
 - Other Reports
- ❖ Looking forward
 - Affiliation Process
- ❖ Blessing and Dismissal

ANNUAL MEETING 2022 MINUTES (FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021)

February 13, 2022

Meeting Location: Community Hall in-person (with masks as pandemic precaution)
AND remotely on Zoom.

In attendance:

(in-person)

The Rev. Michael T. Panzarella, *Priest-in-Charge*
Jill Brzezynski, *Sr. Warden*
Amy Davis, *Jr. Warden*
Taryn Dalton, *Treasurer*

Lynn Adams
Marcia Leach
Maria Melkonich
Richard Olshansky
Cathy Roe
Catherine Sopko
Joanna Timtishin

Emily Jarvis
Angelina Marino
Barb Nichols
Monica Pope
Kira Scharf
Christine Talbot
Nancy Zamboni

Lydia Kugler
Judy Melkonich
George Olshansky
Rob Reinhardt
Brenda Siracusa
Mark Talbot

(on Zoom)

Deacon Tom Bartlett
Nick Bennett, *Clerk of the Vestry*

Barbara Baggott
Grace Krencicki
Emilia Siracusa
Paul Woolverton

Ona Davis
Heather Krencicki
Shirley Sked
Rita Woolverton

Wendy Hogan
Erin Panzarella
William (Bill) Sked

Minutes:

11:15 AM Jill Brzezynski opened meeting
Father Mike led a prayer and read from Romans 12

2021 Annual Meeting minutes

- accepted (1 typo to be corrected - in first line of minutes, 'sotware' should be 'software')

Community Hall

- Monica Pope - proposed renaming 'Community Hall' in honor of Jim Davis. All approved.
- Jill Brzezynski presented 'Jim Davis Community Hall' plaque to Amy Davis.

Nominations and Elections for Vestry, Convention Delegates

- Vestry
 - 4 vacancies: 1 x 2-year term; 3 x 3-year terms
 - Candidates: George Olshansky, Monica Pope, Brenda Siracusa, Barbara Nichols, Nancy Zamboni
 - Elected: Barbara accepted 2-year term; George, Monica, Brenda elected to 3-year terms
- Warden
 - 1 vacancy: 2-year term
 - Candidate: Jill Brzezynski
 - Jill accepted
- Convention Delegates
 - 3 vacancies (delegates); 2 or 3 vacancies (alternates) [all 1-year terms]
 - Candidates: Barbara Nichols, Marcia Leach, Amy Davis, Gladys Longmuir, Nancy Zamboni
 - Elected: (delegates) Barbara Nichols, Amy Davis, Gladys Longmuir (alternates) Marcia Leach, Catherine Sopko, Nancy Zamboni

Warden's Report addendum

- Father Mike has been offered and accepted a 3-year contract as Priest-in-Charge
- We are awaiting final approval/signature from the Bishop.

Priest's Report

- Number of parishioners approximately 117
- New parish logo designed by *Katie Gaffney*
- 2 baptisms upcoming
- Progress on building relationships with neighboring Episcopal parishes

Stewardship

- Barb said pledge cards accepted anytime
- No cause to worry if a pledge is made and one's circumstances change

Finances

- 2 dinners planned
- No Endowment funds to be withdrawn this year

Nehemiah Fund

- Flower fundraiser upcoming

Church School

- Amy will try including story time during Lent services for children.

GFS

- Lydia planning a 1-day used clothing sale in May

Music

- Discussion about organ - Maria Melkonich asked about selling it Father Mike unsure whether there's a market for it
- Cost to maintain is approx. \$2-3K/year
- If a buyer was found, cost to remove it?

Memorial Garden

- Chris and Hilary Cox maintain

Rectory

- House no longer occupied or needed - decision to sell, pending permission from Diocese after first voting as a congregation.
- Realtor has been consulted

Roast Beef dinner

- All willing to help should email Jill or Amy

Meeting was concluded at 1:35 PM

PRIEST'S REPORT

An Account of the Sacred Life of our Church

MEMBERSHIP ~ 133

~ 133 ACTIVE MEMBERS

Our active membership has increased from 117 to 133 in the year 2022. A few members who remained out of contact with our Church or moved away and were moved to the inactive list, some members who were inactive became active once again (what joy!), and five baptisms brought in four families. We look forward to inviting former members to return and welcoming new members to the area as well as through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please continue to participate in the spreading of the Good News, joining in the work of the Apostles, by inviting others to join via Baptism, Confirmation or Reception into the Episcopal Church, or by registering with our parish through Father Mike.

SERVICE BOOK RECORDS

Sundays

Sunday service attendance	1990 in-person + 453 remote attendees (last year: 2386 attendees) <i>Average 47 attendees/weekend (last year: 46)</i>
Holy Eucharist (Sunday)	106 services for 52 weekends <i>(55 of which were also held remotely on Zoom)</i>

All other services

All other services <i>(evening prayer AND weekday services, including ministrations to the sick and burial rites)</i>	555 in-person + 1182 remote attendees (last year: 1671 attendees)									
Daily Office <i>(Mondays-Saturdays)</i>	282 services (last year: 322 services) <i>Includes Evening Prayer (most common), Compline, Evensong and more</i> <i>Evening Prayer Officiants include:</i> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td><i>Fr. Michael Panzarella</i></td> <td><i>Dcn. Tom Bartlett</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Amy Davis</i></td> <td><i>Wendy Hogan</i></td> <td><i>Barbara Nichols</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>*Cathy Roe</i></td> <td><i>Laura Townley</i></td> <td><i>Nancy Zamboni</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>Fr. Michael Panzarella</i>	<i>Dcn. Tom Bartlett</i>		<i>Amy Davis</i>	<i>Wendy Hogan</i>	<i>Barbara Nichols</i>	<i>*Cathy Roe</i>	<i>Laura Townley</i>	<i>Nancy Zamboni</i>
<i>Fr. Michael Panzarella</i>	<i>Dcn. Tom Bartlett</i>									
<i>Amy Davis</i>	<i>Wendy Hogan</i>	<i>Barbara Nichols</i>								
<i>*Cathy Roe</i>	<i>Laura Townley</i>	<i>Nancy Zamboni</i>								
Daily Office <i>(Sundays)</i>	1 service <i>2 Oct 22 Feast of St. Francis Blessing of Animals Evening Prayer, held in J.D. Community Hall due to rain.</i>									
Holy Eucharist (weekdays)	6 services (5 of which were also held on Zoom) <i>(Ash Wednesday - 12p & 7p, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Celebration of New Ministry, Thanksgiving)</i>									

Sacraments and sacramental rites

Baptisms 4 services (last year: 3)

- 1May22 Quimm Adele Irwin (Fr. Mike's 2nd Baptism, 4th generation legacy via maternal grandparents, new members)
 5Jun22 Emilia Patricia Merlo (Fr. Mike's 3rd Baptism, new members)
 3Jul22 Blake Everly Higgins (Fr. Mike's 4th Baptism, legacy - the granddaughter of Lisa & Vincent Auletta!)
 30Oct22 Jonathan Nicholas Harris
 Ellie Grace Harris (Sam, Fr. Mike's 5th & 6th Baptisms, new members)

Confirmations & Receptions 1 service (last year: 0)

- 8Oct22 Celebration of New Ministry
 (for The Rev. Michael T. Panzarella & Grace-St. Paul's)
 Confirmation of Aiden Storer, Emily Jarvis,
 and Wesley Rowell (of Trinity Princeton);
 Reception of Angelina Marino & Wendy Hogan!
 12Nov22 Diocesan-wide Confirmation at Trinity Cathedral, Trenton:
 Confirmation of Kendra Baggott!



