

Grace Episcopal Church

152nd Annual Meeting

January 22, 2012

2011 Annual Report



The Mission of Grace Church:

Tell God's Story, Share our Stories...

Find our place in God's Heart through

God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer

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Grace Episcopal Church

Annual Meeting Agenda

- Opening Prayer
- Recognitions
- Approval of Minutes from January 2011 Annual Meeting
- Elections
- Visioning
- Financials
- Vote to Change By-Laws
- Question and Answer Time
- Closing Prayer



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
151ST ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The 151st annual meeting of Grace Episcopal Church was held on Sunday, January 23, 2011 in St. George's Hall immediately following the 10:00 am service. Having determined a quorum was present. The Reverend Maryalice Sullivan called the meeting to order and opened the 151st annual meeting with prayer.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 150th Annual Meeting as written. Maryalice presented the nominations for the vestry for 2011. The motion was made and seconded to have the clerk cast one ballot for the following slate of officers:

Co-Warden	Barbara Hanson	(to be elected)
Co-Warden	Brian Milette	(to be elected)
Clerk	Irene Potter	(to be elected)
Treasurer	Amy Carlson	(to be elected)

<u>Vestry</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Lyle Pirnie	1 year	2012
Emily Miller	1 year	2012
Liza Dietz	1 year	2012
William Carlson	2 years	2013
Ken Dumas	2 years	2013
Tom May	2 years	2013
Joan Tinkham	2 years	2013
Phil Greil	3 years	2014 (to be elected)
Debra Langlois	3 years	2014 (to be elected)

Osgood Trust Fund Board

Lyle Pirnie
Sheila Deffely
David Mortimer

Attleboro Area Council of Churches

The Rev. Maryalice Sullivan
Marjorie Saylor

Deanery Representatives

Virginia Bliss
Barbara Hanson
Irene Potter
John Sullivan
Alisa West

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Virginia Bliss
John Sullivan
Alisa West

A change in the bylaws was requested to move the Annual Meeting from the 4th Sunday in January to the end of February to allow the Finance Committee more time to prepare budget figures after the pledge cards have been submitted. The motion was made and seconded to change the date of the Annual Meeting. A second vote will be taken at the Annual Meeting in 2012 to confirm this change.

A power point presentation narrated by Brian Milette and Bill Carlson reviewed the 2010 accomplishments which showed several positive financial steps taken. Remaining challenges are the Diocesan Assessment balance, the heating loan balance and the Stokes Loan.

Goals for 2011 include building a handicap access ramp, finalizing the plan with the Diocese to justify staying in our current building, addressing the Diocesan Assessment, creating revenue from the office rentals to avoid future operating cash shortfalls and to put new life into the Down with Debt Campaign (which funds are not being used for our operating expenses).

Tom May gave a broad overview of the long range Virtual Office Implementation Plan to make our Parish Hall first and second floors available for office rental and thereby increasing our income base.

Heartfelt thanks were expressed for Michelle Pelkey Rosinski for her service on Vestry And to John Courtemanche for his assistance in acquiring our building permit.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Bliss
Clerk, Pro Tem

Covenant of Grace Church

The covenant of Grace Church is a commitment to Christ and to one another. That promise will be to embrace, learn and listen with our hearts, and to be open to the breath of the Spirit that flows within and between each of us, so that we may envision and promote a positive atmosphere.

We are a people “who together are developing our God-given gifts so that we may become full ourselves. As we nurture our gifts of leadership in the context of a trusting community, we learn to value others and ourselves. We become free to define our relationship to God and to each other. From our brokenness we become empowered – not only to serve God and the church, but seek wholeness within a community that transforms ourselves and our world. “When each of us “comes to claim all of who we are, the vision of the church as a whole, healthy, vibrant and inclusive community has an even better chance of becoming reality.”¹

Through our quest towards bettering our relationships and ourselves with God, we will strengthen the bonds that hold this spiritual community together. Only together will we be able to bring about the peaceful and harmonious Kingdom of God to Earth.

