



# Grace - St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF 2023

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**ANNUAL MEETING ~ JANUARY 28, 2024 @ 10:15AM**  
*(RAINDATE, IF REQUIRED, FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> @ 1PM)*

**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*

**LYNN ADAMS** *ASSISTANT TREASURER*

**BRIAN LEAHY** *SEXTON*

### OUR VESTRY

CLASS OF 2024

**CATHERINE SOPKO**

**BARBARA NICHOLS**

**KEVIN DRENNAN**

CLASS OF 2025

**GEORGE OLSHANSKY**

**MONICA POPE**

**BRENDA SIRACUSA**

CLASS OF 2026

**KAREN HIATT**

**LYDIA KUGLER**

**MARIA MELKONICH**

**GLADYS LONGMUIR**, *EMERITUS*

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## AGENDA

- ❖ Opening Prayer
- ❖ Review of Annual Meeting Minutes as pertains to the Annual Report for 2022.
- ❖ Elections – Warden, Vestry, Convocation Representatives
  - Voting Rules | Nominees & Nominations from the floor | Elections
- ❖ Recognizing graduating members of Vestry
- ❖ Nominations
- ❖ Approval Annual Meeting Minutes from the previous year
- ❖ Reports
  - Wardens' Report
  - Priest's Report
  - Stewardship Report
  - Treasurer's Report & 2023 budget approval
  - Other Reports
- ❖ Blessing and Dismissal

# ANNUAL MEETING 2023 MINUTES (FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022)

January 22, 2023

**Meeting Location:** Community Hall in-person AND remotely on Zoom.

## ***In attendance:***

*(in-person)*

The Rev. Michael T. Panzarella, *Priest-in-Charge*

Jill Brzezyski, *Sr. Warden*      Amy Davis, *Jr. Warden*

Taryn Dalton, *Treasurer*

Lynn Adams

Roberta Cash

Steve Christian

Kevin Drennan

Eva Holland-Drennan

Jacqueline Holland-Drennan

Karen Hiatt

Rachel Holland

Emily Jarvis

Grace Krencicki

Lydia Kugler

Marcia Leach

Brian Leahy

Judy Melkonich

Maria Melkonich

Barb Nichols

Erin Panzarella

Siena Panzarella

Luisa Panzarella

Monica Pope

Cathy Roe

Bill Sked

Shirley Sked

Brenda Siracusa

Emilia Siracusa

Catherine Sopko

Christine Talbot

Mark Talbot

Nancy Zamboni

*(on Zoom)*

Paul Woolverton

Rita Woolverton

## ***Minutes:***

- 11:20 Father Mike led with prayer to open meeting; and read the following:
  - 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 & The Prayer of Azariah
- 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes accepted
- Thanked ‘Graduating’ Vestry Members for their service:
  - Nicholas Bennett, Marcia Leach, Shirley Sked
- Nominations and Elections for Warden, Vestry, Convention Delegates
  - Warden: 1 vacancy – 2 year term  
 candidates: Amy Davis, Karen Hiatt  
 Elected: **Amy Davis**

- Vestry: 3 vacancies – 3 year terms  
candidates: Amy Davis, Kevin Drennan, Karen Hiatt, Lydia Kugler, Maria Melkonich  
Elected: **Karen, Lydia, Maria**
- Convention Delegates: 3 delegates and 3 alternates (all 1 year terms)  
candidates: Amy Davis (for alternate only), Barbara Nichols, Monica Pope, Emilia Siracusa, Cat Sopko, Nancy Zamboni  
Elected: (delegates) Emilia, Cat, Monica  
Elected: (alternates) Amy, Barbara, Nancy
- Priest's Report (Father Michael)
  - Area of Growth  
In past, difficulty getting Vestry candidates. This year, many solid candidates.
  - Father appreciates the former parishioners who built our facilities. We must maintain and use this space to serve the community now and for the future.
  - Registration and Membership  
Father asked that all complete the membership form, including as much information as possible (dates of baptism, confirmation, etc.) Form is available on the weekly 'Epistle' email.
- Reports
  - Jill thanked everyone for help on activities and events and especially for Father Michael's leadership.
  - Father Michael received a note of thanks from the Bromley Center for our contributions, particularly at Christmas.
  - Stewardship
    - 5 or 6 additional families have made pledges, and one of those lives an hour away
    - Weekly offerings have decreased
    - 1 family is providing nearly 25% of our donations
    - 2 relatively large donors no longer give
    - We cannot give to the Diocese as much as last year; this has been communicated to the Diocese
    - Nehemiah Fund – Roofs and Gutters is major project for which approximately \$17K has been raised in 1 year.
    - Stewardship is year-round

