

GRACE CHURCH

of the Episcopal Diocese of New York

**IGLESIA LA GRACIA**

**De la Diócesis Episcopal de Nueva York**

**ANNUAL MEETING 2023**

**JANUARY 29, 2023**

The Right Reverend Andrew ML. Dietsche, Bishop   
The Right Reverend Allen Kunho Shin, Bishop Suffragan   
The Right Reverend Mary Glasspool, Assistant Bishop   
  
The Reverend Adolfo Moronta, Associate Priest   
Peter Roberts, Director of Music of Grace Church   
Juan Carlos Abreu, Director of Music of La Gracia   
Suzan Ortega-Collado, Administrator   
Salvador Ruíz, Sexton

**VESTRY MEMBERS**

Daisy Calderón,Senior Warden

Eileen McClean, Junior Warden

Kevin Richards,Treasurer

Sylvia Simon, Clerk

**Grace Church Annual Meeting 2023**

*Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him.* ***Matthew 4.19 -20***

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you.*

***John 13:34***

**Agenda**

* The Call to Order - Daisy Calderón *(at around 11:15 in church)*
* Opening Prayer – Rev. Adolfo Moronta
* The Report of the Nominating Committee/ announcement of election
* Closing Hymn
* Reports on Grace & La Gracia – Rev. Adolfo Moronta
* Budget for 2023

**Grace**  **La Gracia**

1. Irene Alves 1. Rosario Murillo
2. Charlotte Roberson 2. Katia Espinosa
3. Shoji Mizumoto 3. José Luis Murillo
4. Nathan Hogan 4. Jesùs Martín Huerta
5. Linda Harmon 5. Pablo Aguilar
6. Carlos Muñoz

* Election/presentation of new Vestry
* Other Business/ Reports
* Closing Prayer

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*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,   
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* [Romans 15:13]

**Annual Report: January 2023**

**Ministry/Committee: Finance**

**Chair: Kevin Richards**

**Members: Carlos Muñoz, Camille Worrell**

In 2022, we were met with various financial challenges but several offsetting successes that ultimately ended the year as close to break even as we have ever been. Generous contributions from parishioners, grants from the Diocese and actively seeking third part grant income helped us make ends meet and exceed expectations. This was partially offset by outsized utility costs which we hope to get under control in 2023.

In Q1 2022, we withdrew $50,000 from our investment account to pay our obligations, this is a 60,000 reduction from previous years withdraws. Our challenge to operate within our means continues but we have taken a tremendous step forward. Expense management, particularly around utilities costs is urgent and will continue to be a focus of this Finance Committee with the help of the Vestry and Buildings and Grounds Committee.

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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | **2021 Actuals** |  | **2022 Actuals** |  | **2023 Budget** |  |  |
| **Income** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Parishioner Contributions | 312,408 |  | 275,578 |  | 306,000 |  | 11% |
|  | Rental Income Cons. | 134,003 |  | 128,149 |  | 142,000 |  | 11% |
|  | Other Income | 30,329 |  | 38,601 |  | 25,000 |  | -35% |
|  | Grants and Other Donations | 46,312 |  | 161,892 |  | 80,000 |  | -51% |
| **Total Income** | | **523,052** |  | **604,221** |  | **553,000** |  | -8% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Expense** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Buildings and Grounds | 191,576 |  | 193,866 |  | 218,175 |  | 13% |
|  | Church Operations | 29,358 |  | 53,896 |  | 61,000 |  | 13% |
|  | Office Expenses | 42,395 |  | 39,236 |  | 42,050 |  | 7% |
|  | Payroll | 458,547 |  | 274,515 |  | 245,350 |  | -11% |
|  | Diocesan Assessment | 48,807 |  | 65,371 |  | 71,874 |  | 10% |
| **Total Expense** | | **770,684** |  | **626,883** |  | **638,449** |  | 2% |
| **Net Loss** | | **(247,633)** |  | **(22,662)** |  | **(85,449)** |  |  |

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**Priest in Charge Annual Report**

**Annual Report January 2023**

**Priest in Charge Report**

**The Rev. Adolfo Moronta**

A new year is here! It’s that magical moment to start afresh and pursue new dreams. 2023 marks my 6th year at Grace/ La Gracia. These six years have been a wonderful journey, where I have learned so much, I have gotten to know all of you, and you have become my friends and family in faith. Simply I can just say that I am a totally different priest than the one I was when I arrived at the church in January of 2017.

