



GRACE CHURCH
of the Episcopal Diocese of New York
IGLESIA LA GRACIA

De la Diócesis Episcopal de Nueva York

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

STAFF

The Reverend Dr. Chip Graves, Rector / El Rector
The Reverend Adolfo Moronta, Associate Priest / Sacerdote Asociado
Peter Roberts, Music Director Grace Church / Música de Grace
Juan Carlos Abreu, Music Director La Gracia / Música de La Gracia
Donna Louis, Youth Ministry Coordinator / Coordinadora del Ministerio Juvenil
Maria Campos, Administrator / Administradora
Taurino Juárez, Sexton / Jefe de Mantenimiento

VESTRY MEMBERS

Joseph C. Gallo, Senior. Warden
Michael Heffner, Junior Warden
Hillary Fleming, Treasurer
Sorraya Sampson Elliott, Clerk

Class of 2019: Trisha McGuinness, Charlotte Roberson

Class of 2020: Hillary Fleming, Michael Heffner

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

ANNUAL MEETING HELD JANUARY 26, 2020

**Grace La Gracia Episcopal
Church Annual Meeting
January 26, 2020**

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 and Opening of the Polls
Hymn and change of venue to the Parish Hall**

Hillary Fleming:	Treasurer's Report for 2019 Presentation of the 2020 Budget
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Joseph C. Gallo	Senior Warden's Reflection
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The Rev. Dr. Chip Graves	Rector's Report
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The Rev. Adolfo Moronta	Report on La Gracia
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Joseph C. Gallo	Recognitions and Thanks
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Sorraya Sampson Elliott	Announcement of the Election
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Closing Prayer

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Ballot

(Two-Year Term)

(One-year term)

Daisy Calderon

Note (3 for 3-year terms, 1 for 2-year uncompleted term)*

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Annual Report: January 2020

Ministry/Committee: Finance

Chair: Joe Gallo Co-Chair: Hillary Fleming

Members: Carlos Munoz, Kevin Richards, Michael Heffner

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019)

In 2019, we made an effort to share monthly reporting with everyone who has responsibility for managing a budget. The same reports that I share with the Vestry at monthly meetings are the ones each budget manager receives. This was another step in creating financial transparency that began in 2018 with publishing a pledge tracker in each bulletin.

A notable achievement was La Gracia exceeding its pledge goal of \$15,000. La Gracia pledges reached close to \$21,000 (up from \$15,000 in 2018). This is the result of Fr. Adolfo's partnership with Daisy Calderon and other La Gracia lay leaders to educate and encourage the La Gracia congregation about stewardship and the purpose of pledging.

Challenges continue to be a significantly insufficient cash flow in the face of rising costs to run Grace/La Gracia. We entered 2019 with a large planned deficit and ended 2019 worse off.

The unfinished business of 2019 is the same as the unfinished business of 2018... identifying a way to offset our negative cash flow and establishing a plan to replenish and grow our endowment.

Where we hope to be in December 2020: (1-3 goals for 2020)

- Protected endowment fund established
- Growth in Grace (i.e. membership, programs)
- Additional Revenue Streams

What resources we will need to get there:

- Financial and Legal Expertise
- Creativity and Volunteers

2020 Budget – Voted on By Vestry 12.23.19

	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>	<u>2019 Actuals</u>
Pledge Income Grace	\$ 250,000	\$ 310,000	\$ 256,296
Pledge Income LaGracia	20,000	15,000	20,787
Loose Plate Offerings	45,000	35,000	66,595
LUW Rent/Utilities	116,000	116,000	115,916
Office Rental	6,600	0	0
Parish Hall Rent	25,000	20,000	36,637
La Gracia Grant	8,000	8,000	8,000
Fundraisers	5,000	10,000	735
Diocesan Clergy Grant	66,000	55,278	55,278
All Other Income	40,000	25,000	80,426
TOTAL INCOME	581,600	594,278	640,670
Withdrawals from Savings	232,270	173,712	200,000
TOTAL RECEIPTS	813,870	\$ 767,990	\$ 840,670
Church Operations	309,000	272,910	280,689
Clergy	301,200	299,400	286,966
Music	62,820	53,000	56,423
La Gracia	24,300	19,300	20,219
Other	5,950	6,750	11,762
Rectory	19,700	19,700	19,372
Office	90,900	96,930	116,591
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 813,870	\$ 767,990	\$ 792,022
Profit (Deficit)			\$ 48,648

Highlights

- We finished December with a much higher pledge intake of (\$34K) than what I predicted during our 12/23 Budget conference call (\$22K).
- Total Revenues were \$46K higher than planned, thanks to in-kind donations from Cappelli, Parish Hall rentals, unexpected bequests and very high loose plate offerings.
- Altar Guild is 100% self-funding (\$8K).

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Annual Report: January 2020

Senior Wardens Report

2019 was a year of anticipation with many goals needing to be examined and implemented. I would like to take this opportunity to summarize some of the major accomplishments shepherded by the guidance of our new rector, Father Chip Graves.

Accomplishments for 2019

- Installation of New Rector. In 2019 the Vestry was able to call a new rector in Father Chip Graves. He was installed the summer of 2019 by Bishop Glasspool with the assistance of the Diocese and much work by Grace parishioners.
- The Grace Rectory. Several repairs and updates were made to the rectory. Through the efforts of the Vestry, Buildings and Grounds, chaired by Walter Simon and several dedicated members, the windows were replaced, waterproofing of the front of the property, and painting of the interior and exterior were completed. Several rotted areas were repaired, putting the rectory in good shape.
- Grace Church historical records were organized and preserved by Clyde Hicks and his committee. Based on the hard work of this committee and their recommendations, the Vestry approved the storage of documents going back to the 1800's with the Diocese. Under the safekeeping of the Diocese, the documents are always available for Grace to retrieve, but they are protected by the policies and procedures of professionals at the Diocese. The documents still are Grace's records and available to Grace.
- The Grace parish elevator was finally repaired and put into service. The original budget of this project exceeded \$350,000. Through the rekindling of our relationship with Mr. Louis Cappelli, the project was completed at no cost to Grace. Many thanks to Mr. Cappelli who has agreed to act as our property consultant at no cost to Grace.
- The organ has had several maintenance and repairs completed under the guidance of William Biles and other parishioners. The Vestry has taken the recommendations of this committee and has established a separate fund with our financial advisors. Through fundraising efforts spearheaded by Eileen McClean, the Vestry has established this fund. With the market producing double digit returns, the Vestry voted to take these funds and invest them in high yield markets. The Vestry felt this to be a sound philosophy as these funds are for future enhancements to the organ (not standard yearly maintenance) that are not anticipated to happen for at least three years. This plan will exceed \$ 300,000 to accomplish this vision.

