

GRACE CHURCH

of the Episcopal Diocese of New York

**IGLESIA LA GRACIA**

**De la Diócesis Episcopal de Nueva York**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020**

**STAFF**

The Right Reverend Andrew ML. Dietsche, Bishop
The Right Reverend Allen Kunho Shin, Bishop Suffragan
The Right Reverend Mary Glasspool, Assistant Bishop
The Reverend Dr. Chip Graves, Rector
The Reverend Adolfo Moronta, Associate Priest
Peter Roberts, Director of Music of Grace Church
Juan Carlos Abreu, Director of Music of La Gracia
Linda Gallo, Youth Ministry Coordinator
Suzan Ortega-Collado, Administrator
Taurino Juárez, Sexton

**VESTRY MEMBERS**Michael Heffner Senior. Warden
Daisy Calderon, Junior Warden
Hillary Fleming, Treasurer
Irene Alves, Clerk

**Class of 2020:** Hillary Fleming, Michael Heffner, Daisy Calderon

**Class of 2021**: Irene Alves, Sorraya Sampson Elliott, Eileen McClean

**Class of 2022** Mary Baker, Daniel Corsanego, Edythe Horne, Charlotte Roberson

**ANNUAL MEETING HELD JANUARY 31, 2021**

**Grace La Gracia Episcopal Church**

 **Annual Meeting
January 31, 2021**

**Agenda**

*Grace Church is a diverse congregation committed to a common life sustained by worship.
We bear witness to God's love in Christ through our life together
and our Service to the wider community.
All are welcome!*

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away;*

*behold, the new has come."* [2 Corinthians 5:17]

**Call to Order and Opening Prayer**

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

**Hillary Fleming: Treasurer's Report for 2020**

 **Presentation of the 2021 Budget**

**Michael Heffner Senior Warden's Reflection**

**The Rev. Dr. Chip Graves Rector's Report**

**The Rev. Adolfo Moronta Report on Grace & La Gracia**

**Sorraya Sampson Elliott Announcement of the Election**

**Rev. Dr. Chip Graves Closing Prayer**

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**Annual Report: January 2021**

**Ministry/Committee: Finance**

**Chair: Michael Heffner Co-Chair: Hillary Fleming**

**Members: Carlos Muñoz, Kevin Richards, Joe Gallo**

**Where we are now (December 2020): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2020)**

In 2020, we dealt with the tremendous challenge of trying to maintain a worship life while managing the practical details of cash flow. Despite the difficulties presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, the church exceeded pledge goals. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our Chair and Sr. Warden, Michael Heffner, we also received a governmental PPP loan and will be well-positioned to receive another one in 2021. Generous contributions from parishioners, as well as grants from the Diocese helped us make ends meet. We also benefited from an $80,000 reduction in expenses thanks to being closed and from getting a discount on our Diocesan Assessment.

In Q1 2020, we withdrew $110,000 from our investment account to pay our obligations. Our challenge to operate within our means continues. Expense management is urgent and will continue to be a focus of the Treasurer and Finance Committee.

Despite the challenges of 2020, we achieved a goal we set for 2020, and that is to set up a protected endowment. We also established guidelines for how to contribute to this endowment when undesignated donations and bequests are received.

**Where we hope to be in December 2021: (1-3 goals for 2021)**

* Growth in Grace (i.e. membership, programs)
* Additional Revenue Streams

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

* Financial and Legal Expertise
* Budget Management
* Creativity and Volunteers

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Revised 1.21.21*** |  | **2021 Budget** |  | **2020 Budget** |  | **2020 Actuals** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pledge Income Grace |  |  $ 240,000  |  |  $ 250,000  |  |  $ 266,051  |
| Pledge Income LaGracia |  | 15,000  |  | 20,000  |  | 17,599  |
| Loose Plate Offerings |  | 18,000  |  | 45,000  |  | 27,043  |
| LUW Rent/Utilities |  | 112,600  |  | 116,000  |  | 115,916  |
| Office Rental |  | 6,600  |  | 6,600  |  | 3,600  |
| Parish Hall Rent |  | 0  |  | 25,000  |  | 2,532  |
| La Gracia Grant |  | 0  |  | 9,000  |  | 0  |
| Fundraisers |  | 0  |  | 5,000  |  | 0  |
| Diocesan Clergy Grant |  | 66,000  |  | 66,000  |  | 66,624  |
| All Other Income |  | 22,433  |  | 40,000  |  | 171,947  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TOTAL INCOME |  |  $ 480,633  |  |  582,600  |  |  671,312  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Withdrawals from Operating Account |  |  $ 209,776  |  |  $ 231,270  |  |  $ 110,000  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL RECEIPTS** |  |  690,409  |  |  813,870  |  |  781,312  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Church Operations (incl Assessment) |  | 228,789 |  | 309,000 |  | 255,801 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Clergy |  | 297,600 |  | 301,200 |  | 288,579 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Music |  | 37,020 |  | 62,820 |  | 46,787 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| La Gracia |  | 20,000 |  | 24,300 |  | 18,757 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other |  | 2,000 |  | 5,950 |  | 423 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rectory |  | 19,000 |  | 19,700 |  | 24,454 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Office |  | 86,000 |  | 90,900 |  | 101,060 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** |  |  $ 690,409  |  |  $ 813,870  |  |  $ 733,628  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Profit (Deficit) |  |  |  |  |  |  $ 47,684  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |



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**Annual Report: January 2021**

**Senior Wardens Report**

**Thoughts from the Senior Warden**

**(January 11, 2021)**

This will be the 24th “thoughts” piece that I’ve written since the early part of 2020; and my last. I’ll be stepping aside after the annual meeting on the 31st and will dedicate much of my time to preparing for divinity school in late summer. There were no dull moments last year (and things haven’t improved much in the New Year). We managed through a pandemic, social unrest, economic turmoil and an unstable leader. Some of us (sadly) didn’t make it. I’m being told that I couldn’t ask for better preparation for seminary than what I experienced in 2020… I’m going to try to list the ways that I believe that we at Grace Episcopal Church/La Gracia are blessed (in no particular order):

Our SAGE group continues to meet regularly - we all benefit from the inspiration that this esteemed group provides.