In January of 2022 after the former Rector celebrated his last Eucharist, I stepped into a wider range of responsibilities from being the Associate Priest to being the Priest for Grace/ La Gracia. Then in the month of April I was appointed as Priest in Charge. This is not a position that I sought but I accepted it with my whole heart.

The past year we had 8 Baptisms, 4 First Communions, 5 Confirmations and sadly 9 of our parishioners went to the heavenly kingdom. They are: Oscar A. Bunche, Inez Dale, Mary Elizabeth Terry, Dorothy E. Jackson, Joyce Sampson, Gladstone Reid, Marjorie Fletcher, Cynthia R. Cole and Nellie Alexander King.

One of the greatest accomplishments of 2022 has been to see former parishioners who had stepped away returning to our services. Our attendance has grown from a low of 25 (With the former Rector) to a high of 80.

**Committee List:** During 2022we motivated parishioners to sign up for the different committees and, as a result more than 60 parishioners stepped-up for our committees. We also updated our committee list; currently Grace Church has 20 active committees.

**Commissioning ceremony of the Priest in Charge**: A great deal of planning went into this event. The work of the teams that were put together as well as the contributions of numerous other parishioners, paid off and the bilingual service and the celebration that followed were outstanding. We were honored to have the commissioning conducted by the Dean of Westchester Central Clericus, The Very Reverend Dr. Varghese Mathew and it was a thrill to be joined by our dear friend, Rev. Richard Kunz who gave a very moving sermon. It was uplifting to see the pews filled with over 249 people in attendance, including a number of visiting clergy members. The bilingual service was followed by a reception.

**Grants**: We received grants for a total amount of **$72,000.**

$45, 0000 Westchester County Business Grant for Religious Organizations.

$10,000 which went toward Buildings and Grounds

$5,000 Hispanic Grant for La Gracia

$1,000 Episcopal Charities for the Caring Cupboard

$5,000 Westchester County for the Caring Cupboard

$6,000 Westchester County for the Caring Cupboard

**Outreach:** Our main outreach program is throughThe Caring Cupboard which has food available for local residents during weekdays and Sundays. About 100 families per month are reached by this outreach ministry. My goal is to expand this program so that we could double the number of families served each month and for this purpose I have applied for a grant through Episcopal Charities.

**Vestry Training:** On May 15 the Vestry held a training session led by Can. Victor Conrado at the Rectory. Some Vestry members have described it as a transforming experience.

**Vestry Retreat:** The Vestry had the first retreat of the year in the Rectory on May 21. It was a successful event where a combination of preaching, prayers, singing and exercises were implemented.

**Thursday Noonday Service:** On Thursday August 25 our weekday Noontime service was resumed. The good response from parishioners to this service is an indication that it was the right time to revive that tradition. The Thursday Noontime Eucharist is held outside during the warmer months on the front lawn and indoors during the winter months.

**BBQ:** Over 150 Parishioners from Grace/La Gracia attended the barbecue in the month of September. Our Homecoming was a great day! A day that we can build on to reinforce our relationships and our church identity. I hope for us to take the excitement and energy and fellowship forward and work toward the tradition of Homecoming Sunday every year - better and better.

**Retreat:** On November 19 and 20 approximately fifty parishioners of Grace, and a group from St Andrews Episcopal Church, attended a retreat at Grace Church, titled **Life in the Spirit Seminar.** This event was hosted by the La Gracia parishioners who organized the retreat and who were the ushers of this magnificent spiritual experience. The retreat included speakers, scripture, music, prayer and small discussion groups where parishioners were encouraged to share their spiritual journey and give their understanding of the different talks. Everyone left the retreat with a renewed sense of faith and purpose. We will have another Life in the Spirit Seminar in the summer of 2023.

