

GRACE CHURCH

of the Episcopal Diocese of New York

**IGLESIA LA GRACIA**

**De la Diócesis Episcopal de Nueva York**

**ANNUAL MEETING 2022**

**FEBRUARY 27, 2022**

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, Junior Warden

Kevin Richards

Eileen McClean, Clerk

Irene Alves

Mary Baker

Charlotte Roberson

Lisa Daley

**Grace Church Annual Meeting 2022**

*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 Calderon *(at around 11:15 in church)*
* Opening Prayer – Rev. Adolfo Moronta
* The Report of the Nominating Committee/ announcement of election
* Closing Hymn
* Change of venue to Parish Hall
* Reports on Grace & La Gracia – Rev. Adolfo Moronta
* Budget for 2022
* Report of the Junior Warden
* Presentation of the Extra Mile Award

**Grace**  **La Gracia**

1. Jim Brown 1. Alicia Silva
2. Cynthia Brown 2. Claudia Reyes
3. Lauren Reid 3. Paz Torres
4. Marie Barrow 4. Liz & Emmanuel González
5. George O’Hanlon 5. Jose Cespedes
6. Brinda Bradley 6. Rosa Moreno

* 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: February 2022**

**Ministry: Vestry**

**Chair: Linda Gallo**

**Members: Daisy Calderon, Jr. Warden; Eileen McClean, Clerk; Irene Alves; Mary Baker; Danny Corsanego; Lisa Daley; Andrea Hamilton-Singh; Kevin Richards; Charlotte Roberson; Sylvia Simon**

**Where we are now (December 2021).: (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2020)**

Many changes arose within Grace/La Gracia in 2021. As a faithful community, the diocese and NY state saw a way for us to once again worship together. It presented challenges: we maintained distance, wore masks, used sanitizers as well as bulletin leaflets in lieu of the Book of Common Prayer so that maximum hygiene could be maintained. It was challenging but successful. We also improved upon the livestream broadcast of the 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM services for those who could not be in the sanctuary during those times. We know that many attended in this format. The decision was made to continue this “hybrid” model as many parishioners as well as others have the opportunity to worship in real time.

The Vestry met on a monthly basis in order to continue as support for the different ministries within the church. As pledging and plate offerings were not as robust (in large part because of Covid), the Vestry needed to grapple with how to maintain essential operations of the church. Although there was a need to supplement the expenses related to operating the church, steps were taken to reduce expenses where needed. Despite that, funds were needed to “keep the lights on.” The actual amount originally budgeted for 2021 did not need to be used. There was a modest withdrawal of the of the portfolionfunds. Because the financial market was strong, the portfolio gained in value thereby reducing some of the profits from the portfolio.

The Altar Guild maintained the beauty and integrity of the sanctuary. Altar Guild took the initiative to help defray the cost to the church by asking for Christmas flowers which the congregation heartily contributed thereby reducing the expenses. The Altar Guild has managed to continue the dignity and beauty of the church.

Book Club continued its scintillating reading list via Zoom. Discussions were well-attended and lively. For the foreseeable future, meetings will continue in this manner.

Christian Youth Education revamped to ensure that the lessons being shared with the youth reflected the readings heard by their parents during the service. A new curriculum was introduced.

Adult Christian Education continues with the leadership of Melanie Walters. She has conducted meetings utilizing the Library and multimedia in order to share real time discussions with others.

The God in Action Food Alliance reached a successful conclusion in May 2021. During its time, an extraordinary amount of food was distributed to meet the needs of the community during the extraordinary time of Covid. The program has now moved to another distribution center to continue to

serve those who still have a need for food. Our youth began the “Caring Cupboard” located in the vestibule to provide an opportunity for those who might need some non-perishable items to freely take what they might need to fill in gaps. Thanks to the support of Fr. Adolpho and his shopping to replenish the food staples, the project continues since 2020.

A major project was undertaken to refurbish the church. With the generosity of Bill Doty (who underwrote much of the cost to do so), Grace/La Gracia was able to provide new pews and refinish the flooring. The Vestry also recognized the opportunity to repaint the interior as well as refinish the altar rails and provide repairs to the organ. A grand reception was held in December 2021 to celebrate the project as well as honor Bill Doty for gifting Grace/La Gracia this wonderful gift.

We also welcomed a new parish administrator, Suzan Ortega-Collado. She is a wonderful addition to the staff. She continues to communicate with both English and Spanish speaking parishioners and others. Her professionalism and efficiency have proven to be a positive influence in keeping the church administratively on target.