- Judy Melkonich asked about funds contributed for a bell choir – Father Michael said the donors will be asked if they would like their contributions returned or put to another use in the church
- Treasurer’s Report (Taryn Dalton)
  - Father Michael thanked Taryn and Lynn for all their hard work
  - Correction to the Ending Balance shown in program booklet (pg 25)
    - Total 2023 Budget Ending balance: \$18,194
    - Total 2022 Actual: \$47,671
    - Total 2022 Budget: \$6,384
- Endowments (Mark Talbot)
  - For 2022, no Endowment funds were used in the operating budget. (Burgess Funds were taken for Nehemiah Roof and Gutters)
  - Father Michael noted that when rectory is sold, net proceeds will be split between Nehemiah Fund and Endowments.
- Communications (Cat Sopko)
  - A new video series- ‘Ask a Priest’ is in progress
  - Correction to Communications Report shown in program booklet (pg. 26): (Referring to Tik Tok account) – this sentence: ‘So far, we have 14 followers and 5 posts’ was corrected as follows:  
‘So far, we have 17 followers and 5 posts’
- Crucifers, Acolytes, Readers
  - Karen Hiatt will now serve as a Crucifer
  - Luisa Panzarella is a new Acolyte
  - Father Michael reminded all that there are no age restrictions on serving
  - In February when we move to the new schedule of 1 service at 9:00 am there will be additional readers available who previously read at the 8:00 am service
- Altar Guild
  - Father Michael thanked the members for all their hard work and beautiful decorating, especially for the holidays.
- Affiliation with St. Luke’s
  - Father Michael said there is zero risk and chance for great benefits
  - Larger group = greater energy
  - We are not losing our identity

- On Sundays, Father Michael will celebrate Eucharist at Grace-St. Paul's at 9 am and then at St. Luke's at 10:30.
- Mother Megan and Mother Allie will help out
- Music – we will have music 2 Sundays per month
- Kira Scharf's pay will increase from \$125 per service to \$150
- Father Michael adjourned the meeting at 12:50 pm

## PRIEST'S REPORT

### An Account of the Sacred Life of our Church

#### MEMBERSHIP ~ 137 MEMBERS

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122 active; 15 inactive.

#### SERVICE BOOK RECORDS

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##### Sundays

Sunday service attendance      2105 in-person + 176 remote; Average per weekend = 43  
 (2023: 1990 in-person, 453 remote; AVG=47)  
 (2022: 2386 attendees, AVG=46)

Holy Eucharist (Sunday)      59 services for 53 weekends (*54 were also held remotely on Zoom*)

##### All other services

All other services      818 in-person + 1019 remote attendees  
*(evening prayer AND weekday services, including ministrations to the sick and burial rites)*

Daily Office      2 in-person + 259 remote services  
*(Mondays-Saturdays)      Includes Evening Prayer (most common), Compline, Evensong and more*  
*Evening Prayer Officiants include:*  
*Fr. Michael Panzarella    Dcn. Tom Bartlett    Amy Davis*  
*Wendy Hogan      Barbara Nichols    Cathy Roe*

Daily Office      1 service  
*(Sundays)*  
*1 Oct 23    Feast of St. Francis Blessing of Animals    Evening Prayer, held outdoors.*

Holy Eucharist (weekdays)      14 services (11 of which were also held on Zoom)  
*(Thanksgiving Day service had present members of St. Luke's Ewing, St. Michael's Trenton, and Grace-St. Paul's!)*



## Sacraments and sacramental rites

Baptisms 2 services (2023: 4 | 2022: 3)

- 8Jan23 Ryan A. Daly (Fr. Mike's 7<sup>th</sup> Baptism, new members)  
 28May23 Liam Loren James (Fr. Mike's 8<sup>th</sup> Baptism, new members)

Confirmations & Receptions 0 services (2023: 1 & 1 diocesan | 2022: 0)

Marriages 1 service (2023: 0 | 2022: 0)

- 20Jan23 Keith Bizony & Charlea Wetzel (non-members)

Burials 7 services (2023: 10 | 2022: 5)

- 20Jan23 Jack T. Longmuir (Funeral Rite at Saul Colonial Home in Hamilton  
 husband of Gladys Longmuir, father of Jack Longmuir, Jr.)  
 7Mar23 Shirley J. (Moon) Albertson (Funeral Rite; committal at Greenwood Cemetery in Hamilton  
 her children had been baptized here)  
 8Apr23 Margaret "Meg" Rich (Funeral Mass, St. Luke's Ewing member)  
 13Apr23 Rita DeBonis Woolverton (Funeral Mass, committal at Greenwood Cemetery in Hamilton  
 wife of Paul Woolverton)  
 18Aug23 Barbara Joan Baggott (Funeral Mass; mother of Brenda Siracusa, grandmother of Emilia, Robert, and  
 William Siracusa)  
 30Sep23 Mary Williams (Funeral Rite at Gruerio Funeral Home in Trenton; grandmother of Grace Krencicki,  
 great-grandmother of Heather and Meghan)  
 17Oct23 Vicki E. (Forrest) Elkins (Funeral Rite at Saul Funeral Home in Hamilton)

Other 2 services

- 3Apr23 Ministrations at the Time of Death (Last Rites) for Rita Woolverton at Hamilton home.  
 29Sep23 Ministrations at the Time of Death (Last Rites) for Nancy Zykstra at CareOne in Hamilton.

