



136TH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
JANUARY 29, 2012

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
HINSDALE, ILLINOIS



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# GRACE CHURCH, HINSDALE

## CLERGY

The Rev. D. Donald Dunn, III Transition Minister

## THE VESTRY

Brett Pritchard, Senior Warden (term expires 2013)

Ralph Melbourne, Junior Warden (term expires 2012)

### Vestry Members

#### Term expires 2012

Polly Ascher

Victor Galati

David Ortiz

Tony Marcussen

#### Term expires 2013

Ellen BeGole

Kitty Delany

Charlie Lewis

Ted Paarlberg

#### Term expires 2014

Cush Andrews

Dan Clarke

Lynn Morgan

John Silk

### Parish Chancellor

John P. (Pete) Morrison

### Clerk of the Vestry

Barbara Burner

Gwen Quackenbush

### Treasurer

Cushman Andrews, *Treasurer*

Suzanne Fisher, *Assistant Treasurer*

Christian Krapp, *Assistant Treasurer*

### Staff

Mark N. Reynertson, Music Director

Ann Crome, Christian Education Coordinator

Roberta M. Hoekwater, Grace Preschool Director

Mary Sue Kegl, Parish Accountant

Peter D. Cook, Preschool Financial Secretary

Vince Latkowski, Sexton

# THE RECTORS OF GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2010 ~ 2012	D. Donald Dunn III (Interim)
2001 ~ 2010	George D. Muir
1999 ~ 2000	James M. Jensen (Interim)
1989 ~ 1999	John A. Lawrence
1963 ~ 1987	James T. Hooton
1952 ~ 1963	Dudley J. Stroup
1949 ~ 1952	Donald H. V. Hallock
1922 ~ 1948	Richard J. Lee
1918 ~ 1921	L. C. Ferguson
1907 ~ 1917	Erle H. Merriman
1901 ~ 1907	H. E. Chase
1895 ~ 1901	W. R. Cross
1893 ~ 1895	H. W. Perkins
1885 ~ 1893	A. B. Livermore

# THE PRIESTS-IN-CHARGE

2010 ~ 2010	Peter M. Floyd
1883 ~ 1884	F. S. De Mattos
1882 ~ 1885	W. F. Lewis
1881 ~ 1882	The Rev. Mr. Perry
1879 ~ 1881	D. F. Smith
1877 ~ 1878	William A. Fiske
1875 ~ 1876	N. F. Lucon
1872 ~ 1873	William D. Kelley

# THE WARDENS OF GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1933 ~ 1875

W. T. Oliver  
T. O. Stokes  
E. P. Welles  
J. E. Ritchie  
J. D. Hiatt  
W. B. Barfield  
F. J. Prior  
W. S. Warren  
J. N. Redfern  
Theron H. Linsley  
H. S. Weeks  
B. G. Edgerton  
S. T. Collins  
W. T. Steward  
John Ohls  
J. F. Stuart  
A. M. Weir  
D. J. Crocker  
Robert S. Slocum  
Alfred Payne

1974 ~ 1933

William B. McCain  
Robert E. Bryan  
Charles E. Pitte, Jr.  
Byron W. Goulding  
Henry H. Doering, Jr.  
Robert H. Pease, Sr.  
J. W. Hawthorne  
Reuben A. Borsch  
Gordon R. Close  
L. L. Peirce  
P. B. Palmer  
Nelson C. Dezendorf  
Charles E. Harvey  
A. F. Collins  
J. W. Collins  
G. M. Jackson  
E. B. Vickery  
E. W. Test  
A. G. Frost  
J. K. Blackman  
W. P. Cortis

2011 ~ 1975

Brett Pritchard  
Dan Kimberly  
Betsy Miller  
Randy Woods  
Peter D. Cook  
Tom Russell  
Mary Ryder  
Steve Halbbrook  
Ralph Quackenbush  
Robert MacNally  
John Underwood  
Joseph Giffin  
Harold J. (Pete) Dehr, Jr.  
Roger Herring  
Richard Knowles  
John Gooch  
Audrey Pitte  
Jack Grandin  
Richard Ascher  
Kenneth Hanson  
Charles Melby

# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, HINSDALE

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

JANUARY 29, 2012

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Opening Prayers
2. Appointment of Secretary
3. Reading of Minutes: Annual Parish Meeting (January 30, 2011)
4. Appointment of Tellers for Election
5. Nominations for three Vestry persons, to serve a three-year term
6. Distribution of Ballots
7. The Reports of Committees
8. The Wardens' Report

*Note: Other committee reports and reports of organizations are presented in printed form for your convenience.*

9. New Business
10. Election Results
11. Closing Prayers

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

*January 30, 2011*

*Submitted by: Barbara Burner, Clerk of the Vestry*

The 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting of Grace Episcopal Church, Hinsdale, was held on Sunday, January 30, 2011, following the 9:30 service in the Parish Hall of the Church. The Annual Meeting began at 10:45 AM with a prayer by Transition Minister, D. Donald Dunn III.

Father Dunn appointed Barbara Burner as secretary of this meeting. A motion was made by Peter Cook to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the January 31, 2010 Annual Meeting and to accept the Minutes as presented. This motion was carried unanimously.

Father Dunn thanked the outgoing Vestry Members (*Suzanne Arch, Michelle James, Christian Krapp and Lynn Morgan*) for their active support. He presented the names of the four (4) Vestry persons to serve a three year term (*Cush Andrews, Dan Clarke, Lynn Morgan, and John Silk*), Since there were no further nominations from the floor, a motion was made by Victor Galati to accept this slate by acclamation. The motion carried.

The committee reports are all contained in the 2011 annual report. Father Dunn reported that our two Wardens (*Dan Kimberly and Brett Pritchard*) are out of town at the time of this meeting.

**Search Committee:** Torrey Foster encouraged everyone to sign up for the small group meetings; which will take place in the church over the next three weeks. Trained Search Committee Members will conduct these small group meetings where discussion of a Parish profile for the Rector search, church's mission/vision and objectives for the next three years are the core of these group meetings. Presently our main interest is in a call for a new rector.

**Stewardship:** David Ortiz commented on the 2011 pledge shortfall. Susan Trefil stated that as of this date, the pledge figure stood at \$500,000 vs. a pro forma budget for 2011 of \$560,000. A letter was sent recently to parish members stating this serious situation. Father Dunn reported that anyone who pledged on line should call Chris Sheen, Parish Accountant, to make sure she has their pledge. Father Dunn also stated that we need to plan and undertake a thorough stewardship campaign for the coming year. Currently the only place we could cut would be staff positions.