We also have a new Sexton, Salvador Ruiz ,who comes to us with a background in building maintenance. Since Grace/La Gracia is a complex building, he has provided the essentials of keeping our facility operational and is learning about the nuances of the building.

This past year has seen changes in our priestly care. Over the course of 2021, the Rector (Rev. Dr. Jon Chip Graves), along with the Vestry, made the decision to pastorally separate. Upon conversation and reflection from both the Rector and the Vestry, it was mutually agreed that it was time for each to move into a respectful different path. At the end of December 2021, the tenure of the Rector concluded. In conjunction with the diocese, a Priest-in-Charge will be named to lead Grace/La Gracia in a transitional period to be evaluated over the course of the next two to three years.

**Where we hope to be in December 2022.: (1-3 goals for 2022) Goals for 2022 include:**

(1) the selection of a Priest-in-Charge;

(2) aligning the budget to reflect a balanced approach. This also includes attracting new members, increasing pledges, being awarded grants to assist in maintaining the church, finding new funding sources to increase income;

(3) encouraging parishioner involvement in church ministries. There will be many others which the 2022 vestry will need to define and implement.

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

Resources needed to achieve these include: parishioners participating in being consistent pledgers; parishioners volunteering to help with some tenable assistance to offset some expenses; vestry taking leadership roles in parish ministries to advance the work of the parish.

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**Annual Report February 2022**

**The Rector’s Report**

**The Rev. Dr. Chip Graves**

Grace la Gracia Members,

Know that you are loved by God Almighty and all the time. I come to you in the form of a pre-written note, begun in 2021 Advent, approaching my final worship service as rector of Grace la Gracia Episcopal Church on December 24th Christmas Eve. Know that you and my experiences with you at this beloved Grace Church will be in my heart forever.

At this writing, I had completed my third year as rector of Grace Church and enjoyed our time and our ministry together. To begin, our parish survived one of the greatest obstacles in the history of humankind, the COVID Pandemic begun in 2020. I am not suggesting it is over, but we have weathered this storm tighter, initially from my living room as my wife and I concelebrated to continue Sunday Mass despite the inability to be in-person. The Pandemic persists with new mutations every other month. However, we are resilient will march onward.

Grace Church has survived the continuous waves of COVID by maintaining intelligent, healthy protocol, listening to science, medical experts, and various leaders. I have realized this ‘wandering in the desert’ is not easy, forcing us to mask, not sing, not drink our Communion, not be in-person, and not be human at every turn. But Grace Church has been resilient and accomplished much this past year.

We immediately responded to the Pandemic and loss of jobs with over $2 million of food distributed to hundreds of people lined up outside our doors, enveloping over seventy volunteers from Grace la Gracia and beyond – including other parishes, outsiders, other non-profits, restaurants, local businesses and more. The response was overwhelming and under great leadership Michael Heffner and Fr. Adolfo. This ministry was truly ‘God in Action.’ We also continued our newly developed women’s Bible Study (BSF) meeting both in person and online as needed.

We continued our Book Club, Advocacy and Outreach efforts in new ways. In Advocacy, we developed Anti-Racism initiatives with online discussions, forums, and book sharing. We supported the George Floyd travesty with protesting in downtown Huntington in addition to a push for Police Reform meeting with the mayor and other civic leaders.

For Outreach, we held multiple campaigns to support those in great need. One example was the continuation of our Food Drive through our youth initiated Caring Cupboard, allowing passersby to grab food staples from our church front door during weekday working hours. What a great initiative!

During COVID, we expanded our online viewing. Although our in-person attendance was down, our overall numbers were up due to the expanded presence. When we came back to in-person worship, we received newcomers and new members this past year. We were blessed!

Grace Church reached out to others amid the COVID storm. For example, we took over St. Andrews Episcopal Church in worship. Our clergy celebrated and preached every Sunday, allowing St. Andrews to continue worship. This worked out well for both parishes. We led their worship and they paid us a small fee for our time. Fr. Adolfo and I developed wonderful new friendships at St. Andrews. They are a wonderful parish.

Regarding education, we held quarterly events with online book discussions, at times sharing with St. James the Less, St. John’s Tuckahoe, and St. Barts Episcopal churches. For youth education under the direction of Linda Gallo, we changed to a new curriculum, allowing better engagement with our young students. We also added education teachers – Joe Gallo, Tiffany Woodbury, and Ingrid Richards. A special Thanks to all of you!