**Re-launch of Grace/ La Gracia Website:** Jackii Torres will be focusing on developing a re- launch of our website. The website will contain the information on the current Grace Website but will have some additions. The main objective is to focus on the website design layout, color, media embedded; improving the font size, links and main tabs/ drop down tabs to ensure the website is more accessible

and easier to navigate. The new website will also expand its drop down tabs to include some of the following:  church life, activities, special services, education, social media (Facebook, ,Instagram, qr code) upcoming events/ past events, pledge and stewardship.

**Christmas Dinner:** This year for the first time Grace and La Gracia held a joint Christmas dinner. The Christmas Dinner took place on December 22 at 7: PM, there we sang Christmas Carols, shared with one another and gave thanks to God through prayer.

**Salary Increases:** Our Parish Administrator received a salary increase of 3% and our Bookkeeper received a salary increase of $5.00 per hour.

**Con Edison Bill**: our Con Edison bill was granted an adjustment of **$61**,**109.70** which means that our utility bill, which was originally **$104,837.36,** is now **$40,096.43**.  A special thanks to all who helped throughout this process.

**La Gracia**

* La Gracia continues to have a good Sunday attendance, an average of 90
* New members continue to attend our 12:30 service.
* Our live streaming through Facebook continues to be very successful with 200 and more views per Sunday.
* Latino ministry continues to grow spiritually and in numbers.
* La Gracia continues with two services per week Sunday 12:30 p.m. & Thursday 7:30 p.m.
* The Planning Committee of La Gracia met every month during 2022 to plan and coordinate all activities related to this ministry.

**Stewardship**: La Gracia contributed more than $33,000 to the church during 2022 including pledges and loose plate offerings. We continue to work on stewardship, and motivating parishioners to support all the ministries of the Grace/ La Gracia with their time, talent and treasure.

**First Communion**: On May 29 we had the First Communion for four of our children.

**Repair & Restoration of Church door**: In July, a group of 10 men from La Gracia restored & painted the red Church Door on Main St.

**Sunday school:** La Gracia’s Sunday School began in 2022 with a total attendance of 16 between children and youth.

**Retreat:** La Gracia had a 3 day Retreat from Friday September 23 to Sunday September 25. For this event a guest preacher was contacted and the event had a good number of parishioners present.

**Virgin of Guadalupe:** La Gracia held its largest celebration, the Virgin of Guadalupe. More than 150 parishioners came to this service. We began as every year with a procession accompanied by a Mariachi band, followed by the Eucharist and then we had a dinner and the singing of the Mañanitas.

I am happy to see that the Lord continues to bless and guide us as we proceed on the path to a vibrant, growing and renewed parish. I have three main goals: 1) Grow the Church not only spiritually, but also in numbers 2) Continue to be a bridge between Grace and La Gracia 3) Work closely with the Vestry.

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**2022 STATISTICS**

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,   
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**Sunday Holy Eucharists – 128**

**Weekday Holy Eucharists – 86**

**Private Administration of the Communion – 62**

**Sunday Attendance Total 2022 – 6,589**

**All Other Attendance – 2,491**

**Total Attendance – 9,081**

**Register of Services – 2022**

**Record of Baptisms in 2022 — (8)**

**Record of First Communions in 2022 — (4)**

**Record of Confirmed in 2022 — (5)**

**Record of Marriages in 2022 — (1)**

**Funerals Held at Grace Church in 2022— (9)**

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,*

*so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy*

**Annual Report: January 2023**

**Ministry/Committee: Buildings and Grounds**

**Temporary Chair: Walter Simon Co-Chair: Nate Hogan**

**Members: Bill Biles, Bob Soso, Arlene Grant,**

**Where we are now (December 2022): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2022)**

**Challenge**

The major challenge was the reactivation of the Building and Grounds Committee after the departure of the former Rector. The current Chair accepted the position for one year with the goal of working with the Vestry and preparing someone to assume the position as Chairperson. Unfortunately, we were not able to identify a parishioner who was prepared and willing to assume the responsibility of chairperson after the current Chairman steps down at the end of 2022. In addition, we have not been able to attract members of LaGracia as members of Buildings and Grounds. Despite the foregoing, we were able to make some achievements.