**Father Dunn's comments:** Since coming here, he has carefully reviewed annual reports, Annual Parochial Reports to the national Church, and other materials. He sees certain challenges ahead for Grace Church which include:

- Creating and implementing an appropriate organizational structure for Grace Church (with immediate attention to a Worship Committee)
- Creating and implementing a working policy and procedure manual for Grace Church
- Raising up and training lay leadership with appropriate boundaries and rotation (he noted GEC and GEM as serving as good examples of healthy leadership)
- Grace Church needs to take her place in the leadership of the Diocesan of Chicago
- We need to recommit to a program of formation for all ages at Grace Church
- We need to undertake long range planning for the church, especially with regard to stewardship and the loss of our seniors presence and pledges
- We must overcome the serious lack of energy and unwillingness to make commitments within our church group brought about by past unhappiness in our congregational life.

There being no further business, Victor Galati moved to adjourn at 11:28 AM

## REFLECTIONS FROM FATHER DUNN

To the people of Grace Church,

Linda Reynertson asked me if I would like to submit a report for the Annual Meeting of Grace Church, and I certainly would. As your transitional Rector for the past fourteen months, I found the people of Grace Church to be a warm and caring congregation committed to the parish they love. I report to you that the Vestry of Grace Church worked diligently to renew their role in the leadership of the parish and to create a team and structure to work side by side with the new Rector in the ministry of Grace Church. I want to tell you that in Brett Pritchard and Ralph Melbourne you have wardens as fine as any that have served not only in Grace Church, but any church. And without doubt, the staff I said farewell to was as good a staff as I have ever worked with.

I report to you that the future of Grace Church is full of possibilities and if you work together with Chris Pierce I believe there are great days ahead for Grace Church. I am excited about the energy and vision he will bring to this parish.

However, that does not mean the good things ahead are assured. They are possibilities you must labor to make real. I want to remind you of several New Testament passages I used on my last Sunday with you to show how you might work with Chris to make the ministry of Grace Church successful in the future.

First, in the fourth chapter of John we read the story commonly known as “Jesus and the Woman at the Well”. You might remember that Jesus, a Jew, meets a Samaritan woman by the well in Sychar and as they engage in a conversation he asks her to call her husband into the conversation and she replied, “I have no husband.” Jesus affirms her statement telling her she has told the truth and this leads to further conversation where it is revealed to her that he is the Messiah and her whole life is changed. Telling the truth can change everything. It is not easy; for example this woman, in a time of moral strictness far greater than ours, had to admit her persistent failings, but that truth set her free. We need to tell the truth.

Secondly, in the fifth chapter of Mark, we hear of Jesus passing through a large crowd where a single person touches the hem of his cloak seeking healing from that contact. And in the midst of the bustle and shoving he asks, “Who touched my garments?” The woman, who was glad to receive just a brush with his clothes was rewarded with the pronouncement of healing from his lips because Jesus then, as always, was paying attention. It is important for all of us to pay attention to what goes on in the church.

Next, I call to your attention the passages where Jesus sends out the disciples to begin ministry and where some of the most important events in Jesus’ ministry take place. In the former he sends the disciples out two by two, never by themselves, and in the latter, he chooses three disciples to accompany him. The model of ministry is to never act alone, to never be a “Lone Ranger”. We are to support one another, to encourage one another and to provide fellowship for one another as we work in ministry.

Finally, I call you to reflect on the twenty-first chapter of John where Jesus gives his “final instructions” to Peter and says to him, “Feed my lambs”, “Tend my sheep”, and “Feed my sheep”. His instructions are to take care of the church, not a building nor an organization but the people who are drawn to the message of reconciliation and healing and renewal that is the core of the Church. No doubt there has to be enough structure to see that the message is proclaimed and enough organization to provide a flow of ministry and sometimes a building to keep off the rain and snow; but the real business of the church and the measure of her success or failure is “are the lambs being fed and the sheep tended and fed?” Identify the sheep and take care of them, and you will be doing the work of the church.

God bless you in your ministry.

DDD III

# THE WARDENS' REPORT – 2011

*Submitted by Brett Pritchard, Senior Warden; Ralph Melbourne, Junior Warden*

2011 is in the books, and we are glad for it. Not that it wasn't a great year, but it was a busy one with its fair share of challenges and successes. Father Dunn arrived in December 2010 and got right to work, and soon afterwards Father Dunn, the Wardens and the Vestry were hard at it, taking a fresh look at all aspects of Grace Church in order to prepare us to receive our new Rector. In an effort to better discern its ministry, the Vestry began to review and implement policies, procedures and governance structures designed to enable the Vestry and its committees to operate more effectively and in line with current best practices in the Episcopal Church. The following is a summary of some of the principal action items undertaken:

- Reorganizing responsibility for Parish functions. The Vestry divided the operations of the church into the following six functional areas: Worship, Stewardship, Outreach, Formation, Parish Life and Administration. Two Vestry members are assigned to lead each of these areas, and a committee structure has been established under each area. Each committee has a charter describing its mission. Experience has shown that it is important for committee members and the Vestry to have a shared expectation of the mission, duties, responsibilities and authority of committees and committee members. We have instituted staggered terms and term limits for committee members and officers in an effort to avoid entrenchment, facilitate transition of leadership roles and create opportunities for more people to get involved. Already, we have created many opportunities for parishioner involvement in nearly all aspects of Parish life.
- Parish behavior and mutual ministry. At its February 2011 meeting, the Vestry adopted resolutions to the effect that the Vestry will not (1) receive, discuss or respond to anonymous communications regarding the clergy or congregational life; (2) discuss or respond to accusations about the clergy or parishioners, unless those accusations are presented in the presence of the person against whom the presentment is being made; and (3) accept a letter of agreement for a Rector that lacks a process for a mutual ministry review. These resolutions, taken together, demonstrate the Vestry's commitment to creating a supportive environment for our clergy and our parishioners, while at the same time requiring an annual mutual ministry review in order to set ministry goals for the Vestry and the Rector for the coming year, review the prior year's results and promote communication and listening among each of the parties. In addition, the Wardens have responded to instances of parishioner behavior that, in the Wardens' view, was not consistent with the best interest of Grace Church.
- Creation of an Executive Committee. At Donny's suggestion, the Vestry established an Executive Committee (EC) in order to identify and expedite the initial leg work on Vestry initiatives so that concrete proposals could be brought to the Vestry rather than spending Vestry time discussing matters that could be more efficiently addressed in a smaller group setting. The EC serves only an advisory function and does not have delegated general authority to act on behalf of the Vestry. In 2011, the EC consisted of the Rector, the Wardens, one at-large member from the Vestry (David Ortiz) and the Treasurer. We believe the EC served a useful purpose to vet several challenging issues that the Vestry ultimately

was able to address in a more efficient manner. We will discuss any future role and composition of the EC with Chris Pierce when he arrives.