## LITURGICAL SEASON OVERVIEW

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### Lent

*(included in counts above)*

21Feb23 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

22Feb23 Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes (7pm)

HOLY WEEK

31Mar23 “Palm Friday” Prayer walk, organized by Amy Davis 6pm-8pm

2Apr23 Palm Sunday, Blessing of the Palms (service commences in JD Community Hall 9am)

3Apr23 Stations of the Cross (7pm)

4Apr23 Evening Prayer (7pm)

5Apr23 Tenebrae (7pm)

6Apr23 Maundy Thursday (Holy Eucharist, 7pm) w/ Foot Washing; services concludes with stripping of the altar, place Reserve on the altar of Repose in the ‘Garden of Gethsemane’ set up at rear of nave on bare wall.

6Apr23 Maundy Thursday Overnight Vigil (8pm-6am)

7Apr23 Good Friday (6am Morning Prayer at GSP, 12pm at St. Luke’s Ewing, 7pm at GSP)

8Apr23 Easter Vigil (7:30pm) & Blessing of the Paschal Candle

9Apr23 Easter Sunday (9am)

### Miscellaneous

12Feb23 Ava Reinhardt’s first time serving as an acolyte!

14May23 Elizabeth Heckel-Reed’s first time serving as an acolyte!

25Jun23 Isabelle Bernhard’s first time serving as an acolyte!

27Aug23 Blessing of School Supply Donations

10Sep23 Blessing of the Backpacks & Luisa Panzarella’s first anniversary of serving as an acolyte!

10Oct23 Feast of St. Francis observed, Blessing of Animals 3pm Evening Prayer, out front

15Oct23 Anniversary celebration of Grace-St. Paul’s Church (Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1955 merger)

5Nov23 All Saints’ Day observed, All Soul’s Day Book of Remembrance

23Nov23 Thanksgiving Day (members of St. Luke’s, Ewing & St. Michael’s, Trenton were present)

15Jan24 Lila Reinhardt’s first time serving as an acolyte!

### Advent & Christmas

3Dec23 Advent 1

10Dec23 Advent 2

17Dec23 Advent 3, Christmas Pageant led by Emilia Siracusa

24Dec23 Advent 4

24Dec23 Christmas I services (4pm w Blessing of the Creche, 11pm w lucernaria - Candle-lighting entrance)

25Dec23 Christmas III service (10am)

### Epiphany

\*7Jan24 Feast of the Baptism of our Lord w/ blessing of chalk

## **My Priestly Ministry at Grace-St. Paul's**

Christ prays: “Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.” [John 17: 11b] There is a beautiful togetherness experienced at Grace-St. Paul's that elevates the word many use to describe the people of this parish – as a ‘family.’ Together, tears have been shed for those we commended to God's care, smiles shared in the many of joyous celebrations of Baptisms, new engagement in ministries of readers and acolytes, and even a marriage ceremony. Through it all, God has been at the center of it, our rock and our strength.

Jesus continues: “The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” [John 17:22-23] We are all branches of the one vine, each unique in our own ways. Those differences are our gifts and help to bolster our ministry in our community, our praise and worship of God, and to function as a parish. I am grateful for all of who each of you are individually and corporately as one body.

Our operation as a parish, since we are really a small congregation, relies upon the leadership and participation of the laity. Knowing our 2023 pledges were lower than our anticipated budget, I voluntarily took a compensation reduction to strive to keep our progress of slowly but steadily working to build our Nehemiah fund to begin to work on necessary building repairs. I hope to remain at least a half-time priest in 2024. The growth of the Nehemiah Fund over the last two and half years is promising as is our year-end Treasurer's report in our operating budget.

We continue to adjust to part-time priestly ministry. In February, we shifted from two Sunday services (8a & 10a) to a single service at 9a. This enabled me to also support St. Luke's in Ewing two to three Sundays each month as a Supply Priest, while they are in transition since their priest-in-charge has retired. There are many of our brothers and sisters in the Episcopal Church in nearby congregations within the Trenton Convocation of our diocese enduring lengthy transition processes with a significant shortage of priests across the Episcopal Church. Please pray for vocations to ordained ministry.

Our ministry in our community is budding. Our persistent compassion through donations to the Bromley Neighborhood Civic Center has been a welcomed blessing to so many families in our community. I cherish the continued support for collections of school supplies, pet supplies, Christmas gifts, and so much more. I value your active roles as volunteers to make really powerful opportunities for fellowship happen through our Roast Beef Dinners and the (2<sup>nd</sup>) Annual Christmas Party!

While I am certain I could not fully encapsulate the entirety of the year, I will encourage you each to remain connected with one another in support of one another, to “bear one another’s burdens” [Galatians 6:2], so we bring joy to Christ, support and strength to one another and continue to act as Christ’s hands in this world.

With all gratitude, humility, faithfulness, and joy,  
**Fr. Michael**

## THE WARDENS' REPORT

There have been many ways we have continued to grow together this past year and many challenges we still face as we continue to branch out in faith.

We are excited that our community was flexible in accepting our change to one service at 9:00 and that we found such joy with more members of our community worshipping together. We've been excited for the opportunities for formation not only in joining Saint Lukes for Grill and Gospel but hosting Soup and Scripture, during Lent and a Program on the Magnificat during Advent. Soup and Scripture was especially popular.