In my departure, I share gratitude with so many who supported me and Grace Church over the past three years. A church is a machine with moving parts to create and manage many events - worship, music, education, outreach, pastoral care, concerts, community events, etc. Both staff and volunteers are required to pull it all together.

I would like to thank our staff – Fr. Adolfo (ministry), Suzan (administration), Peter (music), Maria (bookkeeping), and Salvador (sexton). They have done an amazing job at Grace Church. I would like to thank our wardens and vestry members for their leadership. Furthermore, there are so many volunteers to thank. Brinda Bradley and the Altar Guild. Marie Barrows and the SAGE members. Karen Odom and the Book Club. Daisy, Danny, Juan Carlos and so many others helping Fr. Adolfo lead la Gracia. Lauren and our acolytes. Mary Baker for the Angelus Newsletter. Our Grace la Gracia Pastoral Care givers. And so many more. Thanks to all of you.

As my wife and I move toward a new chapter in our lives, please know that we love you. I have fond memories with so many of you. High Tea with Ms. Elsie. Laughing nonstop with Joann, Shirley, Marie and so many more. Diner breakfast meetings with Judge Delores. A Lakeside brunch with the Carters. And so many more. I have been blessed to have been the rector of Grace Church and am so excited for you journeying toward a remarkable 200th anniversary just around the corner.

At the writing of this note I am moving to a near-bye village while searching for my next adventure. I am supporting my newly graduated daughters as they begin their careers outside of college and graduate school. I will be continuing my volunteer work with the Mensa Foundation (education scholarships), Harvard Divinity School (continuing education), and other work with our national church. I am excited to share that I have been invited to join Anglican priests next fall to meet with the Dalai Lama in northern India. This will be a bucket list event. I am blessed.

Thanks to all of you.

May God be with you

Chip+

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**Annual Report: February 2022**

**Grace: Rev. Adolfo Moronta**

2022 Marks my 5th year at Grace/ La Gracia, and as I look back I remember that I was interviewed for the Associate Priest position by Rev. Richard Kunz, Walter Simon and Michael Heffner. These five years have been a blessing for me and I can honestly say that I am a different, better priest. I have been blessed to have the opportunity to get to know most of you, to talk to you, visit your homes, see you in the hospital and give you spiritual guidance when you have needed it. In these five years we have been through thick and thin in our journey together and in all it has been a blessing.

Now we find ourselves in a new beginning, a new path of hope and expectation. The last months of 2021 were difficult in many ways for our parish family, we found ourselves hurt, in need of renewal. We have arrived into 2022 in a process of healing, and healing takes time. We must remember that the best growth comes through persevering through trials, not escaping them entirely*.* Today we find ourselves walking in a different environment, and we need to turn our eyes forward, be united, and remain strong as Grace / La Gracia, for we are not alone. The Lord is and will always be with us. With God by our side things will turn out much better in the months ahead. God wants us to be willing to be shaped. Each one of us is a labor of love in the hands of the Master Potter of life.

2021 marked the end of our Food Ministry program which gave the church the opportunity to make a difference in our community by providing food for over 15,000 families. This ministry became a source of pride for the church; through it we were able reach out and make a difference in the lives of many who found themselves struggling as a result of the COVID pandemic. When the God in Action Food Alliance came to an end, this gave birth to a similar food ministry our youth initiated, The Caring Cupboard. This food ministry operates on a smaller scale, which also has the objective to help eliminate food insecurity. The Caring Cupboard has its location at our front entrance on Main Street. It allows those passing by to obtain basic food necessities during weekdays and Sundays. About 100 families per month are reached by this outreach ministry.

2021 was also the year when Michael Heffner and Taurino Juarez left to commence the next phases of their lives. We got a chance to send them off to their new journeys on what was called Michael and Taurino’s Celebration Sunday on August 8, 2021. Michael and Taurino truly embody the characteristics of faithful servants who used their different talents to make Grace/ La Gracia a better place.

On Sunday December 19, 2021 Grace/La Gracia celebrated a major milestone with a very special service where we blessed our refurbished sanctuary and dedicated our new pews. We are very grateful to Linda Gallo and Daisy Calderon who followed the project from beginning to end, working diligently to bring it in on time and in budget. We are also beholden to Bill Doty who played an

important role in all aspects of the renovations, especially providing the funds to make this project come into fruition.