Reception of Wendy Hogan into
 the Episcopal Church 8Oct22

Marriages 0 services

Burials 10 services (last year: 5)

- 3Jan22 Richard di Renzi Kugler (Funeral Mass; committal at Hopewell Baptist Meeting House Cemetery in Hopewell
 husband of Lydia Kugler, father of Jordan Kugler and Catherine Sopko)
 13Jan22 Agnes (Nancy) Prentice Badessa (Funeral Mass; committal at Ewing Church Cemetery in Ewing
 mother of Lynn Badessa)
 4Mar22 Joyce F. Reed (Funeral Rite at Poulson VanHise Funeral Home)
 23May22 Marian Mae Jeavons Stout (Funeral Rite at Hartmann Funeral Home in Hamilton; committal at Ewing
 Cemetery in Ewing; grandmother of Karen Hiatt and Fred Storer)
 28May22 Leon K. Wallace (Funeral rite at Hartmann Memorial Home; committal at Greenwood Cemetery, Hamilton)
 1Jun22 Sally Gulden Apple O'Malley (funeral rite at St. Mary's Cemetery & Mausoleum, Trenton, NJ)
 11Aug22 Deborah Anne Christian (Funeral Rite at Saul Colonial Home, committal at Greenwood Cemetery both in
 Hamilton; wife of Steve Christian, mother of Robert Christian and
 21Oct22 Brenda Louise Clark (Funeral Rite at Wilson Apple Funeral Home in Pennington, committal at Ewing Church
 Cemetery in Ewing; wife of Ted Clark)
 11Nov22 Claudia Doris Moore-Wallace (Funeral Mass; committal TBD; member of St. Luke's Ewing)
 29Dec22 Virginia Anne Symanowicz (Funeral Mass; committal at Greenwood Cemetery in Hamilton
 daughter of Mary Williams, mother of Grace Krencicki, grandmother of Heather & Meghan Krencicki)

Other 7 services

- Jan22 Epiphany House Blessings (4 homes: M.&E. Panzarella, J. Melkonich, R.&P. Woolverton, one non-member)
 7Jan22 Ministrations at the Time of Death (Last Rites) for Agnes (Nancy) Badessa at Brookdale Assisted Living in
 Hamilton.
 14May22 Ministrations at the Time of Death (Last Rites) for Marian Stout at 'The Pines at Whiting' in Whiting, NJ.
 4Oct22 Ministrations at the Time of Death (Last Rites) for Johanna Capasso at Capital Health Hospital in Hopewell.
 8Oct22 Celebration of New Ministry (for The Rev. Michael T. Panzarella & Grace-St. Paul's)
 6Oct22 Ministrations at the Time of Death (Last rites) for Brenda L. Clark at her home.
 4Dec22 Advent 2: Shift to masks optional for both 8am and 10am services.
 13Dec22 Ministrations to the Sick: Margaret Storer
 20Dec22 Ministrations to the Sick: Ona Davis
 *Jan23 Epiphany House Blessings





*Confirmation of Kendra Baggott
at Trinity Cathedral
12 Nov 2022*



*Baptism of Quinn
1 May 2022*



Navigating a Pandemic

While it would be nice to say that the danger to all from Covid-19 has been eliminated, it likely may never be for some. As we began to acknowledge what it means to be “at risk” regarding health and well-being, we also grew to understand that there are some people who are at risk for other illnesses as well. Precautions like masking may become a more normative practice for individuals who experience that situation. In addition to health concerns, continuing remote worship remains a way for new members to find our Church, a way for ill members to remain connected while strengthening them spiritually, and a means by which those who cannot attend in person, whatever the reason, to share a life in prayer with our Church. In any of those cases, we love you and invite you to join however is most comfortable and spiritually fulfilling. We strive to continue to improve and stabilize our systems. A generous donor has provided a gift to help us install newer sound and video equipment that should improve our remote experience. Coming soon!

Being a relatively new priest carries its own challenges. Entering ordained ministry, in 2021, amidst a pandemic added a layer of concern upon my shoulders. I value your patience and compassion as a community as we work through all of it. We navigated many pandemic protocols and, with the Vestry’s guidance, assessed the practical nature of them as conditions changed: vaccination rates, infection rates, and community risk associated with these metrics. In 2022, we moved slowly to making masking optional at 8am, the less crowded service, and by December (the Second Sunday of Advent), we allowed masking to become optional for the 10am service as well. In

the Fall, we returned to offering the chalice for intinction (dipping) during Communion. I am appreciative of those who with great wisdom opt to wear a mask even when they feel non-Covid related sniffles. Others continue to wear masks for personal risk, and I appreciate the compassion all have shown about cautiously striving to maintain some social distancing and respecting the decisions of those who opt, and need, to continue wearing masks.

LITURGICAL SEASON OVERVIEW

Lent

(included in counts above)

2Mar22 Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes (12pm, 7pm)

HOLY WEEK

03Apr22 **Lent 5: Fr. Mike out due to Covid!**

08Apr22 "Palm Friday" Prayer walk, organized by Amy Davis

10Apr22 Palm Sunday, Blessing of the Palms (service commences in JD Community Hall)

11Apr22 Stations of the Cross (7pm)

12Apr22 Evening Prayer (7pm)

13Apr22 Tenebrae (7pm)

14Apr22 Maundy Thursday (Holy Eucharist, 7pm) with Foot Washing; services concludes with stripping of the altar, placing the Reserve on the altar of Repose in the 'Garden of Gethsemane' set up at rear of nave on bare wall.

14Apr22 Maundy Thursday Overnight Vigil (8pm-6am)

15Apr22 Good Friday (6am Morning Prayer at GSP, 12pm at St. Luke's Ewing, 7pm at GSP)

16Apr22 Easter Vigil (7:30pm) & Blessing of the Paschal Candle

Fr. Mike's 1st Easter as priest!

17Apr22 Easter Sunday (8am, 10am)

Miscellaneous

11Sep22 Blessing of the Backpacks

Luisa Panzarella's first time serving as an acolyte!

2Oct22 Feast of St. Francis observed, Blessing of Animals 3pm Evening Prayer, J.D. Community Hall due to rain

16Oct22 Anniversary celebration of Grace-St. Paul's Church (Oct. 14th, 1955 merger)

6Nov22 All Saints' Day observed, All Soul's Day Book of Remembrance

24Nov22 Thanksgiving Day (celebrated jointly with St. Luke's, Ewing)

Advent & Christmas

27Nov22 Advent 1

4Dec22 Advent 2

11Dec22 Advent 3

18Dec22 Advent 4

24Dec22 Christmas I services (5pm w Blessing of the Creche, 11pm w lucernaria - Candle-lighting entrance)

25Dec22 Christmas III service (10am)

Roberta Cash retires as a Lector! Thank you, dear Roberta for your faithful service.

Celebration of New Ministry
8OCT22



Epiphany

*6Jan23 Epiphany Compline 6pm service AT St. Luke's Ewing with blessing of chalk & incense, Rev. Megan Thomas officiating, Rev. Ali Van Kuiken giving the Epiphany Proclamation.

*--Jan23 Epiphany house blessings with chalking front door "20+C+M+B+23".

My Priestly Ministry at Grace-St. Paul's

Last year, I remarked upon the history of the parish life at Grace-St. Paul's that many years to re-live. I understand why; the experiences sounded beautiful and spiritually beneficial. Transitioning from what once was to something new reminded me of the story of Jacob wrestling the angel at the River Jabbok [Genesis 32:22-31]. The imagery continues to hold true. Jacob, though victorious and blessed by the angel, walked away different – with a limp. He retained a palpable reminder of the struggle. Our journey together into the Church of tomorrow continues. In 2022, we succeeded at ending the year with a financial surplus, a feat that has not been accomplished without endowment withdrawals in over a decade. We have raised significant funding to support our facilities through the Nehemiah Fund and the Altar Guild continues to function with managing its budget based on memorial donations. We are adapting to a new way of operating, and are seeing the palpable signs of blessing. Change has cost us something, including the viability of a full-time priest. I served just over half time in 2022, a contract for 7/12 work units where 12 work units is considered fulltime. Yet, I put in more than full-time work in hours. While I cannot always give the same amount of volunteer time, I pray my work bore fruits of establishing navigable routines and encouraged others to join in the work of the Church to help maintain its path towards revitalization.

Liturgically, I have found our common worship and services of the Holy Eucharist more powerful each season. I find myself learning to adapt to various liturgies, cherishing the variety that comes with Holy Week & Christmas. It is not merely the liturgy alone that makes these holy days so special; rather, it is your shared experience of them that makes them so powerful. I do continue to pour detailed focus into each celebration, striving to remember the traditions of this parish of which I have been informed, while seeing what parts might be illumed with greater care.

I have now served as a priest for one complete liturgical year, from Advent of 2021 through Christ the King Sunday just prior to Advent in 2022. In 2022, I celebrated my first Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Vigil, and it was gloriously filled with sacred solemnity. My first anniversary as a priest was May 8th which added to the number of wonderful celebrations! Welcoming new families into our parish, as well as their children into the Christian faith through the sacrament of Baptism continues to bring great joy to me and blesses the greater Church.

I look forward to continuing our life in prayer together. As we progress into 2023, please consider how I can support the growth of ministry at Grace-Saint Paul's through you.

With all humility, faithfulness, and joy,
Fr. Mike



1 Fr. Mike's 1st Anniversary as a priest. 8 May 2022

THE DEACON'S REPORT

Dear Grace-St. Paul's,

I have been honored to have served as your deacon for over three years now. Father Michael has totally embraced the Ministry of a Deacon in all aspects of church life at Grace-St. Paul's. As I've said to many of you, the liturgy is so very special at Grace-St. Paul's, and I have felt such a sense of belonging in all aspects of our Church services. Throughout the year, I have been blessed with being able to preach, conduct parish visitations, and help Father Michael prepare the liturgies.