We are excited to see the continued growth and success of some of our programs, such as the Roast Beef Dinner, Children's formation programs, Christmas party, and support of the Bromley center, and by the return of some other events like the pancake dinner and Christmas Pageant. It was especially exciting to have such a turn out and to see new faces at the Christmas Party and for VBS.

We are excited that additional use of our facility not only helps us financially but increases our vitality in the community. We currently host a Wednesday evening recovery group; a Thursday evening meditation group; a monthly stitch club, an opera group that uses the space for blocks of time for rehearsal according to their performance schedule; and The New Revelation Global Fellowship, a congregation that uses our Chapel and one classroom on Sunday from 10:30-1:30, and occasional special services. We are also in conversation about a kids' cooking class that would use the Kitchen and Craft Hall on Saturday Mornings.

We are excited to be in conversation with the Father Mike, the Bishop, and the congregations of Saint Luke's and Saint Michael's about a shared priest model. This is different from an affiliation in that it starts with the relationship between each parish and the priest and the relationships between the parishes will grow from there as we discover ways we can work together to support and strengthen each other as we live out our mission in our unique communities. We are grateful for Father Mike's particular gifts in this area, his openness and creative thinking, and his love of each parish. We continue to be grateful to have him as our Priest-in-Charge and particularly for his work in pastoral care and communications.

While our financial situation continues to be a challenge, we're excited to have continued to support 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 grateful for the time and talent each of you has shared with the parish over the past year and for the opportunity to work with all of you and to work together as wardens. We are each grateful for the gifts the other and Amy is especially grateful for all the work Jill does that mostly goes unseen but is of vital importance to the parish. The logistics of subdividing the property in order to sell the rectory have been endless and Jill has been diligent about working with the lawyer and others to handle countless details. She has managed the logistics for getting repair work done (such as the recent problem with the heat) as well as all the inspections we need throughout the year and work that is needed to be in compliance with current requirements. Her diligence and dedication in these areas is a great gift to the parish. The township meeting for the rectory subdivision is on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.

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 continue to revitalize our ministries. *Come grow with us!*

**Jill Brzezynski**, *Senior Warden*

**Amy Davis**, *Junior Warden*



## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE!

*Led by:* The Vestry    Fr. Michael    (You)

It is never too late to pledge so your church can financially plan with confidence. Our capital campaign funds (the Nehemiah Fund) continues to grow necessarily so that we can finally approach necessary capital improvements and maintenance. Thank you.

Our operating budget needs your continued and steadfast support.

### *Summary of financial pledging as of January 5, 2024:*

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Number of families that pledged	34	36	35
Plate & Pledge <i>Operating Budget (weekly offering)</i> <i>*includes large donations given in Dec. of previous year.</i>	\$60,194	\$83,850*	\$90,548*
Marks of Mission <i>Diocesan Asking</i>	\$1,900	\$1,605	\$3,135
Nehemiah Fund <i>Capital Improvement Fund</i>	\$7,340	\$5,550	\$8,012

*Submitted by:*    **Fr. Michael**

## OF TIME & TALENT!

I am filled with gratitude for the time all put in to the care of one another and in support of our parish life, including our liturgy. Volunteers keeps the grounds neat twice per year, prepare for services and keep our chancel looking beautiful, read from Scripture and distribute Communion, call each other to check on homebound or ill, and so much more!

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report is the diligent and faithful labor of Treasurer Taryn Dalton, combined with the detailed work of Lynn Adams. Thank you, Taryn and Lynn!

The report has 2023's budgeted and actual receipts and disbursements alongside of the proposed 2024 budget. The 2024 budget is largely based on the most current 2023 receipts and spending figures along with expected adjustments during the upcoming year. With a beginning bank balance of \$54,706, a 2024 year-end projected \$7,584 operating deficit, and a \$5,539 pending liability balance, we project a year-end bank balance of \$41,583.

#### Highlights:

##### *Receipts Category 2024 updates:*

2024 Weekly Envelopes pledges (\$45k) are approximately \$15,000 lower than the 2023 pledges(\$60k), but the 2023 actual receipts (\$75k) were approximately \$15,000 (25%) higher than pledged. Therefore, the 2024 Weekly Envelopes projection has been adjusted upwards by approximately \$9,000 to (\$56k) reflecting the 25% rate increase experienced during 2023. The total category is projected close to \$19,000 less in 2024.

Diocesan Asking Envelopes amount pledged matches the Diocesan Asking disbursement line. All contributions received will be submitted to the Dioceses.

The \$15,000 Special Donation received in 2023 is also budgeted in 2024.

There is one roast beef dinner Fund Raiser planned for 2024.

The Handbells Fund Raiser has been fully settled with \$1,600 refunded between 2023 and 2024.

Parish Hall Donations increased substantially in 2023 and are projected conservatively high for 2024.



*Disbursements Category 2024 updates:*

There was a notable increase in the Church Insurance line, a 3% (.50/hr.) increase on the Sexton line, and continued savings in the Church Office Copier line.

In anticipation of the sale of the Rectory by the end of the year, ongoing expenses are budgeted for the 2024 year. Additional costs related to the sale are not included as it is planned that they will be reimbursed in this 2024 year. (At this time, there is no adjustment in the 2024 budget for the 2023 \$11,369 sale of rectory expenditures.)