**Achievements**

After a year of challenging the claim that we were under charged by $103,000, ConEd reduce the amount of “under charge” to $40,000, a $63,000 cost avoidance.

* With the guidance of Judge Brathwaite of the Greenburgh Court, we work with non-violent offenders assigned to Community Service. Community Service workers are a great supplement to the Sexton’s twenty-nine-hour per week work schedule.
* Implemented a Lease Negotiation Team that modified the terms of the lease with LUW to more accurately reflect cost.
* We made some progress reestablishing a working relationship with LUW.
* The Kitchen Committee made improvements in the cleanliness and organization of the kitchen.
* Refurbished the red doors of the church by a LaGracia work team.
* Reestablished communications with the movie industry.
* Instrumental in the establishment of a church wide activity calendar.
* Advocated for the soon to be activated, remote storage and enhanced (cloud based) capability of the office computer operations.
* Prepared the Rectory for Fr. Adolfo’s relocation into the house.
* Proposed to the Vestry updated pricing for the contined of support of the “Walk of Grace.”

**Where we hope to be in December 2023.**

**(1-3 goals for 2023)What resources we will need to get there?**

1. Active Vestry involvement and ongoing support of a new Chairperson of Buildings and Grounds.
2. Continue to rebuild a strong working relationship between the church and LUW. – Responsibility: the Vestry, Fr. Adolfo and parishioners.
3. Continue the Community Service program. – Responsibility: Judge Brathwaite, Salvador Ruiz, Walter Simon, and Fr. Adolfo.
4. Establish active participation of LaGracia as members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. -Responsibility- Members of LaGracia, Vestry, Fr. Adolfo and members of Grace

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**Annual Report: January 2023**

**Ministry/Committee: Stewardship**

**Chair:Co-Chair: Charlotte Roberson Chairperson Cynthia S. Brown Co-Chair**

**Members: Daisy Calderon, Sylvia Simon, Shoji Mizumoto, Brinda Bradley,**

**Arlene Grant, Hillary Fleming, Sandy Gadsden McAllister, Keir Alexander, ikuko**

**Serita**

**Where we are now (December 2022**): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2022)

By January 1, 2022 many if not most of our parishioners had been vaccinated. Also Father Adolfo was named Priest in Charge. As a result of these two things attendance improved during 2022. Many people are also watching our service on Facebook. Parishioners are pledging more time and service but pledges of money have not increased. We have continued having conversations with our parishioners about our blessings and returning to the Lord what is HIs. Vestry members and stewardship committee members have continued to call parishioners to check on their welfare. These calls have been especially important to parishioners who are homebound. We have met two of our goals from December 2021. We have a new parishioner trained to use the ACS system. Also we have a volunteer for the stewardship chairperson as of January, 2023.

**Where we hope to be in December 2023.: (1-3 goals for 2023)**

Pledge income for 2022 $229,602

Pledge collected for 2022 $229,081

1. Parishioners completing their 2022 pledge and pledging for 2023.

2. Parishioners committing to giving more service and time to Grace Church

3. The purchasing of customized pledge envelopes and Advent calendars.

**What resources will we need to get there?**

1. More sermons and workshops on “What is and Why we should be good stewards”.

2. We will need additional money in the stewardship budget in order to buy

customized envelopes and Advent calendars. This will depend on the amount of pledge for 2023.

3. Applications for more grants. Also more rentals of our parish hall.

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**Annual Report: January 2023**

**Ministry/Committee: Altar Guild**

**Chair: Brinda Bradley Co-Chair:**

**Members: Carol Mitchell, Hillary Flemingt\_Sandy\_McAllister, Melanie Jackson, Audrey Taylor, Alicia Silva, Marlene Avendano, Edith Gonzalez and Martin Huerta**

**Where we are now December 2022).: (Achievement** challenges **and un**fi**nished business of 2022)**

Altar Guild is comprised of teams of two members, who Rrovide set up, clean up and decorations for all masses and Holy-Days. Each team is responsible, to set up once per month. We have instituted individual wine cups for communion. Altar Ministers have been wearing masks during COVID. We continue to be responsible for the maintenance of altar linens, glass items, frontals, vestments, robes and all other holy hardware which is used during all church services. We order and store all items mentioned and order all supplies and flowers for all services. We have welcomed new members in thi5\_past year. We, as a grou\_p, attended the New York Altar Guild Workshop in October, 2022. One of our challenges is since so many organizations use the church, we have suffered missing supplies.