Our book club is thriving (uninterrupted and undeterred by external circumstances).

Our youth education program has moved online (meeting weekly) and gave us an uplifting Rite-13 Celebration (in church) and a very entertaining Christmas pageant (online).

Our advocacy leaders gave us 3 well attended events on social unrest that truly helped our community’s healing process.

Father Chip has worked tirelessly at forging ties with other churches in our community through on-line forums, personal meetings and invitations to join in our outreach initiatives.

Our Vestry has met every single month (without a summer break) and has held extraordinary meetings in between to help Grace/La Gracia manage through the enormous challenge of keeping everything running during the lockdown.

Peter Roberts has done a wonderful job of providing music (without interruption) for the entire period; masterfully incorporating our soloists – Abigail and Ross – into services and finding ways to uplift the few in attendance and the hundreds viewing our streams from home.

We’ve successfully transitioned to a new parish administrator, Suzan Ortega-Collado, who’s been a ray of sunshine and a master of efficiency in our office.

Our finance committee met regularly and helped shape the budget that the Vestry will be reviewing for the upcoming year. We had great success with grant applications receiving $66,800 from the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program, $48,000 from the Diocese of New York and $12,500 from Episcopal Charities.

Our altar guild has elevated its game (if that’s possible) by making the church sparkle each and every week (something that is noted by any/all who watch our live streamed services).

Our lay readers, acolytes and ushers have helped bring our services back to a level of normalcy that helps narrow the gap between in the in-person and online experience.

La Gracia continues to grow and thrive – their substantial increase in pledge commitments has not gone unnoticed.

Our wonderful sexton, Taurino Juarez, has kept up with all of the changes thrown his way and keeps coming back for more (a true hero)!

Father Adolfo and a team of dedicated volunteers helped create a new ministry with the God in Action Food Alliance at Grace/La Gracia. This weekly distribution of food/clothes/flu shots/toys has brought essentials to those who are in need and brought our church back into the center of the action in the community. I feel blessed to have been a part of this journey.

I apologize if I have left anything/anyone out (I will gladly edit-in all additions…).

I will leave you with a final thought – and the source of much of what drives me each and every day. Never lose sight of the fact that there is nobility in service. Service is a calling. Serving your family, serving your church, serving your community; in whatever form that it takes. All are part of what Jesus is calling us to do. Take pride in what you do for others. You never know who might be watching – and who you might inspire.

**A Few More Things…**

**The Caring Cupboard Initiative**

Some may be familiar with the “Friendly Fridge” that operates in front of restaurants in the Bronx.  The “Blessed Box” is a derivation.  Our young people (high school and middle school – for now) have come up with their own concept that they’re hoping will succeed at our location and then scale out throughout the City of White Plains (and beyond).  Working with the Deputy Commission of Planning and the Mayor of White Plains, our youth have held multiple planning meeting and are preparing to launch.  The idea is to have the cupboard in the vestibule of the church (the area between the red front door and the glass entrance - which will be kept locked).  We have to determine times that it will be open – but it will likely coincide with the days that our sexton, Taurino, is on site.  Signage will encourage people to “take what they need” and “leave what they can”.  The concept is that people in need can discretely come and take food and household products – and those who have extra to leave a donation.  The youth will be responsible for sourcing the food/household items (from donations at school, reaching out to stores, private donations, etc.) and managing the cupboard.  We have a camera mounted in the vestibule and are working with the Police Department of White Plains to ensure security and safety.  This is really the initiative of our young people (Father Chip – who has had previous experience with this in his former parish – is fully supportive).  They are working on a logo and already have a thematic slogan; “Solidarity – not Charity”.  Please pray for their success – and support them where you can.

**The “Gifts” from our local birds**

If you’ve been to the front of the church since the beginning of December, it’s hard not to notice the mess that the crows have left on the entire area in front of our church.  My understanding is that a number of trees were removed lower down on Main Street and the birds have migrated up to the 3 trees in our front area.  I am working with the Commissioner of Public Works and think that we have a solution short of taking down the trees (the birds are not an issue during the spring and summer).  Netting the trees appears to have worked as a deterrent for the City in the area by city hall.  I’m working with an expert on putting up nets on our trees.  Please know that we are doing all that we can to have this remedied in very short order – and walk gingerly when you come to church until then.

In Peace –

**Michael Heffner**

**Grace Episcopal Church/La Gracia**

**Senior Warden**

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**Annual Report January 2021**

**The Rector’s Report**

**The Rev. Dr. Chip Graves**

Good Morning members of Grace la Gracia. It is important that you know that you are loved by God almighty through the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, because this past year has not been easy. If nothing else, this past year 2020 has taught us to be tough, to be patient and to be resilient. This notion of resilience is echoed through the book of Joshua as it says, ***“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*** **Joshua 1.9**

I have now completed my second year as rector of Grace la Gracia Episcopal Church. My first year was focused on essential aspects shared by the Rector Search Committee including Worship, Pastoral Care, Administration, Joint la Gracia efforts and other. And then we transitioned into my second year focusing on Vision Planning, Black Lives Matter Advocacy, new adult forums/educational events, a new Sunday worship and other possibilities to strengthen and grow our parish. But everything came to a sudden stop with the onset of COVID 19. And our world turned upside down.

A few infections became hundreds of thousands of deaths in the U.S. and millions would die world-wide. Some of these statistics were close to home. And it hurt… Who would have prophesied that our daily regime would mandate face masks, social distancing, job loss, economic destruction, and mental depression like never seen? Therefore, we are called to a deeper, stronger, and more resilient faith in Jesus Christ.