In addition, I have enjoyed leading Evening Prayer on Mondays as well as participating in worship other evenings of the week.

I am so grateful that we continue to gather over zoom worship services. I suspect that zoom will continue to offer us all an opportunity to worship when we are not able to gather in person.

I continue to be part of the Diocesan initiative, Episcopal Community Services, or ECS. I look forward to continually updating you all as to its mission and objectives over the next several months.

2022 was a very challenging year for me and my family due to health related issues. I thank you so very much for your continued support and prayers. Our community here at Grace-St. Paul's is so incredibly special and the support it can bring to those in need is simply amazing.

As always, I truly want to thank Father Michael and all of you for making me feel so welcome and loved in our wonderful Church.

Peace Always,

Deacon Tom

14 Jan 2023



THE WARDENS' REPORT

There have been many things we've been excited to celebrate this past year and many challenges we still face.

We have been so excited to see our in-person worship build throughout the year and to have people returning and re-engaging in the life of our community. We're grateful that we've also been able to continue to have worship on Zoom to include those who can't join us physically and for Father Mike's work on the technology aspects (not to mention his work to get us a phone system that actually works and allows people to get in touch with us). We've been excited by the return of some of our activities like the Roast Beef Dinners, Story Time, GFS, and Bunco, and by the new activities we've been able to add like the Clothing Sale and the highly successful Christmas Party. We are grateful to all of you who gave of your time and talent to make these events a success. While our financial situation continues to be a challenge, we're excited to have supported ourselves this year without drawing from our endowments and to be building our Nehemiah fund, and are grateful to all of you who have given of your treasure to make this possible. We are excited to have started to be in conversation with Saint Luke's, to explore the possibility of an affiliation, and hope to find ways that we can support and strengthen each other so that both parishes can thrive as we live out our missions as unique parish communities. It has been a great joy to have Father Mike as our Priest-in-Charge. Father Mike continues to bring an energy, enthusiasm and fresh perspective to our community that is such a blessing. We are grateful to work with him and especially grateful for his gifts in the areas of pastoral care and communication which are so vital to the life of our community.

We have faced a lot of change over the last few years, and we would love to tell you we can take some time to catch our breaths, but as we continue to live with the reality of our financial situation, there will be more change, and some of that change will be uncomfortable because change always is. We ask you to hang-in there with us as we work through it together. Hopefully, in a few months or a few years, we will look back and realize how much we've gained, but adjusting to change will take time. One of our recent changes, which has allowed us not to draw from our endowments, has been compensating Father Mike for part-time hours. We have been shielded from the impact of this change because Father Mike has been incredibly generous with his time, not only working more hours than he is compensated for but, as many of you have noted, more than full time. While we are beyond grateful for all Father Mike has done for us, we recognize that he will need to move toward a schedule that is more in line with the time he is compensated for and that more of the work of the community will need to be handled by volunteers. As you have probably heard, we are planning to move to a single service on Sunday mornings at 9:00am. We know that many will find this a difficult change, it will be too late for some and too early for others, some will feel there's music more often than they want it and others will feel there isn't music often enough. Please understand that your Clergy, Wardens, and Vestry are doing our best to strike a reasonable balance. We hope that in time, as we live into this new schedule, we will find things to get excited

about as well. We hope that it will allow some of us who attend different services to get to know each other better.

And last but not least: Earlier this year our congregation voted to sell the rectory. For some this is hard, and, for others, it can't happen fast enough. Because the rectory and church are on one plot of land this is a long process, and Jill has been working diligently to make it happen. We are grateful for all the time Father Mike has spent to hunt down and provide the documentation we need, and we will keep you posted.

In all the challenges we've faced in our time as Wardens we've often said how grateful we are for each other. We couldn't do this job without each other, and we can't do it without all of you. We are so grateful for all the ways you have supported our life together with your time, talent and treasure, for your love, friendship, and support. Our hope in the coming year is to focus the work of the Vestry to share the responsibilities of leadership and make best use of everyone's gifts, to grow our parish, and to revitalize our ministries.

Jill Brzezynski, *Senior Warden*

Amy Davis, *Junior Warden*



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE!

Led by: The Vestry Fr. Mike (You)

Given a few families moved away and ceased pledging, we still are ahead of the number of last year's pledging in terms of numbers of families. Having some parishioners return and new families shows our overall growth in commitment to the Church in a positive way. Still, our overall income expectation has lessened. The Vestry and myself continue to seek new ways of functioning given this financial constraint, including seeking out opportunities for facility usage. In terms of stability and sustainability, one major concern is that nearly 25% of the pledge income for "Plate & Pledge" or "Operating Expenses" comes from one family. On the other hand, it is absolutely

wonderful that families are intentionally contributing to the Nehemiah Fund so that we can care for our aging facility with those funds. Seeing how much was raised in the first year of the Capital Campaign for our Roof and Gutter project along with a continued commitment to support our facilities is promising.



Summary of financial pledging as of January 17, 2023:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Number of families that pledged	36	35
Plate & Pledge <i>Operating Budget (weekly offering)</i>	\$83,850*	\$90,548*
<i>*includes large donations given in Dec. of previous year.</i>		
Marks of Mission <i>Diocesan Asking</i>	\$1,605	\$3,135
Nehemiah Fund <i>Capital Improvement Fund</i>	\$5,550	\$8,012

Finances are a vital component of stewardship, both on the level of one's personal relationship with God as well as our communal relationship with one another. The stewardship of your time and talents though in this past year is so commendable. The Altar Guild has done phenomenal work in not only cleaning for special events, but also setting up, and clearing out a cluttered storage area. Vacation Bible School was sprinkled with a plethora of joy-filled volunteers to assist in sharing the Good News with the children who participated. Our Roast Beef Dinners have returned, thrived, and added much needed income with the support of so many enthusiastic volunteers. Liturgy has been more meaningful with the increasing roles of lay people as Crucifer-Servers, Lectors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and Acolytes. Time and talent are the core of what revitalizes our Church. I pray that all are willing to continue to help us in this revitalization by counting upon your talents. We treasure your gifts, and hope to support your spiritual growth as they are applied to the form and function of our parish life.

Submitted by: **Fr. Michael**

OF TIME & TALENT!

The Church needs your talents, and the whole of you. We function best when we all give of ourselves. Many find great joy in participating in the work of this sacred community. Recently, Barbara Baggott helped write 'thank you' letters to those donating to the Nehemiah fund and she says this:

“Even though I am now disabled from a stroke and feeling quite useless, I found that I was able to be of service to the Church by writing. There are many jobs that need to be done at the church that can be done by folks regardless of disabilities or age. You just have to tell Fr. Mike you are looking for a way to serve the church.”

- Barbara Baggott



Sydney, Reese, and Luisa helping move pews and chairs for the 1st annual Christmas party!



Photos with Santa!

Monica Pope helping with crafts!

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report is the diligent and faithful labor of our Treasurer, Taryn Dalton, in recording our 2022 finances combined with the detailed work of Lynn Adams in preparing our 2023 budget.

The report has 2022's budgeted and actual receipts and disbursements alongside of the proposed 2023 budget. We anticipate a 2023 year-end \$3,192 operating deficit and a projected ending bank account balance of \$18,193.

Highlights:

Receipts Category 2023 updates:

- Weekly Envelope pledges are relatively unchanged from the prior year when adjusted for a \$20k pledge received and included in the bank account balance at the bottom of the report; and \$5k of 2022 Weekly Envelope pledges posted as Matching Contributions toward the end of the Receipts Category.
- Outreach sections were updated to track designated receipts and disbursements associated with outreach initiatives.

