



# Grace - St. Paul's

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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### ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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*ANNUAL MEETING HELD JANUARY 30, 2022*

JILL BRZEZYNSKI *SENIOR WARDEN*

AMY DAVIS *JUNIOR WARDEN*

THE REV. MICHAEL T. PANZARELLA *PRIEST ASSOCIATE*

THE REV. THOMAS BARTLETT *DEACON*

TARYN DALTON *TREASURER*

MARK TALBOT *ASSISTANT TREASURER*

HEATHER KRENCICKI *PARISH ADMINISTRATOR*

BRIAN LEAHY *SEXTON*

### OUR VESTRY

CLASS OF 2022

BARBARA NICHOLS

LAURA TOWNLEY

NANCY ZAMBONI

CLASS OF 2023

NICHOLAS BENNETT, *CLERK*

MARCIA LEACH

SHIRLEY SKED

CLASS OF 2024

GLADYS LONGMUIR

CATHERINE SOPKO

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## AGENDA

- ❖ Opening Prayer
- ❖ Review of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes as pertains to the 2020 Church status.
- ❖ Nominations
  - Report of the Nominating Committee
  - Nominations from the floor
- ❖ Elections – Vestry, Warden, Convocation Representatives
- ❖ Recognizing graduating members of Vestry
- ❖ Approval of the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes
- ❖ Reports
  - Wardens' Report
  - Priest's Report
  - Stewardship Report
  - Treasurer's Report
  - Other Reports
- ❖ New Business
  - Community Hall
- ❖ Blessing and Dismissal

## ANNUAL MEETING 2021 MINUTES (FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020)

February 21, 2021

**Meeting Place:** Meeting was held entirely remotely through Zoom software.

**Attendees:**

The Rev. Amy Cornell	Lynn Adams	Dcn. Tom Bartlett
Nicholas Bennett	Jill Brzezynski	Taryn Dalton
Amy Davis	Susan & Steven Higgins	Emily Jarvis
Grace Krencicki	Heather Krencicki	Lydia Kugler
Marcia Leach	Judy Melkonich	Maria Melkonich
Barb Nichols	Dcn. Michael Panzarella	Monica Pope
Cathy Roe	Shirley Sked	Brenda Siracusa
Emilia Siracusa	Catherine Sopko	Mark Talbot
Laura Townley	Nancy Zamboni	

**Brief Notes:**

Meeting opened with a prayer.

Seven people in the running for six positions of delegates and alternates to convention.

Two people for vestry for three positions: Gladys Longmuir and Cat Sopko.

Voting on the delegates/alternates: Amy Davis, Emilia Siracusa, Barbara Nichols; alternates are Laura Townley, Taryn Dalton, and Gladys Longmuir.

Minutes accepted from last year.

Thanks to the staff (minister of music, parish secretary, sexton), vestry, deacons.

Rector's report: This was an extraordinary year.

Treasurer's report: Thanks to David Hobson and Lynn Adams.

Explanation of diocesan asking amounts from this year. (Extra because of special request.)

Gas/maintenance were lower this year because the church was barely used, so the budget reflects last year rather than the actuals. Payroll protection program was a loan, which we can apply for forgiveness (and are doing so).

Burgess Outreach Fund is what we are using for the operating overages.

Youth group: One event, due to pandemic, with St. Luke's in Ewing. They hope to be able to do things again in the future.

Catherine Sopko took a photo for social media.

Reports were accepted as submitted.

Communication/technology: our biggest challenge. Sometimes we succeed, sometimes not.

Catherine Sopko volunteered to head the communications committee.

Tuesday: Lent classes, 7 p.m.-8 p.m., normal zoom meeting.

Closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

**Emily Jarvis**

## OUR VESTRY ~ CHURCH LAY LEADERSHIP

### The Wardens' Report

This has been a year of challenges, changes, and opportunities. We started the year still sorting out how we continue to live out our mission and the life of our community when we are unable to gather in all the ways we once did and facing challenges not only in our financial resources but in the ways the covid has impacted the availability of volunteers. In April, Mother Amy announced her resignation which was a shock to us both personally and as parish leaders. Yet, as we talked with parishioners and Bishop Stokes, we began to see the ways this opened new opportunities for us. Our vestry has begun to be in conversation with the Bishop and Diocese about ways we can work with other churches to support and strengthen each other in ways that will help us all to thrive as we live out our mission as unique parish communities. We have also had the opportunity to bring on Father Mike as our Priest in a part-time capacity. Father Mike has brought an energy, enthusiasm, and fresh perspective to our community that has been a 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. Having him in a part-time position has also allowed us to better allocate our financial resources and puts us in a better position for our future. Father Mike is completing a six-month contract with us, and we are in the process of putting a three-year Priest-in-Charge contract in place. The advantage to having a Priest-in-Charge (as opposed to an Interim Rector) is that it gives us the flexibility to be in discernment about our mission and our future and still have the option of working with Mike as that future unfolds.

Another area of change in the coming year is the Rectory. Our Rectory has served us well for many years, but we may have come to the point where letting it go will give us more resources to work with elsewhere. In the past, we have rented the Rectory when we did not have a Rector living in it but that came with its own set of problems, and even if we were to rent it to a ministry or to someone within the larger church it still puts us in the position of landlords with the burdens of maintenance and insurance, while selling it could open up new possibilities for us, such as making repairs to our buildings before things become a larger issue, so that our facilities better support our ministries, and/or reinvesting in our endowments to better prepare us for future needs. While we are seeking feedback from the congregation on this issue and are listening to everyone's voice, we also want to be clear that we Wardens are both very much in favor of selling.