Our parish has survived, and we stand strong. Despite this Pandemic, we continued worship, prayer, education, online gatherings, music, advocacy, and outreach to those in greatest need. Slow at first and then building. We are still not in full swing as we are having this, our annual meeting, hybrid style, both in person and online. And I believe this will be our new norm, even when we get beyond COVID. We may not be back to normal until 2022, waiting for the vaccination and a more comprehensive analysis of the new COVID strain, and other unknown variables. But we are headed in the right direction. We must continue our faith in Jesus Christ…

My sharing this morning is about survival and resilience considering the Pandemic. Not even the Pandemic can stop this 200-year-old parish. Stopping is not an option; it is not going to happen. God through Jesus Christ will not stop, and we will not cease to praise Him. We are moving forward. Our new vestry will focus on new endeavors such as a new Sunday afternoon Contemplative Worship to attract newcomers and younger folks. We will delve into a Vison Planning process to ensure our parish has another 200 years. We will continue to grow our Food Alliance ministry with new partnerships to serve those in need. We will develop new Bible Studies and both Adult and Youth opportunities alike. We are marching forward in 2021.

Grace Episcopal Church will not only survive but thrive well into the future. But we need your help. We need your continued support with financial giving and time. We need you to give one hour. One hour per week. One hour every two weeks. Or one hour per month. It is up to you to fuel the engine of Grace la Gracia Episcopal Church. Some of you will want to work from home. That is great because we have many opportunities for you to help from your home. Some of you can come to the church. That is great because we have many opportunities for you as well. If you are currently not giving One Hour to Grace Church, then call the office. We need you.

One major challenge we must face is our financial deficit. Not insurmountable, but serious and needing attention right now. As you know, we are spending more than the revenue coming in. Our task is to align our expenses and revenue, cutting costs where able and bringing in new money to offset expenses. Our financial committee and vestry will be seriously contemplating large expense cuts in our church. Expense cuts that will change your church. Therefore, we need your financial support now more than ever. I am not here to cast a shadow of bad news or blame anyone. That is not the leadership I declare, nor is it beneficial. We cannot change the past. Instead, let us focus on the future. Let us face our reality and move forward in a direction that will allow us to do God’s ministry right here in White Plains - to worship, to learn, to be in community, to advocate on behalf of others - all right here in this parish. Bottom line, we will make the necessary and difficult decisions to get us back to where we need to be.

Going forward, it is essential to mention our leaders and their contribution - the members of Grace Church that make things happen. I want to thank everyone here at Grace Church, every ministry leader from Brinda in Altar Guild to Sorraya in Advocacy, to Marie with SAGE, Linda, and the Youth Education, and so many others supporting/leading our Grace Church ministries. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you do... I would like to recognize someone incredibly special to Grace Church, a leader of our parish for many decades and in many roles – Walter Simon. Walter and Sylvia Simon, we cannot thank you enough for all that you have done.

I want to thank our staff beginning with Fr. Adolfo, leading in both Grace and la Gracia’s various ministries. No-one will ever understand the incredible amount of effort and passion you bring to our parish. I would like to thank Peter for our wonderful music, Suzan our administrator, Maria our bookkeeper, and Taurino our amazing Sexton. I want to remind everyone that we have precious little time with Taurino as he is retiring at the end of this August. We cannot thank him enough for his many years (days and nights) for all his work taking care of us, and our buildings and grounds. Furthermore, I want to thank all vestry members – Michael, Daisy, Hillary, Irene, Sorraya, Eileen, Mary, Daniel, Edythe, and Charlotte... I would like to recognize one that will be leaving us, Hillary Fleming, our treasurer. We cannot thank you enough for all that you have done as our treasurer, and for so many years. Someone once said that the treasurer’s job is thankless because you cannot please everyone and certainly not all the time. This is true. Thank you for all your work.

I would like to thank our two wardens, Daisy our Junior Warden, and Michael our Senior Warden. Daisy, thank you so much for your overall leadership and your ability to link our Grace la Gracia communities together. Your leadership is wonderful and so necessary. As many know, we will be losing Michael, our senior warden, to seminary this summer as he begins a 3-year study at Yale Divinity School. It will be difficult to fill Michael’s shoes as he leads in so many capacities at Grace Church – Senior Warden, videographer, Worship, Advocacy, Food Alliance, Downtown Music, Grant Writer, and so much more. Michael, we simply cannot thank you enough for all that you have done at Grace Church and for all that you will do as a future priest.

As we look forward to this new Church Year, we as followers of the Jesus Movement, are called to maintain hope. As it says in **Isaiah 40, *“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.”*** *Grace Church, we* must be resilient in our hope. In this new year, we must have hope. We can not just survive but thrive. We need your help. We need your time and your financial support. Your vestry and I are asking you to Pledge this new year one hour of your time. It could be one hour per week; one hour per two weeks or one hour per month according to your calendar. The one hour we request does not have to be in person. There are things you can do from home. Give us a call and we will discuss it. But get involved. Grace Church is a community, not a person or two. Not one group, but all of us. Make a commitment to get involved. You can do it in this new year.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God Bless You,

**Fr. Chip +**

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**Annual Report 2020**

**Associate Priest: The Rev. Adolfo Moronta**

**Grace**

2020 is a year we will never forget. We were placed in situations we didn’t ask for. We experienced a pandemic, lockdown, confinement, fear and death due to an unexpected disease that has affected millions of human beings. Who would have thought that parishes would close to in person worship and that we would be confined in our homes? The Corona Virus (COVID 19) is waking us up to appreciate the walk of faith in many ways that perhaps we didn’t value before. We have found different ways of building up the community through technology, mainly by live streaming, checking on people through phone calls, Facebook, Instagram, and helping people with food assistance. In all, we have remained connected spiritually even though we are not connected physically.

As a pastor I have been affected every time I received a phone call to inform me that a parishioner and even a whole family has been affected and I have cried with those that have lost loved ones. In 2020 we lost parishioners very dear to us such as our **Deacon Martha Jane,** to whom I had the privilege to give the last rites, **Cecil Henry** my Acolyte in the Noon Eucharist and close friends of mine like **Barbara Wiggins** and her husband **Charles Wiggins**.

But there are also positive elements that come out of the present situation, such as: solidarity, mercy, generosity, a strong desire to get closer to God and the renewal of our faith. In Grace / La Gracia two new ministries were developed, first the **Shopping Sisters** who generously bought groceries for those who weren’t able to go to the supermarkets and the **God in Action Food Alliance** ministry which was created as a response to a need in the community to assist those who had lost their jobs, or had their hours drastically cut off and were struggling to put food on their tables.