The Priest-in-Charge compensation reflects a 3% COLA per diocesan direction. The (paid) work units have remained 6 units. (12 units are considered full time hours.)

Notes at the end of the report account for Priest-in-Charge pending liabilities for unspent allowance balances.

**RECEIPTS**

Category	TOTAL 2024 Budget	TOTAL 2023 Actual	TOTAL 2023 Budget
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
<b>Weekly:</b>			
Weekly Envelopes	56,256	75,775	60,350
Open Plate	1,462	1,462	1,919
Diocesan Asking - Envelopes	1,900	2,051	1,000
Fuel Envelopes	210	210	0
<b>Total Weekly</b>	<b>59,828</b>	<b>79,498</b>	<b>63,269</b>
<b>Special Offerings:</b>			
Baptism Thank You	170	170	200
Bishop's Vestments	0	60	0
Bishop's Consecration	0	95	0
Blessing of the Animals	0	0	20
Funeral	200	946	200
Special Donation	15,000	15,196	98
Wedding Thank You	0	900	0
<b>TOTAL Special Offerings</b>	<b>15,370</b>	<b>17,367</b>	<b>518</b>
<b>Outreach:</b>			
Lenten-Envelopes&Coins	305	305	0
Advent-Envelopes	280	280	0
Episcopal Community Services	295	295	50
<b>Total Outreach</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>50</b>

Category	TOTAL 2024 Budget	TOTAL 2023 Actual	TOTAL 2023 Budget
<b>Holy Days:</b>			
Christmas	1,064	1,064	1,000
Ash Wednesday	369	369	150
Easter	680	680	1,000
Thanksgiving	290	290	300
All Souls	0	0	250
<b>TOTAL Holy Days</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>2,700</b>
<b>Fund Raisers:</b>			
igive.com	30	30	95
Christmas Extravaganza	100	100	0
Dinners	3,011	5,113	3,500
Gift Cards	859	859	883
Handbells	(100)	(1,500)	0
<b>TOTAL Fund Raisers</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>4,602</b>	<b>4,478</b>
<b>Investment Income:</b>			
Burgess Outreach	1,200	1,000	1,000
Computer Share/MetLife/Other	111	83	107
<b>TOTAL Investment Income</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>1,107</b>
Clergy Discretionary	0	502	0
Parish Hall Donations	9,800	11,569	3,075
Matching Contributions	294	294	27
Memorials	50	50	350
Coffee Hour	199	199	16
Interest from Savings	2	2	2
<b>TOTAL Receipts</b>	<b>94,035</b>	<b>118,447</b>	<b>75,591</b>

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Category	TOTAL 2024 Budget	TOTAL 2023 Actual	TOTAL 2023 Budget
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>			
<b>Church:</b>			
Contracts	2,071	1,310	2,129
Electric - Church	4,662	4,604	3,847
Gas - Church	8,616	8,616	9,846
Insurance	16,660	14,939	13,423
Workmens Comp	404	404	443
Maintenance	6,514	6,514	5,423
Sewer - Church	850	685	850
Sexton - Salary	7,041	6,508	6,900
Water - Church	1,027	1,027	1,241
Supplies	784	607	732
<b>TOTAL Church</b>	<b>48,630</b>	<b>45,212</b>	<b>44,834</b>
<b>Church Office:</b>			
Constant Contact	190	190	168
Copier	1,200	2,477	3,534
Offering Envelopes	82	82	252
Other - Church Office	211	211	0
Postage	689	562	648
Printing	305	279	352
Administrator - Salary	3,551	3,074	4,212
Supplies - Church Office	1,341	1,341	665
Telephone - Church Office	1,752	1,739	1,728
<b>TOTAL Church Office</b>	<b>9,321</b>	<b>9,955</b>	<b>11,559</b>

Category	TOTAL 2024 Budget	TOTAL 2023 Actual	TOTAL 2023 Budget
<b>Music:</b>			
Supply - Salary	4,500	4,925	5,375
Musicians/supplies	506	506	323
Organ/Piano Maintenance	943	943	646
<b>TOTAL Music</b>	<b>5,949</b>	<b>6,374</b>	<b>6,344</b>
<b>Outreach:</b>			
Gifts	0	455	0
Lenten Outreach Partner - ECS	0	305	0
Advent Outreach Support - ERD	0	280	0
Episcopal Community Services (ECS)	295	295	0
Vacation Bible School	539	539	566
<b>TOTAL Outreach</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>1,874</b>	<b>566</b>
<b>Clergy:</b>			
Deacon Salary	300	0	300
Deacon Pension	60	0	54
Supply Priest	750	204	0
<b>TOTAL Clergy</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>354</b>
<b>Rectory:</b>			
Contracts	240	80	224
Electric - Rectory	212	214	231
Gas - Rectory	609	693	606
Maintenance	75	75	25
PSE&G Contract	804	790	768
Sale of Rectory	0	11,369	0
Sewer - Rectory	393	393	390
Water - Rectory	342	342	432
<b>TOTAL Rectory</b>	<b>2,676</b>	<b>13,956</b>	<b>2,677</b>