In all the challenges we have faced in our time as Wardens we have often said how grateful we are for each other. We could not do this job without each other, and we cannot 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, as well as 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*

## PRIEST'S REPORT

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

#### MEMBERSHIP ~ 117

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##### ~ 117 ACTIVE MEMBERS

With careful consideration of outdated contact lists, complicated by variations in participation with the pandemic, we have striven to best identify active parishioners. We believe our Church was comprised of **117 'active' members in the year 2021**. We look forward to the continued growth of our parish as has been evident through the Fall of 2021. 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

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##### Sundays

Sunday service attendance	2386 attendees <i>(Average 46 attendees/weekend)</i>
Holy Eucharist (Sunday)	118 services for 52 weekends

##### All other services

All other services	1671 attendees <i>(evening prayer AND weekday services)</i>									
Daily Office <i>(Mondays-Saturdays)</i>	322 services <i>Includes Evening Prayer(most common), Compline, Evensong and more</i> <i>Evening Prayer Officiants include:</i> <table> <tr> <td><i>Rev. Amy Cornell</i></td> <td><i>Rev. Michael Panzarella</i></td> <td><i>Dcn. Tom Bartlett</i></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>Laura Townley</i></td> <td><i>Nancy Zamboni</i></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<i>Rev. Amy Cornell</i>	<i>Rev. Michael Panzarella</i>	<i>Dcn. Tom Bartlett</i>	<i>Amy Davis</i>	<i>Wendy Hogan</i>	<i>Barbara Nichols</i>	<i>Laura Townley</i>	<i>Nancy Zamboni</i>	
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<i>Laura Townley</i>	<i>Nancy Zamboni</i>									
Daily Office <i>(Sundays)</i>	1 service <i>3Oct21 Feast of St. Francis Blessing of Animals Evening Prayer</i>									
Holy Eucharist (weekdays)	4 services <i>(Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve (2) &amp; Day)</i>									

## Sacraments and sacramental rites



### Baptisms 3 services

- 21Mar21 Jackson Michael Melker (by Rev. Amy Cornell)  
 25Jul21 Caiden Michael Fullam (by Rev. Ali Van Kuiken; grandson of George Olshansky!)  
 22Aug21 Emma Sangi White (8am, Fr. Mike's 1<sup>st</sup> Baptism, the great-granddaughter of Roberta Cash!)

### Marriages 1 service

- 15May21 Charlotte Taylor Westfall & Brittany Roberts Stromko (Rev. Amy Cornell, out of state)

### Burials 5 services

- Apr21 Michael Majeski (no service; our Minister of Music, the husband of Barbara Majeski)  
 7May21 Marlise Siracusa (at Our Lady of Lourdes cemetery, graveside committal by Rev. Amy Cornell)  
 26Jun21 Gloria M. Renode (Committal service in GSP Memorial Garden, w Dcn. Tom B. & Rev. Michael P.)  
 12Aug21 William Bruce Judson (Funeral at Saul Colonial Home, Committal at Princeton Memorial Park, 107°F)  
 16Oct21 Judith Hance Borden (graveside committal at Groveville Cemetery, 2pm)  
 21Oct21 Eleanor Louise Kugler (Funeral at Van Arlesdale Funeral Home in Somerville, Committal at Hopewell Baptist Meeting House Cemetery in Hopewell, mother-in-law of Lydia Kugler, grandmother of Jordan Kugler and Catherine Sopko)  
 \*3Jan22 Richard di Renzi Kugler (Funeral; 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; committal at Ewing Church Cemetery in Ewing)

### Other 4 services

- 9Jan21 Memorial service for Jonathan L. Elliot (4pm Zoom)  
 26Mar21 Ministry for the Sick (3pm Zoom service)  
 8May21 Ordination to the priesthood (The Rev. Michael T. Panzarella, in courtyard under tent)  
 31Dec21 Ministration at the Time of Death (Last rites) for Agnes (Nancy) Badessa (placed on hospice)  
 \*7Jan22 Ministration at the Time of Death (Last rites) for Agnes (Nancy) Badessa (final hours)  
 \*Jan22 Epiphany House Blessings (4 – M.&E. Panzarella, J. Melkonich, R.&P. Woolverton, & one non-GSP member)

## Technology

The use of technology continues to grow as the Covid-19 pandemic presses us to practice our faith in new and different ways. We have continued to use technology for remote access to our services through the Zoom platform for roam services, holy days, and other special services. Fr. Mike orchestrates the video and strategic use of additional microphones employed for better audio on Zoom. Fr. Mike also continues to adjust and assess the use of the sanctuary sound system, employing the wireless microphones to more accessible audio for all. Now using a Mevo Start camera, with a cell phone and lapel mic, we will continue to offer remote services on Zoom for those who are high-risk for complications of serious illness from Covid and for those not yet comfortable with in-person services. Whatever your reasons, we love you and invite you to join however is most comfortable and spiritually fulfilling.



## LITURGICAL SEASON OVERVIEW

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### Lent

(included in counts above)

17Feb21 Imposition of Ashes (12pm, 7pm Rev. Amy Cornell, in-person)

HOLY WEEK

29Mar21 Stations of the Cross (7pm Zoom)

30Mar21 Evensong (7pm Zoom)

31Mar21 Tenebrae (7pm Zoom)

1Apr21 Maundy Thursday (Holy Eucharist, 7pm)

1Apr21 Maundy Thursday Overnight Vigil (8pm-6am)

2Apr21 Good Friday (6am Morning Prayer, 12pm, 7pm)

3Apr21 Easter Vigil (7:30pm)

4Apr Easter Sunday (8am, 10am)

### Miscellaneous

8May21 Feast of Julian of Norwich

Ordination to the priesthood (The Rev. Michael T. Panzarella, in courtyard under tent)

12Sep21 Blessing of the Backpacks

**Lydia Kugler's first time serving as Crucifer!**

26Sep21 Service of Remembrance: Honoring Losses during a Difficult Time (4pm at St. Luke's, Ewing outdoors; led by Rev. Ali Van Kuiken and Rev. Megan Thomas)

3Oct21 **Angelina Marino's first time as a Lector!**

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

17Oct21 Anniversary celebration of Grace-St. Paul's Church (1955 merger, 1973 new sanctuary)

7Nov21 All Saints' Day observed, All Soul's Day Book of Remembrance

25Nov21 Thanksgiving Day (celebrated jointly with St. Luke's, Ewing)

### Advent & Christmas

28Nov21 Advent 1: recognition of ministries: Lay Minister, and Lay Eucharistic Visitor

Shirley Sked - LM, and Judith Melkonich - LEV

**Alivia Baggott's first time serving as Crucifer!**

5Dec21 Advent 2: recognition of ministries: Lectors

Roberta Cash, Amy Davis, Emily Jarvis, Marcia Leach, Gladys Longmuir, **\*Angelina Marino\***, Barbara Nichols, Catherine Roe, Shirley Sked, Catherine Sopko

12Dec21 Advent 3: recognition of ministries: Ushers

Grace Krencicki, Judith Melkonich, Barbara Nichols

19Dec21 Advent 4: recognition of ministries: Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and Prayer Chain Members