- Renewing our relationship with the Diocese. In May, the Executive Committee members and Torrey Foster on behalf of the Search Committee met with Bishop Lee, Rev. Randall Warren, Cannon for Transitional Ministry and Pastoral Care, and Rev. Jim Steen, Deputy for Administration and Congregational Oversight. The purpose of the meeting was in part to discuss the role the Diocese would play in the call of our new Rector, particularly in vetting and interviewing potential candidates. We also discussed renewing the relationship of Grace Church with the Diocese, which has flagged over the years. As part of this conversation, Bishop Lee observed that Grace Church is a leading parish in the Diocese and that he looked forward to visiting Grace more often. Finally, we discussed the Diocese's participation in the mutual ministry review process that is part of our Letter of Agreement with our new Rector. The Vestry looks forward to fostering increased communication and interaction with the Diocese.
- Leadership transitions. During 2011, the Vestry was called to identify new leaders to fill vacancies in the ministry team. In April, Dan Kimberly resigned as Senior Warden and transitioned to serve as Chairman of the Endowment Board. Ralph Melbourne was elected as Junior Warden to fill Dan's remaining Warden term. Brett Pritchard succeeded Dan as Senior Warden. Tony Marcussen and Charlie Lewis were elected as Vestry members to fill vacancies. Susan Trefil resigned as Treasurer in January 2012 after many years of dedicated service, and Cushman Andrews has been elected as Treasurer. The Vestry has created the position of Assistant Treasurer, and Suzanne Fisher and Christian Krapp have been elected to serve as Assistant Treasurers. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers serve one year terms, and the Vestry has instituted a four year term limit for the position of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

On November 29, 2011, we were pleased to announce that the Rev. C. Christian Pierce had accepted the call to become our new Rector. Since its formation in September of 2010, the Search Committee worked tirelessly to achieve this wonderful result for Grace Church. After consideration of over 50 candidates and a thorough vetting process that ultimately resulted in 3 finalists, the Search Committee presented its recommendation to the Vestry on November 20, 2011 and the Vestry unanimously endorsed the Search Committee's choice. We owe a debt of gratitude to each of the Search Committee members for their sacrifice and commitment of time and energy to this process. Once again, a heartfelt thank you to Torrey Foster, Beth George, Laurel Haarlow, Robin James, Betsy Miller, Susan Owens, Mike Robinson, Audrey Walker, Randy Woods and Vestry liaisons Vic Galati and Ted Paarlberg. Under Torrey's leadership, this Committee conducted themselves and their process in a prayerful, professional, collegial and collaborative manner that reflects the best spirit of Grace Church. We look forward to welcoming Chris Pierce on his first Sunday, February 5, 2012.

We want to thank the Vestry members whose terms are ending for their dedication and hard work on behalf of Grace Church: Polly Ascher, Victor Galati, Tony Marcussen, Ralph Melbourne (Junior Warden) and David Ortiz. Given the many interim leadership transitions that we have experienced over the past two years, of these individuals, only Vic is

completing a full three-year term. Ralph, Tony and David have agreed to stand for nomination for re-election to full three-year terms, which will provide a strong continuity to the Vestry in 2012 and beyond as we continue to implement the changes undertaken in 2011. I hope everyone will take a moment to thank Vic and Polly as they retire from the Vestry. Of course, we salute all of the Vestry members and the many other volunteers who give so much of their time and talent to make Grace Church the enduring community of faith that it is.

# THE TREASURER'S REPORT – 2011

*Submitted by: Cushman Andrews*

For the year 2011 pledged income and non-pledged income were in line with budget.

A special one-time gift to support our transition and the L.A.D.S.E. temporary use of our facilities allowed us to surpass our total revenue budget by \$46,000+.

At the same time our dedicated staff continued to manage our expenses under budget which allowed Grace Church to end the year with an overall surplus of \$7,000+.

With our initial receipt of pledges showing a 9% increase and our incomplete pledges to be attained, we have completed a budget for 2012 which should allow us to attain a small surplus.

## General Fund Statement of Income & Expense (Pre-Audit)

As of December 31, 2011

	2011	Budget	Over/Under
	YTD	YTD	YTD
<i>Income</i>			
Pledged Income	500,249.65	502,000.00	(1,750.35)
Non Pledged Income	46,228.71	38,500.00	7,728.71
Special Offerings	33,225.47	9,950.00	23,275.47
Other Income	49,773.03	34,270.00	15,503.03
Transfer from Other Funds	20,183.96	18,611.00	1,572.96
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>649,660.82</b>	<b>603,331.00</b>	<b>46,329.82</b>

*Expense*

Clergy Salary & Benefits	144,601.74	146,104.00	1,502.26
Lay Salary & Benefits	245,462.84	241,132.69	(4,330.15)
Building Maintenance	74,999.89	93,626.00	18,676.11
Utilities	46,792.62	53,400.00	6,607.38
Administrative	87,884.85	77,868.00	(10,016.85)
Church Ministries	30,396.63	31,060.00	663.37
Church Support	12,000.00	12,000.00	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>642,088.57</b>	<b>655,190.69</b>	<b>13,102.12</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>7,572.25</b>	<b>(57,859.69)</b>	<b>59,431.94</b>

# THE STEWARDSHIP REPORT – 2011

*Submitted by: Charles B. Lewis*

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to submit this report outlining the activities from the 2012 Stewardship Campaign to date. The Committee was chaired by Dan Clarke, who was assisted by Fr. Dunn, Charlie Lewis, Ted Paarlberg, and the Vestry.