- Finances have been constantly monitored with several options being tested to improve our positions. We have had the Cappelli organization fund several projects. The Bedell Fund has granted us just under \$ 200,000 to make repairs such as painting the exterior church railing, remodeling the kitchen and bathrooms in the rectory, repairing the driveway, and several other projects. With the help of Lifting Up Westchester, we were successful in winning a grant to update the air conditioning and repair to the roof of the Parish Hall building. We have received bequests that exceed \$ 200,000 and continue to look to movie companies to rent space from Grace.

Goals for 2020

- Revise investment goals and indexes
- Continue to monitor and maintain the properties
- Continue fundraising events and sources of income
- Develop a five-year plan to return to a break-even budget
- Reestablish our mission of being a welcoming church to all
- Continue to be transparent regarding the finances of Grace
- Strength our advocacy and outreach missions

I have always felt that Grace has never retreated from a challenge. When Grace is faced with a challenge, they have always reached deep and come to fulfill what it sets out to do. I am confident that the new leaders will continue to see the vision and move forward to accomplish these goals. I thank all for your confidence and support and hope you will continue this with the new leadership.

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Annual Report: January 2020

The Rev. Dr. Chip Graves

Over this past year, I have worked closely with our vestry, ministry leaders, and many parish members. I cannot thank all of you enough for all that you've done to support me and this parish this past year. I came to Grace Episcopal Church in late January of 2019. My initial focus was to fulfill the primary points expressed to me by the search committee and vestry to include a focus on our worship, pastoral care, administration, community relationship between Grace and La Gracia and growth in parish membership and spirituality.

I'd like to briefly share about each component. During each Sunday Fr. Adolfo and I work with Peter Roberts (the choir) and those assisting at the altar to ensure a solid worship experience. And we will continue, striving to improve. Our sermons focus on how the Gospel message of the day connects to our contemporary lives in which we live. In order to enhance our worship, we have implemented several things. First, we heard you wanted more hymns from Lifting Every Voice and Sing. Therefore, we have added them. We heard that you adore traditional services; therefore, we brought back the Requiem Mass, the Lessons and Carols and the Great Litany later this spring 2020. In addition, we have added a Rite 1 worship at 8:00 AM on Sunday and we are developing a new weekly Sunday afternoon Mass with Jazz Music, derived from our National Cathedral in Washington DC.

Regarding Pastoral Care, I'd like to thank Sandy McAllister and her pastoral care team for all the work they do, visiting our home-bound members, unable to attend Sunday worship. In addition, Fr. Adolfo and I meet weekly with parishioners in need - at church, at home, at hospitals, at rehab centers and much more. I'd also like to thank Melanie Jackson and UTO members for stepping up from time to time helping with folks in need.

Regarding Administration, I've worked closely with Maria Campos, trying to enhance our communication with all leaders and members at Grace Church. As we all know, Grace Church is an active place, literally engaging the White Plains community twenty-four-seven. We have developed a 12-month master working calendar, allowing leaders to know of projects to come. We are also developing a several hundred-page policies and procedures manual allowing for smoother operations in the future.

Regarding the Building of Community between Grace and La Gracia members, we continue bilingual worship services. I meet regularly with La Gracia leaders for their input and insight. We have added La Gracia members to our vestry, and we continue to invite members from both Grace and La Gracia to attend each other's events. And lastly, we have focused on developing fundraisers that benefit both memberships, not just one or the other.

With regard to growing the church, we have done many things. One, I have followed up personally with newcomers, inviting them to private consultation in my office or at some convenient location in town. Two, we developed a new weekly Coffee Hour after 8 o'clock Mass, allowing our newcomers to get to know our regular members. Three, we have developed a new weekly Women's Bible Study, which has attracted many new women to our church.

Four, we have developed a weekly video of our Sunday worship service on Facebook and therefore, we now have over 200 new people watching our service each week. Five, we are developing several new and exciting community events, events that will likely generate interest for newcomers. There is more to come.

There are areas in which we can improve. First, we need more member participation in a few areas. We need volunteers to support our Sunday School teachers, the Altar Guild, serving on the altar and Pastoral Care. We gave out participation slips for you to fill in and give back to us. Please consider this. If you have interest, please let us know. These positions are essential to our church.

I would be remiss, if I did not mention the white elephant in the room - our financial situation. In this past year we had some very positive financial news; several grants, a large bequest, Grace increased their non-pledge giving and la Gracia continues to grow their pledge and plate; however, we retain a very large deficit.

Our large deficit is not insurmountable but must be addressed. Our deficit did not begin this past year but has been a trend for many years. Unless we stop this trend, Grace Episcopal Church will not have another 200 years. Therefore, our leadership is going to be proactively engaging this matter. We have begun a visionary process in order to determine our parish priorities and how to fund them.

The priorities will come from you, the church members. Therefore, we ask you to participate. This process is a delicate dance that encompasses both the willingness to invest in new things allowing for growth, while at the same time, being willing to right size our expenses in order to live within our budget.

As we move forward in this financial visioning process, we will follow some guidelines in order to ensure a positive outcome. First, all members are invited to these meetings. Second, we will focus on the future and not the past. Third, we will not focus on blame but possibilities. Fourth, we will be proactive; there will be a tangible outcome. Fifth, we will discuss with respect to one another's views. Sixth, we will be transparent. I look forward to this process and our enhanced community outcome.

In closing, I want you to know that I truly love Grace Episcopal Church, rich in so many ways. God bless all of you, thank you for your support and I look forward to our continued blessings in 2020.

God Bless,

Fr. Chip

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Annual Report 2020

Associate Priest: The Rev. Adolfo Moronta

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievements, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019).