LEM: Amy Davis, Grace Krencicki, Gladys Longmuir, Judith Melkonich, Barbara Nichols, Catherine Roe  
PCM: Barbara Baggott, Ona Davis, Martha Heckel, Pat Hines, Lydia Kugler, Gladys Longmuir, Barbara Nichols, Shirley Sked, Dcn. Tom Bartlett, Fr. Michael Panzarella

24Dec21 Stations of the Creche (12pm-4pm, 4 stations setup through Community Hall and sanctuary w/ self-guided prayer booklets)

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

25Dec21 Christmas III service (10am)

26Dec21 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas: recognition of ministries (altar guild / sacristans, and crucifer-servers)

AG/S: **\*Alivia Baggott\***, Lydia Kugler, Brenda Siracusa, Emilia Siracusa, Catherine Sopko, Christine Talbot  
C-S: **\*Alivia Baggott\***, Kevin Drennan, **\*Lydia Kugler\***, Catherine Roe, Emilia Siracusa, Catherine Sopko

### Epiphany

\*6Jan22 6:30pm remote service on Zoom hosted by Rev. Megan Thomas, St. Luke's Ewing w blessing of chalk & incense.

\*--Jan22 Epiphany house blessings with chalking front door "20+C+M+B+22". 4 homes blessed.

## Personal Perspective

### *TOWARDS THE PRIESTHOOD*

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The year 2021 began in the midst of the pandemic. While navigating fully online courses, the year started with me in the middle of my Anglican year of studies, and having ordained a deacon just a few months prior (October 17, 2020). In addition, I took the General Ordination Exams in early January, as is required of all those in process towards ordination into the priesthood. Having taken six exams, and by the grace of God passing all, I was approved to be ordained. The grace of God remained present, as I was ordained at Grace-St. Paul's Church on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 on the Feast of Julian of Norwich. While the weather looked ominous, with a storm ready to break out, the ordination service remained dry as it was held outdoors to increase pandemic precautions with fresh air. I was delighted to get ordained at Grace-St. Paul's Church with so many participating as my sponsors and voices of the people to call me into the priestly ministry. After a surprise turn of events, the grace of God kept me available as The Rev. Amy Cornell affirmed a call to position as rector of St. David's in Cranbury. I began as a supply priest from June through July, and accepted a call by the Wardens and Vestry to become the part-time priest of this Church on August 1, 2021.

With all the joy and excitement of this year, I understand the difficulties that exist. The pandemic has imbued a different kind of fatigue as we navigate our lives a bit differently, abiding by new rules in public places, remembering to carry a mask with us when we leave our homes, and reduce our gatherings – celebratory or in times of consolation. I experienced two graduation ceremonies remotely, had only immediate family present for my diaconal ordination and a reduced attendance for my priestly ordination. Still, as I said in my homily on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, “the best is yet to come.” Bishop William Stokes, at my diaconal ordination, included the comment in his homily that I am an idealist. He was accurate in that I continually move forward from where I am into that ideal way of life that our Lord places before us, the way of life that leads to a place of love and peace – The ‘ideal’. This ideal is *how* we step through each day. I look forward to embracing The Way beside this faithful Body.

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

I further understand that Grace-St. Paul's continues to adjust to changing circumstances. Having once had a blustering Sunday School program, more than one full-time clergy member, a full-time sexton, parish administrator, and music minister, change has strained our parish life. The use of endowment funds over the last decade or more to sustain a way of life that was not meeting the ministry needs of the Church has led to minimal investments remaining. While our day-to-day operations might be different, we are still moving into tomorrow. We will wrestle with who we were like Jacob wrestled the angel at the River Jabbok [Genesis 32:22-31]. We will walk away different as Jacob did with a noticeable limp. Yet, our way of walking through and beyond this new dynamic of functioning as a parish will not impede us, but help us grow more fully. “Different” can be good, even great!

Here are some notable areas (in our Communication) where ‘different’ is worth discussing:

## *COMMUNICATION*

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### **Website, and Social Media**

In May, I setup a new website with the incredible assistance of Catherine Sopko. Updating the site made it a bit easier to use and keep updated. The site has been providing all the vital information, while also giving us the opportunity to remove details that do not reflect where we are today. Catherine has also helped us get back online with social media, including FaceBook, Twitter, and Instagram. At the same time of the new website creation, we changed our email servers. For years, emails were delayed or lost due to poor service through the old provider. Our communication continues to improve on all fronts.

### **Phone System**

The old phone system in the parish administrator office operated various extensions for phones that were previously used in all office spaces. As of November 2021, we have switched to a system called Voice-over-IP (VOIP). The system required a new upgraded FIOS connection which was already in place and a new type of phone. Currently, we now have only one phone and will add phones as the need arises. New phones need not be wired into the wall, but simply require being connected to the wireless router. As such, older phones cannot work with this new system. Instead, a newer style of VOIP phone is required. In addition, the VOIP system provides lots of online tools to control our service. One feature has been linking my cell phone to the system. Essentially, I am always in the office, virtually. There are times I am unavailable and will not answer the phone. Still, our new system now no longer disconnects people who call and we can now retrieve messages with ease.

### **Bulletins**

Last year, Fr. Mike gave our bulletins a new design and included more information. They will continue to adapt to the needs we have. Still, they help shape a sense of parish identity in their cohesiveness and informative nature. The bulletins include important events and news that needs to be conveyed. They also are posted online weekly. For our liturgy, they enhance our prayers as flower and candle memorials are made public, and parish-specific prayer requests are added to the Prayers of the People. The bulletins also share in recognizing the lay leaders for services, including our lectors and crucifer-servers. More recently, starting near the end of 2021, coloring pages have been included to edify all through imagery, especially our young members.

## Mailings

Since the Fall, the part-time parish administrator and I have been sending out roughly 24 printed bulletins to parishioners who have been on our parish directory and with whom we have no email address. A few have been vocal about the blessing it is to have this service in hand for Sundays so that they can pray in the mornings along with us, despite without having the means to technologically be connected through a computer on Zoom.

## e-Pistles

Fr. Mike's e-pistles are a wonderful means to convey events of the life of our Church to everyone who remains connected through email. The e-pistles are designed to convey important events, share important information, and even engage in some level of faith formation with contemplative reflections. Included are major notices from our diocese as well so we can remain connected to the larger Church.