Category	TOTAL 2024 Budget	TOTAL 2023 Actual	TOTAL 2023 Budget
<b>Priest-in-Charge:</b>			
Pension	3,966	3,877	3,913
Salary	22,029	21,637	21,637
Life Insurance	223	247	228
Continuing Education	537	0	627
Professional Expenses	2,250	1,014	2,625
<b>TOTAL Priest-in-Charge</b>	<b>29,004</b>	<b>26,775</b>	<b>29,030</b>
<b>Clergy Discretionary</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Diocesan Asking</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>2,051</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Memorial Garden</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Legalized Games of Chance</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>
Withholding Federal	2,017	1,899	2,124
Withholding Taxes	179	162	192
<b>Total Withholding Taxes</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>2,061</b>	<b>2,316</b>
<b>TOTAL Disbursements</b>	<b>101,620</b>	<b>111,412</b>	<b>98,734</b>

**SUMMARY**

Category	TOTAL 2024 Budget	TOTAL 2023 Actual	TOTAL 2023 Budget
<b>RECEIPTS LESS DISBURSEMENTS</b>	(7,584)	7,035	(23,143)
Transfer from Endowment	0	0	0
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	(7,584)	7,035	(23,143)
<b>*Beginning Balance 2024:</b> (Includes Clergy Discretionary \$588)	54,706		
Less Pending Liabilities:	(5,539)		
<b>**Available Beginning Balance</b>	49,167		
<b>Projected 2024 Ending Balance</b>	41,583		

**NOTES****\*Beginning Balance 2024:**

December 2023 ending balance	=	\$54,706
Less pending liabilities	=	\$5,539
<i>Handbells</i>		\$0,
<i>2021 Continuing Education</i>		\$261,
<i>2022 Continuing Education</i>		\$627,
<i>2023 Continuing Education</i>		\$538
<i>2022 Professional allowance</i>		\$1,863,
<i>2023 Professional allowance</i>		\$2,250
Available beginning Balance 2024	=	\$49,167

## Facility Improvement Funds

### NEHEMIAH FUND COMMITTEE

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Members:	Marcia Leach	Brian Leahy	George Olshansky
	Rich Olshansky	Rob Reinhardt	Fr. Michael Panzarella

Meetings: first Sunday of each month at 8 a.m.

Last meeting held on 11/05/23

#### Nehemiah Account Balances

**Starting Balance 1/01/23:                   \$26,898.95**

**Ending Balance 12/31/23:               \$46,080.06**

Undesignated Funds: \$11,277.45

\*Roof & Gutter Campaign: \$23,017.61

Sound System: \$3,295.00

Rita Woolverton Memorial Air Conditioning Fund: \$8,490.00

\*Funds raised from fundraising activities: \$290.00 (Flower Power Holiday Sales)

#### 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 completed in collaboration with Grounds Committee:

- Spring & Fall Cleanups (April & September 2023)
- Paint Craft Hall trim (June 2023)

#### Projects under consideration from 2023:

- 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



- Installing central air conditioning – Rita Woolverton Memorial A.C. Fund

Projects under consideration from 2021:

- Skylight repairs
- Sump pump maintenance, continuing maintenance
- Installing stair glide into basement
- Repairing stained glass windows in the church

Donations and Fundraising:

- Received \$5,000 donation to be used for purchasing sound system, paid \$1,705 leaving remaining balance of \$3,295.00.
- FY-23 Donations received for Roof & Gutter Appeal: \$6,211.11
- FY-23 Fundraising Activities designated for Roof & Gutter Appeal: \$290.00 (Flower Power)
- Rita Woolverton Memorial A.C. Fund: \$8,085.00

*Submitted by* **Marcia Leach**

## Investment/Endowment Funds

The Investment Funds are carefully overseen by Assistant Treasurer Mark Talbot. Thank you to Mark for all of your time and efforts!

### *THE MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND*

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*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.*

<b>Balance as of December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$1,249.00</b>
Parishioner Donations	3,423.00
Name Plate Memorial	(465.00)
Garden Arbor	(179.00)
<b>Balance as of December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$4,028.00</b>

The Memorial Garden was established as a dedicated, holy, peaceful, and well-maintained area to give the parishioners of Grace-St. Paul's a place where the ashes of loved ones can be interred. The garden is also available as a quiet place to pray or meditate. Currently, there are eight sets of ashes interred in the garden. The Memorial Garden Committee oversees the maintenance and preservation of the garden. We purchased a new arbor for the entryway this past year. The committee currently consists of: Christopher Cox, Amy Davis, Maria Melkonich, Barbara Nichols, and Brenda Siracusa. Thank you to both past and present garden committee members for their dedication to this ministry. If you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry, or helping during one of the work days, please see a committee member for details. For anyone with an interest in exploring the possibilities of the Memorial Garden as a permanent resting place, pamphlets can be found in the narthex. If there are any questions about the Memorial Garden, please contact The Rev. Michael Panzarella for more in-depth information.