**Where we hope to be in December 2023.: (1-3 goals for 2023)**

We will try to maintain the atmosphere of ojet and serenity in preparation for the services in the church. We still need two more members to fill the vacancies which occurred due to COVID. We may need an increase in budget to maintain the needs of the church.

**What resources we will need to get there?:**

We need the cooperation of all organizations from within and outside of the church to respect the church. All organizations should not move any items on the Altar and return all items, that might be used, where they belong. I would appreciate a quarterly report in reference to our budget; what has Veen spent and what remains.

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**Annual Report: January 2023**

**Ministry/Committee: Acolyte Guild**

**Chair: Lauren Reid**

**Members:**

Brinda Bradley

Sam Brown

Malik Bradford

Jean Chambers

Janine Daughtry

Melanie Jackson

Linda Harmon

Sandy McAllister

Shoji Mizumoto

Anna Kristina O’Hanlon

Nikolas O’Hanlon

Lauren Reid

Andrea Spencer

Dana Walters

Eve Bradford

Aadi Kumar

Priya Kumar

Rohan Kumar

Vika O’Hanlon

Gabrielle Parkinson

Harrison Richards

Ivana Richards

Emmi Woodberry

Eric Woodberry

Aaron Woodberry

**Where we are now (December 2022).: (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2022)**

The purpose of the Grace Church Acolyte is to aid and assist the clergy and congregation in prayer, praise and worship. This ministry is open to all youth of Grace Church starting around age 7, as well as adults of all ages. We are currently still working most Sundays with a scaled down presence on the altar. Special thanks to Brinda Bradley who serves every Sunday at 8, and Linda Harmon, and Melanie Jackson who have often served solo or in tandem at 10. While we wished Shane Daughtry well as he left for college, we were happy to welcome Emmi Woodberry aboard. Since returning from college, Dana Walters has been happy to help out as well. On Christmas Eve, the youth and young adults of our parish “took over” the 4pm Family Service. This included acolytes, lectures, and ushers. It is our hope that this will become an annual tradition.

**Where we hope to be in December 2023.: (1-3 goals for 2023)**

It is our hope that by December 2023 we will have several more of our team of acolytes return to the altar, and to have more parishioners join our team. We would also like to have more members participate in Lay Eucharistic training so they may help administer Communion on a regular basis.

**What resources we will need to get there?:**

What we need most are parishioners who are willing to give one Sunday a month in service on the altar.

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**Annual Report: January 2023**

**Ministry/Committee: Music Ministry and Grace Church Choir**

**Chair: Michael DiLeo**

**Where we are now (December 2022).: (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2022)**

The Grace Church Choir looks to serve the worship of God through various styles of music from different eras. Here at Grace Church, we have had the adult choir, and the youth choir. Michael DiLeo resumed the adult choir back in September, and has provided useful forms of organization that would be helpful for the choir. Over the summer, Michael developed goals to bring the choir back to full resolution with a regular enrollment, and to have section leaders assist with the choir. The choir had performed different works of repertoire from different periods of tradition such as classical, folk, and spiritual. A choir syllabus was also developed which lays out all of the hymns and anthems that would be done each week.

 In September, we had around 7-8 people join the choir. When we started rehearsing, there were no section leaders, and everyone had agreed that section leaders are very important for a choir and would make help a lot easier when it comes to learning such complex music arrangements. Section Leaders are defined as assisting all members of the section with musical and marching responsibilities.  There are four choral parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass; these lie under the category of four section leaders. The purpose of section leaders is to assist every choir member for their specific part when it comes to rehearsing and performing different works of music. In the fall, section leaders were on hold  but we were able to resume them once an appropriate budget was approved. Four section leaders are preferred, but we currently have three section leaders: soprano, alto, and tenor, which has been working out just fine.