2021 also brought a partnership with Saint Andrew’s Episcopal Church to Grace Church. This partnership allowed that parish to have Sunday services and at the same time provided Grace Church with an extra

source of income. I was there from March to December 2021. In my time in St Andrew’s I made a good connection with the Vestry and the parishioners. During my 10 months there I worked closely with the Vestry to bring parishioners back and helped to plan several important activities for the parish.

During 2021 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.

In 2021 we had 150 Sunday and Saturday Eucharists, 52 weekday Eucharists, 6 Baptisms and we lost six parishioners very dear to us: Dorothy Lynch, Judy Hutton, Oscar Bunche, Clyde Hicks, Maria Lewis, and Dorothy Jackson.

I continue to have a close relationship with the **Hispanic Center** of White Plains, and I meet every Wednesday through Zoom with the Latino priests of the Diocese. This weekly meeting is hosted by **Canon Victor Conrado** who serves as a connection between the Latino priests and the Diocese

When our former rector left I was asked to step in to provide continuity until an Interim Priest is selected. I embraced the challenges and the responsibilities that come with this task. I have been conducting all services, meeting with the Office Staff, providing Pastoral Care, submitting reports to the Diocese and working very closely with the Wardens.

As we continue with the process of renewal and reconciliation we have also embraced changes. Services are more spiritual, sermons are more engaging and uplifting, and a special time has been set aside for congregants to connect with God in a personal way through individual prayer. The impact of this new approach has resulted in the return of parishioners who had been absent for a long period, and we have new parishioners who are involving themselves in the life of the church by volunteering to be counters, joining the choir, etc. Attendance has grown from a low point of 27 to a high of 70. In all, our church community is working hard to restore and reclaim its sense of family and its history of an active, loving, and generous community of faith.

I continue to work to build bridges between the two ministries (English/Spanish) 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. I urge all to continue to work together and support each other as a body responsible for Grace / La Gracia’s stability and future.  God knows the plans He has for us. And ultimately He will give us a glorious future.

**Goals for 2022**

To successfully bring back the Family Service with the help of the experts, the teachers of both

children and youth.

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 Vestry.

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**Annual Report: February 2022**

**La Gracia: Rev. Adolfo Moronta**

La Gracia is a vibrant and growing Hispanic ministry with many opportunities for spiritual growth and discipleship among our Spanish speaking parishioners. The continued presence and participation of La Gracia in White Plains is more important than ever. According to recent data, the Latino population of White Plains has grown to 35 percent. Our parish is working hard in order fulfill the spiritual needs of this growing Spanish speaking community.

Some of the most fertile ground for the growth of the Episcopal Church lies in the Hispanic community. Grace Church is among the parishes in this Diocese that are rising to this challenge by reaching out to the Hispanic community and making it part of our mission and ministry.

As a Latino Ministry church, our objective is to be more than just simply helping people in their individual faith journeys. We are also meant to be a living faith community that helps people encounter the living God together and grow closer to Him.

La Gracia began 2021 by re-structuring all its committees. We now have a total of 20 different committees where more than 50 of our Latino members serve this ministry on a weekly basis. The month of January 2021 also began with the distribution of toys to the children and youth of both Grace and La Gracia.

Attendance: La Gracia has an average attendance of 90 at the 12:30 Sunday Service and an average attendance of 20 in the 7:30 pm Thursday service.

Growth: We have been blessed with many new members that have been joining us since January 2021. The congregation keeps growing mainly due to a strong spiritual plate that is served in our services, and as a result of our efforts to build a strong and united community. Is very common to see new members every Sunday.

Activities

Retreat: During September 24, 25 & 26 with an attendance of around 70 parishioners, La Gracia had its annual retreat in 2021 called Transforming Lives. The purpose of this retreat was to renew the spiritual lives of the parishioners and to deepen their personal commitment to Christ in openness to the Holy Spirit and His gifts. In the retreat participants were part of a spiritual process of seven teaching sessions, each one building upon the previous one. The retreat included speakers from both New York and Florida and was accompanied by joyful and spiritual music, prayer times and small group meetings.

Cruise: La Gracia organized two 3-hour cruises for both congregations of Grace/La Gracia. More than 80 parishioners participated in these two events which had the goal to bring people together as one community.

Virgin of Guadalupe: This festivity took place on December 11. The celebration began at 8:00 PM with the procession that included a Mariachi band, followed by the Eucharist and a dinner which was served on a grab and go basis. 175 attended this service; everyone was fully masked and properly distanced.