*Submitted by:*                      **Maria Melkonich, Memorial Garden Committee Chair**

**BURGESS OUTREACH FUND**

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*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.*

<b>Balance as of December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$34,893.00</b>
Income from DIT	1,142.00
Income transferred to General Fund	(1,000.00)
Principal transferred to General Fund	0.00
Service Charge	(50.00)
Market Value Adjustment	(2,902.00)
<b>Balance as of December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$37,887.00</b>

**GRASP STOCK FUND**

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*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.*

<b>Balance as of December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$94,028.00</b>
Income Reinvested	2,204.00
Principal transferred to General Fund	0.00
Market Value Adjustment	10,663.00
<b>Balance as of December 31, 2023</b>	<b>\$106,895.00</b>

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

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

### Altar Guild

Lydia Kugler                      Brenda Siracusa

Emilia Siracusa              Catherine Sopko              Chris Talbot

The Altar Guild consists of several members of the congregation dedicated to serving our Church with the preparation and maintenance of the altar. This ministry is responsible for preparing the altar for Sunday services. Also, we maintain the candles, clean and care for the linens and the liturgical objects used during the Eucharist. The members enjoy decorating the church for Holy Days and the holiday seasons. 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. This year due to generous donations we were able to purchase liquid candles for the acolyte torches, and a new nativity set. The Altar Guild would like to thank Lydia Kugler for making blue Advent lectern banners, and a white altar frontal for Christmas. Your talents are greatly appreciated. If you are interested in celebrating a loved one, or an important event, please contact Brenda Siracusa for a flower or candle memorial. Available dates are posted in the Narthex.

### *RECEIPTS*

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Balance forward as of 12/31/2022 .....	\$3,769.24
Easter	
Christmas	
All Souls' Day	
Flowers and other Memorial income .....	\$5,395.00
<b>Account Total.....</b>	<b>\$9,164.24</b>

***DISBURSEMENTS***


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Floral Expenses – weekly .....	\$1,235.12
Candles, wafers, wine, and other items .....	\$627.15
Liquid Acolyte Candles .....	\$247.00
Nativity .....	\$182.32
Easter - palms, Paschal candle, and flowers.....	\$561.49
Christmas – flowers .....	\$215.50
<b>Total Disbursements.....</b>	<b>\$3,068.58</b>
<b>Balance (12/31/2023) .....</b>	<b>\$6,095.66</b>

*Submitted by:*                    **Brenda Siracusa, Altar Guild Coordinator**

### **Acolytes & Crucifer-Servers**

*For your faithful service as Acolytes, Fr. Michael's humble gratitude to...*

Isabelle Bernhard*	Elizabeth Heckel-Reed*	Karen Hiatt
Lydia Kugler	Luisa Panzarella	Ava Reinhardt*
Catherine Roe	Emilia Siracusa	Catherine Sopko
	Lila Reinhardt**	

*\*new member this year!*

*\*\*Began in January 2024!*

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.

We have three new members who have joined our Acolyte program. Acolytes carry the candles, Gospel, or Children's cross during the service. They ring the bells during the Eucharist, 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, both servers and 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**

### **Hospitality: Ushering & Coffee Hour**

Radical Hospitality is a major Gospel theme. The Episcopal Church traditionally exemplifies practicing this quality in its welcoming into the Church and fellowship during coffee hour. I am grateful to Barb Nichols for her faithful efforts in supporting this culture of community in Grace-St. Paul's and to all those who support this endeavor.

**Fr. Michael**

### **Lay Eucharistic Ministry & Visitor**

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

Jill Brzezynski\*

Amy Davis

Grace Krencicki

Judy Melkonich

Barbara Nichols

Catherine Roe

*\*new member this year!*

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.

If anyone in our parish cannot attend in-person service for good reason and would like Communion brought to their homes, please let Fr. Michael 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

<i>Many thanks to:</i>	Daniel Clark*	Amy Davis	Eva Drennan*
	Martha Heckel*	Emily Jarvis	Marcia Leach
	Brian Leahy*	Angelina Marino	Barbara Nichols
	Rob Reinhardt*	Cathy Roe	Shirley Sked
	Cat Sopko	Fred Storer	

*\*our newest Lectors joining b/w December of 2022 and December 2023*

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**

## Music

Kira Scharf moved on from Grace-St. Paul's for other opportunities in early September. We are grateful for all she did for us leading our services with both singing and playing the piano.

Fortuitously, in a conversation with Clipper Erickson, the organist of St. Michael's in Trenton, I learned that Clipper, an accomplished and world-renowned pianist, would be willing to play for us a couple Sundays per month and within our budget. We are graced with his talents a couple times per month and some holy days. Much gratitude for Clipper's ministry with us that began in the Fall.

*Submitted by*    **Father Michael**

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Christian Story Time

We continue to hold Christian Story time on most Sunday's during the academic year during the 9:00 service. It is open to all ages, and we've drawn toddlers through middle school. We generally have an enthusiastic attendance of between 2-6 kids, with 11 or 12 who have attended at some point over the course of the year. We tell a story, usually with the use of our wonderful felt board figures which the kids help put up, discuss some wondering questions



If interested as a guest storyteller, running or helping on a more regular with me.