The Food Alliance has been a blessing to the community, not only providing food but also clothes, house wares, toys, and flu shots. This ministry has connected me again with the type of ministry that I did many years ago in the Dominican Republic. There the shepherd’s pasture is not limited to the church alone. A priest there is an advocate for the people. He works closely with the community to get funds to repair and build houses, gets food to those in need, helps buy prescriptions...

Every Thursday, rain or shine we give food to approximately 300 people - food for a whole week for a family of four. I feel blessed to be part of the team who developed this ministry and it has been an honor to work closely with our Senior Warden **Michael Heffner**, a talented, gifted and hardworking person and also with many our volunteers, parishes and institutions that are an important part of this ministry. I also would like to thank and acknowledge all the vestry members who generously made monetary contributions to my discretionary fund so I could help parishioners and families in need.

During 2020 I continued to be involved in the life of the parish through many of its ministries, namely Eucharistic celebrations, preaching, funerals, pastoral care, Zoom meetings, special activities, and the connections made with many of you.

I continue to have a close relation with the White Plains **Hispanic Center**, an organization that has contributed to La Gracia parishioners by sending them monetary contributions, providing lawyers to help the undocumented with immigration issues and distributing food vouchers within La Gracia so the most needed families could have a free meal in a local restaurant of their choice; this program was created to also aid small business which are struggling during this time of pandemic. Additionally, I meet every Wednesday through Zoom with the Latino priest of the Diocese. This weekly meeting is hosted by **Canon Victor Conrado** who serves as a connection between the Latino priest and the Diocese.

2021 marks my fourth year in this vibrant and diverse parish. During these four years a lot has happened. I have had the opportunity to work with very gifted rectors and an Interim (Rev. Richard Kunz, Rev. Judith Lee and Rev. Chip Graves). I have by my side an incredible talented and gifted committee of leaders of La Garcia who work closely with me. This year in particular I have a new assignment which is to be the contact person for the Pastoral Care committee.

I continue to work to build bridges between the two ministries (English/Spanish) and it’s my goal to have more members of La Gracia involved in the different ministries of Grace/ La Gracia. In all, it is the blessing of the Lord towards this church Grace/ La Gracia that has allowed us to get to where we are. Our lives are in the hands of God. Like clay in a potter’s hand, God continues to reshape us.

**Goals for 2021**

1. Continue to be a bridge between the English and the Latino ministries of this church.
2. Keep contributing to the spiritual growth of the parish.
3. Continue to work closely with The God in Action Food Alliance

**Rev. Adolfo Moronta +**

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**Annual Report 2020**

**Associate Priest: The Rev. Adolfo Moronta**

**La Gracia**

2020 began in La Gracia with a successful and well attended Three Kings celebration which was a combination of Eucharist, toy distribution, lunch and, to finish the day, a party for all the adults and kids present. It was after this celebration that I began to hear that a pandemic was hitting drastically in China. A few months later, in what seemed like the blink of an eye, our lives were turned upside down. The entire world was suddenly different than any of us had ever experienced or imagined. Everything about life was affected: families, school, work, shopping, health care, eating, travel, finances, fitness routine ... every aspect of our lives was affected in one way or another. 2020 was a challenging year, but every challenge we face brings new opportunities to move our faith to action and continue making a tangible impact.

Then came the lockdown. The church was closed to all in person services and I had to improvise and organize the basement of my house to serve as a chapel for all Spanish worship services,whichwere live streamed through Facebook. Then we noticed that through these services we were reaching a wider audience. The Sunday Eucharist which usually had from 120 to 150 attending in the church now was seen by more than 900 people and that didn’t stop there. The numbers kept growing and even people from countries such as Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, and Spain were connecting with us. What a blessing! This proves the popular phrase: “Something good always comes out of something bad.” That is why when something bad happens we have three choices: we can let it define us, we can let it destroy us, or we can let it strengthen us.

From there we had to change our strategy andwe continued to build our community mainly through two different groups that we have in Whatsapp. We have a group for parishioners in general and another for the leaders. An additional means we used was our Facebook page which was updated regularly each day to have fresh information, prayers and words of encouragement for our members. Also, together with the main leaders of La Gracia we started to call parishioners to check in with them and to remind them of the ways the church was available to them. Besides the calls that the members of the committee were making, parishioners were also calling each other. In all, that difficult time made people reach out to others like never before.

It was through these calls that we learned that a good number of the members of La Gracia had been badly hit during this time. Many had lost their jobs, others have had their hours drastically cut, and a good portion of them didn’t qualify to receive unemployment benefits. This second situation gave birth to one of the most successful ministries of Grace/ La Gracia, the **God in Action Food Alliance** which put Grace Church again in the limelight in our community. We began this food ministry just distributing a bag of produce per person/family once a week. In order to expand the ministry we kept knocking on doors and appealing to people to contribute to the cause. The result was overwhelming. Monetary donations began to pour in like a miracle, people started contacting us, we got our first grant from Episcopal Charities and the ministry grew and grew to where it is today.

When the month of July came we started to prepare the members of La Gracia for the re-opening of the church. Two training sessions for our Ushers took place, and we shared with all the parishioners the new norms that we as a church needed to follow while inside the building. When we re-opened I was very happy to see that in our first service we had about 80 parishioners. People not only responded by attending the services but also by contributing in a big way to the parish. I clearly remember that during the first two Sundays the offerings totaled $3,000.

But it wasn’t all happiness; La Gracia lost three parishioners, two due to COVID 19 and one from a heart attack. Additionally, we had complete families that were infected by the virus, many were struggling but we made sure they all knew that Grace/ La Gracia was there for them. Furthermore, with the help of many of you that contributed to my discretionary fund I was able to mail checks to aid the families in that difficult time.

On September 3 we had three young boys who received their first communion and 3 baptisms took place during 2020, as well as also a wedding in October. We also re-opened the school of Lay Leaders. When Pledge Sunday came between the committee and La Gracia members we had pledges for over $30,000 for this 2021. Nevertheless, due to the present Pandemic many of La Gracia’s activities have been put on hold, such as the prayer groups in the homes of the parishioners, the Posadas, our annual barbecue and our annual bus trip to a religious site. Throughout all this time the La Gracia committee kept having its monthly meetings where we constantly discussed how to make the church more present in the lives of the parishioners.