First Communion: Held First Communion in the month of September for St Peter’s Episcopal Church, which had their priest in the Hospital. This First Communion service was done in combination with La Gracia. There is another group of children of La Gracia who attend classes every Sunday in order to have their first communion in the month of May 2022.

Mother’s Day - Father’s Day - Valentine’s Day. For all three of these special occasions La Gracia had special activities which included gifts, lunch, and raffles.

Christian Ed: The School of Lay Leaders of La Gracia continued successfully through 2021. In this school of lay formation parishioners get to learn about: Church History, Bible, Spirituality, Homiletics, Liturgy among other topics, and it continues to have good attendance.

Live streaming: The live streaming of La Gracia’s services is done through Facebook. Every Sunday we get approximately 400 – 500 views.

Goals for 2022

1) We want to keep increasing our Spanish speaking membership. We do not just want greater numbers; we want our parishioners to be more fully invested in our faith community.

2) Enhance our Christian education program.

3) Continue with the spiritual growth of the congregation.

4) Provide a series of workshops.

5) Continue to motivate the parishioners on the importance of Stewardship.

6) Keep empowering our leaders.

7) Continue to work closely with the Latino Parishes of the area.

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**2021 STATISTICS**

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,   
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**Sunday Holy Eucharists – 150**

**Weekday Holy Eucharists – 52**

**Private Administration of the Communion – 64**

**Sunday Attendance Total 2021 – 6,542**

**All Other Attendance – 1,805**

**Total Attendance – 8,347**

**Register of Services – 2021**

**Record of Baptisms in 2021 — (6)**

**Record of First Communions in 2021 — (4)**

**Record of Confirmed in 2021 — (0)**

**Record of Marriages in 2021 — (0)**

**Funerals Held at Grace Church in 2021— (7)**

*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*

**BUILDING & GROUNDS ANNUAL REPORT: FEBRUARY 2022**

**CHAIR: DAISY CALDERON**

**MEMBERS: Supportive Roles from Rector, Sr. Warden, Sexton, Administrative Staff, and former head of B&G.**

Challenges

• The operations of buildings and grounds faced challenges on many fronts during 2021. The Pandemic not only forced us to change course, but it challenged us to navigate through periods of uncertainty as we found ourselves unable to fill the gap left by the departure of key partners in the B&G Committee. With no active members to look out after the facility the responsibility to Balance the day to day needs of the building, monitoring expenses, prioritizing projects, and communicating with our stakeholders and external partners rested on The Rector, The Wardens, Administrative staff, and our retiring Sexton.

• Our Sexton of over 30 years retired at the end of August 2021. With 30 years of irreplaceable knowledge, excellent craftmanship skills and dedication, no longer accessible, Salvador our new Sexton has stepped in and shown an admirable desire and drive to perform his duties and responsibilities. He comes to us with 12 years of Building maintenance experience with a Real Estate company.

What was accomplished? Our accomplishments were many despite covid.

• Our biggest accomplishment came through the generosity of a God sent donor. Through his kindness and personal donation, we received the necessary funding to replace our old pews. Not only was this an unbelievable moment of renewal for our parish, but it was also a one in a lifetime project which allowed me to be fully engaged/submerged and not as focused on the Pandemic. This project also allowed me to work closely and collaboratively with our former Sr. Warden, Linda Gallo. During the initial stages of the project Wardens met with met with 3 vendors. All were asked to present a proposal for:

1) full Restoration

2) full replacement

3) a Hybrid that would maintain some of the original pew ends and details.

We also asked based on the result of conversation with the congregation that the proposals should address ADA compliant seating and consider Kneelers and book racks for the comfort of our parishioners. The result of all the planning and details brings an immense level of satisfaction, I can only hope and pray that generations to come will continue filling our seats for years to come. In addition to the pews floors were also sanded and stained, and the walls of the sanctuary were repainted.

* Bathroom upgrades for Samaritan House which were part of the Bedell grant project were completed. Worked with LUW’s COO and project managers to complete this project.

• Two new bathroom doors were installed on the lower-level bathrooms (Ladies and Men’s Room)

• The Grease Trap which was creating a hazard due to slippery conditions caused by grease overflow in the kitchen has been addressed. A contractor specializing in grease cleanups performs a bimonthly cleanup of the grease trap. This expense is covered by LUW. If this arrangement proves to be ineffective more permanent solutions will need to be sought out.