Disbursement Category 2023 updates:

- The Church Office Copier line is lower as we replace a leased one for a new laser printer/copier.
- The Music Salary line is reduced to reflect a reduction in services with a \$25 increase per service.
- The Outreach Diocesan Asking pledge was reduced for 2022 and significantly budgeted for less in 2023; all Diocesan contributions will be submitted to the Diocese.
- The Clergy section includes a diocesan directive to compensate Deacons at a minimum of \$354/yr.
- The Priest-in-Charge (paid) hours have been reduced as seen on the pension and salary lines. A 5% Cost of Living adjustment (COLA) has been calculated as per diocesan directive.
- Notes at the bottom of the report account for pending liabilities, which are set aside from the Available bank balance at \$41,386

RECEIPTS

Category	TOTAL 2023 Budget	TOTAL 2022 Actual	TOTAL 2022 Budget
RECEIPTS:			
Weekly:			
Weekly Envelopes	60,350	87,345	70,548
Open Plate	1,919	1,919	748
Fuel Envelopes	0	150	445
TOTAL Weekly	62,269	89,414	71,741
Special Offerings:			
Baptism Thank You	200	200	150
Blessing of the Animals	20	20	0
Funeral	200	650	0
Special Donation	98	98	98
Stewardship Coin Collection	0	0	21
Vacation Bible School	0	0	0
TOTAL Special Offerings	518	968	269
Outreach:			
Diocesan Asking - Envelopes	1,000	3,518	3,135
Clergy Discretionary	0	2,936	0
Lenten-Envelopes&Coin	0	0	0
Advent-Envelopes	0	0	0
Vacation Bible School	0	0	0
Episcopal Community Services	50	0	0
TOTAL Outreach	1,050	6,454	3,135

Category	TOTAL 2023 Budget	TOTAL 2022 Actual	TOTAL 2022 Budget
Holy Days:			
Advent	0	200	0
Christmas	1,000	1,320	1,250
Ash Wednesday	150	180	65
Good Friday	0	0	0
Easter	1,000	1,160	774
Thanksgiving	300	320	425
All Souls	250	250	280
TOTAL Holy Days	2,700	3,430	2,794
Church School:			
Sunday School	0	0	24
TOTAL Church School	0	0	24
Fund Raisers:			
igive.com	95	95	0
Dinners	3,500	3,676	4,000
Face Mask	0	35	0
Gift Cards	883	883	964
GRASP Pens	0	176	0
TOTAL Fund Raisers	4,478	4,865	4,964
Investment Income:			
Burgess Outreach	1,000	1,000	1,200
Computer Share/MetLife/Other	107	107	102
TOTAL Investment Income	1,107	1,107	1,302
Parish Hall Donations	3,075	3,075	1,200

Category	TOTAL 2023 Budget	TOTAL 2022 Actual	TOTAL 2022 Budget
Parish Organizations:			
Youth Group	0	0	40
TOTAL Parish Organizations	0	0	40
Matching Contributions	27	4,882	0
Memorials	350	350	147
Other	0	36	50
Coffee Hour	16	16	30
Legalized Games of Chance	0	0	1,376
Interest from Savings	2	2	2
TOTAL Receipts	75,592	114,599	87,073

DISBURSEMENTS

Category	TOTAL 2023 Budget	TOTAL 2022 Actual	TOTAL 2022 Budget
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Church:			
Contracts	2,129	2,129	2,228
Electric - Church	3,847	3,859	3,930
Gas - Church	9,846	8,656	7,872
Insurance	13,423	13,622	13,424
Workmens Comp	443	443	452
Maintenance	5,423	5,423	5,436
Sewer - Church	850	850	852
Sexton - Salary	6,900	6,955	7,068
Water - Church	1,241	1,241	1,069
Supplies	732	762	265
TOTAL Church	44,834	43,940	42,596
Church Office:			
Church Website	0	0	130
Constant Contact	168	168	168
Copier	3,534	4,764	3,409
Offering Envelopes	252	0	126
Postage	648	648	345
Printing	352	352	278
Administrator - Salary	4,212	3,045	4,212
Supplies - Church Office	665	665	409
Telephone - Church Office	1,728	1,973	2,232
TOTAL Church Office	11,559	11,615	11,309

Category	TOTAL 2023 Budget	TOTAL 2022 Actual	TOTAL 2022 Budget
Music:			
Supply - Salary	5,375	7,200	6,875
Musicians/supplies	323	323	800
Organ/Piano Maintenance	646	146	476
TOTAL Music	6,344	7,669	8,151
Outreach:			
Diocesan Asking	1,000	12,368	19,523
Clergy Discretionary	0	0	0
Lenten Outreach Partner	0	0	0
Advent Outreach Support	0	0	0
Episcopal Community Services	50	0	0
Vacation Bible School	566	566	799
Other	0	61	0
TOTAL Outreach	1,616	12,995	20,322
Parish Organizations:			
Church School	0	0	140
TOTAL Parish Organizations	0	0	140
Clergy:			
Deacon Salary	300	0	0
Deacon Pension	54	0	0
Supply Priest	0	540	500
TOTAL Clergy	354	540	500

Category	TOTAL 2023 Budget	TOTAL 2022 Actual	TOTAL 2022 Budget
Rectory:			
Contracts	224	224	220
Electric - Rectory	231	231	505
Gas - Rectory	606	607	1,147
PSE&G Contract	768	661	671
Sewer - Rectory	390	390	390
Maintenance	25	25	535
Water - Rectory	432	432	366
TOTAL Rectory	2,676	2,570	3,835
Priest-in-Charge:			
Pension	3,913	4,288	4,288
Salary	21,637	23,778	23,820
Life Insurance	228	57	228
Continuing Education Allowance	627	0	627
Professional Expense Allowance	2,625	660	2,625
TOTAL Priest-in-Charge	29,030	28,783	31,588
Memorial Garden	55	55	0
Legalized Games of Chance	0	0	80
Withholding Federal	2,124	2,263	1,968
Withholding Taxes	192	173	180
Total Withholding Taxes	2,316	2,436	2,148
TOTAL Disbursements	98,784	110,603	120,669

SUMMARY

Category	TOTAL 2023 Budget	TOTAL 2022 Actual	TOTAL 2022 Budget
RECEIPTS LESS DISBURSEMENTS	(23,192)	3996	(33,596)
Transfer from Endowment	0	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit)	(23,192)	3,996	(33,596)
Beginning Acct Balance 2022:	47,671	43,675	
*Available Beginning Acct Bal. 2022:	41,386		39,980
Ending Balance	6,384	43,673	2,969

NOTES

*Beginning Balance 2023:

December 2022 ending balance	=	\$47,671
Less pending liabilities	=	\$6,285
Handbells		\$2,520,
2021 Continuing Education		\$261,
2022 Continuing Education		\$627,
2021 Professional allowance		\$252,
2022 Professional allowance		\$2,625
Available beginning Balance 2023	=	\$41,386

Facility Improvement Funds

NEHEMIAH FUND COMMITTEE

Members:

Marcia Leach	Brian Leahy	George Olshansky
Rich Olshansky	Rob Reinhardt	

Meetings: first Sunday of each month at 9 a.m.

Last meeting held on 1/8/23

Nehemiah Account Balances

- Funds Transferred to Operating Account for Fire Suppression System December 2021: \$5,657.81

Balance 12/1/2021 \$7,173.15

Funds transferred to operating account (Fire suppression system) Dec. 2021 (\$5,657.81)

Balance 01/01/2022 \$1,515.34

- Undesignated Funds: **\$2,882.45**
 - Pre- Roof & Gutter Campaign Funds:

▪ 2022 Balance forward	\$1515.34
▪ Donations	\$1,330.00
 - Burgess Investment Fund liquidation: \$2,537.11
 - Attorney Fees property division – sale of rectory: (\$2,500.00)
- Funds designated to Roof & Gutter Campaign: **\$16,516.50**
(includes funds from fund raising)
 - *Funds raised from fundraising activities: \$1,224.50 (Flower Power & Rummage Sale)
- Donation received for purchasing of Sound System: **\$5,000.00**

Balance 12/31/2022 \$24,398.95

Objective:

To create a designated fund for the maintenance and restoration of Grace-St. Paul's Episcopal Church, its community halls and rectory in order to allow us to continue to worship and spread God's love among each other and around our community.

Projects under consideration from 2022:

- Repair and replace roof and gutters.
- Investigate loan from Diocese to complete repair of roof and gutters sooner rather than later
- Research solar energy companies for installation of solar panels and possible funding for same

- Update electrical system to accommodate new HVAC system

Projects under consideration from 2021:

- Relining the chimney in the rectory – decided to forgo since selling rectory “as is” and any decisions for replacing liner will depend on home inspections and negotiations with buyer at time of sale.
- Foundation repair
- Skylight repairs
- Sump pump maintenance, continuing maintenance
- Installing AC units
- Installing stair glide into basement
- Repairing stained glass windows in the church

Fundraising:

- Continue Roof & Gutter Appeal 5/1/2022
- Spring, Fall and Holiday Flower Power Fundraisers
- Sponsoring stained glass windows
- Grants from organizations around the community
- Spring, Fall and Holiday Flower Fundraiser – on going

Donations & Fundraising:

- Received \$5,000 donation to be used for purchasing sound system.
- Donations received for Roof & Gutter Appeal \$17,557.00
- Fundraising Activities designated for Roof & Gutter Appeal: \$1,224.50.