2020 marks my third year in this vibrant and diverse parish. During these three 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 now Rev. Chip Graves), I have by my side an incredibly talented and gifted committee of leaders who work closely with me.

During 2019 I was involved in the life of the parish through many of its ministries, namely Eucharistic celebrations, preaching, funerals, pastoral care, various meetings, special activities, and the connections made with many of you. I have been working closely with Fr. Chip. We meet every week where we plan together the activities of Grace/La Gracia. I continued to make pastoral visits in homes and hospitals for both Grace and La Gracia. Father Chip and I met regularly with Sandy Gadsden McAllister, Chair of the Pastoral Care Team, to schedule monthly visits. I did 2 baptisms, and 2 weddings. Every Thursday at 12:05 pm I presided over the healing service and preached the first Sunday of every month for both the 8:00 am and the 10:00 am service, and when Father Chip was away.

During Lent I was personally blessed for the third year in a row to be able to offer "Ashes to Go" at the train station from 6:00 AM until early afternoon. There I had the opportunity to pray, talk and offer ashes to more than 150 people. This was also an opportunity to reach those who were not our parishioners and let them know about Grace/La Gracia and the different services and ministries we have. We had a successful "Toy Drive" during December for Grace/La Gracia. Through this activity we not only collected toys to be given out to all the children, but we also received gifts cards and special gifts for all the youth of the church. The toy drive was an event that brought both ministries together as one.

Unfortunately, on June of 2019 Fidel, the gentlemen I met in our Soup kitchen who was fighting his addiction to alcohol and who returned to Mexico with the help of many of you, died. I must say that Fidel helped me reaffirm the reason why I became a priest. I originally thought that my mission with Fidel was to help him, through a relationship with God, be cured of his alcoholism and recover to have a full and happy life. But God had a different plan. God's plan was for me to help Fidel to be healed – to find God, to be reunited with his mother, and to die in peace. I have learned two things from this experience. First, that no matter how hard I try as a priest I am not always going to get the outcome that I expect. Second, that we never know what a little bit of kindness can mean to those we care for.

One of my most successful projects of 2019 was the School of Lay Leaders which I developed for La Gracia. The objective of this program is to empower our lay members to assume leadership positions in the church. Instructions include topics such as: The Bible, liturgy, spirituality, preaching, Church History and the Book of Common Prayer. The School meets twice a month with an average attendance of 20.

I feel blessed that we have had many so positive results within the Latino Ministry including increased attendance, renewal of their spiritual lives, increased stewardship and involvement in the life of Grace/La Gracia. In all, it is the blessing of the Lord towards this church that has allowed Grace/ La Gracia to get to where we are. I am grateful to Grace/ La Gracia for allowing me to do what I love the most - ministry.

Goals for 2020

- 1) Continue to be a bridge between the English and the Latino ministries of this church.
- 2) Work closely with our Rector.
- 3) Keep contributing to the spiritual growth of the congregation.

What resources we will need to get there: The overall support of the members of the parish.

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Annual Report: January 2020

La Gracia

The Rev. Adolfo Moronta

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievements, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019).

Four of my main goals for La Gracia have been spiritual growth, building a strong community, church growth and increased participation in stewardship. All four have been accomplished throughout my three years with the Latino ministry. **Spiritual growth** has been achieved through a combination of elements: The Holy Eucharist, Bible Study, weekly Prayer Group meetings and retreats. When I preside for the Latino ministry any liturgical service participants get the opportunity to connect with the Lord through prayer, music and the sermon. These are all essential tools needed so people can establish a connection with the Lord, allowing them to go back to their homes touched by God and revitalized. To help create a strong **community**, we provide a series of activities such as lunch served every Sunday to all who attend the Eucharist. It is there that people get to know each other and create strong bonds of friendship and brotherhood. Additionally, we do a series of activities outside of the church such as Prayer Group meetings every Wednesday in the homes of parishioners, Bible Study, barbecues in the summer time, Posadas (in December) and once a year La Gracia does a major trip to a religious setting where we get the chance to come together as one community in Christ. In 2019 we went to the Shrine of the Divine Mercy and 110 attended. **Stewardship**: we have increased giving from a little over \$5,000 a year to \$33,000. This has been a result of the combined efforts of Charlotte Robertson, Cynthia Brown, Daisy Calderon and me. We still have a long way to go, but we are already seeing a positive improvement. **Church Growth**: the increase in attendance of La Gracia is a result of several factors: 1) our strong spiritual Sunday Eucharist 2) Prayer Group meetings which are an excellent way to gain new parishioners since the person hosting a specific Prayer Group meeting usually invites family members and friends who usually end up attending our Sunday Eucharist; 3) word of mouth.

On July 26, 27 & 28 La Gracia held its annual retreat called **Life in the Spirit Seminar**. The Life in the Spirit Seminar (LISS) is an invitation to make or renew a deep personal commitment to Jesus Christ in openness to the Holy Spirit and His gifts. The retreat included speakers from both New York and New Jersey and was accompanied by joyful and spiritual music, prayer times and small group meetings where the participants shared their point of views, asked questions and formed a small community. Around 80 participated in this annual retreat which has an objective to: 1) Begin, renew or deepen a relationship with Jesus, 2) Motivate parishioners to a fuller participation in Parish Life, 3) Develop greater appreciation of Eucharist, 4) Deepen prayer life and 5) Increase study of Scripture.

For the third consecutive year in 2019 we also had our annual fundraiser and the Toy Drive. The fundraiser is an event that not only celebrates the independence of Mexico and other Latin American countries, but also is a cultural festivity where those present will have the opportunity to see the national

dances from Mexico and Peru and Central American countries. In these three years this activity has raised over \$6,000. We had a successful Toy Drive during December for Grace/La Gracia and more than 250 toys were received. These were distributed after the 10:00 AM and the 12:30 PM services. The toy drive was an event that brought both ministries together as one.

Another three pluses in 2019 were 1) the relationship established between La Gracia and the **Centro Hispano** (Hispanic Center). This center offers a series of services and programs that highly benefit the Latino parishioners of La Gracia. 2) The Thursday service at 7:30 PM which has been quite successful and is very convenient for those parishioners who cannot make it to our Sunday service, it has an average attendance of 30-40. 3) The members of La Gracia who joined the Advocacy committee led by Michael Heffner.