This year has been very special in particular, when we celebrated the commissioning of our Priest in Charge Father Adolfo Moronta. Michael DiLeo led the adult choir along with guest organist Timothy Lewis, and together, they both worked to provide such wonderful spiritual music to commemorate this special day for Father Adolfo.  The adult choir also sang for Grace Church’s Annual Lessons and Carols on December 18, 2022. This service celebrated the Christmas season with hymns, carols and anthems relating to the birth of Christ. One of the anthems that was done was a very famous Spanish lullaby *A La Nanita Nana,* which has been loved by many people throughout the Spanish Speaking World. This service was made possible through an individual donor.  As black history month approaches, our music ministry will continue to present hymns and repertoire from African American traditions and composers throughout the month of February.

We are very blessed to have our magnificent 4 Manual Guilbault-Therian Pipe Organ in this wonderful church! There are lots of wonderful sounds and colors to choose and mix from to produce such magnificent colors, which can include the *32’ Contre Bassoon* Reed stop. This sound in particular has not

yet existed in the organ, but it is prepared on the console itself. This Reed Sound adds extra power and tone to the organ with some undergirding tone quality. We are hoping to have this sound added to the organ as soon as we are able to do so based upon finances.

**Where we hope to be in December 2023.: (1-3 goals for 2023)**

Currently our enrollment is smaller than anticipated but has worked out well. By next year, we hope to have a larger choir with a lot more voices (Goal is to have at least 20). This includes paid professionals as well as volunteers. Michael has been working to acclaim more volunteers for the choir and will continue to do so in this process.  By September 2023, we are hoping to have the children’s choir back up and running with full enrollment and regular monthly services (Enrollment goal is at least 10). Repertoire for the children’s choir will be purchased and organized upon resuming.

**What resources we will need to get there?:**

Any parishioners who are interested in joining the choir at any time should speak with Michael DiLeo, or simply join us for rehearsals on Sundays. Our parish hopes for children to become more involved in the music ministry. Parents should speak to the Music Director for any children that are interested in joining the children’s choir.

More information regarding the choirs should be posted on the Church’s Social Medias more frequently in order for information to pass along for the interests of all new members. It is crucial that not just choir members but parishioners take part to spread the word to those that are interested. Michael will also plan to make more announcements about our wonderful music ministry, and about everyone being a part of and supporting our program.  As always your donations to the music ministry are greatly appreciated! This will help to not support our choral music program but also our magnificent pipe organ!

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**Annual Report: January 2023**

**Ministry/Committee: Youth Education Program (Sunday School)**

**Chair: George O’Hanlon Co-Chair:**

**Members: Lauren Reid, Ingrid Richards, Erika Santos, Tiffany Woodberry**

**Where we are now (December 2022).: (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2022)**

We have had a successful year. We have an enthusiastic set of teachers who are actively engaged in the program. We have curriculum consistent with our Christian principles and which is relevant to the ages of the respective classes. We added a nursery school option this year, which parents of children of this age group appreciate. Our Sunday school is also active in serving in our 10am service. Many students serve as acolytes, ushers and lay readers. The parents of our students are engaged in our program as well. We have a good array of classes fitting logically in with the ages of our students. Classes cover the following ages: Nursery applies to infants; Little Lambs covers through third grade; Primary covers 4th through 6th grade; Rite 13 covers 7- 8th grade; J2A covers High school. We look to continue this program in the coming year.

Our greatest challenge is recruiting younger children. Our high school class is our largest with approximately 8 students. Rite 13 has 3 members. Our nursery, pre-K and primary groups combined averages 6 students weekly. We have added some primary students by virtue of one of our teachers inviting one of her friends with primary aged children to join us. And we have had intermittent attendance from other individuals. But we hope to increase younger child participation.