2020 could not end without La Gracia having its most important celebration, Guadalupe. After facing many obstacles we managed on December 27 to have a special service for the Virgin of Guadalupe. The celebrations began at 12:30 PM with the procession that included a Mariachi band which was followed by the Eucharist and after the Sunday service a grab and go lunch was given to all attendees.

La Gracia is constantly going through a spiritual revival which is clearly manifested in our worship. There have been many testimonies shared by parishioners of how their lives after coming to our worship services and our retreats have begun to change; and I too have seen the difference in their lives as I compare them to how they were in their life journey went they first came to this parish. In La Gracia we are trying to provide parishioners what they come looking for in a church, which is to find a community and a spirituality that will help them to have a special connection with the Lord.

I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to work with this ministry which has been one of the most successful that I’ve had under my care in these 11 years since my ordination as a priest.

**Goals for 2021**

1. We want to keep increasing our Spanish speaking membership. But we do not want just greater numbers; we want our parishioners to be more fully invested in our faith community, regardless of language and heritage.
2. **We are also looking forward to:**

a) Enhancing our Christian education program

 b) Advancing the spiritual growth of the congregation

c) Providing a series of workshops

d) Continuing to motivate the parishioners in the importance of giving

e) Continuing to empower our leaders

f) Continuing to work closely with the Latino Parishes of the area

g) Continue to develop a strong partnership with the Centro Hispano.

**Rev. Adolfo Moronta +**

**2020 Statistics**

**Register of Services – 2020**

Due to Covid-19 Grace/La Gracia Church worship services were closed for much of 2020 and private administration was not allowed**.**

**Record of Baptisms in 2020 — (3)**

Sophie Alexandra Sanchez y Muñiz

Mía Valentina Rámirez

Zurem Guillen

**Record of First Communions in 2020 — (3)**

Ronnie González Rosales

Yair L. González Rosales

Larry González Rosales

**Record of Confirmed in 2020 — (0)**

**Record of Marriages in 2020 — (1)**

Bierkis de León & Kenny Elías Moronta

**Funerals Held at Grace Church in 2020— (10)**

Martha C. Watkins

Verna Brown

Harvey Chambers

Cecil Henry

Charles Wiggins

Christopher P. Cox

Marilyn Scimia

Deacon Martha J. Dunphy

William J. Davis

Barbara Wiggins

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**Annual Report: January 2021**

**Ministry/Committee: Buildings and Grounds**

**Chair: Walter Simon (Former Chairman)**

**Co-Chair: Nate Hogan Members Bill Biles, Bob Soso, Arlene Grant, Joyce Sampson, Kim Silvera, Teri Surgent**

**Where we are now (December 2020): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2020)**

**Achievement**

* In partnership with LUW and the Bedell Foundation, major work was completed in the rectory and the church. The kitchen and the three bathrooms at the rectory were refurbished with Bedell Foundation’s funds. In addition, Bedell funds were used to install flooring and painting the parish hall. LUW generated funds from the Country were used to obtain new tables and chairs. The wall art was an individual donation of Anahiata Kotval, the CEO of LUW. Country grants obtained by LUW were used to obtained a new stove and a refrigerator for Grace’s Kitchen and a State grant is funding the replacement of the Samaritan House roof.
* Appropriate changes in space occupancy consistent with the Bishop’s directives were made and followed.

**Challenge**

The major challenge is to reconstitute an active Buildings and Grounds Committee under the leadership of a new Chairperson.

**Unfinished Business**

The training of the new Sexton and the refurbishing of the second boiler.

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**Annual Report: January 2021**

**Ministry/Committee: Stewardship**

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

**Members: Daisy Calderon, Jim Brown**

**Where we are now (December 2020): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2020)**

**2020 has been the year of the pandemic. Covid-19 forced Grace and other churches to switch from in person services to on line services. Father Chip worked with our Buildings and Grounds committee to further sanitize the church. Grace Church was reopened to a limited number of parishioners for each service. Our pledged income decreased as the attendance decreased. Grace Church met this challenge; our sexton cut a panel in the front door of the church to allow parishioners to drop their pledges into the church without entering the church. Other parishioners mailed their checks or paid by an on line service. Most parishioners with financial difficulties gave as much as they could give. We encouraged parishioners to give of their time and talent as well as their fortune. Many members responded by giving of their time, talent and fortune to help with the distribution of food thru the Food Alliance. The stewardship committee and the vestry made regular calls to our parishioners to check on their welfare and to encourage each one of them to give as much as they were able to give. We want to continue moving forward tpgether.**

**.**

**Our unfinished business is collecting as much of the pledged income as possible.**

**Pledged Income for 2020 $316,533**

**Pledged Income for 2020 (received) $286,205**

**Where we hope to be in December 2021: (1-3 goals for 2021)**

* **10 % Increase in the number of people watching our services on line**
* **10% in the number of parishioners completing their pledges**
* **10 % increase in the number of people who pledge their time and talent to our church**

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

* **Sermons and lessons based on the concept of faith giving. We give because we love God and understand that all that we have is His (As opposed to giving to support programs or doing a good deed.) –**
* **Additional income to execute our stewardship program**

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**Annual Report: January 2021**

**Ministry/Committee** Altar Guild

**Chair** Brinda Bradley **Co-Chair
Members** Brinda Bradley, Lyris Cooper, Sandy Gadsden-McAllister, Melanie Jackson, Carol Mitchell, Audrey Taylor, Ruth Theodore

**Where we are now (December 2020): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2020**

Although there have been restrictions, due to the Covid 19 virus, we have tried to maintain teams to provide set up, clean up and decorating for all services and other functions. We order and store all supplies for services. We maintain all vestments, frontals, holy hardware and clean all linen. We have lost some members due to health restrictions, but members of La Gracia have assisted with preparation for service.

**Where we hope to be in December 2021: (1-3 goals for 2021)**

Uphold the status of the Sacristy to be a sacred, spiritual place for preparation for worship. Recruit more members for the teams.