## GRACE CHURCH PLEDGE DATA

Campaign Year	Pledge Target	Pledged Dollars	as of	Number of Pledges as of Date Shown	Actual Year-End Pledged Dollars	Actual Year-End Pledge Income
2012	\$535,000	\$518,414	01/24/2012	148	*	*
2011	\$560,000	\$483,274	01/10/2011	147	\$528,398	\$483,048
2010	\$640,000	\$620,916	01/14/2010	185	\$590,041	\$539,443
2009	\$650,000	\$582,060	01/12/2009	181	\$620,361	\$578,138
2008	\$700,000	\$609,241	01/09/2008	172	\$689,371	\$613,268
2007	\$685,000	\$556,873	01/18/2007	217	\$671,933	\$644,775
2006	\$635,000	\$595,977	01/19/2006	217	\$640,497	\$632,764
2005	\$553,900	\$520,223	01/13/2005	221	\$564,223	\$540,334

In the face of 2011, the Vestry announced that there would be a gratitude lunch in early December to recognize those parishioners who had pledged for 2012. The gratitude lunch was a great success, and Vestry members were on their best behavior serving the catered luncheon. To recognize those who have made a commitment for 2012, the Committee decided that it would post the names of those who had pledged for 2012 on the wall outside the parish hall. The Committee is in the process of following up with those parishioners who pledged in the past but have yet to pledge in 2012. With Fr. Pierce joining us in early February, the Committee is communicating a forward looking sense of excitement in this respect. The Committee is also emphasizing that Grace Church has a long history of serving those in our community and those outside our community. The Committee is grateful for Fr. Dunn's leadership on the many challenges that we faced in 2011, including Stewardship.

The focus of the campaign in all forms of communication with the parish has been to emphasize the mission of Grace Church as it relates to both our parishioners and those we help. Our goal is to remind every parishioner of his or her responsibility of not only maintaining but growing our parish and providing Fr. Pierce with the financial support he needs to lead our efforts in this respect. 2012 looks to be a great year for Grace Church and we look forward to expanding a number of programs under the leadership of Fr. Pierce.

***“The mission of Grace Episcopal Church is to be a welcoming, caring and enthusiastic Christ-centered community of faith, sharing in worship, fellowship, education and outreach, building a solid foundation for our ever-expanding Circle of Grace.”***

# THE ENDOWMENT REPORT - 2011

*Submitted by: Dan Kimberly*

The Endowment Fund is professionally managed by Harris Bank. The Endowment Committee meets quarterly with the Harris Bank account manager to review the results of our investments and determine strategy.

Balance at 01/01/2011	\$2,037,575
Annual Distribution	(94,717)
Increase in Market Value	<u>271,430</u>
Balance at 12/31/2011	\$2,214,288

The Endowment distributes five percent of its value based on a 12 quarter rolling average each year to the Vestry Account. The distribution is made in January. For 2012, the distribution will be:

Vestry Discretionary	\$64,388
Clergy Benefit	10,390
Christian Education	3,338
Building Maintenance	<u>19,142</u>
Total	\$97,258

## THE OUTREACH REPORT – 2011

*Submitted by: Tony Marcussen*

Thanks to all those who donated to our Outreach Ministries this past year.

Over \$66,000.00 was donated by parishioners and others by giving of funds and time to the following Ministries.

Hinsdale Food Pantry

Easter Baskets

Crop Walk

UTO

Heifer International

Family Shelter services

Soup Kitchen (Trinity Aurora)

Holy Family Ministries

Lawrence Hall

Youth Mission Trip

Mitten Tree

P.A.D.S.

Thank you again from all of the people in need who were helped by our efforts.

## GRACE CHURCH ACOLYTE REPORT – 2011

*Submitted by: Don LaPetina*

Grace Church is blessed to have a wonderful liturgical tradition in which God is glorified through the beauty of our common worship. One element of that liturgical tradition is our acolyte program. The acolytes who serve on Sunday do a wonderful job in their ministries here at Grace, and we are all blessed by their service. This ministry is not simply for the younger members of the family, but anyone, fifth grade or older, who feels called to serve.

Acolytes are called to serve about once a month. Acolytes serving at 7:30 have traditionally been those parishioners who regularly attend that service. Many have served for several years, and we continue to offer this opportunity to all men and women who wish to participate in this ministry. At the 10 am service acolytes are traditionally those who are the younger members of the parish and serve on teams. Those who are younger or new to the program are given less complex tasks and take on more as their experience and confidence level increases.

There are additional opportunities to serve during special services throughout the year such as weddings and funerals.

The position of acolyte is an important part of the ministry of Grace Church and has very ancient roots, being part of the liturgical tradition of the Christian faith for over 1,000 years. Our hope is that each of you will prayerfully consider how you or a member of your family may be called to serve.

Thank you, again, to all who have served Christ and the Church in this ministry.

# THE ST. MARY'S GUILD REPORT - 2011

*Submitted by: Betsy Miller*

Co-Directresses: Betsy Miller & Judith Powell

Flower Chairman: Audrey Walker

Wedding Committee Chairman: Margaret Kimberly & Linda Robinson

Secretary: Pam Butler

Treasurer: Darleen Knowles

The Altar Guild is made up of members appointed by the Rector to assist the clergy in preparing the Church and Chapel for Sunday and weekday services, baptisms, weddings, and funerals. The Altar Guild handles special decorations for Palm Sunday, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Members care for all of the Holy Eucharist vessels, vestments, linens, flowers and candles. The Guild is divided into 5 teams, one for each week of the month plus the occasional fifth week, to cover all services for each month. This has been an interesting year of change in preparation for the February 1, 2012 arrival of our new rector Fr. Christian Pierce.

Our Treasurer does all of our accounting and paying of bills. She presents a written report at our meetings. Barbara Burner served as our Treasurer until her passing. The Altar Guild will be using donations for a suitable memorial. Darleen Knowles has offered to take over as our Treasurer. Thanks to Pam Butler, we have a competent secretary who handles correspondence and takes the minutes of our meetings. She sees that all members receive a copy and are kept informed. Kathleen Worrall graciously mends and refurbishes our linens and vestments. Audrey Walker has done an outstanding job as Flower Chairman insuring that our weekly arrangements are scheduled and beautifully done. Weddings are coordinated by our Wedding Committee. The committee is headed by Margaret Kimberly and Linda Robinson. A very special thank you to Darleen Knowles for holding training sessions for our new members. Also each team assists new members learn the duties of the Altar Guild. St. Mary's welcomes returning member Linda Rynertson and new members Laurel McCain Haarlow and Christine Hostettler.