Besides the above, 2019 has been the year to empower our leaders. For this purpose, I developed one of my most successful projects of 2019 which was the **School of Lay Leaders**. The objective of this program is to empower our lay members to assume leadership positions in the church. Instructions include topics such as: The Bible, liturgy, spirituality, preaching, Church History and the Book of Common Prayer. The School meets twice a month with an average attendance of 20. Additionally, members of La Gracia have participated in different workshops and activities sponsored by the Diocese. I have sent groups of parishioners to different workshops such as: **"I Want My Church to Grow."** They also have attended the **"Escuela Biblica de Liderazgo"** of the Diocese. Additionally, 7 parishioners traveled to the Kanuga Conference Center in North Carolina to participate in the **"Nuevo Amanecer Conference."** Nuevo Amanecer is a conference that takes place every two years, where many successful lay and ordained leaders from the Latino Ministries of the Episcopal Church gather together in one place to learn and share their experiences. Nuevo Amanecer has various workshops and conferences that are offered to provide additional training to all those involved in Latino Ministry.

I am also working to create strong ties between the Latino Congregations of the area: **St Peters** of Port Chester, **San Andres** in Yonkers, **San Marcos** in Tarrytown and **San Bartolomeo** in White Plains. Every year we have a series of joint activities including the Stations of the Cross during Lent, our Advent retreat, and a Healing Eucharist. From time to time, we visit and preach in each other's congregations. This shared ministry has been very beneficial to all of us since we not only create ties between our congregations but also, we get to share with each other our plans, challenges and needs.

Where we hope to be in December 2020: (1-3 goals for 2020)

1. We want to continue to increase our Spanish-speaking membership.
2. Continue to hold special worship services that are also community gatherings (such as the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Posadas and our weekly Prayer Groups In the homes of our parishioners.
3. Have a major retreat during the summertime.
4. Continue to integrate and motivate La Gracia's members in all the major activities and ministries of Grace/La Gracia.

What resources we will need to get there:

1. The commitment of the attendees of this ministry and the overall support of the Parish.
2. Funding.

2019 Statistics

Register of Services - 2019

Sunday Holy Eucharists: **134**

Weekday Holy Eucharists: **202**

Private Administrations of Holy Communion: **105**

Sunday Attendance Total: **12,847**

Average Sunday Attendance: **267**

Record of Baptisms in 2019

Ethan Jeremiah Black

Jessie Joaquin Crafts

Jacob Mendoza Duque

Josiah Marlon Jayden McCalla

Kassie Muñoz

Sandalee Ilena Koran – Rose

Harrison James Simoglou

Record of First Communions in 2019 – None (0)

Record of Confirmed in 2019 – None (0)

Record of Marriages in 2019

Miguel Angel Batista Rosas and Maria Eugenia Candelas Flores

Steven Patierno and Amy MacPherson

Steven McDermott and Taylor Zirpolit

Funerals Held at Grace Church in 2019

Corine Addison Bradley

Edward R. Hewitt

Gloria E. Hewitt

Marcelina Rivas Romero

Gregory Carl Theodore

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Annual Report: January 2020

Ministry/Committee Buildings & Grounds Chair: Walter Simon Co-Chair: Nate Hogan
Members: Bill Biles, Bob Soso, Joyce Sampson, Arlene Grant
Project Specific Members: Michael Heffner and Teri Surgent
Committee Resource; Taurino Juárez

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019)

We were successful in securing \$173,000. in outside funding to address a series of needed improvements in the rectory, sanctuary and parish hall. The Bedell Fund provided \$100,000 and \$73,000 was provided by the City of White Plains and Westchester County through the efforts LUW.

The second boiler is in the process of being brought back into operation; but, additional upgrading of the unit is still required. Significant investment in roof repairs were made; however, pointing and/or replacement of the stonework of sanctuary and the repair of the organ remain major challenges.

Where we hope to be in December 2020: (1-3 goals for 2020)

1. Every organization to have neat and secured space for their items. We have a significant amount of storage space in the parish hall building that is poorly utilized. We started the process of space organization in the basement and will continue to process to the first and second floors. Unused items are being discarded and additional shelves are being built. However, the Buildings and Grounds Committee requires additional help to complete this and other projects.
2. Upgrade second boiler.
3. Selectively re-point critical areas of stonework that contribute water penetration into the building.

What resources we will need to get there:

Goal 1. Requires some funds from the B&G budget. The major resource needed is volunteer labor.

Goal 2. Requires additional funding.

Goal 3. Very careful management and allocation of B&G funds to achieve this goal. What is actually needed is additional capital spending to complete the project. It is a stretch objective to complete all the necessary repointing without it.

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Annual Report: January 2020

Ministry/Committee: Technology/Communication

Chair: Michael Heffner

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019)

- Boosted the audio quality from our video source in the library. Will roll out additional sound bars as needed.
- Worked with church member Wayne Elliott on streamlining our phone system (and expect to reduce the annual cost to the church by upwards of \$8,000.00).
- Work to continue to improve our live-streaming capacity (for the benefit of shut-ins and those who can't physically be at services/events). Our Facebook presence has been expanded considerably.

Where we hope to be in December 2020: (1-3 goals for 2020)

- Get a reliable Wi-Fi signal in place (for the guest network and the private network). Wayne Elliott is expected to play an expanded role in this initiative.
- Continue to work on broadening our social media footprint.

What resources we will need to get there:

\$3,000.00 annual budget and Volunteers! We need folks who are interested (no prior skills required). I will train you.

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Annual Report: January 2020

Ministry: Stewardship

Chair: Charlotte Roberson

Co-Chair: Cynthia S. Brown

Members: Daisy Calderon, Jim Brown, Elizabeth Carden

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019)

The theme for 2019 was "New Beginnings". Father Chip Graves, ordained in 2019 as the Rector of Grace/La Gracia Church, has concentrated on the priorities set forth by the search committee, vestry and parish community. In terms of stewardship, he stressed creating a welcoming community, growing our parish, and the meaning of "being a good steward".