**Where we hope to be in December 2023.: (1-3 goals for 2023**) Our goals for 2023 are as follows: a.) Continue to provide an engaging, age appropriate curriculum, in which we teach the core Christian values and make them relevant to the daily lives of our students; b.) Engage our students in service to our Church and the community through serving in the service as acolytes, ushers, and lay readers and the Grace Kitchen. Teach our students that service is a part of being a Christian; c.) Grow participation in our Sunday school, particularly our younger children

**What resources we will need to get there?** Our curriculum is broken down into 4 components, based on the age of the students. At present we feel this curriculum is satisfactory, but we will continue to assess options to keep the teaching modern and relevant. Our objective of encouraging service can be achieved through our teaching and through modeling by the older children, such as serving during the service, participating in Grace Kitchen, helping with the Church raffle and similar activities. Our objective of growing participation in our Sunday School needs to be a church-wide effort. Where we see new parents with children, we invite them to Sunday school. And we invite friends with children to join us. But these efforts can be exponentially expanded if the Church keeps this in mind as a goal. Our Sunday School in many ways is the future of the Church, so we are hopeful the Church will help us take on this recruiting effort. Together we can achieve our desired outcome.

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**Annual Report: January 2023**

**Ministry/Committee: Pastoral Care**

**Chair: Sylvia Simon Co-Chair:**

**Members::Sandy Gadsden McAllister, Eileen McClean, Arlene Grant**

**Where we are now (December 2022).: (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2022)**

Pastoral Care Ministry has not been fully functional mainly because of COVID .In person visits were not possible because of the virus. Visits were limited to calls, cards and emails/texts. Judy Hutton and I shared the card sending duty until she passed away last year.

I call two or three parishioners a day to touch base and to assist them as much as possible. I refer those needing priest’s assistance to FR Adolfo

I have arranged vaccinations at home for those requesting this service.

I have assisted Parishioners needing transportation for physical therapy or doctor visits.

**Where we hope to be in December 2023.: (1-3 goals for 2023**

We hope we will have more active members and we will be able to make at-home visits as COVID and Flu subsides. I and several others are going to attend a class for Eucharistic Ministry.

**What resources we will need to get there?**

We really need more members to become active in this important ministry. This is especially urgent as our parishioners get older.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,   
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* [Romans 15:13]

**Annual Report: January 2023**

**Ministry/Committee: Episcopal Church Women**

**Chair: Melanie Jackson**

**Members**: Irene Alves, Laura Auld, Marie Barrow, Barbara Biles, Gloria Chang, Melanie Jackson, Carole Lashley, Trisha McGuinness, Joyce Pickering, Charlotte Roberson, Sylvia Simon, Andrea Spencer, Shirley Spencer, Audrey Taylor and Jane Washington

**Where we are now (December 2022):**

In 2022 we were able to resume in person meetings in the church library. However due to COVID concerns the Fathers’ Day Breakfast consisted of grab-n-go breakfast boxes. Men in attendance also received a gift of a pen/notepad set or Swiss Army knife.

ECW participated in Graduate Recognition Day giving a monetary gift and gourmet cupcake to each the 3 high school graduates from Grace/La Gracia.

Longtime member Cynthia Cole passed, and ECW assisted her sister and member, Audrey Taylor with the repass.

We had member sharing meetings in which members shared a special interest with the group.

In December, we brought back the Holiday Raffle. Prizes were gift cards to local restaurants. Proceeds benefit Samaritan House, women’s shelter. ECW also assisted with the Grace/La Gracia Christmas Dinner.

**Where we hope to be (December 2023):**

An ECW dinner outing is being planned for late January or early February. It will include all women of Grace/ La Gracia. ECW will collect the United Thank Offering this Spring. We hope to sponsor a parish activity sometime in 2023. We continue to strive to create activities and moments which connect us to each other, connect us to our vision, make a difference in our church community, and enrich our spiritual lives.

**What resources we need to get there:**

Prayer, faith, and commitment to our goals.

Imagination and flexibility to work within the current environment.