As members of the Altar Guild we are very privileged. What we do has worth because we help provide the clergy and our community what is needed in order to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. We carry on the traditions of Grace Church by caring for the sacred objects used on the altar. We carry on the legacy of those who have gone before us. As we do our work we learn to work together and support each other. We realize that God is present with us and in others all around us as we serve as members of St. Mary's Altar Guild.

# THE PRESCHOOL REPORT – 2011

*Submitted by: Roberta Hoekwater*

<b>Preschool Board</b>	Victor Galati, Chairman; The Rev. D. Donald Dunn, III, Transitional Minister; Jackie Edgewater, Laurel Haarlow, Ann Singer, and Roberta Hoekwater, Director
<b>Staff</b>	Director, Roberta Hoekwater
<b>Lead Teachers</b>	Alyssa Guido, Roberta Hoekwater, Dawn Lantero and Monica Latkowski
<b>Assistant Teachers</b>	Kathy Behrens, Missy Hoekstra, Mary Beth Kennedy, Cheryl Margason, Christine Schultz, and Beth Skibicki
<b>Music Program</b>	Gretchen Wells-Malitz
<b>Preschool Finance</b>	Peter Cook
<b>Tuition</b>	Twos - \$1,800 annually (\$200 monthly) Threes-\$2,34annually;(\$260monthly); Fours - \$3,375 annually (\$375 monthly) KIDS CLUB for Threes and Fours - \$85 per day; 1 or 2 day option

**Acknowledgements** Grace Preschool greatly appreciates the support it has received from Father Dunn, the Vestry, the Preschool Board, the Parent Committee, the staff, the parents, Peter Cook, Ann Crome, Madeleine Dedic, Mary Sue Kegl, Vince Latkowski, Mark Reynertson, and Chris Sheen.

## **Programs**

Grace Preschool provides a play-based curriculum in a warm and nurturing environment. Important objectives of the school are: to help children continue to build sound social skills; to strengthen their self-esteem and self-confidence; to acquire an age-appropriate sense of independence and responsibility; and to acquire a fondness for school. Our curriculum provides children with the opportunity to enjoy art, literature, language arts, music, math and science activities in addition to developing their fine and gross motor skills. Music, Chapel, field trips and enrichment programs enhance our curriculum.

All parents belong to the Grace Preschool Parent Committee and are invited to join us on Drop-In Day, The Parents' Potluck, Halloween and Christmas celebrations, Dad's Day and Mother's Day celebrations, The Children's Art Exhibit, The Ice Cream Social and our End-of-Year Picnic

# THE GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN ANNUAL REPORT – 2011

Submitted by: *Polly Ascher*

Through mission and ministry, the women of Grace Church work together to make God's love known in the world. All women of the parish are members of GEC, and are invited to participate in a year of activities and projects that will engage our hearts and challenge us to make a difference in our church, our community and the world.

## **Elected Officers (2010-2011)**

President	Polly Ascher
Vice President	Cynthia Hurd
Past President	Loretta Summers
Secretary	Amy MacPhail
Treasurer	Anita Holcomb
Hospitality	Nancy Schaller
Anglican Shop	Pat Kornmeyer

## **Committee Chairs/Directors**

Hospitality	Nancy Schaller
Anglican Shop	Pat Kornmeyer/Robyn Duncan
Christmas Tea	Gwen Quackenbush, Monique Rub, Mary Lyne
May Day/ GEC officer installation	TBD
Hallmark Holiday Mart	Sara Clarkson, Amy Gaber, Beth George, Cynthia Hurd, Sheryl Kern, Susan Owens, Loretta Summers
UTO Campaign	Cynthia Hurd
Fellowship Sundays	Amy MacPhail

## **Overview of GEC Activities**

**The Anglican Shop**, an arm of the GEC, meets the need for unique Christian merchandise in our parish and in our community. We feature an extensive collection of ecclesiastical jewelry, Books of Common Prayer, a selection of religious books for adults and children, and gifts and cards for all ages and occasions. Please refer to the Anglican Shop report for a more detailed review of their important ministry this year.

**The Hospitality Committee** hosts receptions for funerals and celebrations, and provides meals for those in need during times of illness and convalescence. Hospitality also hosts the Golden Circle of Grace Luncheon each June to honor our senior parishioners. All women of the parish are invited and encouraged to participate in this special ministry. Please refer to the Parish Life Committee report for a detailed description of their activities this year.

It's been a busy year filled with **Fellowship/Outreach** opportunities!

Our third annual **Cinco de Mayo Celebration** was held (when else?) May 5<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall. Chair Sally Ortiz planned a fiesta of margaritas and outstanding Mexican fare from Taco Grill Salsa Bar. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all!!

Our inaugural **Hallmark Holiday Mart** was held October 14 and a preview party was held October 13. A tremendous amount of work was done for this event by our Co-Chairs Sara Clarkson, Amy Gaber, Beth George, Cynthia Hurd, Sheryl Kern, Susan Owens, and Loretta Summers. Many parishioners supported this successful event by volunteering the day of the event, attending the preview party, and shopping at the lovely holiday boutique. We were able to raise over xxx for our church and its ministries.

Fellowships Sundays are an especially great time to mingle with other parishioners over delicious breakfast fare. Many thanks to Amy MacPhail for organizing volunteers to host these special, monthly breakfasts. This is also a great opportunity to invite prospective parishioners and other friends of Grace.

**The annual GEC Christmas Tea** was held on Thursday, December 1 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Co-Chairs Gwen Quackenbush, Monique Rub, and Mary Lyne hosted a lovely afternoon for our GEC members and guests. Savories, sweets and a delicious punch were served. [The Guild room was transformed into a festive holiday party room by our co-chairs.] St. Elizabeth's Guild provided the lovely tea sandwiches which were supplemented by other tasty donations from GEC members. The setting was also enhanced by the wonderful holiday wall ornaments created by The Anglican Shop and offered for sale at the event.

**United Thank Offering** (the little blue boxes) will be collected again in March. A very special thanks to Cynthia Hurd for coordinating this outreach project, which raised over xxx during the November campaign.

**St. Elizabeth's Guild** is a circle of fellowship for women of all ages. If you are interested in visiting or joining, please contact the church office.