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

Return to receiving monthly expense reports. Need for cooperation of all who use the Sacristy; to return things where they belong and not leave various items about.

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**Annual Report: January 2021**

**Ministry/Committee Acolyte Guild**

**Chair Lauren Reid**

**Members**

Brinda Bradley

Sam Brown

Jordan Acevedo

Aaron Bradford

Eve Bradford

Spencer Carden

Maya Daughtry

Shane Daughtry

Aadi Kumar

Priya Kumar

Rohan Kumar

James Heffner

Malik Bradford

Jean Chambers

Janine Daughtry

Melanie Jackson

Sandy McAllister

 Nikolas O’Hanlon

Lauren Reid

Andrea Spencer

Cameron Owens

Anna Kristina O’Hanlon

Vika O’Hanlon

Gabrielle Parkinson

Harrison Richards

Ivana Richards

Eric & Aaron Woodberry

**At Large:** Ashley Elliot, Christopher Elliot, Uriel Reid, Shirley Spencer, Dana Walters, Ray Williams

**Where we are now (December 2020): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2020)**

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. Our 2020 group consisted of 28 acolytes, 20 youth and 8 adults, as well as 6 members at large. Our acolytes serve at both the 8:00 and 10:00 Sunday services, as well as various holiday services throughout the year. Our guild also shares duties with the acolytes of La Gracia during our bilingual services. Their presence is an integral part of the service. This year saw seniors Spencer Carden, Maya Daughtry and James Heffner graduate and head off to college. We miss these three and their willingness to always step up and step in whenever necessary, and we thank them for their many years of faithful service and dedication. This year, with the challenge of the pandemic, our job looked very different. Once we were able to return to the altar we did so in a limited capacity, with fewer servers on the altar and members of the same family taking on the roles of acolytes and lectors on a given Sunday so that we may safely worship. Thank you to Brinda Bradley who continues to serve faithfully at 8amThank you to the O’Hanlons, the Kumars, the Parkinsons, and the Richards families who have pulled double (and sometimes triple when ushers were needed!) duty over the past few months at the 10am service. A special thank you also to La Gracia acolytes Daniel Corsanego and the Murillo family who have volunteered their time and service at 10am. Having acolytes on the altar even as the majority of the congregation worships from home adds a welcome bit of normalcy to our Sundays.

**Where we hope to be in December 2021: (1-3 goals for 2021)**

We hope that as 2021 progresses will see a return of serving in our regular capacity. If this is the case, our goals for 2021remain the same as 2020:

1. We hope to offer acolyte training on a quarterly basis.
2. We hope to add more acolytes to our ranks, both adults and youth, and to have more adults licensed as Eucharistic Ministers.
3. We hope to continue to merge our practices with the acolytes who serve LaGracia, so that our bilingual services flow seamlessly and are fully inclusive.

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

We appreciate the unending support of the parish, and anyone who is willing to give of their time once a month to serve at the altar of God.

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**Annual Report: January 2021**

**Ministry/Committee: Ushers**

**Chair: Andrea R Spencer**

**Members:**

**Team 1- First Sunday of the Month**

Jane Washington-Captain, Carmen Greenidge, James Henderson, Maria Lewis, Matthew Reid, Camille Worrell

**Team 2- Second Sunday of the Month**

Olivet Williams, Hillary Fleming, Lisa Daley, Kim

**Team 3- Third Sunday of the Month**

Delroy Chang- Captain, Bob Sosa, Shirley Spencer, Jean Wilson, Margaret Bloomfield

**Team-4 Fourth Sunday of the Month**

Michael Heffner –Captain, Gloria Chang, Jo Ann B Boylan, Giovanni Green, Andrea Spencer

**Team 5- Fifth Sunday of the Month**

Sam Brown, Anna Kristina O’Hanlon, Nikolas O’Hanlon, James Heffner, Michael Heffner

 **Where we are now (December 2020): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2020)**

**Due to the COVID pandemic we were not able to accomplish our 2020 plans. We had 1 meeting in July to discuss and outline plans to return to the physical space. Below were some of the 2020 goals:**

* **It was our hope to have completed the Active Shooter training for all our Usher teams and assign roles to specific Ushers in each team.**
* **It was our hope to continue to work closely with the Eucharistic Ministry, Acolytes, Altar Guild, Lay Eucharistic Ministry and Clergy to help streamline the flow of our service.**
* **Later in the year we were hoping to have had new training and review of procedures.**

**Where we hope to be in December 2021: (1-3 goals for 2021)**

 **Our hope is to be able to return to a safe physical space again in order to fulfill our mission.**

* **Recruit new Ushers**
* **Work jointly with Grace La Gracia**
* **Review and implement new protocols and then have an Usher training.**

**What resources we will need to get there:** Resources will be determined as per needs.

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**Annual Report: January 2021**

**Ministry/Committee: Grace Church Choir Chair: Peter Roberts**

**Where we are now (December 2020): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2020)**

The Grace Church Choir is comprised of volunteers, and professional singers. This group is dedicated to enriching and illuminating the Gospel through song, and instrumental works. The choir seeks to maintain a varied repertoire: From English cathedral works to Taize chants, spirituals and music from folk traditions. Our goal is to complement the readings and to celebrate the Gospel’s message of Love, hope, and deliverance.

Our youth choir, the St. Nicholas Choir, consists of children ages 6-15. When in session this choir performs on the third Sunday of the month for the monthly family service. This choir also seeks to maintain diversity in the selection and presentation of music for worship.

While these choirs were not able to meet and participate in the Sunday worship experience for most of the 2020 church year, I am pleased to say that new music has been ordered and purchased for both groups When the choirs are able to met again safely, these works will be introduced and included in the choral repertoire.

Services in which the choirs were able to participate included the service in honor of Dr, Martin Luther King Jr. In January of 2020 as well as the month long celebration of African –American History in February. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the music ministry has expanded to include an online worship service with members of the Grace Church choir leading the congregation in song and instrumental works. The music ministry also has expanded to include a weekly video commentary of recommended works for listening. These recommendations are liturgically based and follow the liturgical calendar.