Pledged Income for 2019: \$304,279

Income Received

:

Pledged	\$276,549.73
Unpledged	\$ 41,805.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$ 25,023.31</u>
Total	\$343,378.04

Where we hope to be in December 2020 (3 goals for 2020)

- 10% increase in new members
- 10% increase in realistic pledges
- 10% increase in the number of fundraisers in 2020

What resources we will need to get there:

- Year-round stewardship program
- Additional parishioners volunteering for church functions
- Pledging members reviewing their quarterly statements and fulfilling their pledges

Grace La Gracia Episcopal Church

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Annual Report: January 2020

Ministry/ Committee: Altar Guild

Chair: Brinda Bradley

Members: Jo- Ann B. Boylan, Brinda Bradley, Gloria Chang, Lyris Cooper, Haydee DeLeon, Edith Gonzalez, Melanie Jackson, Sandy McAllister, Carol Mitchell, Ruth Theodore, Shirley Spencer, Audrey Taylor.

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019)

- Maintain Altar Guild teams to provide preparation and clean up for all liturgies and all other functions in the church.
- Order all supplies and maintain all vestments and linens for all church services.
- Six members of the Grace/La Gracia Altar Guild signed up for the New York Altar Guild Workshop on Saturday, October 5, 2019, sponsored by The New York Altar Guild, Inc. The 3 members from La Gracia did not attend.
- Extending a working relationship with La Gracia to establish a team to provide preparation and clean up for liturgies and functions held in the church.

Where we hope to be in December 2020: (1-3 goals for 2020)

- Maintain the Sacristy as a spiritual place, in preparation for worship
- Establish Altar Guild teams from La Gracia to provide preparation and clean up for liturgies unique to La Gracia
- Recruit new members to the Altar Guild

What resources we will need to get there:

- Cooperation of all organizations who use the Sacristy to return all items where they belong and not leave various articles all about.
- I have schedule training for La Gracia Altar Guild members in February 2020

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Annual Report: January 2020

Ministry/Committee: Acolyte Ministry

Chair: Lauren Reid

Members:

Brinda Bradley
Malik Bradford
Rudye Breach
Jean Chambers
Janine Daughtry
Melanie Jackson
Sandy McAllister
Lauren Reid
Ray Williams
Andrea Spencer

Jordan Acevedo
Aaron Bradford
Eve Bradford
Sam Brown
Spencer Carden
Maya Daughtry
Shane Daughtry
Aadi Kumar
Priya Kumar
Rohan Kumar
James Heffner

Kendal Mangum
Waverly Mangum
Cameron Owens
Kaylee Owens
Anna Kristina O'Hanlon
Nikolas O'Hanlon
Vika O'Hanlon
Gabrielle Parkinson
Harrison Richards
Ivana Richards
Mirna Sanchez
Eric Woodberry
Aaron Woodberry

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

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019)

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 acolytes serve at both the 8:00 and 10:00 Sunday services, as well as various holiday services throughout the year, and their presence is an integral part of the service. In 2019 our group consisted of 34 acolytes, 24 youth and 10 adults, as well as 5 members at large. This year, Kaylee Owens went off to college, and we are so grateful for her many years of dedication and service. Sam Brown began college this year as well, and we are blessed that he attends locally and is able to continue joining us on the altar. Our 3rd college freshman, Nikolas O'Hanlon chose to join us as a new member this year, and we are lucky to have him. A special thank you to Janine Daughtry who stepped up to serve in a moment of need, and also helped to organize monthly schedules behind the scenes. We look forward to having new and returning youth join us in the coming year and want to remind everyone that all are welcome!

Where we hope to be in December 2020: (1-3 goals for 2020)

1. We hope to offer acolyte training on a quarterly basis.
2. We hope to add more adult acolytes to our ranks, 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 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 2020

Ministry/Committee: Ushers

Chair: Andrea R. Spencer

Members: Please see below

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019)

- We continue to serve Grace Church in the capacity of Greeters every Sunday and on special occasions such as Funerals and special events.
- We are continually looking to recruit new Ushers due to vacancy from retirees. Ginger Waters and Paxton Louis have been ushering for over 30 plus years combined and have expressed that they would like to retire, once we have their replacements. We would like to give a big thank you for their many years of service.

Where we hope to be in December 2020: (1-3 goals for 2020)

- We hope to complete the Active Shooter training for all our Usher teams and assign roles to specific Ushers in each team.
- We would like 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 hope to have new training and review of procedures.

What resources we will need to get there:

Resources will be determined as per needs.

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

Ginger Waters-*Captain*, Paxton Louis, Olivet Williams, Hillary Fleming, Lisa Daley

Team 3 - Third Sunday of the Month

Delroy Chang- *Captain*, Bob Soso, Al Sargeant, 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

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Annual Report: January 2020

Ministry/Committee: Lay Readers

Chair: Ray Williams/Michael Heffner

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019)

- Added new voices as readers at the Sunday and Special Services.
- Working with the Usher Guild to make sure that readers have access to the portable podium (where necessary) – and that substitutes for absent readers are found prior to the beginning of services.

Where we hope to be in December 2020: (1-3 goals for 2020)

- Welcome any interested readers.

What resources we will need to get there:

- Training on how to best use the microphones (for voice projection).

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Annual Report: January 2020

Ministry/Committee: Grace Church Choir

Chair: Peter Roberts

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2020)

The Grace Church Choir is comprised of volunteers, professional singers (section leaders), and college students (music majors), when needed. This group is dedicated to enriching and illuminating the gospel through song and instrumental playing. The choir is committed to maintaining a varied repertoire: From English cathedral music to Taize chants, spirituals, jazz, and music from the 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. This choir meets after church and performs on the third Sunday of the month for the monthly family service. This choir also seeks to maintain diversity in the selection of music for worship.

Both the adult Choir and the St. Nicholas Choir did an exceptional job in 2019. In December 2019, the choirs performed a very moving service of Lessons and Carols to usher in the Christmas season. Over the summer, the adult Choir sang beautifully at the installation of the Rev. Chip Graves the newly appointed rector of Grace Church/ la Gracia. Other notable services included a service to honor the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, services to celebrate Black History Month, a service of remembrance in November featuring the Faure Requiem, and services performed throughout Holy Week and the Easter season.

I am pleased to report that the St. Nicholas Choir is expanding their repertoire, to include both new music repertoire and movement. The St. Nicholas Choir is now integrating the shadow screen to further illuminate both music and the text.