**GEC Meetings** are being held periodically usually following the 10:00 service on Sunday, in an effort to encourage support and attendance by **ALL** women of the parish. Please see the 2012 meeting schedule:

February 12 11am	GEC Meeting
April 15 11am	GEC Meeting
May 1	May Day Celebration (in place of Cinco de Mayo which falls on a Saturday)
May TBD	Past President's Lunch
June TBD	Circle of Grace Luncheon

In conclusion, GEC has something for everyone! We encourage all women of the parish to make 2011 your year to get involved with GEC.

# THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT – 2011

*Submitted by Ann Crome*

Our Christian Education program here at Grace strives to help children form a strong and lasting connection with church and faith. It also depends on our many generous volunteers. Thank you to all who have offered your time and talents!

## **2011 Highlights:**

- *Weaving God's Promises* was chosen as our new curriculum. Its use began in September. It is a 3 year curriculum similar to our previous curriculum which went out of print.
- Special Sunday classes called Rotations featured cooking, palm cross making, Eucharist instruction, and an All Saints Day mosaic. Some children planted flowers in planters on our rainy Rogation Sunday.
- A new Sunday School time began in September. Classes now run from 9 am to 9:45.
- Sunday School students worked at our annual Mardi Gras Marketplace. Almost \$800 was raised for 50 Easter baskets and gift cards for needy area families.
- Rally Day was well attended. It was a beautiful day with great food, good company, and outdoor games for the children.
- Students from all grades participated in our annual Christmas Pageant.

Our Children's Chapel for 4-8 year olds continues to be well attended. During the first part of the Church service 15-22 students build or do a craft, pray together, and hear a Bible story.

There are 59 students registered for Atrium and grades 1-6.

Confirmation instruction began in September. Fr. Donny has conducted classes on Sunday and Wednesday evenings for this group of 19.

# THE ANGLICAN SHOP REPORT – 2011

*Submitted by: Liz Burns*

The Anglican Shop completed a successful year in 2011, maintaining regular hours, a loyal group of volunteers, an active Board of Directors, and the support of the Grace Episcopal Church members and friends. Highlights of the year include the presentation of a \$5000 check to the HCS Family Services in Hinsdale and the very successful boutique at the inaugural Hallmark House Holiday Market.

We are especially grateful to the leadership provided by Pat Kornmeyer and Robyn Duncan as Managers of the shop. Both Pat and Robyn have decided not to continue as the Managers but will continue with the responsibilities of buyers of the merchandise. The Board welcomes new members Amy Cash, Barb Hinkle, Christine Hostettler, and Lynn Morgan. Continuing members of the board are Elizabeth Wiersum, Suzanne Fischer, Anita Holcomb, Susan Owens, and Liz Burns.

We are grateful for the continuing and loyal support of those customers who patronize The Anglican Shop. Profits from The Shop are used to support Outreach efforts.

# THE MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Submitted by: Mark Reynertson*

Christmas Choir: Mike Ascher, Philippa Chow, Xenia Chow, Torrey Foster, T. Foster, Sally Ortiz, Linda Reynertson, Walter Shalda, Susan Trefil, Derrick Willman, Grayson Willman, Reed Willman.

Grace Church Choir: Beth Bassler, David Fisher, Marcia Frack, Roy Frack, Cindy Jackson King, Joanna Jones, Ozz Jones, Jimmy Kingsfield, Vince Latkowski, Ted Paarlberg, Steven Powell, Linda Reynertson, Val Schneider, Walter Shalda, Evelyn Sikorski, Joan Strom, Sherry Thorburn, Susan Trefil, Bill vonRenzell, Ellen Waterman, Phyllis Whitmer, Kathleen Worrall.

Instrumentalists: Ellen Waterman -- flute, organ; Bob Trefil -- trumpet; Arlene Bennett and Pat Smith -- Native American Flutes; The Chicago Gargoyle Brass Ensemble.

Director: Mark Reynertson

The Music Department is responsible for all music at the Sunday Services and for the training and development of the choirs that provide much of that music. Listed above are those who have participated in the music program through this past calendar year. It is their hard work which makes our program successful, and I am ever grateful for their dedication. Listed below are some of the highlights for this past year.

- Our Christmas Choir, singing at the 4:30 service on Christmas Eve, numbered twelve choristers.
- Three services of evensong were sung during the year, including a Harvest Festival Evensong, in which 238 lbs of food were collected for the Hinsdale Food Pantry.
- Two services of lessons and carols were presented, with Grace Church hosting the choirs of Redeemer Lutheran Church and First Congregational Church of Elgin, as well as the Gargoyle Brass Ensemble on Dec 4 and 11. One service was held at Grace Church, and one service in Elgin.
- Cleaning, repair, and revoicing of 3 ranks of reed pipes on our Casavant Organ which had become unreliable in speech and unstable in tuning.
- We hosted two different choral groups in concert at Grace Church this past year: The Wicker Park Choral Singers performed during the summer, and the Chicago Choral Artists in December.
- Thanks to the generosity of Grace Church, I was able to attend the Three Choirs Festival in Worcester, UK. New music, new ideas, and a renewed excitement for music making were the rewards from this trip, aptly called MEA (Mark's Excellent Adventure).

# THE GRACE EPISCOPAL MEN'S REPORT

*Submitted by: Dana MacPhail*

## Officers:

Dana MacPhail, <i>President</i>	David Ortiz, <i>Past President</i>
David Fisher, <i>Vice President</i>	Mike Ascher, <i>Past President</i>
Brad Summers, <i>Treasurer</i>	Brad Summers, <i>Past President</i>
Lindsey Vaughn/Victor Galati, <i>Secretary</i>	Victor Galati <i>Past President</i>
	Eddie Opler, <i>Past President</i>
Roger Herring, <i>President Emeritus</i>	Tom Kern, <i>Past President</i>
	Tom Westbrook, <i>HFM Liaison</i>

2011 proved to be a fun, exciting and challenging year for GEMs. Although we lost one of our valued members, Lindsey Vaughn, we gained several more including our official GEMs honoree-for-life, Father Donnie. His council was much appreciated throughout the year, and he, like Lindsey, will be sorely missed.