## *ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS*

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Much of the above comments focus upon the mechanics of operating as a Church. While important, I also hope to share my thoughts on the liturgy of Grace-St. Paul's in its prayer services and services of the Holy Eucharist (mass). As a new clergy, I have been blessed by a flexible and faithful Altar Guild and Crucifer-Servers. Not only is orchestrating liturgy a new experience, but it is made complicated in learning the established routines and traditions. Open communication and flexibility has enhanced our way through the pandemic while drawing back in some former traditions that have been missed. The Altar Guild adapts to our schedule changes for holy days and other special services with grace and support, taking some burden of finer details from my shoulders. The Crucifer-Servers continue to adapt to the subtle changes to their routines as we shift liturgical dynamics, like now returning to bringing the gifts forward at the Offering. This liturgical support continues to enhance our worship, praises and thanksgivings brought forward to God. I am most enthusiastic in continuing cherished traditional services of the Church, looking to fine tune them for current contexts, especially due to the pandemic, and making them an experience through which we can encounter God together as a community. Celebrating God's saving grace through our Lord each Sunday, holy day, and special service brings such great joy to me by means of your faithful witness in participation.

As we live into a new way of parish life with a part-time clergy, I lean on your patience and understanding as I strive, with the Vestry, to establish routines and systems to keep sacramental services responsive to requests, like Baptism and funerals. Documents have been created for Baptism requests and funeral preparations, some of which can now be found on our website and others will be coming. With the amount of effort to navigate the organizational aspects of this Church, I also am committed to remaining faithful to the bishop through diocesan required clergy meetings, working to improve our facilities with our part-time sexton, and investigating

possibilities for technology improvements for sound in the sanctuary and through Zoom. With the demands of time upon those necessary areas, weekly liturgical preparations (including hymn selections and sermon preparation), pastoral care, and expediting office work not covered by our part-time parish administrator, I recognize aspects we have been without for the latter half of 2021. I miss the third service option (originally Sundays at 5:30pm), the active Bible Study, and Sunday School. In my limited part-time work, I am already engaged in more than full-time hours. I pray that our study of Scriptures grows through other means, like that of the e-pistle. I pray our sharing of Scripture grows with bedtime prayers for your children, and having a lunchtime conversation about the readings of the day.

### *INTENTIONAL COLLABORATIVE MINISTRIES*

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Living into the way of part-time clergy life, I anticipate a greater need to work together with other parishes to increase our support of one another. As I have been engaged with youth programming between St. Luke's Ewing and Grace-St. Paul's (as well as a few other Episcopal churches with whom we have developed connections, Trinity Church Princeton and St. Matthew's Pennington), I believe that intentionally sharing in ministries of the larger Church will provide the support we all need. As we look to our ministries in 2022, particularly in areas where there are 'few' people, let us intentionally connect with nearby parishes to see how we can live boldly in the Spirit, together.

With all humility, faithfulness, and joy,

**Fr. Mike**

## THE DEACON'S REPORT

Dear all at Grace-St. Paul's,

What a year it has been! I am so thankful for being able to call our Parish my home and am so grateful to be able to serve here. This last year, I have had the wonderful opportunity to see Father Michael personally transition into his new role as Priest. What amazed me the most was to see how the congregation, led by the Vestry, came together so gracefully to transition Mike into the new role. The Holy Spirit was truly at work. And to see the level of energy Michael brings to the role is inspiring. Personally, I have tried to help Father Michael as best I can, either in-person during the liturgy, or on zoom. We have been able to maintain evening prayer service which has been very special. A highlight for me was trying to chant the Exultet at the Easter Vigil. Thank you for being so kind.

At the Diocesan level I have been active as a member of the Episcopal Community Services' (ECS) advisory council. As we celebrated a few weeks ago, ECS is a Diocesan-wide initiative to support church ministries to fight social and racial injustice. This last year, we made some terrific progress on the initiative but have a long way to go.

Personally, I was able to officiate two weddings this past year, which was also a major highlight. One was for my daughter which was incredibly special.

I am now entering my third year serving at Grace-St Paul's, and I am hopeful to be able to continue to preach and serve the Congregation as is best for all of you. I look forward to serving you all and am always here if anyone needs me.

Thank you all again for allowing me to be part of this wonderful community,

**Deacon Tom**

## STEWARDSHIP

*Led by*

Jill Brzezynski  
Marcia Leach  
Cat Sopko

Amy Davis  
Shirley Sked  
Barb Nichols

Nick Bennett  
Gladys Longmuir  
(You)

YES, we are ALL part of the Grace-St. Paul's Stewardship Ministry . . .

**YOUR time, talent, and treasure** is what keeps our parish active and vital!

The past two years have certainly been difficult for all of us in many ways BUT thanks to the continual caring of so many of us, our parish family has managed to stay together and thrive. Personal contact with members of the congregation, phone calls, cards, checking on the well-being of individuals and families and generally just letting our parishioners – our Grace-St. Paul's FAMILY – know that we are always here for them has been a continuing part of our ministry and our stewardship! We look forward to continuing this tradition of caring, of STEWARDSHIP, as we move into whatever future challenges come our way.

With this in mind, your Vestry and Stewardship Team calls upon you to prayerfully consider how God is inviting YOU to share your time, your talent, and your treasure to support the mission of your parish. **Stewardship letters and pledge cards** were sent out to all parish families but if you did not receive yours or if you've misplaced it, please contact Barb Nichols to request a copy. We are happy to receive your pledge at *any* time.

As of Sunday, January 23, the **35 pledges** have been received thus far, including:

\$90,548.00 pledged to the parish;

\$3,135.00 pledged to our Marks of Mission for the Diocese; and

\$8,012.00 for our Nehemiah fund.

This is a wonderful start for 2022 but if we're missing your pledge, we look forward to receiving it as we continue to plan for things to come.

In case you are not aware, there are a variety of ways to present your pledge to GraSP . . . numbered envelopes to bring *or* mail to church, pre-set/automatic bank-by-mail from your bank (e-checks), or through PayPal. If you would like envelopes, just let Barb Nichols know (contact information is below) and she will get them to you. You also have the option of having a **permanent offering number** rather than using the offering envelopes. This is especially good to have if you use e-checks/auto pay from your bank. Again, just let Barb know you are interested in this ... and feel free to contact her with *any* questions about Stewardship.

Remembering that our Stewardship includes **our time and talent**, what can YOU do to help in our GraSP ministry? There are so many ways you can participate! To find out more about the many **opportunities you have to help**, feel free to contact Barb, any



Vestry member, or Father Mike for information about our variety of organizations and projects. We ALL have opportunities to take part in the most important and rewarding ministry of our parish in 2022. What will YOU do??