Support of our members and parish.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,   
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* [Romans 15:13]

**Annual Report: January 2023**

**Ministry/Committee: SAGE (Senios at Grace Episcopal Cburch)**

**Chair: Marie Barrow Co-Chair: N/A**

**Members:Elsie adams, Jo Ann B. Boylan, Bernice Burton Carole Carter, Joyce Pickeing, Uriel Reid, Al Sargen, Shirley Spencer & Heather Southwick**

**Where we are now (December 2022).: (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2022)**

We still meet the first Wednesday of each month via phone confrence. Fr. Adolfo is able to join the group each month wenever he is available. He prays with us and gives us updates of what is happneing in our church communmity. We thank him very much. Througout the duration of our meetings we continue to share our life stories, birthdays, joys and concerns. with each other . Many of us have physically been in the buidling while a few are stil not able to come in.

**Where we hope to be in December 2023.: (1-3 goals for 2023**

* We hope to continue to have monthly meetings
* To have Fr. Adolfo conintue to join us
* To continue to have full and active participation from all of our members
* To recruit new members

**What resources we will need to get there?**

* Our phone access number and access code
* Friendly reminders each month of meeting date and time
* Speaking to parishioners who are interested in joining our group

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Now in its 24th year, the **Grace Church Book Club** was launched in 1999 with Toni Morrison’s story of *Beloved.* Roughly 180 books and five films later, the **Grace Church Book Club** is still going strong. Recent book selections to date have included:

**2021-2022**

*Billy Lynn’s Long Half-Time Walk*by Ben Fountain

*Falling: A Novel*by T.J. Newman

*Klara and the Sun*by Kazuo Ishiguro

*The President’s Daughter: A Thriller* by James Patterson and Bill Clinton

*Silent Covenant: Brown v. Board of Education and the Unfulfilled Hopes for Racial Reform* by Derrick Bell

*State of Terror: A Novel*by Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny

*A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson

*While Justice Sleeps: A Novel* by Stacey Abrams

**2022-2023**

*The Cage*by Bonnie Kistler

*The Long Songs of W.E.B. DuBois* by Honoree Fanonne Jeffers

*My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She’s Sorry*by Fredrick Backman

*The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Murray

*The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life* by David Brooks

*Still Life*by Louise Penny

*Trust* by Herman Diaz

**Films:** *Angela’s Ashes, The DaVinci Code, Eyes Beyond Seeing,*

*White Oleander, The Help*

**Special Honors:** In January 2003, Grace Messiah presented the book club with a special copy of *Cane River* signed author, Lalita Tademy*.*

**Book Club Library:** If you’ve ever thought, ‘I’m going to read that book club book one day,’ we’ve made it extra easy—we’ve built a library within a library. Select book club books donated by members are available on a first-come first-served basis on the top left bookshelves in the church library. To check out a book, simply find and sign the appropriate sign-out sheet in the marked binder shelved with the books. When you’ve finished, simply return the book to the bookshelf.

**Mission:** Our mission is simply to create a social connection through shared reading that is enriching, enlightening and entertaining. **Founding, Past and Current Members:** Irene Alves, Jean Marie Angelo, Laura Auld, Mary Baker, Barbara Biles, Barbara Brown, Verna Brown, Norene Bueti, Dr. Valencia Carroll, Carole Carter, Karen Finkbe, Ella Fitzgerald, Vilma France, Linda Gallo, Arlene Roberts Grant, Rev. Gawain de Leeuw, Linda Heusser, Louise Holsapple, Dorothy Jackson, Ray LaVigne, Joan Lemond, Dr. Barbra McCune, Trisha McGuinness, Dr. John Mitchell, Karen Odom, Mural Patrick, Margaret Broomfield Parkinson, Joyce Pickering, Ann Post, Angie Poulos, Monica Powell, Lorraine Reid, Cynthia Sangurima-Brown, Joy Scantlebury, Monica Scantlebury, Christine Scott-Deutsch, Francoise Simon, Sylvia Simon, Phyllis Shwedo, Karen Southwick, Jennifer Telford, Katy Toolin, Jane Washington

**We welcome new members!** Join us every month or just for one meeting. If you’re interested or have a suggestion for a good read, contact Karen Odom at **karenodom@yahoo.com** or 914.523.7693.

*Submitted by: Karen Odom*