Where we hope to be in December 2018: (1-3 goals for 2020)

One goal for 2020 is to continue to expand the choir repertoire. Moving forward I would like to perform more contemporary works, as well as works written by women and African American composers. I will continue to focus on finding music appropriate and suitable for the St. Nicholas choir. My goal is to continue to expand their repertoire to make the experience of singing in a choir meaningful for them.

What resources we will need to get there:

The Choir is currently on an austerity budget. As such any new music purchased last year, was gifted. Also because of the austerity budget musicians and instrumentalists who previously were hired to perform for special services were not invited. Going forward, I am hopeful that the choir will continue the fund-raising efforts begun in 2019. Through fund raising and with the largesse of individual donors, I am hopeful that the adult Choir and the St. Nicholas choir will be able to purchase new music to expand their repertoire and guest musicians will be invited to perform

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Annual Report: January 2020

Ministry/Committee: Youth Christian Education: Sunday School, Rite 13, Journey to Adulthood (J2A)

Chair: Donna Louis

Members: Teachers: Linda Gallo, Lyndsey Wall (Lambs); Leigh Burton, Andrea Lacourciere-MacLeish (Primary); Michael Heffner, Cynthia Sangurima-Brown (Intermediate); Donna Louis, George O'Hanlon (Rite 13); Lauren Reid, Rudy Breach (J2A)

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019)

Our program is based on a holistic teaching approach comprised of faith instruction, involvement in service to the Church (acolytes, choir members, ushers, lay readers), service to the community and fellowship. We achieve these objectives through our class meetings, events combining our classes and participation in worship service and community service projects.

The youth education program has had a strong first half of the school year. In addition to our individual class meetings, we have achieved fellowship through our all Sunday school bread baking event, a well-attended and enthusiastically enjoyed bowling outing, a very successful Christmas pageant and extensive participation in the acolyte, choir, ushering and lay reader programs and ongoing participation in Grace's Kitchen.

Last year's move to have Rite 13 and J2A meet during the regular Sunday Church meeting time, in order to address inconsistent attendance, has been successful for Rite 13. We have decided that for J2A members, we will have a once a month meeting on Sunday late afternoon/evening over a dinner. This will help to address schedule conflicts our high schoolers have with meeting earlier on Sunday. Technology enhancements continue in our classrooms, and we have also installed a bell outside of the hallway door entrance to the classrooms, to facilitate entry into the area, while at the same time maintaining security.

Where we hope to be in December 2020: (1-3 goals for 2020)

We continue to pursue our ongoing goal of growing our Youth Education program. This includes communicating with new parishioners with children, encouraging our existing families to bring friends and to educate our broader Grace community on our education program and objectives. We also attempt to recruit new teachers through personal contact, bulletin announcements and in-service announcements. A second goal is to continue to innovate our program to make it more exciting for our members. These include increased use of technology, combining events with other Church youth groups and soliciting ideas from parents, parishioners and clergy.

What resources we will need to get there:

Our greatest asset and greatest need is continued support from the Grace Church community. We appreciate the trust you place in us to teach your children. We depend on your support of our activities, our budget and our strong desire to enhance and expand our program. As you become aware of children whose families might be interested in our program, please send them our way!

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Annual Report: January 2020

Ministry/Committee: Advocacy Committee

Chair: Michael Heffner Co-Chair: Sorraya Sampson

Members: Katy Toolin, Daisy Calderon, Walter Simon, Daniel Corsanego, Mary Baker, Linda Heusser, Giovanni Green, Priscilla Read

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019)

- Hosted 3 forums in 2019/Early 2020:

Advocacy Forum - April 7th (11:30 am) Met in the library (25 in attendance). Fr. Adolfo Moronta spoke about specific experiences of members of La Gracia with immigration issues to help the Grace community see that the threat of ICE and deportation is very much an issue within our church, not just in the surrounding community. Fr. Hilario Albert (Priest-in-Charge) spoke about the involvement of St. Peter's in Port Chester with immigration issues to give us ideas as to how Grace/ La Gracia might become involved. Daisy Calderon and Daniel Corsanego shared personal stories.

Advocacy Forum – November 3rd (11:30am) Met in the parish hall (85 in attendance). Grace Church-La Gracia was fortunate to have four esteemed panelists join us on Sunday, November 3 for a lively discussion on a broad range of topics. Mayor Thomas Roach, County Legislator Alfreda Williams, White Plains Police Chief Joseph Castelli and Sergeant Madelin Cano were our featured speakers. Mayor Roach established that the City of White Plains is tacitly (if not officially) a "sanctuary city" defined by its protection of citizen's rights in all of its interactions. U.S. government officials are never contacted in the case of citizens finding themselves in the custody of the police (he did qualify that anyone committing a crime should not expect to enjoy this protection). County Legislator Williams echoed the mayor's comments by stating that Westchester County shares a similar policy. She further established that there are a number of existing organizations that serve as advocacy resources that would partner well with Grace-La Gracia. Chief Castelli and Sergeant Cano were uniform in creating a sense of unity that binds the police force with the interests of Grace-La Gracia. Understanding that houses of worship are potential targets for acts of violence, Chief Castelli shared suggestions for action plans that Grace-La Gracia will likely pursue. Sergeant Cano (who is bilingual) added a layer of openness to the Q&A session as some members in the audience were more comfortable posing questions in their native language. The panel's willingness to stay for the full meeting (and after for some individual conversations) was a solid statement about their commitment to the idea of working with Grace-La Gracia as we move toward growing our advocacy initiative. This was a very productive step that is likely to be followed by more forums (some were suggesting that we take the meetings to the church – rather than the parish hall - to gain a wider audience).

Census Sunday 2020 – January 12th Father Chip and I met with County Executive George Latimer and his team in November and learned that Grace Church/La Gracia can play an important role in the upcoming Census as a “trusted voice in the community”. *A new school to ease overcrowded classrooms. A new road to ease overcrowded commutes. There are many ways the 2020 Census can shape your community. The results collected once a decade, help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year.* (<https://2020census.gov>)

Karen M Barnes, Partnership Specialist - U.S. Census Bureau will be joining us (during announcements) at the 8, 10 and 12:30pm (in Spanish) Services to address concerns, answer questions and share how we can be involved.