• A contractor was engaged by our former Sexton at my request to provide a full assessment of the long-term leak which sporadically floods one of the second-floor classrooms during heavy rains. The source of the leak was determined, and it was indicated that the water is seeping into the classroom through cracks on the outside wall. The eventual water proofing of the walls in that area of the building is inevitable at some point. This item will continue to be addressed by our former B&G chair who has stepped in to help with Long delayed projects and other B&G matters.

• Accommodated our facilities for food distribution during the pandemic. Also managed space needs relevant to the transition of The God in Action Full Alliance into a traditional Food pantry, furniture, supplies, and other materials were reallocated throughout the building. This was done in an orderly manner and through ongoing coordination to bring our Library, hallways, Parlor Room, and other rooms to their previous conditions as soon as the Food Ministry transitioned to its new location.

• 6 weeks of Training was coordinated between our retiring Sexton and our new Sexton. Our new sexton was introduced to day-to-day tasks/events/activities during these 6 weeks. Shadowing exercises were also part of the training. General Information on all items of importance was shared. Information was shared on existing projects and deadlines, as well as information on key contacts (internal and external), vendors, service providers, inspection schedules and role relevant information, necessary to ensure a smooth transition.

• Efforts to neutralize/contain the massive Crow presence in the immediate area of our parish was effective. Our sidewalks, door, walls and church entrance are no longer coated with annoying bird droppings during certain seasons.

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**Annual Report: February 2022**

**Ministry/Committee: Stewardship**

**Chair:Co-Chair: Charlotte Roberson**

**Members: Cynthia S. Brown, Co-Chair Jim Brown, Daisy Calderon**

**Where we are now (December 2021).: (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished**

**business of 2021)**

We had high hopes in the beginning of 2021 as parishioners began receiving their vaccines for the CoronaVirus. We continued safe distancing. Attendance improved slightly. A second vaccine and later a booster shot became available to parishioners. Attendance continued to be low. Many people watched the service online. Additional concerns in 2021 kept the attendance low. The amount of pledge money received remained lower than the previous year. In September we started planning the stewardship campaign for 2022. Pledge Sunday was scheduled for November 14th. Unfortunately, less than 20 parishioners attended the 10:00 am service. This was partially due to the fact that the service was held in the parish hall due to the installation of new pews and other renovations that were taking place in the sacristy. Pledge forms were distributed on November 14th at all services. Father Adolfo helped LaGracia

parishioners complete their pledge forms at the 12:30 pm service. Pledges were then mailed/emailed to all parishioners. The pledges are coming in slowly. All vestry members pledged by December. During the year the stewardship committee and vestry members continually called our parishioners to check on their well being. These calls were especially important to those who were isolated at home. We encourage

parishioners to also give of their time and talent. Stewardship and all other committees and programs need volunteers. Hopefully we have moved through the darkest period and we are now moving into the light.

**Where we hope to be in December 2022 : (1-3 goals for 2022)**

Pledge Income for 2021 - $267,176

Pledge Income Received 2021 - $265,555

1. Collect as much of the outstanding 2021 pledge dollars as possible.

2. Parishioners pledging a higher amount in 2022.

3. Find volunteers for the stewardship committee. In particular, we need someone who is willing to learn the ACS system: We also need 2 counters for each Sunday.

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

1. Sermons and lessons on stewardship and the concept of faith giving. We

give because we love God and understand that all that we have is His. (As opposed to the idea of giving money to support programs or doing a good deed).

2. Additional funds in the budget to execute the stewardship program. We

would like to order customized pledge boxes (as we had before the

pandemic) Currently we are using generic boxes.

3. Parishioners volunteering for the Stewardship Committee.

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**Annual Report: February 2022**

**Ministry/Committee: Altar Guild**

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

**Members: Sandy McAllister, Melanie Jackson, Carol Mitchell, Audrey Taylor**

Where we are now (December 2021).: (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2020 The Altar Guild provides a space of quiet and preparation for all who service on the Altar.

Although there have been restrictions, due to the Covid vir us and variants, we have maintain teams to provide set up, clean up and decorations for all services. We are responsible for the maintenance of altar linens, glass items, frontals, vestments, robes and all other holy hardware which is associated with all church services. We order and store all of the fore mentioned items and order all supplies and flowers for services. We have lost 5 members of the Altar Guild due to Covid and health issues.