Submitted with happy anticipation,

**Barb Nichols**

blnichols66@gmail.com

609-731-0290 (cell & voice mail)





## FINANCIAL REPORTS

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report is the diligent and faithful labor of our Treasurer, Taryn Dalton, in recording our 2021 finances combined with the detailed work of Lynn Adams in preparing our 2022 budget.

#### RECEIPTS

Category	TOTAL 2022 Budget		TOTAL 2021 Actual	TOTAL 2021 Budget
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>				
Weekly Envelopes	70,548	**	87,455 <sup>1</sup>	83,720
Open Plate	748		748	2,679
Diocesan Asking - Envelopes	3,135		3,365	4,104
Fuel Envelopes	445		445	100
<b>Total Weekly</b>	<b>74,876</b>		<b>92,013</b>	<b>90,602</b>
<b>Special Offerings:</b>				
Reopening Donation	0		0	0
Baptism Thank You	150		150	0
Funeral	0		0	0
Ordination Offering	0		110	0
Outreach grant	0		0	100
Special Donation	98		98	0
Stewardship Coin Collection	21		21	76
Vacation Bible School	0		1,500	0
Way of Saint Paul	0		0	250
Wedding Thank You	0		0	100
<b>TOTAL Special Offerings</b>	<b>269</b>		<b>1,879</b>	<b>526</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes receipt of a \$20,000 pledge for 2022 in Dec. 2021.

Category	TOTAL 2022 Budget	TOTAL 2021 Actual	TOTAL 2021 Budget
<b>Holy Days:</b>			
Christmas	1,250	1,250	1,171
Ash Wednesday	65	65	31
Good Friday	0	0	50
Easter	774	774	932
Thanksgiving	425	315	180
All Souls	280	280	45
<b>TOTAL Holy Days</b>	<b>2,794</b>	<b>2,684</b>	<b>2,409</b>
<b>Church School:</b>			
Sunday School	24	0	23
<b>TOTAL Church School</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Fund Raisers:</b>			
igive.com	0	0	77
Dinners	4,000	0	2,325
Face Mask	0	550	0
Gift Cards	964	964	1,186
Handbells	0	0	0
Jersey Girl Café	0	0	60
Music Memorials	0	0	0
Pizzeria Uno	0	0	0
Yard Sale	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL Fund Raisers</b>	<b>4,964</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>3,648</b>
<b>Investment Income:</b>			
Burgess Outreach	1,200	2,500	2,000
Computer Share/MetLife/Other	102	103	98
<b>TOTAL Investment Income</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>2,603</b>	<b>2,098</b>
<b>Parish Hall Donations</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>5,865</b>	<b>19,994</b>
<b>Parish Organizations:</b>			
ECW	0	0	0
GFS	0	0	0
Youth Group	40	40	0
<b>TOTAL Parish Organizations</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>

Category	TOTAL 2022 Budget	TOTAL 2021 Actual	TOTAL 2021 Budget
Diocesan Donation (Rector's Time)	0	0	0
Matching Contributions	0	0	0
Memorials	147	100	347
Other	50	50	20
Coffee Hour	30	0	117
Legalized Games of Chance	1,376	0	688
PPP Loan Protection	0	15,980	0
Interest from Savings	2	2	3
<b>TOTAL Receipts</b>	<b>87,073</b>	<b>122,730</b>	<b>120,476</b>

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Category	TOTAL 2022 Budget	TOTAL 2021 Actual	TOTAL 2021 Budget
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>			
<b>Church:</b>			
Contracts	2,228	1,672	1,632
COVID-19 Reopening Supplies	0	0	261
Electric - Church	3,930	3,871	4,722
Gas - Church	7,872	6,732	11,051
Insurance	13,424	12,508	12,200
Workmens Comp	452	(396)	1,364
Maintenance	5,436	7,241	5,355
Sewer - Church	852	852	556
Sexton - Salary	7,068	3,001	6,888
Water - Church	1,069	1,069	980
Supplies	265	265	386
<b>TOTAL Church</b>	<b>42,596</b>	<b>36,815</b>	<b>45,394</b>
<b>Church Office:</b>			
Church Website	130	0	96
Constant Contact	168	168	168
Copier	3,409	3,409	3,803
Offering Envelopes	126	126	130
Other - Church Office	0	0	0
Postage	345	345	155
Printing	278	278	279
Administrator - Salary	4,212	4,194	4,212
Supplies - Church Office	409	408	608
Telephone - Church Office	2,232	2,240	2,223
Zoom (video conferencing)	0	49	192
<b>TOTAL Church Office</b>	<b>11,309</b>	<b>11,217</b>	<b>11,866</b>

Category	TOTAL 2022 Budget	TOTAL 2021 Actual	TOTAL 2021 Budget
<b>Music:</b>			
Organist - Salary	0	5,941	14,256
Supply - Salary	6,875	4,250	0
Musicians/supplies	800	0	800
Organ Maintenance	476	0	1,490
<b>TOTAL Music</b>	<b>8,151</b>	<b>10,191</b>	<b>16,546</b>
<b>Outreach:</b>			
Community Projects/Garden	0	0	0
Diocesan Asking	19,523	18,398	18,398
Rector Discretionary	0	0	0
Way of Saint Paul	0	0	0
Vacation Bible School	799	799	185
<b>TOTAL Outreach</b>	<b>20,322</b>	<b>19,197</b>	<b>18,583</b>
<b>Parish Organizations:</b>			
Church School	140	0	140
<b>TOTAL Parish Organizations</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Rector:</b>			
Rector Continuing Education	0	0	1,118
Rector Pension	0	5,372	13,152
Rector Medical	0	3,956	11,868
Rector Dental	0	311	744
Rector Life	0	95	228
Rector Salary	0	23,485	56,364
Rector Payroll Transfer fee	0	42	84
Rector Supply Priest	500	0	1,000
Rector Professional Expenses	0	376	4,500
Interim Rector	0	1,780	0
Interim Rector - Mileage	0	125	0
<b>TOTAL Rector</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>35,542</b>	<b>89,058</b>