(Event summary) We had a very productive Census Day at Grace/La Gracia this past Sunday. Karen Barnes and 2 of her partners from the Census Bureau were at each of the 3 services. Presentations were made during announcements (~7 minutes) and then they made themselves available to discuss the Census completion process (9 questions) and job opportunities (\$23 per/hr. in Westchester County)/volunteer opportunities. All were very pleased with the outcome. The translation service at the 12:30pm service was invaluable. Grace Church/La Gracia continues to shine as a trusted location/voice in our community

Where we hope to be in December 2020: (1-3 goals for 2020)

- Making plans to host a film event in the Spring (with content that addresses advocacy).
- The expansion of the breadth of advocacy coverage to include **the environment** and **advocacy for the aged** (in nursing homes/assisted living facilities).
- More forums.

What resources we will need to get there:

More members!

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Annual Report: January 2020

Ministry/Committee: Lifting Up Westchester

Liaison: Linda Gallo

Members: Joseph Gallo, Walter Simon, Barbara Wiggins

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019)

Grace Church continues to avidly support the work of Lifting Up Westchester (LUW). Many parishioners-young, mature, new and longtime members- faithfully serve those who utilize the services of Grace's Kitchen on federal holidays. Parishioners continue their practice of faith by providing sustenance for guests by serving and bringing those special "extras" for those who are greeted with genuine smiles and graciousness. By serving, it gives Anna the day off to enjoy a holiday.

Twice annually, Grace Church parishioners hear the call to assist two programs of LUW. The Summer Camp by providing gift cards so children who attend (many who live in shelters) the opportunity to attend camp and perhaps learn to swim or build upon the vital knowledge of how to swim. In 2019, Grace Church provided 96 gift cards for camper swimsuits, enough for each camper. Christmas saw Grace Church providing 77 gift cards in grocery bags to be distributed to those who might not be able to have a personal holiday. Happily, each of those grocery bags went to families of our youth programs. Each year, Grace has increased its generosity in its outreach to people receiving services through LUW. It is significant to note that ECW has also contributed Christmas gifts to the women of Samaritan House.

Because 2019 was the 40th anniversary of the founding of what is now known as Lifting Up Westchester, its founders were honored and recognized at the annual gala. The Board of Directors are grateful to those who not only had the vision of outreach who also lived the vision. The Board of Directors hopes that this relationship continues for at least the next 40 years.

There are new programs to support Westchester County residents whose needs transcend the acute. New programming includes outreach of services during Grace's Kitchen hours and beyond. LUW staff will be available to advise about services needed (food, shelter, medical services, etc.) extending through 4:00 PM, Monday-Friday. New housing coordinators and counselors are the support network for residents who have moved from LUW shelters to their own housing. This support has already ensured that a very small recidivism rate is successful. Because of generous donations, the Youth Services programs, (Summer Camp, Mentoring, STEM programs, etc.) continue to grow, reaching more students.

Through cooperation and collegiality, Grace church and LUW have worked to improve the kitchen and Samaritan House facilities. Future projects are being planned.

Where we hope to be in December 2020: (1-3 goals for 2020)

Goals for 2020 include:

- Continued communication and relationship and support of LUW programming
- Increase in volunteering with the Community Outreach of LUW
- Exploration of financial grants to enhance the facilities utilized by LUW programs
- Continued financial support of programs meeting the needs of Westchester County citizens whose need are not only short term but long term as well.

What resources we will need to get there:

The most important resource is mutual communication and support from both LUW and Grace Church.

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Annual Report: January 2019

Ministry/Committee: Pastoral Care (Eucharistic Visitors)

Chair: Sandy Gadsden-McAllister

Members: Marie A. Barrow; Cynthia R. Cole; Lisa A. Daley; Sandy Gadsden-McAllister; Arlene Grant; Judith A. Hutton; Eileen McClean; Cecelia E. Peagler; Carolyn Rogers; Joyce C. Sampson; Audrey A. Taylor; Raywald A. Williams

Where we are now (December 2018): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2018)

During 2018 ten Eucharistic Visitors administered 196 communions to approximately 7 parishioners on a monthly basis. Each visit consists of communion being given to parishioners, bringing greetings and information from the parish to ensure that they are kept current with the happenings at Grace Church. Any correspondence issued during the month, particularly the Angelus are given to the parishioner. On the 4th Sunday of each month, Eucharistic Visitors participate in a healing service.

The card ministry of Pastoral Care distributed or mailed 182 cards to parishioners; birthday, sympathy, get well and thinking of you.

We accomplished most of our goals for 2018; We held a successful retreat for Pastoral Care on March 17, 2018, Co-sponsored with the Diocese of NY Eucharistic Ministers Training on April 21, 2018, created a procedure for maintaining the names on the prayer list.

Where we hope to be in December 2018: (1-3 goals for 2019)

- 1- Refine the maintenance process for adding and maintaining names on the prayer list.
- 2- Revisit establishing a telephone ministry that focuses on prayer
- 3- Redefine when and how we do the monthly healing service
- 4- Schedule quarterly meeting and another Pastoral Care Committee retreat (invite other parishes from the area)

What resources we will need to get there:

More members on the Pastoral Care Committee, budget for purchasing cards and postage for the card ministry. Funding for hosting a Pastoral Care Retreat that includes inviting other parishes in the area.

Respectfully Submitted

Sandy Gadsden-McAllister, Chair, Pastoral Care Committee

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Annual Report: January 2020

Ministry/Committee Welcoming

Chair: Sylvia Simon

Team Leaders Gloria Chang, Carole Lashley, Jane Washington

Team Members: Laura Auld, Carmen Antoine, Leigh Burton, Cynthia Brown, Pettie Griffith, Judy Hutton Augustina Kumar, Nicole Mangum, Trisha McGuinness, Kassie Munoz, Susan Porcino, Monique Reynolds, Barbara Santos, Erika Santos, Katy Toolin, Lyndsey Wall

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019)

We began the year undecided about the direction of the committee. After discussion, we decided to create four teams consisting of five members on each team to assist volunteer hosts. Ideally, a team only needs to assist once a month.