Like previous years, GEMs served three culinary and intellectually stimulating breakfasts over the first three months of 2011. For the Bear vs. Bull Debate, we once again welcomed Randy Canent, Vice President & Senior Portfolio for BlackRock, who locked horns with one of our fellow GEMs, Brad Summers of Merrill Lynch. Besides his CFM, we also consider Brad our FMC--"Formidable Master Chef", especially when several of us took part in the greasy fun of the Texas Turtle Factory. For our next breakfast, Linda Feinstein, Broker/President of ERA Feinstein LLC, provided her 2011 real estate predictions and excellent advice on numerous topics related to buying and selling one's home. Finally, we closed out spring with our final breakfast, an emotionally powerful and inspirational story by US Army Ret. SPC Steven C. Baskis, a Vet blinded by shrapnel in the Iraq War. His words moved many of us and GEMs would like to thank all of our Grace community with family serving in the Armed Services.

In addition to the above, we helped GEC host the Luau Party. While GEC did an outstanding job with the food and transforming our Parish Hall in to a Hawaiian paradise, GEMs had fun with bartending and breaking our backs on the Limbo stick. For Shrove Tuesday, many volunteered to help prepare and cook food for parishioners--I suspect there were a lot of diet resolutions broken that night. Rally Day brought beautiful weather towards the end of summer and wonderful picnic food. Victor Galati manned the GEMs booth at the Outreach Fair, bending several new ears to our goals of outreach and fellowship. As the FMC, Brad Summers lead several sous-chefs in preparing and cooking the artery-clogging beef/bacon/hotdog creations. And we'd especially like to thank Mike Ascher (and Polly) for preparing and smoking up their house with the delicious pork butts until 2am. You know the food was excellent when there was nothing left at the end of the Rally.

In support of our goals for outreach, we organized after-service lectures and onsite visitations by Lawrence Hall Youth Services and Holy Family Ministries, to learn more about how we could support their commitment to help at-risk children. The GEMs who have had the opportunity to make an onsite visit to HFM have always been amazed by how well the children are loved and

supported. Now that St. Gregory's school has merged with HFM, we encourage everyone to make the visit at least once.

Although Tom Kern made every attempt to organize it, we had to cancel the GEMs Annual Car Wash due to inclemently bad weather. This just means the GEMs crew will have more opportunities next year to clean pizza crusts out from under car seats.

With no threat of hurricanes this year, we held the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Robert F. MacNally Golf Tournament at Ruffled Feathers golf club. Co-Chair Victor Galati schmoozed the guests, making sure, with Tom Westbrook's assistance, that the check-in went smoothly and everyone had a great time. Meanwhile, our other Co-Chair David Fisher sweated through the hot, beating sun, preparing the grounds of the old rector's house for the after-party. Everyone had a blast under the stars and sway of Frank Sinatra songs. GEMs would begrudgingly like to congratulate the dark horse winners of the tournament: Kelly Summers, Loretta Summers, Kitty Delaney and Sarah Opler.

As is the tradition in GEMs, every 2 years, we hold the Starfish Ball in October. I had the honor and privilege of working for many months with the following GEMs in preparation for this momentous event: Eddie Opler, Derrick Willman, Sam Hostettler, Brian Alcalá, Gary Singer, Steve Weirsum, David Fisher, Preston Tims, Jonathan Chow, Michael Ascher, Victor Galati, Bill Kaczynski, Tom Kern, David Ortiz, Brad Summers, and Tom Westbrook, our HFM Liaison. If it was not for the skills, experience, commitment and will of these gentlemen and past Starfish Ball Committees, the Ball would not be what it is today: a charitable success. After witnessing how well St. Gregory's merged with Holy Family Ministries, we decided to continue the tradition but expand it even further: "Youth: Here, There and Everywhere" was our theme this year--local, regional, international--Grace Church Youth Coordinator, Holy Family Ministries in Chicago, a secondary school in Renk Sudan. As a result, we expanded our outreach and attracted outside support for these charities. Bishop Jeffrey Lee and his wife attended our event and even offered a special, ad-hoc auction for Renk: a dinner party at the Bishop's home (you'll have to ask the Melbournes and Summers how the party goes). I'll close on this subject with some simple and heartfelt words to all the people who attended and for those who donated their time, money and items to the event: THANK YOU!

As has become the custom over the last few years, our November Installation Dinner was held at Zak's Place in Hinsdale with excellent food, wine and cocktails. Besides actually accepting the mantle of GEMs President for 2012, David Fisher was imbued with all the wit and wisdom of many former GEMs presidents, including one who flew all the way in for the event, Don Hindman! This dinner has always been a nice closer to the year and a great opportunity to regard both the legacy and future of GEMs.

In addition to the events above, GEMs donated money to the purse for Father Robert and Faustina, the youth of the Fill the Train campaign, and Crop Walk.

Finally, I want to thank all the men of Grace Church for their faith, guidance, camaraderie, and can-do spirit. We have a great organization and I look forward to taking part in it for many years to come.

# THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT – 2011

*Submitted by: Bruce George*

## **Introduction**

It is a pleasure to submit this report to the Vestry and Parish in regard to the existing condition of our building assets and maintenance needs for the coming year. The report is broken down into a Summary Conditions report including recent repairs and maintenance activity; a future needs report, Committee actions and establishment of a budget for 2012-13.

## **Summary Conditions Report**

I'm proud to report that Grace Episcopal Church properties are in overall very good condition. The result of the improvements after the 2008 Capital campaign have allowed us to reduce our annual outgoing maintenance and utility costs overall and have put all three of our properties in relatively good condition.

### 108 E. First

The new rectory is holding up well. The new residence as expected has had little maintenance needs in its first 2 years of operation. The only expected expenses are basic utilities and services.

### 120 E. First

The Main Church property recently underwent significant roofing work in 2010 replacing the flat portions of roof with new White EPDM roofing. Additional repairs continued in 2011 to repair known leaking conditions over the parish hall, sanctuary and educational wing. In addition, as a part of that roofing contract, gutters and downspouts were repaired and diverted to avoid ground water issues that were problematic. New ground water diverters and gutter extensions were installed on the South, West and North Sides of the property which divert water away from the structure protecting it from possible water damage and unexpected settlement.

As a part of a facility walk thru in 2011 structural deficiencies in the South Basement Stair were discovered. A new concrete stair pad and railing systems were installed.

In late summer, the educational wing Air Conditioning and Ventilation Unit ceased operations and in fall was replaced with a new unit. With the new roofing and new A/C systems we expect lower electrical usage in the future.