Category	TOTAL 2022 Budget	TOTAL 2021 Actual	TOTAL 2021 Budget
<b>Rectory:</b>			
Contracts	220	200	240
Electric - Rectory	505	476	830
Gas - Rectory	1,147	1,400	1,422
PSE&G Contract	671	650	623
Sewer - Rectory	390	390	390
Maintenance	535	535	2,075
Water - Rectory	366	368	341
<b>TOTAL Rectory</b>	<b>3,835</b>	<b>4,019</b>	<b>5,921</b>
<b>Associate Priest:</b>			
Associate Priest Pension	4,288	2,784	0
Associate Priest Salary	23,820	7,598	0
Associate Priest Life Insurance	228	182	0
Continuing Education	627		0
Professional Expenses	2,625	0	0
<b>TOTAL Associate Priest</b>	<b>31,588</b>	<b>10,564</b>	<b>0</b>
Memorial Garden	0	0	0
Legalized Games of Chance	80	0	40
Withholding Federal	1,968	3,863	7,104
Withholding Taxes	180	249	456
<b>Total Withholding Taxes</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>4,112</b>	<b>7,560</b>
<b>TOTAL Disbursements</b>	<b>120,669</b>	<b>131,657</b>	<b>195,108</b>

## SUMMARY

Category	TOTAL 2022 Budget	TOTAL 2021 Actual	TOTAL 2021 Budget
RECEIPTS LESS DISBURSEMENTS	(33,596)	(8,927)	(74,631)
Transfer from Endowment	0	40,000	65,000
Surplus/(Deficit)	(33,596)	31,073	(9,631)
Beginning Acct Balance 2021:		12,600	12,600
*Beginning Acct Balance 2022:	39,980		
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>6,384</b>	<b>43,673</b>	<b>2,969</b>

## NOTES

\*Beginning Balance 2022:

December 2021 ending balance	=	\$43,673
Less pending liabilities	=	\$3,693
Handbells		\$2520,
2021 Continuing Education		\$261,
2021 Professional allowance		\$912
Available beginning Balance 2022	=	\$39,980

## Facility Improvement Funds

### NEHEMIAH FUND COMMITTEE

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#### Members:

Marcia Leach	David Hobson	George Olshansky
Dr. David Williams	Andy Erb	

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

All meetings and projects suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020.

Last meeting held on 1/29/20

#### Nehemiah Account Balances

Balance 01/01/2021	\$6,488.15
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Funds Transferred to Operating Account for Fire Suppression System: \$5,000.00

<b>Balance 12/31/21</b>	<b>\$1,515.34</b>
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#### 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 2021:

- Install/ Update fire suppression system in basement – Project completed.
- Include specific pledge donations to Nehemiah Fund as part of the 2022 Stewardship Campaign – completed and pledges have been received from parishioners for Nehemiah fund for the 2022 fiscal year.

#### Projects under consideration from 2018:

- Relining the chimney in the rectory
- Repairing stained glass windows in the church
- Replacing the gutters and installing snow guards
- Foundation repair
- Roof repairs
- Skylight repairs
- Sump pump maintenance
- Installing AC units
- Repairing wood burning fireplace in rectory
- Resealing rectory driveway – Project completed
- Installing stair glide into basement



- Consider installing solar panels
- We ask that anyone who knows of any issues around the church or ideas for other projects to let one of the members of the Nehemiah Committee know. We also ask if anyone knows of external resources for funds within the community

Fundraising ideas under consideration from 2018 - 2021:

- Flamingo Flocking for events with assistance from the Girls Friendly Society
- Sponsoring stained glass windows
- Sponsoring pews along with Church Anniversary Committee
- Spaghetti dinner
- Golf outing
- Grants from organizations around the community
- Easter Candy fundraiser
- Spring Flower Fundraiser

Donations:

- Received \$5,000 donation that was transferred to Operating budget to be used towards fire suppression project. Fire suppression project completed in the 2021 fiscal year.

Submitted by

**Marcia Leach**

## Endowment Funds

### *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, 2020</b>	<b>\$1,014.00</b>
Parishioner Donations	600.00
Repairs & Maintenance	-
<b>Balance as of December 31, 2021</b>	<b>\$1,614.00</b>

### *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, 2020</b>	<b>\$74,360.00</b>
Income from DIT	1,375.00
Income transferred to General Fund	(2,500.00)
Principal transferred to General Fund	(40,000.00)
Market Value Adjustment	8,540.00
<b>Balance as of December 31, 2021</b>	<b>\$41,775.00</b>

**BURGESS FACILITIES FUND**

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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.

<b>Balance as of December 31, 2020</b>	<b>\$2,536.00</b>
Interest Income	1.00
Capital Improvements	-
<b>Balance as of December 31, 2021</b>	<b>\$2,537.00</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, 2020</b>	<b>\$74,598.00</b>
Dividends Reinvested	1,914.00
Market Value Adjustment	17,079.00
<b>Balance as of December 31, 2021</b>	<b>\$93,591.00</b>



LITURGICAL MINISTRIES



**Altar Guild**

- |                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Alivia Baggott* | Lydia Kugler    | Brenda Siracusa |
| Emilia Siracusa | Catherine Sopko | Christ 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. 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 use to purchase flowers, candles, wine, wafers, linens, vestments, and all other necessities are derived solely from memorial contributions. If you are interested in celebrating a loved one, or an important event, please contact Brenda Siracusa for a flower or candle memorial.

**RECEIPTS**

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Balance forward as of 12/31/2020 .....	\$2691.93
Flowers and other Memorial income .....	\$1621.00
<b>Total Receipts .....</b>	<b>\$4312.93</b>

**DISBURSEMENTS**

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Guild Members reimbursement (wine, supplies, floral expenses) .....	\$685.00
Cross & Shamrock (candles, wafers) .....	\$359.80
Palm Gardens (Easter Palms) .....	\$30.25
Fr. Michael Panzarella (Altar book) .....	\$218.58
Brian Baggott (Rector Office A/c) .....	\$405.16
<b>Total Disbursements .....</b>	<b>\$1698.79</b>

**Balance (12/31/2021) .....** \$2614.14

Submitted by: **Christine Talbot, Altar Guild Treasurer**

## Crucifer-Servers, Acolytes

*For your faithful service as Crucifer-Servers, my humble gratitude to...*

Alivia Baggott\*  
Catherine Roe

Kevin Drennan  
Emilia Siracusa

Lydia Kugler\*  
Catherine Sopko

*\*new member this year!*

I have been blessed by the support of these individuals as I entered into the priestly ministry and had to navigate constantly changing routines. Their willingness to adapt as we modified bits and pieces of the movements has been incredible. In 2021, we also welcomed Lydia and Alivia into the Crucifer-Server role. We will continue to adapt as the reality shaped by a pandemic changes to cherish the holiness of the service in the way our practices also demonstrate love for each other.