1. Thompsett, Fredrica Harris. Stories from the Circle. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Morehouse, 1991

2011 Parish Statistics

<u>Sunday Eucharist</u>	<u>Weekday Eucharist</u>	<u>Private Services</u>	<u>Average Sunday Attendance</u>
148	50	42	150

Baptisms

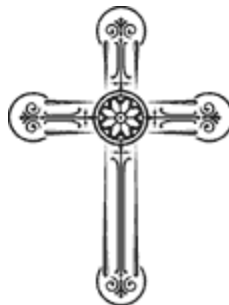
Kara Ann Milette
Jason Forbes
Parker McHale
Alexander Penney
Rozanna Penny
Allison Wainwright
Anna Jean Carlson
Julia Marie Ruo
Blake Christopher Nelson
Estreillta Elizabeth Reyes
Michael Cory Kraus

Marriages

Corry McLaughlin & Morgan Waters
Michael Francis DeFrancesco & Jaime Lynn Robillard
Shawn Howland & Jennifer Day
Jeremy Juskiewicz & Caitlin Isberg

Burials

Lillian Gourlay
Harris Loring
Ruth Gardner
Ron Mendler
Louise Bourgeois
Susan Zeiger
Alan Blik
David Merkle
William Frigon
Marge Pelchat



2011 Happenings at Grace

January

Annual Meeting
Epiphany Pageant

February

Chocolate Lover's Stroll
Gingerbread House Building
Ash Wednesday Services
Pancake Supper

March

Pancake Breakfast

April

Earth Day
Holy Week
Egg Hunt

May

Maryalice - Sabbatical
Solemn Communion
May Breakfast
Relay for Life Yard Sale

June

Relay for Life

July

Barbara C. Harris Camp
Downtown North Attleboro Block Party

August

Church and Parish building clean-up

September

Parish Picnic
Welcome Back Sunday

October

Blessing of the Animals

November

Grace Church Autumn Gala Auction
Thanksgiving Baskets

December

African Team Ministries
Boston String Quartet Concert
Senior Luncheon
Parish Outreach – Giving Tree
St. Nicholas Visit

Year – Round Events

Adult Education
Cards for the Homebound
Children at Worship
Christmas Flowers
Coffee Hour
Easter Flowers
Evangelism
Graceful Gourmet
Hand Bell Choir
Knitting Ministry
Men's Group
Outreach
Prayer Circle
Stewardship
Thursday Bible Study Group
Unfinished Object Crafters Group
Youth Events

Catch the Excitement!
Witness the Joy!
Shape the Vision!

Rector's Report

In 2011, I was able to take a much needed sabbatical. I was away for four months and while I really did miss everyone, I enjoyed the rest and the travel. John and I were privileged to visit our friends, Liz and Pete in England, spend some time in Whales and then returned to the states. The sabbatical time was like a magical time and I am so thankful to all of you for making it possible. I am especially thankful to the vestry for stepping up to leadership and keeping the parish on an even keel during my time away. When I came back and it felt like a seamless entry. 2011 began like any other year, filled with expectation and dreams. One of the dreams of this parish for more years than I can count was to be handicap accessible. Many years ago we had a lift on the side of the church. Through age, weather, and wear and tear, the lift died and once again we were left without a way for anyone who found steps impossible, shut out of our church. For me, my heart would hurt as I would have to tell someone that they could not attend the wedding or the funeral or whatever event because every entrance to the church meant climbing stairs. In late winter and all through the spring a major effort was made to build and complete a handicap ramp. We blessed the ramp before I left for sabbatical and now it is used all the time. A new Altar was built from the wood of our pews. Our pews date back to 1872 and survived the fire of 1929. The new Altar is a hexagon, shaped like the columns in the church. We also removed several pews to make space for this Altar. This has given us the opportunity for greater flexibility in our worship space. So far we have had a concert, a fabulous Epiphany pageant, more space for liturgical dance, and most of all a greater connection to the congregation. Another plus is the music, which was good before and now is much better. The organ and the choir were moved to the nave of the church. The music is rich and wonderful.

We were also able to transform some of our space into offices. Two rooms were redone and now are rented. We have a very large building and we have to make this building work for us. It is our gift from our forefathers and foremothers. It is up to us to find ways to have this building support the ministry of this parish. That is what it was built for and that is what it needs to continue to do. In 1958, the addition was added on to accommodate a very large Sunday School; today is a different day so it is up to us to be creative and find a use for this space. We believe we have found this as we continue to convert the space into something new. As I think about this I need to mention all the moving that has happened in this year, including the transporting of a whole library of books and the redesigning of a room to hold our archives.