Lastly, in December the Main Sanitary sump pump system in the main church failed and a new dual pump system was installed in January 2012 for an expense of approximately \$9,000.

Overall, the building is in good condition but has maintenance issues that will need to be contended with such as significant painting work, minor plumbing work and several areas where floor finishes are failing. In addition, the asphalt roofs are nearing the end of their useful life and will need to be replaced within the next 2 years. Until the roof is replaced we should expect the need to make small roofing repairs as required.

### 142 E. First

The Hallmark House had significant work completed in 2008 to bring the exterior conditions up to date. The inclusion of new insulation, siding, windows and an entirely new porch have put the exterior of the residence in excellent condition. Outside of some minor paint touch up and work to make the porch stairs non-slip, there should be very little outside work required.

The interior of the Hallmark house needs substantial work to make it a suitable residence for our new rector.

The basement needs substantial cleaning efforts. The slab is in poor condition and needs to be repaired in numerous areas and re-surfaced or refinished. The Boiler is aging and is nearing the end of its useful life. Plumbing connections throughout the basement show signs of galvanic corrosion between copper and galvanized pipe connections and will eventually fail if the connections are not properly re-installed.

There have been consistent rodent infestation problems with the house due most likely to improperly sealed openings at the basement foundation and especially noticeable gaps in the existing basement access doors.

The Main and upper floor walls and ceilings need to be patched in several areas and painted. In several areas, doors have been removed and will need to be re-installed and the floors are in dire need of leveling and refinishing.

Several plumbing problems exist in the residence. A second floor hall toilet needs repair and many of the fixtures and finishes in the bathroom are showing significant signs of wear.

Overall, although the main structure and exterior condition of the residence are in excellent condition, the interiors will require significant work in the coming year to prepare it for the new rector.

### **Future Needs**

Other than the standard budgeted expenses for utilities and normal repairs and maintenance the church should expect some key expenses for the next calendar year.

The new Rectory at 108 E. First is not expected to have any unusual expenses. Due to budget constraints a battery backup sump system was not originally installed and will be budgeted for at a possible expense of \$3-400.

The Main Church building is expected to need future cosmetic repairs and maintenance. In addition to standard maintenance expenditures, the committee will be presenting requests for \$10,000 in cosmetic painting and flooring repairs. In addition, the Church must prepare for the inevitable re-roofing project most likely in 2013 that will likely be from \$120-140,000 in expense.

The Hallmark House must be made presentable for the new rector. It is expected that a minimum of \$12-14,000 of floor finishing and painting will be required in the first quarter of the year. In addition \$3-4,000 in basement slab repairs should be completed.

### **Committee Actions**

The Building and Maintenance Committee is being formed for the 2012 calendar year. The committee will be analyzing the expected repairs and maintenance requirements and will be preparing a 10-year action plan to prepare the church for expected future expenses. In addition, the committee will be making requests for funding the additional expenses noted above.

**Budget**

<b>Headings and Account</b>	<b>2012 Budget</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Building Maintenance</b>	
5.100.301 - Maint/Repair - Church	24,435.77
5.100.302 - Maint./Repair - 142 E. First	2,053.02
5.100.303 - Maint./Repair - 108 E. First	631.59
5.100.305 - Building/Cleaning Supplies	6,425.95
5.100.310 - Equipment/Tools	644.52
5.100.350 - Cleaning Service	4,361.66
5.100.380 - Maintenance Contracts	10,105.19
108 E. First Battery Backup	400.00
120 E. First Painting and Cosmetic repairs	10,000.00
142 E. First Painting, Plumbing and	
Basement	15,000.00
<b>Total Building Maintenance</b>	<b>74,057.69</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	
Electric	
5.100.422 - Electric - 120 E. First	18,966.81
5.100.426 - Electric - 142 E. First	4,660.71
5.100.428 - Electric - 108 E. First	1,347.67
Total Electric	24,975.19
Natural Gas	
5.100.432 - Natural Gas - 120 E. First	12,196.28
5.100.436 - Natural Gas - 142 E. First	2,318.55
5.100.438 - Natural Gas - 108 E. First	755.42
Total Natural Gas	15,270.25
Water/Sewer	
5.100.442 - Water/Sewer - 120 E. First	435.66
5.100.446 - Water/Sewer - 142 E. First	836.71
5.100.448 - Water/Sewer - 108 E. First	613.38
Total Water/Sewer	1,885.74
Waste Disposal	
5.100.412 - Waste Disposal 120 E. First	5,588.53
5.100.416 - Waste Disposal - 142 E. First	210.00
Total Waste Disposal	5,798.53
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>47,929.71</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>121,987.40</b>

## PARISH LIFE REPORT – 2011

*Submitted by: Christine Joern, Amy MacPhail, Lynn Morgan,  
Connie Nelson and Nancy Schaller*

A variety of committees and groups within Grace Church have been hard at work in our combined efforts of welcoming new parishioners, nurturing and caring for our current parishioners and lending a helping hand along the way. Below is a brief description of some of those activities.

**Circle of Grace** dinners are a very special way we share our parish life together. Parishioners gather at various homes for three (3) casual dinners as designated by a “circle” color. We have just over 50 parishioners participating and we are looking forward to enjoying the fellowship that these dinners bring to our parish life.

**Hospitality** has contributed to over 11 different receptions or events at Grace during the 2011 calendar year. The purpose of these events includes but are not limited to:

- providing the opportunity for family and friends to celebrate the passing of a loved one in the place that was an integral part of their life.
- offer comfort and support to a family suffering the shock of unexpected loss
- recognize the clergy who have served us faithfully and seniors who have given so much to Grace over the years.

This was accomplished during a time of transition for our parish and many of the hospitality members.

We continue to welcome **Newcomers**, and potential new families, to Grace Church. Our welcoming committee delivers a hand-written note and a *Coming Home to Grace Cook Book* to new member homes. Our welcome gifts have been warmly received.

Grace was happy to assist L.A.D.S.E. (LaGrange Area Department of Special Education) with classroom **rental space** while their facility was under repair due to water damage. We were honored to assist the faculty, staff and students of L.A.D.S.E and made many new friends along the way.

Your vestry wrote individual notes to each confirmation class member congratulating them on their class participation and future growth within our Grace Church family.

Through our continued efforts, and those of our fellow parishioners, we can become a viable and sustaining church family celebrating hospitality, fellowship and continued growth within our Christian faith.

## NOTES