**Where we hope to be in December 2022.: (1-3 goals for 2022)**

-We will continue to maintain a atmosphere of quiet and serenity in preparation for the ser vices of

the church.

-We are anticipating adding another team from La Gracia to fill in for one missing team, we lost

Due to Covid.

-Provide training for the new team in preparation of all services.

-Develop sources of income to replace the sacristy cabinetry.

*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: February 2022**

**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**

**Nikolas O’Hanlon**

**Lauren Reid**

**Andrea Spencer**

**Jordan Acevedo**

**Aaron Bradford**

**Eve Bradford**

**Shane Daughtry**

**Aadi Kumar**

**Priya Kumar**

**Rohan Kumar**

**Anna O’Hanlon**

**Kristina O’Hanlon**

**Vika O’Hanlon**

**Gabrielle Parkinson**

**Harrison Richards**

**Ivana Richards**

**Eric Woodberry**

**Aaron Woodberry**

**Where we are now (December 2021).: (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. In 2021 we continued to serve with a scaled down group on the altar each Sunday, and we have learned at the 10am service what our 8am servers have known for years- one acolyte can get the job done, and when two or three are gathered together in God’s name, God is in the midst of them- most certainly when serving at the altar. While we wished Aaron Bradford and Anna O’Hanlon well as they went off to college this past Fall, we were blessed this year to welcome back Linda Harmon and to welcome new parishioner Shoji Mizumoto. Anna O’Hanlon also happily returns to service when she is home from college on break.

**Where we hope to be in December 2022 (1-3 goals for 2022):**

Our main goal for 2022 is to be able to continue to aid the priest in worship, particularly during this time of transition. We hope that as the world continues to open up again more of acolytes will be able to join us back on the altar once again.

**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: February 2022**

**Ministry/Committee : Grace Church Choir**

**Chair: Peter Roberts**

**Where we are now (December 2021):** (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2021) The Grace Church Choir is comprised of volunteers and professional singers. The choir is dedicated to enriching and illuminating the Gospel with songs, hymns and instrumental works. The choir seeks to maintain a varied repertoire; from English Cathedral anthems to Taize chants, spirituals, and music from various 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.

The two choirs were not able to meet and participate in the Sunday worship experience on a regular basis for most of the 2021 church year. New music however, has been ordered and purchased for both choirs, and will be included in the repertoire when the choirs resume singing.

The adult choir sang for the annual festival of Lessons and Carols on January16, 2022. The service celebrated both the season of Epiphany with hymns, carols and anthems relating to the manifestation of Christ as the” Light of The World” and the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The service of Lessons and Carols was made possible through the largesse of individual donors.

**Where we hope to be in December 2022:** (1-3 goals for 2022) The goal for the coming year is to begin to re-group and re-staff the choir and to begin the process of expanding the choir repertoire to include more works by women and African- American composers.

**What resources we will need to get there?** : Refunding the choir budget is an important first step in creating a viable choral music program at Grace/La Gracia. Relying on individual donations will result in a choral music program lacking in consistency, and structure. Volunteers who rely on the professional section leaders for support may become reluctant to join the choir. Ultimately the quality of service music will be limited and will suffer. To maintain a viable choral music program with a varied repertoire the choir must have at least four section leaders leading the choir and the congregation in song. This parish has a wonderful music ministry history. It is important that funding be allocated for this important work to continue. Without a viable choral music program, the church will be without an important resources available to inspire worship, to encourage congregational participation, and to improve attendance.

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**Annual Report: January 2021**

**Ministry/Committee: Youth Christian Education**

**Chair: Linda Gallo**

**Members Lauren Reid, George O’Hanlon, Tiffany Hutton Woodberry, Ingrid Richards, Erika Santos Michael Heffner**

**Where we are now (December 2021).: (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2020)**

The program continued through the beginning of 2021, despite the pandemic limiting attendance. The teaching staff conducted instruction via Zoom. Although it presented a challenge for our youth and teaching staff, all persevered. The academic year concluded in June with the recognition the teaching staff and students.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming three new teachers: Tiffany Hutton Woodberry and Ingrid Richards who took on instruction of the Intermediate level (Grades 3-6); Erika Santos, who teaches the Elementary level (Grades K-2). Michael Heffner taught the Intermediate level through June. He has since gone on to school himself as a Seminarian at Yale Divinity.