Stories told online pandemic are still available viewing at home.

I'm grateful to everyone who helped to make Our Palm Friday program a success and excited that we got such a great turn out. I'm also especially grateful to those who worked to clear out the supply room and began to organize the supplies.



anyone is coming one time a craft or activity, basis please speak

during the on our website for



**Palm Friday and Pizza, will be on Friday, March 22 , 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, regardless of church membership/affiliation or denomination. It is recommended for pre-K through post-5<sup>th</sup> but we are flexible on age and older kids are welcome to continue as participants or to come back as helpers.

It was exciting to have some new faces with us this year both participants and volunteers. I'm grateful to everyone for making it a huge success.



Our theme this summer was "*Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light.*" We gathered for 5 evenings to form strong friendships and Shine Jesus' light through Bible Adventures, Music, Games, Imagination Station, and Snacks. We had 10 kids, with great joy and energy, attend from our Parish, local community and Saint Luke's, and we hope to continue build on this momentum for future years.





Please watch for information for VBS 2024 where we will be diving deep into God's love and help us to *spread the word!*

**Amy Davis**, Coordinator

## MINISTRIES

### Prayer Chain

*With gratitude to*

Barbara Baggott (†)	Ona Davis	Martha Heckel	Pat Hines
Lydia Kugler	Gladys Longmuir	Barb Nichols	Shirley Sked
	Deacon Tom	Father Michael	

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

I am grateful at the continued prayers of the Prayer Chain members. Any are welcome to join in sharing prayer requests (which help Fr. Michael keep our prayer list updated) and offering voice to God on behalf of others. Prayers works for others and changes us from within. All are welcome into this faithful ministry.

*Submitted by*    **Fr. Michael**

### Connecting with our Community

#### *THE BROMLEY NEIGHBORHOOD CIVIC CENTER*

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This past year, we have bolstered our support of this community organization. They joyfully have received donations all year, our school supply donations, Christmas present donations, and more. Thank you for giving so much to support and love our neighbors.

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

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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! In 2023, we held two successful Roast Beef Dinners (Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>). They were successful for the fundraising, but most of all for the gathering of community, and sharing of our common work between the parish volunteers. What a beautiful sight to behold!

## *OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT WITH OUR NEIGHBORS?*

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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**

## OPERATIONS

### **Parish Administrator**

From September of 2022 through February of 2023, this position went unfilled. Then, Solana Sorrento graciously accepted the minimal part-time role we could afford. While we do not have the budget to fill the role for someone to take on what it fully means to be a parish administrator, Fr. Michael is grateful for the expertise and dynamic work experience that Solana brings in support of our bulletins, mailings, and filing system at just a few hours per week.

*Faithfully submitted by:*      **Fr. Michael**

## FACILITIES

### Sexton

We continue to be blessed by the flexible part-time work that our Sexton, Brian Leahy undertakes. This year, he has been so gracious to orchestrate the assistance of Guy (the handyman from St. Luke's) and Ken Melkonich in replacing light bulbs in the sanctuary. He has also worked with Steve Christian. Thanks to Ken and Steve for some crucial assistance! Our sexton has also had sump pumps replaced, new dispensers installed in bathrooms, and cleaned and waxed Craft Hall, narthex, and nave floors.

### Grounds

Several dedicated volunteers have made our Spring and Fall clean-ups productive and effective. We continue to maintain weeds, shrub overgrowth, tree trimming, and so forth. Basement wells were cleared of debris.

### Sanctuary

In the Fall of 2023, we found our circulator pump for the sanctuary locked up again as it was in the Fall of 2021. It was temporarily freed. In January of 2024, the pump needed replacing.

The natural wood-colored pews from the chapel were brought into the nave and sturdy, red, pews were brought to the chapel with thanks to Robert and William Siracusa.

### Community Hall & Craft Hall

In Spring of 2023, Pastor Moses Watson of New Revelation Global Fellowship and his congregation began using our chapel long-term. We are grateful for the positive relationship formed and glad to support other community churches. The steady income stream is also a vital addition to our operating budget.

In May and June, Craft Hall was cleaned, a small built-in cabinet was removed, and the entire hall was painted.

Humbly, **Fr. Michael**

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP NOMINEES

### Warden

*Two wardens of the Church lead the Vestry,  
and preside at Vestry meetings when the clergy is absent.  
One seat is to be filled.*

**Jill Brzezynski** Incumbent Senior Warden.

### 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.*

**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.

**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 currently help lead 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.

**Martha Heckel** I have been a member of Grace-St Paul's for 16 years. I have served on Vestry in the past. I have also been involved with Roast Beef Dinner, Rehabilitation of basement floor and classrooms, building the Jim Davis Memorial Garden, co-coordinator SuperBowl Hoagies sale, LEM, reader, acolyte.

**Shirley Sked** I have been a member of Grace-St. Paul's for 46 years. I was on Vestry once before. I have been involved in Lay Pastoral ministers, Lay Reader. I have also handled telephone & note communications with congregants who are unable to attend church and any other activities, I am able to help.

**Catherine Sopko** *(no bio provided)*

### 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.

**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, Christmas Pageant Director 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.