**Where we hope to be in December 2021: (1-3 goals for 2021)**

The goal for the coming year is to continue to find and to select new repertoire for both choirs in anticipation of the return to in – person service gatherings at Grace/ La Gracia church. Special consideration will be to find works written by women and African American composers and arrangers.

A second goal will be to continue to enhance and expand the worship experience using technology, the spoken word, creative movement and liturgical dance.

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

Continued experimentation with technology, and the willingness to work together in a spirit of cooperation are essential tools necessary for this group to continue to minister to the congregation in celebration of the Gospel.

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**Annual Report: January 2021**

**Ministry/Committee Youth Christian Education**

**Members Michael Heffner, Linda Gallo (Leader), George O’Hanlon, Nick O’Hanlon, Lauren Reid, Cynthia Sangurima-Brown**

**Where we are now (December 2020): (Achievement, challenges, and unfished business of 2020)**

January 2020 began auspiciously. The year began with a joint meeting of parents and teachers to discuss how to best provide a program of youth Christian education to all students, Pre-K through J2A. It was quite exciting to have parents share their thoughts and ideas for bringing the curriculum into the 21st century. With much planning, the teaching staff set about to ensure that the mutual mission would not only continue but also incorporate parental participation. As the celebration Journey to Adulthood was about to occur in March, all in church lift ceased because of Covid-19. All in church Youth Christian activities were suspended not only through June 2020 but has also continued because of attendance restrictions.

As the teaching staff grappled with the ongoing suspension of Youth Christian Education in September, it wan- decided to have the Journey to Adulthood take place in October. With the assent and support of teachers, students, and parents, the celebration was held in the church. It was also televised to all who could not be there in person. Education has continued remotely via Zoom in lieu of in person instruction.

This past year J2A was all about accepting and adjusting to change.  Early in the year we decided to change our meeting time to Sunday afternoon.  The youth of J2A participate in a variety of ways in the life of the Church, and it made it possible for those who serve as acolytes, sing in the choir, participate as lectors, and usher the 5th Sunday to be able to perform their duties and still gather regularly with the group.  Our monthly meetings consisted of dinner and great discussion, and the change was well received.  Then the world shut down. The pandemic has changed a great deal about life at Grace, and this was no different for J2A.  But we've moved our meetings online and have adjusted to our new normal.  This included working with youth on the Diocesan level on a remote service project sending cards to nursing home residents who are dealing with being separated from their loved ones because of Covid-19 concerns. Anna O'Hanlon was instrumental in creating the plan and the Woodberry’s made participating a family affair.

Change also meant saying goodbye to Spencer Carden and Maya Daughtry as they move on to college, taking our love and prayers with them.  It means saying hello to Sebastian Maldonado, Cameron Owens, Gabrielle Parkinson, Harrison Richards, and Eric Woodberry who we welcome from Rite 13.  We're looking at new ways to connect with each other, our Grace/ LaGracia family, and the world.  We have hopes that the future brings more community service, fundraisers, and, once the world is in a better place, a mission's trip.  We hope that 2021 brings us change for the better.

**Where we hope to be in December 2021: (1-3 goals for 2021)**

-Staff planning in the first quarter of 2021 to determine a plan for continuing Youth Education

-The Celebration of Manhood & Womanhood for 2021

-End of Year programming for “moving-up” and graduation

-Continued parental support

-More teachers as well as classroom support

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

-Parishioners to volunteer to teach/assist students!

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**Annual Report: January 2021**

**Ministry/Committee Lifting Up Westchester**

**Members Janine Daughtry, Joseph Gallo, Linda Gallo, Walter Simon (Board of Directors)**

**Where we are now (December 2020): (Achievement, challenges, and unfished business of 2020)**

The 2020 year began with a thorough plan to increase revenues in order to expand services provided to the community, some of which are based at Grace Church facilities. Grace’s Kitchen planned to increase its outreach to those who visit for a lunchtime meal. Expanded services were to include connections to social services as well as afternoons of social programs to be held in the church. Unfortunately, the appearance of Covid-19 not only suspended the lunch program as well as expanded services and socialization. In its stead, to ensure that those who were in need of food would get it, “bagged” lunches were provided not only by the kitchen at Open Arms and administered by Samaritan House but also volunteers who provided sandwiches and home-made soups. Expanded services cannot be re-instated until the crisis of Covid-19 abates.

The annual Oasis of Hope Gala could not be held per national stay-at-home orders. In order to continue the tradition in addition to its being a premier fundraising event, the Gala was held virtually. With much ingenuity and commitment, the Oasis of Hope Gala was successful. Online bidding as well as a live auction were conducted. The event resulted in raising more than $75,000 towards programming.

The Summer Camp was held, but on a much smaller scale. Instead of 90+ campers, only half that number attended. Each group had its own “camps” (tents) in which they participated among their own groups. Although the camp did not have it usual robustness, it was successful and provided an opportunity to many children who would not have had the fun of summer.

Unfortunately, because Grace Church was unable to be present at the church, Grace parishioners were unable to raise the traditional donations towards the Summer Camp swimsuits. Grace also did not have the chance to directly provide Christmas holiday gift cards for LUW families. The staff and Board of Directors are hopeful that 2021 will give Grace Church parishioners the ability to continue its long-standing relationship in giving.

**Where we hope to be in December 2021: (1-3 goals for 2021)**

By the end of 2021, LUW hopes to:

-provide socialization opportunities to Grace’s Kitchen guests through afternoon programs held at

 Grace Church

-renew support of parishioners in funding swimsuits as well as Christmas gift cards for families

 receiving services through LUW

-continue dialogue with Grace Church in assisting LUW to deliver programs and service serving

 the community

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

Ongoing support from Grace Church through volunteerism as well as interest in serving on the Board of Directors of LUW.

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**Annual Report: January 2021**

**Ministry/Committee: Pastoral Care**

**Chair: Sandy Gadsden-McAllister Co-Chair**

**Members: Marie A. Barrow; Lisa A. Daily; Sandy Gadsden-McAllister; Arlene Grant; Judith A. Hutton; Eileen McClean; Joyce Sampson; Audrey Taylor**

**Where we are now (December 2020): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2020)**

In home pastoral care visits were suspended in March 2020 because of the COVID19 pandemic. Many of the committee members for the remainder of the year made pastoral care phone calls. The challenge is what direction the committee should take in 2021. Many of the committee members’ licenses have expired and should be renewed.