We have not had interested acolytes return to service in 2021, but Fr. Mike is hoping we have some youth, older children, or adults that may be interested in helping serve. Fr. Mike could also use the help of a “tech-olyte” in carefully overseeing the video and audio for our remote connection via Zoom.

Blessed by your service,

**Fr. Mike**



## Hospitality



### USHERING & COFFEE HOUR

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Both of these “established” GraSP traditions have had to change some since Covid hit. Although this may have forced us to change our usual way of expressing our well-known GraSP hospitality, it did NOT extinguish the **warmth of our parish and parishioners**. Ushering and Coffee Hour DO both still exist and thrive here at Grace-St. Paul’s!

As you enter our Narthex for either our 8am or 10am service and just about any other occasion at GraSP, you will find a friendly face to welcome and greet you. Following Covid protocol, we have continued to document all who have attended these services in order that contact tracing may be done if needed and, fortunately, this has not been much of an issue for us during this challenging time. As things progress, we will gradually re-introduce aspects of our worship service. We recently reinstated the bringing of the gifts to the altar, a small act which the usher of the service helps arrange. Other “usher duties” are sure to be back in play as soon as possible. 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.

The “**virtual Coffee Hour**” we started following our 10am Zoom worship has continued for all who wish to remain on-line a bit longer, resulting in some good conversation, sharing of ideas,

and camaraderie. Additionally, we recently began offering a “**non-coffee Coffee Hour**” in the Narthex following our in-person 8am and 10am services – just a small offering of individually packaged treats, juice packs, and water bottles. While we remain masked, it still affords us some opportunity for fellowship along with a treat to eat there or take home. It has given us a chance for a little safe interaction with both our established *AND* our new friends.

From the welcome at our doors to our community greeting during the service and our coffee hour gatherings afterwards, our hospitality has continually been one of our greatest assets. As Covid protocols change, we will continue to change/adapt with them, but we will never lose our wonderful GraSP fellowship. For now, let us all “stay tuned” for what will be next on our adventure in GraSP fellowship!

Warmly (and “sweetly”) submitted,

**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 volunteer to become licensed Eucharistic Ministers by our diocese for our parish. They include:

Amy Davis	Grace Krencicki	Gladys Longmuir
Judy Melkonich	Barbara Nichols	Catherine Roe

While the licensing for this ministry began in Advent, we are slowly getting our rhythm back adjusting to the waves of concern during the festive holiday season through a pandemic and increased number of cases. As we proceed into 2022, we will begin scheduling for this ministry. I am delighted to have more lay members participating in this sacred portion of the service and look forward to this ministry’s vitality and engagement. If anyone would like to help organize the schedule for the Lay Eucharistic Ministers, please let Fr. Mike know.

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 Mike**

### Lectors & Intercessors

We are fortunate to have a group of our members who serve as readers of the lessons and leaders of the Prayers of the People. Many thanks to:

Roberta Cash	Amy Davis	Andy Erb
Emily Jarvis	Marcia Leach	Gladys Longmuir
Angelina Marino	Hannah Melkonich	Barbara Nichols
Shirley Sked	Cat Sopko	

This ministry requires a small amount of time and preparation. Whenever there is a scheduling conflict, it's worked out easily. Everyone is willing to be flexible and step up when needed. A few of our readers are college students who generously give of their time during semester breaks and during the summer.

New readers are always welcome!

Respectfully submitted,

**Cathy Roe**

*03 January 2022*

### Music

Kira Scharf continues to bless us with her talents. Initially brought in to be our music leader for three hymns for one service each Sunday, Kira has graciously taken on more than was ever expected of her. She includes the Gloria and the Sanctus when they are appointed in the service. Often, she includes additional musical support. Most notably, Kira adds music for us during the distribution of Communion. She also fills the time by crafting together lyrics from a second Communion hymn into the first, or playing two separate hymns. In addition, she takes on a dual role playing the piano while leading singing. I appreciate her enthusiasm, am indebted to her offering for us, and we are blessed to have her faithful talent helping lead our services.

Addressing concerns regarding searching for an organist for Sundays, I hope to clarify our current position. Dominated by financial restrictions, a fee for an organist alone for one service on a Sunday is likely to cost \$250 (which amounts to close to \$15,000 for the year). Please refer to our Treasurer's report and the proposed budget for 2022 for an understanding of how this expense is significantly beyond the operating budget resources we have currently. Still, I have been cultivating a list of substitute organists for special services. When our budget matches the desire for an organist, we will certainly re-address this role.

With gratitude to Kira and a hopeful eye to our musical future,

**Father Mike**

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Church School

For many years, the Church School has been a vital part of the GraSP community. It has been a place where our children experience the stories of God's saving love, have fun, and make friends. Many of the friendships formed in the church school have lasted a lifetime and many of our "graduates" have taken leadership roles in the GraSP community. From the years where we have had a handful of children, to the years we've been bursting at the seams, and everything in between it has always been a special place to grow in God's love and the love of the community. Our 2019 Christmas Pageant seemed to encapsulate much of what is wonderful about our Church School, with our recent confirmands leading the Pageant, which included children from the church school and a large group of children from the nursery, who were already forming friendships with each other. We were all looking forward to having them with us in the coming years.



In Spring of 2020, Covid shut down in-person church school, and I began offering stories on YouTube in the hope that families would be able to watch and discuss these stories at home on their own schedule. I continued creating these stories through the 2020-2021 School Year and these stories are still available here: <https://www.gracestpaul.org/churchschool>

We all look forward with great hope to the day when we will be able to hold church school in-person. We had hoped to reopen this fall, however we held off due to the new Covid variants. At this time, we have not decided about when to reopen in-person. We would love to have feedback from families and parishioners.



We *hope* to be able to offer our *Palm Friday* program this year on *April 8<sup>th</sup>*.

This is an intergenerational program where we prepare for Holy Week through an interactive story and hands on activities like, bread making, grape stomping, and crafts. We will keep everyone posted as we get closer to the date.

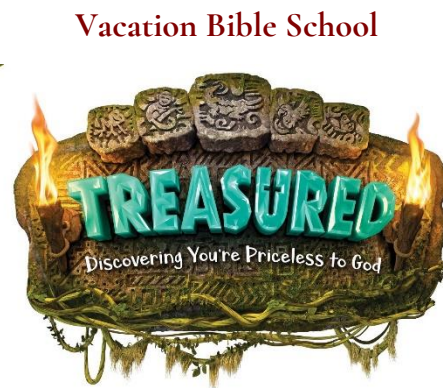




I have also been using this time to reorganize some of our church school space. I am reorganizing our office/supply room to include storage of our pageant costumes and VBS materials, which have previously been stored in various places around the church. Also, I've brought back the felt board materials I had at home for shooting videos and need to reorganize those materials. It is the sort of project that makes things look worse before the look better. If you have been in the church school lately, please know it looks messy but there is a method to the mess.