During the summer. The teaching staff decided to align the curriculum with that of the liturgy in order to make it more relevant to what the adults in our youth’s lives hear during the service. To do so, the teaching staff selected materials from a website where they can access materials based on the readings for a particular Sunday. Teachers are also being creative in how they present the Gospel and readings to our youth. Although in class instruction began in September, the return of students was slow but has increased through December 2021.

**Where we hope to be in December 2022.: (1-3 goals for 2022) The three main goals for 2022 are to:**

1) continue encouraging parents to have their children attend classes;

(2) to re-evaluate materials in determining the relevancy and effectiveness of them;

(3) encourage parents to be more actively engaged with the education of their children.

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

The resources will include a commitment from parents to be participatory in their children’s religious instruction by agreeing to come once per month to witness the instruction and perhaps offer some assistance. Another aspect is to fund the activities and materials needed.

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**Annual Report: February 2022**

**Ministry/Committee: Pastoral Care Committee**

**Members: Fr Adolfo, Sylvia Simon Marie Barrows, Daisy Calderon (Active) Eileen McClean. We have several inactive members .**

**Business 2021**

Pastoral Care members provide emotional support to parishioners and their families in addition to keeping them up to date about Grace Church events. Pre-pandemic Pastoral Care members took communion once a month to parishioners who were unable to attend church, but Covid has brought many changes to our lives, and Pastoral Care has had to adapt to this circumstance. While hospital and home visits are done by Father Adolfo; phone calls have become a major new way in which to reach out to parishioners. It’s really amazing what a simple phone call or a card can do to a person. Parishioners get a major mood boost and completely shift when they talk to their priest or to a parishioner who calls to see how they are doing and listens to them, prays for them, and encourages them to hold on to their faith as God and medicine continue to work on their health. Although the lay members of Pastoral Care are unable to take communion to parishioners, they have engaged in the following activities:

1. Assisted those needing vaccinations.
2. Stayed in touch with homebound individuals and their family members via phone.
3. Sylvia sent cards for birthdays, anniversaries and for get-well wishes.
4. Fr Adolfo makes hospital and home visits.
5. EileenMclean works at Montefiore and follows up on patients.
6. Marie Barrows follows up with members of SAGE

**Where we hope to be in December 2022. (1-3 goals for 2022)**

1. Recruit new members
2. Bring back the Healing services
3. Re-activate the roll of Eucharistic ministers

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**Annual Report: January 2022**

**Ministry/Committee: The Episcopal Church Women**

**Chair: Melanie Jackson**

**Members**

**Irene Alves, Laura Auld, Marie Barrow, JoAnn Boylan, Gloria Chang, Cynthia Cole, Edythe Horne, Melanie Jackson, Carole Lashley, Terri Mauro, Trisha McGuiness, Joyce Pickering, Monique Reynolds, Charlotte Roberson, Andrea Spencer, Shirley Spencer, Audrey Taylor and Jane Washington**

**Where we are now (December 2021):** The pandemic continued to present challenges to the ECW. We were able to continue our tradition of giving $50 to the Grace/ La Gracia high school graduates. We were greatly saddened by the passing of our beloved sister, Judith Hutton. ECW donated altar flowers for her funeral and provided restaurant gift cards to her daughter. In the fall we began to meet in person in the church library with a zoom connection for those who could not attend. During the holidays we returned to on line meetings as Omicron spread. We continued our exploration of the ECW with a zoom presentation on the history of the ECW. Most recently members participated in a virtual retreat sponsored by the diocesan ECW entitled: ECW in the Time of COVID: Where do we go from here.” It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and engage with our Diocesan leadership as well as women of other parishes to share stories of the challenges we face and to discuss the future of the ECW. We resolved to meet on a regular basis to share ideas and our progress.

**Where we hope to be in December 2022:**

We will continue to explore how to move forward in these challenging times while

fulfilling the ECW mission statement. We will strive to stay relevant and to create moments that connect us to each other, make a difference in our church and enrich our spiritual lives and those around us.

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

We need prayer, faith and commitment to our goals.

We need imagination and flexibility to respond to these challenging times.

We need new members and the continued support of current members.

OPENBOOK***Grace Church Book Club***

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Now in its 23rd year, the **Grace Church Book Club** was launched in 1999 with Toni Morrison’s story of *Beloved.* Roughly 170 books and five films later, the **Grace Church Book Club** is still going strong. Recent book selections to date have included:

**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

**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

**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, Joy Scantlebury, 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*