This structure has lessened the workload for each member and has provided a much more collaborative and supportive environment.

We continue to host special events, celebrations and discussions. We try to encourage everyone to attend coffee hour

Fr Chip and Taurino have implemented a coffee hour after 8:00 AM service. Parishioners really appreciate this addition

Where we hope to be in December 2020: (1-3 goals for 2020)

1. Continue to fine-tune the new team structure, Recruit a new chairperson.
2. Encourage more parishioner to volunteer to host.
3. Would like to add focused discussions during coffee hour on various topics of interest to parishioners.

What resources we will need to get there:

While we receive some donations, they are minimal, so we hope the vestry will continue to financially support the committee. We welcome ideas and/or suggestions for improvement and enhancement of this important mission.

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Annual Report: January 2020

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

Chair: Marie Barrow

Members: Elsie A, Bernice B, Jo-Ann B, Jo B, Carole C, Harvey C, Barbara G, Dorothy L, Uriel R, Al S, Heather S, Shirley S, Joyce P, Cecile F, Sylvia H

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019)

S.A.G.E continues to meet monthly and to discuss different topics and issues based on our needs and interests. We have been fortunate to have Father Chip and Father Adolfo be a part of many of our monthly meetings. They have shared prayers, given communion, done sing-a-longs and actively participates in many of our topics. Our meetings are lively with generous sharing of ideas and experiences. We have prayed laughed cried and supported each other as we share, listen and tell our stories. Sadly, we have lost a few members due to illness and relocation. We miss them dearly but wish them all the best. Luckily, we have gained new members. Some are able to be with us each week while others make surprise visits based on health issues.

Where we hope to be in December 2020: (1-3 goals for 2020)

Our goals are to continue to have:

1. Monthly meetings
2. To continue full and active participation from most of our members
3. To complete our S.A.G.E Directory

What resources we will need to get there:

We need continued reservation of the library on the first Wednesday of each month from 1:30 PM-3:00PM

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Annual Report: January 2020

Ministry/Committee: Episcopal Church Women

Chair: Melanie Jackson

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

Where we are now (December 2019): Achievements:

- In January 2019 we had a holiday party at Via Garibaldi Restaurant, 21 women of Grace attended. (Jan. 2020 party saw an increase to 33 women and included women of La Gracia).
- Coordinated the Spring (\$923.98) and Fall (\$451) United Thank Offerings
- Easter Raffle- proceeds went to monetary gifts for our high school graduates
- Father's Day Breakfast and Coffee Hour
- Outing to Westchester Broadway Theater to see "On Your Feet."
- Contribution to Hurricane Dorian Relief
- Donation to Lifting Up Westchester in memory of our departed sister Cecilia Peagler.
- Holiday raffle and collection of toiletries for the women of Samaritan House. 17 Shower totes filled with various items were assembled and donated.

We have begun a "visioning" process which includes looking at our values as individuals and as a group. We will also look at our past and where we are now so that we can clarify our purpose and create a vision statement for the future.

Challenges:

- Developing a vision and ways in which to fulfill our vision.
- Providing a variety of activities which connect to our vision, make a difference and enrich our spiritual lives.
- Increasing membership and attracting younger women.

Unfinished business:

- We are continuing the visioning process.

Where we hope to be in December 2020: (1-3 goals for 2020)

We hope to have completed our visioning process, clarified our purpose and developed a mission statement for the future. We want to explore ways to carry out the mission in meaningful and relevant ways. We would like to fellowship with the women of La Gracia on a regular basis.

As always "We aspire to be a God spark-shining and sharing the love of Christ." (from A Vision for Episcopal Church Women).

What resources we will need to get there:

- The continued commitment of our current members.
- New members.
- The continued support of our parish, Vestry, Associate Priest and Rector.

Grace Church Book Club

Now in its 21st 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:

2018-2019

An American Marriage by Tayari Jones
The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Philipp Sendker
Behold the Dreamers by Imbolo Mbue
Chariot on the Mountain by Jack Ford
Fear by Bob Woodward
The Other Einstein: A Novel by Marie Benedict
We are Called to Rise by Laura McBride
When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

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 Immoralists 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

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 Lemon, 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

Grace La Gracia Episcopal Church

*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]*

Annual Report: January 2020

Ministry/Committee: WALK OF GRACE

Chair: Arlene Roberts Grant

Where we are now (December 2019): (Achievement, challenges, and unfinished business of 2019)

The *Walk of Grace* project is your opportunity to play an active role in beautifying our church grounds. Parishioners have the special opportunity of engraving the pathway stones along the front and side of the church. The net profit from *Walk of Grace* donations are used to maintain and enhance the grounds surrounding the church.

To date, the *Walk of Grace* project has received **42** donations. After engraving expenses, net proceeds of roughly **\$6,400** have made the following gifts possible:

- *Landscape Upgrade* with mature evergreen, perennial and annual plants
- *Urn Planters*
- *Sprinkler System* installation

Where we hope to be in December 2020: (1-3 goals for 2020)

Additional donor support will allow us to make further enhancements and address a number of maintenance issues presently under consideration:

- Repair/repaint fencing surrounding the church.
- New security gate in rear adjacent to park
- Shift *Walk of Grace* layout (near benches) for a continuous flow of engraved names
- Replace damaged concrete benches at church entrance: *Whole sections of concrete have broken off due to the elements and, as a result, the supporting steel frame is what you're actually sitting on!*

What resources we will need to get there:

To date, proceeds from the *Walk of Grace* project have nearly been exhausted. We encourage you to consider participating in the project by donating a full stone beginning at \$400, a half stone starting at \$225 or for \$100 you can engrave 1 name on a group stone along with four other donors.

Engravings can be in memory of a loved one, in thanksgiving of family or in celebration of a family event. Each stone is approximately 2 feet wide and placement along the *Walk of Grace* is on a first come, first serve basis.

We're hopeful many of you will choose to participate in the project so that, ultimately, the *Walk of Grace* will reflect the diversity of our Grace/La Gracia congregation. As each section is completed the *Walk of Grace* becomes a beautiful mosaic of the engraved names of those we love and an attractive representation to our larger White Plains community.

We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to strolling along the *Walk of Grace* with you in memory, thanksgiving or in celebration!