Submitted by

Marcia Leach

Endowment Funds

THE MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

The Memorial Garden Fund was established in 2005 to provide an eternal resting place and lasting memorial for the parishioners of Grace-St Paul's and their families.

Balance as of December 31, 2021	\$1,614.00
Parishioner Donations	100.00
Name Plate Memorial	(465.00)
Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$1,2494.00

BURGESS OUTREACH FUND

The **Burgess Ministry Outreach Endowment Fund** will be equal to one-third of the total Burgess Estate Gift for ministries outside the GRASP Parish. Only the investment earnings are to be used for outreach projects not funded by the GRASP operating Budget. Projects outside the Parish will be determined annually by a Burgess Ministry Outreach Committee.

Balance as of December 31, 2021	\$41,775.00
Income from DIT	1,141.00
Income transferred to General Fund	(1,000.00)
Principal transferred to General Fund	0.00
Market Value Adjustment	(7,023.00)
Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$34,893.00

BURGESS FACILITIES FUND

The **Burgess Facilities Fund** will be equal to one-third of the total Burgess Estate Gift for capital improvements to the Church and Rectory facilities. The principal and any earnings from investing the principal are to be used for facility projects that are not funded by the Church's annual operating budget.

Balance as of December 31, 2021	\$2,537.00
Interest Income	-
Principal transferred to Facility Improvement Project	(2,537.00)
Balance as of December 31, 2022	\$0.00

GRASP STOCK FUND

The **GRASP Stock Fund** consists of anonymous parishioner donations of individual shares of stock transferred to GRASP. The stock will be liquidated at the discretion of the vestry as market conditions warrant and used for the needs of the church.

Balance as of December 31, 2021	\$93,591.00
Income Reinvested	2,551.00
Income transferred to General Fund	(107.00)
Market Value Adjustment	(2007.00)
Balance as of December 31, 2021	\$94,028.00

Submitted by: **Mark Talbot, Assistant Treasurer**



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES



Altar Guild

Alivia Baggott*	Lydia Kugler	Brenda Siracusa
Emilia Siracusa	Catherine Sopko	Chris Talbot

**new member this year!*

The Altar Guild consists of several members of the congregation dedicated to serving our Church with the preparation and maintenance of the altar. The group is in need of additional members or help in this worthy and satisfying ministry. If you are interested in learning about or serving on the Altar Guild, PLEASE CONTACT FATHER MIKE.

Monies used to purchase flowers, candles, wine, wafers, linens, vestments, and all other necessities are derived solely from memorial contributions.

RECEIPTS

Balance forward as of 12/31/2021.....	\$2,614.14
Flowers and other Memorial income.....	\$5,090.60
Total Receipts	\$7,704.74

DISBURSEMENTS

Guild Members reimbursement (wine, supplies, floral expenses).....	\$1,391.05
Cross & Shamrock (candles, wafers).....	\$756.55
Palm Gardens (Easter Palms).....	\$110.50
Fr. Michael Panzarella (Kerry candle).....	\$123.63
Dragonfly Gardens (Easter floral).....	\$319.00
CM Almy (Chasuble & Stole).....	\$1,099.00
Monastery of St. Clare (wafers).....	\$88.42
Grace-Saint Paul's Church (refund).....	\$50.00
Total Disbursements.....	\$3,938.15

Balance (12/31/2022).....	\$3,766.59
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Submitted by: **Christine Talbot, Altar Guild Member & Altar Guild Treasurer**

Crucifer-Servers & Acolytes

For your faithful service as Crucifer-Servers, Fr. Mike's humble gratitude to...

Alivia Baggott
Lydia Kugler

Kevin Drennan
Catherine Roe
Catherine Sopko

Karen Hiatt*
Emilia Siracusa

For your faithful service as an Acolyte, Fr. Mike's humble gratitude to...

Luisa Panzarella*

**new member this year!*



Luisa Panzarella,
1st year Acolyte

The Crucifer-Servers play an important role in our weekly Sunday service. The crucifer carries the cross during the Processional to begin our service. During the service, the server assists the Celebrant with the preparation and cleaning of the Eucharistic table. The service is ended by the crucifer carrying the cross during the Recessional, and then extinguishing the altar candles. Crucifer-Servers may be needed to assist during weddings, funerals, or Baptisms.

At this time, we have one new member of our Acolyte program. Acolytes carry the candles, Gospel, or Children's cross during the service and assist the Crucifer-Servers, as needed. Acolytes can begin serving in this ministry at eight years old. Being an Acolyte is a wonderful way to get our youth involved in church ministries.

This ministry is in need of new members, especially Acolytes. If you are interested in learning more about how you can participate, please speak to Father Mike. All are welcome!

Submitted by:

Brenda Siracusa, Coordinator



Fr. Michael,
Luisa (Acolyte),
Emilia (Crucifer)



Emilia Siracusa, Crucifer-Server

Hospitality: Ushering & Coffee Hour



Although Covid may have changed the “look” of our hospitality, it has NOT dampened our spirit!

The *warmth and hospitality of Grace-St. Paul's* continues to be one of our greatest assets. As worshippers enter our Narthex for any of our services, be it on Sunday or for other occasions, there is the friendly face of an **Usher** to welcome and greet them. We followed Covid protocols when needed and adjusted as became appropriate. Bulletins are always made available for congregants to utilize for a service and an Usher remains vigilant to attend to any needs as they may arise. Usher “duties” will most likely continue to adjust as we progress through ever-changing times but our friendly greeting and helping will remain ever constant.

At present we have only two consistent Ushers on our schedule, and we would welcome additions to our ranks. There is nothing difficult or complicated about being an Usher nor is there much more time to spend than that of our actual worship. How about adding YOUR smiling face to our ministry? Women and young ladies, men and young gentlemen (there is NO age or gender requirement nor any previous experience needed) are ALL invited to join in our ministry of welcoming. Anyone interested in learning more about what it means to be an Usher -- and how *very* rewarding it can be -- is invited and encouraged to contact Barb Nichols at any time (contact information is below). She looks forward to hearing from you!

Our Usher's greeting at the entrance is extended to an invitation to **Coffee Hour** following our services each week. Following Covid protocol at the beginning of 2021, we offered a “non-coffee coffee hour” in the Narthex. As we moved into more “open” times, we were able to transition to the Jim Davis Community Hall for a more extended coffee hour presentation, although we kept to pre-packaged treats to start. We've recently been able to offer more than *just* pre-packaging in the way of treats and look forward to being able to extend this even further so please come join us, spend some time in fellowship with one another, and see what goodies we have to offer . . .

YOUR FELLOWSHIP is an important and wonderful part of our Grace-St. Paul's family!

Warmly and lovingly submitted by,

Barb Nichols

blnichols66@gmail.com 609-731-0290 (cell & voice mail)

Lay Eucharistic Ministry & Visitor

This year, we were blessed to have so many faithful members continue as Eucharistic Ministers. They include:

Amy Davis
Judy Melkonich

Grace Krencicki
Barbara Nichols

Gladys Longmuir
Catherine Roe



Being a Eucharistic Minister is a holy task of bringing Christ's Presence in the consecrated elements to the people of God. This ministry is a palpable reminder that it is the work of the laity, the people, to bring Christ out into the community.

Judy has also been enthusiastic to help as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor bringing the Holy Eucharist to people who are unable to attend service in-person. If anyone in our parish cannot attend in-person service for good reason and would like Communion brought to their homes, please let us know. If unable to attend in-person, we do hope you join and participate via Zoom with us!

Thank you to the Lay Eucharistic Ministers for approaching this holy task with intentionality, care, and faithfulness.

With gratitude, **Father Michael**

Lectors & Intercessors

Many thanks to: Roberta Cash**
Marcia Leach
Barbara Nichols
Fred Storer

Amy Davis
Gladys Longmuir
Shirley Sked

Emily Jarvis
Angelina Marino
Cat Sopko

Our parish is fortunate to have a number of members who serve as Readers and Intercessors. Some have given their time to this ministry for many years. The amount of time involved is small and new voices are always welcome. New readers are always welcome!

Respectfully submitted, **Cathy Roe**
11 January 2023



Amy Davis, Lector & Jr. Warden

*****Having served our parish for so many years, Roberta Cash retires as a regularly-scheduled Lector with our utmost gratitude for her faithful ministry!***

*"It has been an honor to be a reader for so many years at Grace-St. Paul's Church."
~ Roberta Cash*

Music

Kira Scharf continues to bless us with her talents and continues to provide more than what she was initially hired to do. She brings sound theological perspective into the liturgy, navigates the liturgical movements with appropriate accompaniment, and often creatively designs some threads between multiple hymns for Communion.