To give us your feedback or for more information please speak to Gladys Longmuir, Mary Marks, Maria Melkonich, or Amy Davis.

**Amy Davis, "Teacher"**



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.

We were able to hold VBS in person this summer. Our theme was *Treasured: Discovering you are Priceless to God.*

We gathered outdoors and in Craft Hall (with social distancing) for 5 evenings to form strong friendships and discover God's Love through Bible adventures, songs, games, Imagination Station, and snacks. We had 4 children with enough joy and energy for 40 and a great group of volunteers who had as much fun as the kids. We hope to build on this momentum for future years.

Please watch for info for VBS 2022 and help us to *spread the word!*



*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) has begun introducing some 'back-to-normal,' in-person meetings. While we have gotten off to a slow start, it is our hope to return to our regular schedule. We are meeting only monthly at this point and hope our girls and families are comfortable in joining back in. The girls did a church dust and clean in November and made Christmas cards for residents at the Trenton Psychiatric Hospital in December as well as organizing "gift" items for the residents.

We have invited our ECW sisters to several of these events and it was a wonderful to see them joining in.

Service to the church and community is still our top priority and again, there have been many opportunities for our girls to participate in and continue to be involved, as our motto indicates, "Bear Ye One Another's Burdens." The food drive for the area seniors was quite successful in providing those less fortunate some basic food items. This project will be ongoing throughout the year; however, we will expand the collection to include personal hygiene items.

It is marvelous to see some of our GFS girls take on leadership roles within the church and speaks of the positive impact GFS and our church community has had in their lives.

Please feel free to reach out to me, Monica Pope, or Jill Brzezynski for ways in which you can help with our projects. Also, if you see a need with which we can help, please contact us.

Blessings,

**Lydia Kugler**

### Episcopal Church Women

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) is struggling in the much the same way as is GFS. While we have not had formal meetings, ECW continues to be an integral part of GFS and actively involved in their projects.

It is my hope that we can once again become an active and integral part of the church community.

Blessings,

**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	

Once again, I am so very 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! Father Mike and Deacon Tom have become welcome members of our Chain in this past year, joining our other "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. 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 *and* for their family and friends as well since *all* suffer in any time of distress. We continue to do so as regularly as possible for the duration of the need. We generally maintain 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.

We pray for all manner of need or circumstance, including thanksgivings – which are our *favorite* prayers! When we are IN church, many of the people for whom we pray are named in our Prayers of the People (generally first names only), and it is for these individuals in particular that we encourage our fellow parishioners to join with us in prayer, both while participating in our worship service and by taking the bulletin home to continue these 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 and 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)

## Youth Ministry

While we have only one consistent youth from Grace-St. Paul's participating, we continue a successful collaboration with the youth of St. Luke's in Ewing. Despite the pandemic, we have slowly been rebuilding connections established with nearby churches prior to the pandemic. In the Spring, we joined an open conversation with the chaplain at Rutgers focusing on issues of the LGBTQIA+ community hosted by Trinity Church in Princeton on Zoom. Also in the Spring, we had several youth join a Psalm walk along the tow path in Washington Crossing Park on the NJ side of the river. In the Fall, we hosted two fellowship activities to the Corn Maze at Howell Farm which engaged several youth, a couple of guest youths, and children. Just before Thanksgiving, Mary Marks orchestrated a pie making event to support Christ Church in Bordentown's ministry to feed families in need. The youth of Grace-St. Paul's and St. Luke's in Ewing were the first to participate in the diocesan youth-focused anti-racism workshop. Regular meetings, which were most Sundays, involved Scripture-based discussions or theologically rooted conversations. I admire the faith, questions, and compassion of the youth. We look forward to continuing our outreach projects and building collaborative ministries with St. Luke's Ewing, St. Matthew's Pennington, Trinity Church Princeton, and more.

Faithfully,

**Father Mike**



## FACILITIES

### Sexton

Our part-time sexton, Brian Leahy has been incredibly responsive this year, especially navigating leadership transitions well. He keeps the wardens and me informed regularly as issues are spotted and strives to be proactive where feasible. We are blessed by his service here and willingness to adapt to various endeavors.

### Grounds

A few months ago, Brian and Fr. Mike worked to trim back the shrubs in the courtyard to reveal the long-since hidden narrow sidewalk that lay under them. After a rapidly necessitated clean-out of many old paint cans, we used some resources to give the courtyard door to the hallway near the bathrooms a coat of paint it so desperately needed, fending off wood rot on the exterior trim. When the weather warms, some repairs to broken trim will be addressed.



There are some issues to keep central. First, hopefully this Spring, we will work on finding a contractor to make necessary repairs to our sanctuary roof and replace the gutters to help direct stormwater in an appropriate direction. Second, the courtyard has a sinkhole caused by the collapse of the encapsulating pipe for the heating supply pipes. We will have to address soon before the heating pipes degrade and in order to increase our facility efficiency. Third, additional shrubs in the front will likely need to be removed as they have overcrowded the façade.

## Sanctuary

Brian has worked diligently to procure new air filters for our sanctuary heating units. We are working to address some more issues as they become known. At least one, maybe two fans have stopped working. The cause is under investigation. Another sanctuary heating unit is not providing heat. We also have many light bulbs to replace.

On a positive note, our pew torches have received some solid anchoring with some custom-made brackets screwed into the pews. The sanctuary, nave and chancel, are meticulously decorated by our wonderful Altar Guild. With many thanks to our Altar Guild, much has been done to improve our organization and cleaning out of unused, stored items that no longer serve a purpose for us.

The Rev. Dr. David Williams' Metropolitan Community Church remains our only outside religious organization borrowing space in our sanctuary although they continue to rely dominantly upon remote services. The United Methodist Church congregation has found a new worship space. The chapel remains unused as the Church of the Seraphim and Cherubim have found an alternate location.

The basement fire alarm project was completed to place us in compliance for the township.

## Community Hall & Craft Hall

Our hall spaces go largely unused. We do hope to encourage facility use this year, 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. Mike**

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*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 ~

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