Even with all these accomplishments the one accomplishment that we still struggle with is our finances. We came a long way in 2011 and hopefully we have cultivated the ground enough that this year we will not only pay our complete diocesan assessment but continue to repay our past debts. This debt has been hanging over our heads for far too many years and keeping us from doing even more than we already do. I have every confidence that we will be able to achieve that goal with the help of the diocese and the strong leadership of this parish. Just as there is much excitement that we are now handicap accessible, accomplishing paying our complete assessment and part of our debt will be joy upon joy. In order to be all that we are called to be by God we must pay our debt and do our fair share in supporting the diocese. With God's help I believe we are ready and willing to this.

Holy God, Mighty God, Immortal God be our guide and help us to reach beyond where we have reached before, may 2012 continue to be a year of blessings and growth.

Maryalice

Co-Warden Annual Report

The year 2011 was defined by achieving five major goals:

Goal 1 To accomplish our first goal we enlisted the support of the whole parish. A committee led by Tom May set out to develop an architectural plan of building-design along with a proposed timeline of action steps. These steps included building a handicapped-access ramp, rearranging rooms to accommodate the new office space, and cleaning out each and every room, closet, and drawer within the church. The untimely death of our devoted parishioner and architect Alan Blik created a temporary set-back caused us to re-think our proposed timeline. Spurred on by the dedicated and tireless efforts of both Tom May and Bill Carlson, we built a handicapped-access ramp which was dedicated on a rainy afternoon in May. Funding for our project arrived unexpectedly in the form of a large memorial donation made in memory of Susan B. Jones. Susan's father, parishioner Phil Jones explained that these funds were designated specifically to helping Grace Church make these improvements.

Goal 2 Our second goal required us to make major improvements to the physical structure. Plumbing and wiring throughout the building were brought up to code. We installed new thermostats, a new phone system, new gutters, new outer doors, and a set of security cameras. Repairs were made to the roof and the tower; gutters were replaced; and security cameras were installed. Other cosmetic changes were also made. Our efforts were rewarded in December when we eventually put two offices on the rental market.

Goal 3 Maryalice began her Sabbatical leave on May 1st. Maryalice's travels through England allowed her the opportunity to visit other Episcopal Churches who were also making changes to their sanctuaries. During her absence parishioners rallied to help clean and refurbish the church. We joyfully celebrated Maryalice's return on September 11th with a Parish Picnic.

Goal 4 It was during this time that we set out to refurbish our Sanctuary. We removed several of our well-worn pews and under the skillful hands of wood-worker Steve Staples, turned some of the valuable old walnut wood into a lovely, octagonal, moveable Altar. The new Altar has changed the focus of our worship, bringing it to the center of the people. It accommodates the needs of our disabled parishioners, and also opens up the Sanctuary to multiple uses. The organ was moved to the main floor, joining the choir which had been relocated earlier.

Goal 5 In February of 2011, Tom May announced his intention of becoming a Deacon. A Discernment Committee consisting of Bob Dorn, William Ewing, Michelle Rosinski, and Chair Barbara Hanson, met over the course of three months to assist Tom in the discernment process. The Vestry and Parish support Tom in this ambitious endeavor.

Many other events marked the year 2011 as special. We joyfully celebrated the African ministry of outreach with a special visit from Father Joel from Tanzania. Our own Dr. Bob Lambe has worked closely with Father Joel and the orphans in his care, and with building a hospital in Tanzania. We held our annual November Auction/Gala at Briggs Nursery, raising over \$13,000. Our choir performed two special concerts, one with a local choral group, Oure Pleasure, and the second with the Boston String Quartet. We participated in the DANA Chocolate Stroll, the DANA summer festival, and in the Deanery sponsored program.

A Call to Action

A team led by Maryalice met with Bishop Thomas Shaw and members of the Diocesan Council. Bishop Shaw informed us that the Diocesan Council has determined that Grace Church must pay down our debt or risk losing our status as a church. He informed us that a team from the Diocese will work with a team from Grace Church to analyze every aspect of our day-to-day operations and, in a 3-month time period, develop a definitive plan for repayment. Grace Church will then have one year to meet the goals established by the teams. At the end of that year the Council will re-evaluate our status and make recommendations for the future of Grace.