*Kira Scharf, Cantor and Michael Kevane, temp. organist
for 8 Oct 2022 Celebration of New Ministry*



*Kira Scharf, Emilia Siracusa, Luisa Panzarella
Christmas Eve 5pm*

When our financial income demonstrates the ability to cover the expense of an organist, we will certainly re-address the possibility of hiring an organist. As our services will be combining to a single service beginning on February 5, 2023, to begin our new pattern, we will have music two Sundays per month as well as for some holy days.

I cherish both contemplative (spoken) services, and sung services. In sung services, hearing Kira during Communion lifts my spirit among the choirs of angels.

With gratitude to Kira and all the wonderful voices that join in singing,

Father Mike

FAITH DEVELOPMENT & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Christian Story Time

Our first step toward regathering for Christian Formation, after the pandemic, was my offering “Lenten Story Time” during the Liturgy of the Word at both services for any kids who wanted to come. We gathered for a story and an activity and attempted to rejoin the service during the peace (though we often sneak in late). Since then, I’ve continued to offer story time on a regular basis on the same schedule. This schedule seems to work well as it gives the children a chance to have more hands-on-interaction with the stories, and the parents have some quiet time in church. This routine doesn’t require families to come early or stay late and gives the kids a chance to enjoy time with their friends during coffee hour. In the Spring, I was doing one of the stories that would be read in church that day. In the Fall, I told Old Testament stories in chronological order. This semester, we’ll be doing stories of Jesus. I haven’t decided yet if I will coordinate with the church lectionary. Feedback from parents is always welcome!




If anyone is interested coming one time as a guest storyteller, running a craft or activity, or helping on a more regular basis please speak with me.



My thanks to Father Mike for working with me so that kids can acolyte and still attend Story Time and to Jill and Karen for volunteering to work on the Church School space. (I’ve brought all the

VBS and Pageant stuff that was stored in different areas of the church downstairs and now it needs to be organized and consolidated.)

Stories told online during the pandemic are still available on our website for viewing at home.

 **Palm Friday and Pizza**, will be on **Friday, March 31, 6:00pm – 8:30pm**.

This is an intergenerational program where we prepare for Holy Week and Easter through an interactive story and hands on activities like, bread making, grape stomping, and crafts.

Please speak to me if you are willing to help.

Amy Davis, *Teacher and Storyteller*

Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School (VBS) is an annual summer tradition at Grace-St. Paul's and is open to all children, pre-K through 5th grades, regardless of church membership/affiliation or denomination. For the past several years, VBS has been supported through a GFS (Grils' Friendly Society) Grant.

Our theme this summer was "**Monumental: Celebrating God's Greatness**." We gathered for 5 evenings to form strong friendships and discover God's *Monumental Love* through Bible Adventures, Music, Games, Imagination Station, and Snacks. We doubled our attendance from the previous year with 8 children who brought a great deal of joy and energy. A great group of volunteers had as much fun as the kids, and we hope to continue build on this momentum for future years. Watch the video recap at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGw85_F3oeU



Please watch for information for VBS 2023 and help us to *spread the word!*



Thank you to Father Mike for building a ramp that makes VBS activities more accessible and *many, many, thanks to all who made VBS a success!!*

Amy Davis, Coordinator

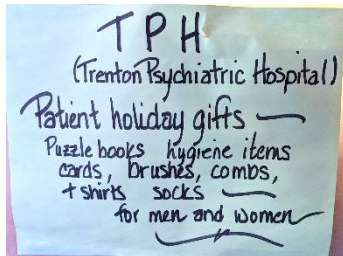


MINISTRIES

The Girls' Friendly Society

"Bear Ye One Another's Burdens"

The Girls' Friendly Society (GFS) is back and working to increase our numbers and activities. As our motto states "bear ye one another's burdens" and to that end, we are striving to serve the needs of our less fortunate friends, both 2 legged and 4 legged!



During the last year, we have once again mounted donation drives for The Bromley Center, Trenton Psychiatric Hospital and Pet Rescue Organizations in the area. Our dedicated leaders and girls are a visible presence at all of our church activities and services, giving of their time and talent for the benefit of our church community. We offer a variety of activities that include our service to church and community but also just for fun activities.

GFS is a non-denominational international women's service organization associated with the Episcopal Church. We welcome all girls ages 5 to 21.

Our goal is to empower girls to become strong women and leaders and find success in wherever their paths take them. Join us for one of our upcoming meetings and projects - for information, contact Lydia Kugler, Monica Pope, or Jill Brzezynski.

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Kugler

Episcopal Church Women

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) has many of the same goals as does GFS. Our service to church and community is our primary focus. We work in conjunction with GFS to support our young girls in their quest to find fulfilling service while establishing a close connection between our girls and the women of our parish and community.

Join us as we mentor and support our young girls and women and each other. Reach out to Lydia Kugler for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Kugler



Prayer Chain



With gratitude to

Barbara Baggott	Ona Davis	Martha Heckel	Pat Hines
Lydia Kugler	Gladys Longmuir	Barb Nichols	Shirley Sked
	Deacon Tom	Father Mike	

“For many years, I and my son were supported by others praying for us. When I became a member of the Prayer Chain, I felt I was giving back for all the prayers that I knew had helped us. I am a true believer in the power of prayer! Being in the Prayer Chain also makes me feel I am still an active member of Grace-St. Paul's Church, even though I am no longer able to attend services.

-Barbara Baggott

Once again I am happy to report that our Grace-St. Paul's Prayer Chain has continued to be an active part of our community, our outreach, and our ministry -- serving in this ministry for over 20 years!

At present our Chain happily consists of at least 10 “links” as we offer prayers and thanksgivings for all who ask. Nonetheless, we must stress that every member of our Grace-St. Paul's family is a vital part of our network. Individuals for whom public prayers have been requested are named weekly in our service bulletin and in Father Mike's weekly *ePISTLE*. We encourage our entire parish family to join in our prayers.

Our combined prayers always create the most powerful of intercessions!

How does the Prayer Chain and our Grace-St. Paul's prayer network function? When a need for prayer is relayed to any one of us via phone, email, text, in writing, or through personal contact, the need is quietly shared with ALL of the Prayer Chain “links.” We then, each in our own way, offer prayers/intercessions on behalf of the individual in need *as well as for* their family and friends since *all* suffer in any time of distress. We also include all the medical and care-giving personnel involved with the individual for whom we are praying. We continue these prayers as regularly as possible for the duration of the need, generally maintaining the requested prayers for four (4) weeks from the initial contact. We request that if you have asked for prayers for someone, PLEASE keep the Chain updated concerning the status of that individual so we may continue prayers as needed and appropriately offer our intercessions *and* our thanksgivings.

Please know that we pray for all manner of need or circumstance, including thanksgivings – which are our *favorite* prayers! However, not ALL prayers need to be “public.” If you wish, the name for which you are requesting prayer may be kept as part of our “private” list but please rest assured that the Chain itself IS praying for that individual.

We always look forward to adding new “links” to the Chain itself. There is NO EXPERIENCE OR TRAINING NEEDED – all styles of praying are welcomed by God. Two other

benefits to being part of our ministry are that your praying can be done absolutely *anywhere* AND there are NO meetings to attend!

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, if you would like more information about the Prayer Chain, or if you would like to become part of this wonderful ministry, please feel free to contact me or Father Mike at any time. We look forward to hearing from you!

Faithfully submitted by,

Barb Nichols blnichols66@gmail.com 609-731-0290 (cell & voice mail)

Grace-St. Paul's and our GraSP parish family has been my strong support and sustainer from the first time I set foot in our Narthex -- my real home and family through the many heartaches and trials of my life. Many former GraSP members who have moved from our immediate area continue to "minister" to me today, showing how very strong a connection this parish has for so many of us. I thank God every day that I was led here to be a part of this loving family!

Barb Nichols

Youth Ministry



Early in 2022, the connections with youth remained present though difficult to coordinate schedules. We did have a wonderful group, from St. Luke's Ewing and Grace-St. Paul's, assist with Bags of Love in February, followed by Evening Prayer. Although schedules are difficult, I remain open to ideas that would be most valuable to the youth and ask they never hesitate to come to me with their suggestions!

Faithfully, **Father Mike**

Connecting with our Community

THE BROMLEY CENTER

In 2022, with the assistance of Barb Nichols and Mary Marks, we have begun a relationship of support for the families aided by the Bromley Center on East State Street closer to Trenton. We have already filled our donation bin in the narthex and made deliveries of food, clothes, and other useful items several times this year. We collected toys at Christmas and supported their Christmas party for the children.



ROAST BEEF DINNER, A TRADITION... A LEGACY!

This event has been bringing neighbors through our doors for decades. Thank you to all of the volunteers for helping to bond our community through delicious food!