**Where we hope to be in December 2021: (1-3 goals for 2021)**

Hopefully, this committee will be restructured to address the congregation’s pastoral needs, specifically those of the sick and shut ins. This new/revised committee should be structured around what is safe to do during this pandemic. A critical goal for this committee is having retreats for renewal and spiritual growth.

**What resources we will need to get there: Direction from the rector and the diocese.**

A new committee chair and additional members on the committee.

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**Annual Report: January 2021**

**Committee: Welcome Committee**

**Chairperson: Sylvia Simon**

**Members: Who indicated a desire to continue as members of the Welcome**

**Committee:**

**Jane Washington, Judy Hutton, Carole Lashley, Kassie Munoz, Barbara and Erika Santos, Augustina Kumar**

**Where we are now**

Formal coffee hour was suspended in March due to the Pandemic. In addition, Grace Church services were conducted virtually.

After twelve years leading this hard-working group, I made the decision to step down as chairperson, However, I will continue to support the group as a team member.

Coffee Hour has been a valuable resource for the Grace Church family. We have had discussions and presentations during coffee hour. We have also celebrated special events and occasions. It is doubtful if Coffee Hour could resume before **September.**

**The challenges to restarting coffee hour are many.**

1. We simply do not have sufficient people to support a weekly coffee hour. Many of our volunteers are seniors who are still reluctant to put themselves at risk as we emerge from this deadly virus. Some have significant health issues which prevent them from volunteering.
2. “What a Bagel, “the business who provided bagels each week at no cost, has experienced economic hardship because of the pandemic. They may not be able to provide the bagels.
3. The $2000 budget provided by the church would be insufficient to purchase needed items. Parishioners may not have the ability to supplement and/or make up the difference.
4. Taurino Juarez assisted the group by picking up bagels and helping with set up. However, he is retiring and will be working part-time. Thus, he may be unavailable to assist as often.
5. We need someone willing to assume the chairmanship. This involves, purchasing needed items, keeping track of expenditures, signing up weekly sponsors for coffee hour and team members to assist.
6. We require at least four volunteers per week.

**Suggestions;**

1.Enlist assistance from parishioners. All and any suggestions for restructuring the coffee hour will be welcomed

2. Solicit ideas from other churches.

3. Consider requesting a bid from an outside vendor and ascertain if this would be feasible with parishioners supplementing.

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**Annual Report: January 2021**

**Ministry/Committee S.A.G.E** (Seniors at Grace Episcopal)

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

**Members** Elsie A., Jo-Ann B, Joe B., Carole C., Dorothy L., Al S., Uriel R., Heather S., Shirley S., Bernice B., Cecile F., Joyce P., Father Chip & Father Adolfo

**Where we are now (December 2020): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2020**

In spite of the pandemic and the hectic world that we now live in, we were able to meet each month. Thanks to Michael Heffner, I was able to speak with the S.A.G.E members via a few members due to deaths, illnesses and relocations.

**Where we hope to be in December 2021: (1-3 goals for 2021)**

Our goals are the following:

1. To continue to have monthly meetings.

2. To have active participation from all of our members.

3. To stay informed on what is happening with our church family and church community

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

We will need access to the conference call during these trying times until further instruction. If and when we are able to resume back into the church, we will need continued reservation of the library on the first Wednesday of each month from 1:30 to 3pm.

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**Annual Report: January 2021**

**Ministry/Committee Episcopal Church Women**

**Chair Melanie Jackson Co-Chair N/A**

**Members Irene Alves, Laura Auld, Marie Barrow, Gloria Chang, Cynthia Cole, Edythe Horne, Judith Hutton, Carole Lashley, Terri Mauro, Trisha McGuinness, Joyce Pickering, Monique Reynolds, Andrea Spencer, Shirley Spencer, Audrey Taylor, Jane Washington, and Melanie Jackson**

**Where we are now (December 2020): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2020)**

In January 2020 the ECW held its annual Holiday Party at Via Garibaldi in White Plains. 33 Women from Grace / La Gracia attended a wonderful evening of fellowship and fine food.

The ECW gave $50 to each of the four Grace/ La Gracia high school graduates along with festive graduation balloons for all graduates. These gifts were delivered to the graduates by Lauren Reid.

Many activities of our group have been cancelled due to the pandemic: Easter raffle, UTO and Fathers’ Day Breakfast. We began a visioning process 2019 which has been interrupted by the pandemic.

**Where we hope to be in December 2021: (1-3 goals for 2021)**

We hope to continue our visioning process of reflecting upon the history of the ECW and our values as both individuals and as a group. Looking at our past and where we are now, we hope to create a vision statement for the future.Our challenge is 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. This we hope to attain as we operate within the pandemic.

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

Prayer, faith, and commitment to our goals.

Imagination to find ways to work within the current environment.

Support of our members.

***Grace Church Book Club***

Now in its 22nd year, the **Grace Church Book Club** was launched in 1999 with Toni Morrison’s story of *Beloved.* Over 160 books and five films later, the **Grace Church Book Club** is still going strong. Recent book selections to date have included:

**2019-2020**

*Becoming* by Michelle Obama

*Eleanor and Hick* by Susan Quinn

*Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng

*Flight Behavior: A Novel* by Barbara Kingsolver

*Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance

*The Immortalists* by Chloe Benjamin

*Invisible: The Forgotten Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America’s Most Powerful Mobster* by Stephen L. Carter

*Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult

*Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

**2020-2021**

*A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

*Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow

*Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson

*Hieroglyphics* by Jill McCorkle

*Leave the World Behind* by Rumaan Alam

*The Tatooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris

*When No One is Watching* by Alyssa Cole

**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, Ann Post, Angie Poulos, Monica Powell, Lorraine Reid, Cynthia Sangurima-Brown, Monica Scantlebury, Christine Scott-Deutsch, Francoise Simon, Sylvia Simon, Phyllis Shwedo, 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*