Amy Davis, Brian Leahy, Joanna Timtishin, Emily Jarvis

OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT WITH OUR NEIGHBORS?

To be the Church, the Body of Christ, the hands and feet of the Lord, we must remain relevant to our community. This is the key to the revitalization of our parish as well as upholding our Baptismal covenant. The incredible giving nature our Church community is beautiful. I encourage you to be mindful of the neighborhood and bring to our attention any shifts in the

community that we might be able to address in new ways. Let us live into the weekly dismissal to “go in peace to love and SERVE the Lord (in all people).” Thanks be to God!

Faithfully,

Father Michael



*Catherine & Emilia
Clothing Sale
21 May 2022*

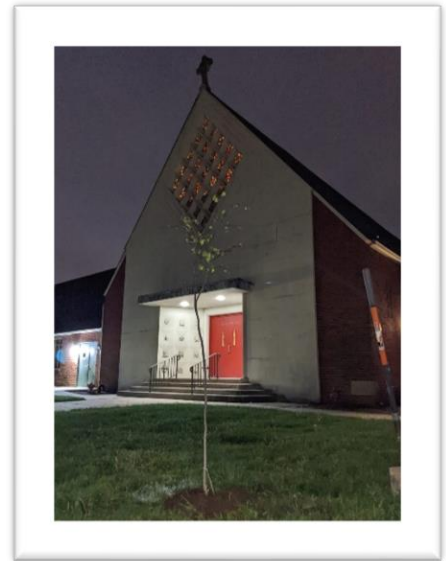
FACILITIES

Sexton

We continue to be blessed by the flexible part-time work that our Sexton, Brian Leahy undertakes. From helping to replace emergency lights, taking out excess trash from events or from cleaning out cluttered spaces, Brian truly takes care of our Church's facilities.

Grounds

In the Spring, a group of volunteers helped thin the overgrown shrubs in front of the Jim Davis Community Hall along East State Street as well as in front of the sanctuary. Many shrubs were removed! New shrubs of smaller species were planted on the corner and flanking the front doors. The Memorial Garden was cleaned of vines and low branches were pruned. Fr. Mike pressure washed and cleaned the inscribed name of the Church over the front doorway to the sanctuary. **An Eastern Redbud tree was planted on the corner out front and dedicated to Dolly Schmidt.** The Summer heat was intense with very little rain, so we will do our best to encourage new growth this Spring. If need be, we will replace the tree and try again!



During the week of VBS, I installed a ramp into the courtyard connecting Craft Hall to our courtyard more readily, enhancing accessibility. It is a temporary solution that should hold up for some time until we need to install a permanent ramp and railing. Brian, our sexton, helped clear the shrubs along the building and level the ground so the ramp could be placed alongside the building, saving the courtyard space. Please watch your step and remember that wood can be slick when it is wet!

I am excited about the progress with the Nehemiah Fund growth! I am looking forward to reaching our goal and getting necessary roof and gutter repairs done. Depending on direction of wind, there are three places in the sacristy attic space that have minor leaks.

Internet

A stable connection to the Internet remains vital to our ministry as it has become commonplace to connect remote participants through Zoom software. On Friday, December 23rd, as I was testing setup for Christmas Eve, I came to learn our ONT (Optical Network Terminal – used to connect to fiber optic lines, i.e. FIOS) broke. A wave of extreme humidity coupled with an enormous drop in temperatures over the course of just a few hours caused such immense condensate to form on the ONT device which is in a relatively exterior location to get so wet that it was dripping water – and shorted its circuitry. In a panic, our internet provider was contacted, and they calmly responded they could have a service technician replace our unit the next morning (on Christmas Eve morning!). The service technician showed up on time and was able to replace our broken cable modem resolving major issues for the holy day services. I am grateful to them, and the technician who was working on Christmas Eve. What a blessing!



Submitted by: **Fr. Michael**

Sanctuary

This year, our sanctuary heat seemed to function slightly more effectively. Some repairs were needed to our heating system, namely the controls for the fan motors. Some more repairs are also still needed.

Our altar from the chapel has been brought up and resides in front of the lectern so we can enjoy its beauty. The original wall shelf that was used with it when it was once a wall-facing altar has been located and now sits upon our high altar! “*Holy, Holy, Holy*”



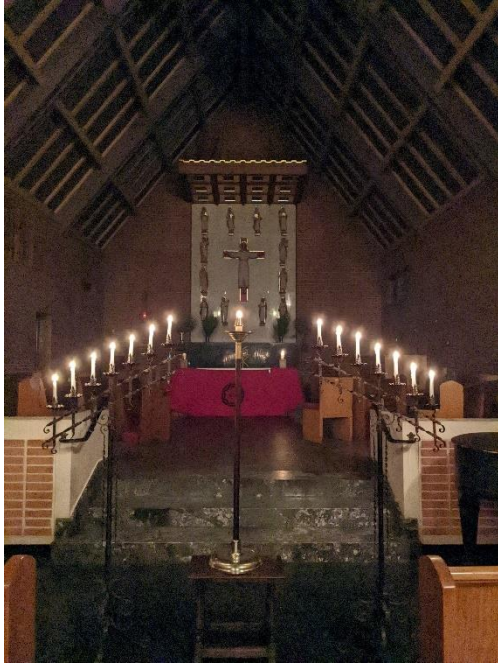
Community Hall & Craft Hall

Our hall spaces go largely unused, though we have had some increase in usage in 2022. We do hope to encourage facility, so please spread the word! Perhaps we can continue to discern how these wonderful spaces might further our ministry as a Church. Share your ideas!

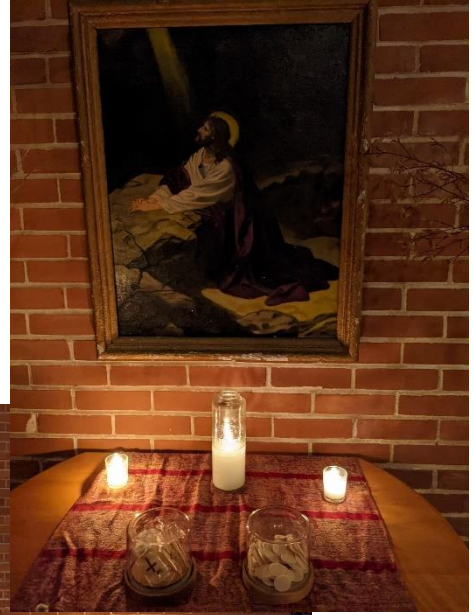
Humbly, **Fr. Michael**

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us from God the Father and from Jesus Christ,
the Father's Son, in truth and love.

~ 2 John 1:3 ~



Holy Week - Wednesday - Tenebrae



*Holy Week - Maundy Thursday
Reserve Sacrament placed in the Altar of Repose
in the 'Garden of Gethsemane'*

OPERATIONS

Communications

This past year, 2022, was the year that Grace-St. Paul's really boosted our social media presence. We now use and consistently post on three social media platforms - Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook, along with our website and ePistle.

On our Instagram (@gracestpaul), we have 153 followers and 83 posts. Through the platform, we utilize feed posts (pictures), reels (videos), and story posts (pictures or videos that last 24 hours). The age range of our followers on Instagram is from 13-65 and older, with the majority (22%) of our followers being in the 55-64 year old bracket. Interaction with our content from followers and non-followers improves monthly, and we are making sure to post fairly consistently so we do not get buried in people's feeds.

On Facebook, we share the content that we create on TikTok and Instagram, as well as creating "events" that people can RSVP to and share. By using this feature it allows church members and non-church members that are on Facebook to see what events are going on at the church, and it allows for an easy way to get a headcount of those who plan to attend those events. Along those lines, we have also used Google Forms as a way to receive RSVPs for events. These allow event details and invites to be shared beyond Facebook and social media, and were very well received when used for our GFS Bunco Night in November and our GraSP Christmas Party in December.

Most recently we have expanded our social media horizons to our TikTok account (@gracestpaulschurch). So far, we have 14 followers and 5 posts. Our most viewed video has 1,159 views, and our most liked video has 213 likes. We are hoping to appeal to the younger generation by using this platform, and we are going to make our videos in a specific way so that non-parishioners looking for a safe space will know they can make a home at Grace St. Paul's. Also, we are currently working on a "Ask A Priest" video series that will have questions submitted by the congregation/public that Father Mike will answer, so stay tuned!

Our website (www.gracestpaul.org) is a one-stop-shop for all the information you may need about our church. It is updated weekly with photos, service schedules, and upcoming events. Father Mike also sends out a weekly email newsletter called the ePistle in which he recaps the important events and includes reflections on Scripture.

In the coming year, we hope to increase our postings and expand our followings even more. As with anything, consistency is key, so we will be continuously creating content to appeal to followers young and old.

Submitted by: **Cat Sopko**, *Communications Director*

Parish Administrator

The role of Parish Administrator was a part-time position (less than ¼ time) filled for most of 2022 by Heather Krencicki. Heather helped print and mail bulletins, gather mail, and setup and run slide shows of the service bulletins for those attending services remotely on Zoom's platform. At the end of August, she left the position to attend college. We are grateful for her work in the Church and wish her continued success in her academic endeavors.

Since September, the role of Parish Administrator has been left unfilled in the awareness that our monthly treasurer reports continued to demonstrate a deficit in parish finances. For four months of 2022 and continuing into 2023, Fr. Mike has handled all bulletin preparations and mailings (to 11 homebound parishioners), as well as piecing together vital parish events and providing a reflection weekly in our e-pistle, to keep our homebound members and friends of the parish connected. Some Vestry members have assisted with collection of mail and its sorting. During this time, we have been considering the vital functions that need to be accomplished regularly so we can maintain a conservative budget. We hope to fill the role by the end of February 2023.

Faithfully submitted by: **Fr. Michael**

AFFILIATION STEERING COMMITTEE

Patrice Coleman-Boatwright, *Saint Luke's*

Amy Davis, *Grace-Saint Paul's*

Noreen Duncan, *Saint Luke's*

Steve Elliott, *Saint Luke's*

Judy Gray, *Saint Luke's*

Karen Hiatt, *Grace-Saint Paul's*

Lydia Kugler, *Grace-Saint Paul's*

Barb Nichols, *Grace-Saint Paul's*

The Affiliation Steering Committee is comprised of members of Saint Luke's (Ewing) and Grace-Saint Paul's Episcopal Churches. The committee has been meeting for several months to consider a formal affiliation between our two parishes. With the retirement of Mother Megan Thomas at Saint Luke's and our own parish's continual process of adjusting to our limited finances, the committee discusses the ways our two parishes can help each other and maintain our independence as unique parishes.

The work of the committee provided a possible layout to Sunday services, involving Grace-Saint Paul's combining into a single Sunday service at 9am and Saint Luke's shifting their service to 10:30am. This schedule should allow for Father Mike to celebrate the Holy Eucharist at both Churches each Sunday. This change was approved by both Vestries on January 11th at their respective Vestry meetings. The new schedule takes effect on Sunday, February 5th to readily support our sister parish when Mother Megan retires. This is an effectual trial period where Father Mike continues as Priest-in-charge of Grace-Saint Paul's, and will only be a long-term supply priest at Saint Luke's. Still, we will begin to develop means of shared communication so that both parishes are fully aware of the events occurring at both parishes.

The greater benefits of intentional collaborative ministries through an affiliation include the joys of sharing Bible studies, fellowship, and special services together where we can savor the larger community of our combined parishes for those special celebrations. We hope to embrace supporting one another in our own parish ministries, lifting one another up in faithful support.

As the committee assesses the trial period of the new schedule, please share your feedback with us. In the coming months, the committee will solidify a formal affiliation agreement that, if approved by both Vestries, will appoint Father Mike as the Priest-in-Charge of both parishes. The expense of the priest will be split evenly between both parishes, each paying their own share accordingly.

Submitted by: **Karen Hiatt**, *Affiliation Steering Committee Member*

CHURCH LEADERSHIP NOMINEES

Warden

*Two wardens of the Church lead the Vestry,
and preside at Vestry meetings when the clergy is absent.*

Amy Davis



Incumbent Junior Warden. Amy is a lifelong member of Grace-Saint Paul's who faithfully attends Sunday services. She serves as a reader, on the memorial garden committee, as a Convention Delegate, Lay Eucharistic Minister, on Vestry, as a Warden, on the Affiliation Steering Committee, and helped at various events, but her true passion is for story telling (Story Time, VBS and Palm Friday Prayer Walk). Amy is running for Warden or Vestry not because she feels qualified but because she loves her Church enough to try her best.

Karen Hiatt

A member of Grace-St. Paul's for at least 15 years, I have been actively involved in the parish life as a Vestry member, Jr. Warden, a Sunday School teacher, and Crucifer-Server. I support other Church ministries such as building and maintenance, Roast Beef Dinners, Shrove Tuesday, Vacation Bible School, and am a committed 8am attendee of Sunday services. Currently, I am a member of the Affiliation Steering Committee. I possess strong leadership skills, a compassionate heart for faithful ministry and support of each member and the Church, carefully consider new situations, voice opinions with context and reasons, and follow through on my commitments. I have an earnest passion for service in the Church, am devoted, and hold a perspective of hope in the future of the Church.

Vestry

*The Vestry are charged with the role of guiding the business of the Church,
assure faithful stewardship of Church resources - financial and physical,
and assist in the administration of the Church, supporting the clergy.*

Amy Davis

(see above)

Kevin Drennan

I have been a member of Grace-Saint Paul's Episcopal Church for 17 years. Over the years, I have served on Vestry, as Youth Group Director, Acolyte, Eucharistic Minister, Reader, and has volunteered at clean-ups, roast beef dinners, and other activities. I attend service regularly with my wife Rachel Holland and daughters Eva and Jacqueline. I have spent more than two decades in state government, but now am involved in a political campaign consulting firm, a company that provides direct outreach services for government, not-for-profits, and

corporations, a firm where I provide contract lobbying services, and a firm that provides professional services for sewer and water agencies. I also serve as Chair of Mercer County Community College where I have served as trustee for more than a decade. I hope to use my talents to grow the parish and make it more financially sustainable.

Karen Hiatt *(see above)*

Lydia Kugler I have been a member of Grace-St. Paul's for 33 years. My children have grown up in this parish. During that time I have served on Vestry, acted as Superintendent of the Church School as well a teacher in the Church School, and was also the Director of VBS for 2 Summers. I currently serve on the Altar Guild, and am a member of the Steering Committee as well as serving as Crucifer. Additionally, I am a branch leader for GFS and president of our ECW. I would be honored to serve as a member of Vestry and help guide our beloved Grace-St. Paul's through the transition of our affiliation with St. Luke's.

Maria Melkonich I have been a member of Grace-St. Paul's for about 16 years. I was on the Vestry once before. I have been involved with The Memorial Garden, Sunday School, The Girls' Friendly Society, ECW and many church activities (Roast Beef Dinner, Rummage Sale, clothing sale and most recently the Christmas Extravaganza). I look forward to serving our church again on vestry if given the opportunity.

Lay Delegates

Lay Delegates represent the congregation at convocational events and Diocesan Convention. All 6 delegates are expected to participate in two convocational meetings in the year, usually in the Spring and Fall. The three primary delegates are voting members in Diocesan Convention in March.

Barb Nichols I have been a member of the Grace-St. Paul's family since 1983 and have been almost continuously active in multiple roles here. I am a former choir member and acolyte/crucifer, member and chair of Evangelism and Stewardship, as well as several other former committees, teams and ministries, and have happily assisted with Vacation Bible School for the past several years. I am currently a Vestry member as well as having served multiple terms in this role in the past. Additionally, I am currently "head" of Ushers, Coffee Hour, and Prayer Chain and also serve as a Lay Reader, Lay Eucharistic Minister, member of our Affiliation Steering Committee, and Delegate to the Bishop's Electing Convention. I have served multiple terms as a Delegate to our Trenton

Convocation and our Diocesan Convention, a role for which I am currently interested in serving Grace-St. Paul's once again.

- Monica Pope** I've been attending Grace-St. Paul's for 27 years. I've regularly attended the 10:00am service. Over the years, I've been involved with Sunday School, VBS, GFS and ECW. I've regularly volunteered in some capacity during the roast beef dinners, and I've been responsible for posting the weekly envelopes for several years. I've also served on vestry twice.
- Emilia Siracusa** A member of Grace-St. Paul's for 22 years, Emilia serves on Altar Guild, as a Crucifer-Server, and as a former lay delegate. A faithful attendee of roam services when home from college, she remains active in GFS, and in participating in many Church functions, including the Roast Beef Dinners, Clothing Drive, Christmas Party, and more. Emilia has experience participating at the diocesan level and understands the relationship between our parish and the diocese. Emilia leads with empathy, compassion, and sensibility, bringing positive perspectives into decision-making.
- Nancy Zamboni** (no bio provided)



*Dcn. Tom Bartlett, Dcn. Denise Cavaliere (Holy Apostles), Bishop Stokes, Fr. Michael Panzarella
8 Oct 2022 – Celebration of New Ministry*



Antique sign uncovered in Craft Hall's attic!