A Call to Action

The year 2012 will be critical if Grace Church is to retain its status. It is also critical to the future of our rector, Maryalice. **We need the support of each and every one of you, spiritually, financially, and physically. More than ever before, we need you to be involved.** The Vestry is committed to keeping you all informed every step of the way, and we will ask you to help us with whatever tasks need to be done. We are hopeful that, working closely with our Diocese, we will be able to finally bring resolution to our long-standing problem.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hanson and Brian Milette, Co-wardens

Vision

Being (to be) a welcoming and embracing community.
Supporting, inspiring, and challenging (to support, inspire, and challenge) each other in a contemporary changing world.
Being (to be) God's heart and hands.
Nourishing (to nourish) our souls through prayer and grace.

Music Ministry

ADULT CHOIR

The adult choir practices weekly during the year, taking the summer months off. The choir continues to develop as a cohesive, skilled vocal ensemble, tackling many challenging yet rewarding anthems. The dedication of the choir is essential to the success of the music program at Grace Church.

In addition, we enjoyed several services with alternative types of music, including a bluegrass-themed service and service featuring contemporary Christian music. We also had the pleasure of working with the bell choir to perform service combined-choir pieces.



HAND BELL CHOIR

Our Mission is to develop and share our talents in joy and praise.

We are successful if we:

Enjoy -
Playing
Learning
Ringing
Sharing Good Times

By –
Attending
Practicing
Listening
Sharing Our Gifts.

We worked toward accomplishing our mission in some of the following ways. We were privileged to share our gifts and played at the 10am Sunday service a number of times this year. Our bells are rented from a church which no longer has a bell choir or music program. In order to cover the rental cost as well as pay for sheet music, choir members and church members have generously made contributions.

We welcome new members as joyful additions to our group and encourage talent from outside our church family. We hope to continue our ministry and mission to the church and our community.

Christian Formation and Education

Why are children and families important to Grace Church? It's almost a ridiculous question, isn't it? We all know that nurturing young people in their faith is the way we grow, but dealing with children can be messy. We can say that we want to attract new families to our parish, but what have we done to ensure that they will stay, and become active members? Are new families a potential source of revenue for the parish? Of course, but we will never grow if that is our first thought. Instead we must remember that Christ himself invited the little children into his arms, not for tithes, but to share his healing love. These are difficult times for young people and their families. We have much to offer them as they struggle to make their way in this world. They have much to offer us, as well, if we truly come to know them and listen.

Currently we have one major way for children to interact with the church besides the Eucharist. This is the Godly Play curriculum used in our Sunday School classes. This year less than half of the students between ages 3 and 10 years are enrolled. Registration and attendance seems to be best in the preschool classroom. Of the children enrolled, only a handful regularly attends church with their families after class. Wayne Janelle's Children's Chapel continues to be popular, however it does not happen every Sunday and unfortunately attracts older children who we would like to remain in church during the service.

The continuing concern is how to get more families involved in Sunday School and attending services. Where is the disconnect between what happens in the classrooms and what happens in the church? I have several theories, none of which has an easy solution and remember these are only theories.

- A. It could be that the curriculum is not working. The Godly Play curriculum is demanding, of both teachers and students. It is highly ritualized and requires a great deal of preparation. In addition, each classroom is supposed to have two trained teachers present, one as Storyteller and one as Doorkeeper. Each of these teachers has an important role to play and we have never had enough teachers to implement what is an integral part of the program. Finally, the curriculum, while biblically based, does not seem to do enough to make the connection between classroom and church.
- B. The teachers are tired. All three teachers have been teaching for a number of years and may simply need a break. In conversation with them, they indicated a wish to hold class 3 out of 4 weeks with the 4th week being a special program run by someone else. This is something I am working to implement.

Should any of the teachers wish to retire, however, we will need to have new teachers trained by Godly Play trainers.

- C. The 10:00 service is unfriendly to the relatively un-churched. Yes, I do use the word un-churched in reference to our own parishioners. I am sure that many of the families we serve have not been instructed in the ways of our faith and denomination, especially if they have come from another church tradition. They may feel confused or alienated and not sure how to explain things to their children. This causes restlessness and boredom, which translates into behavior that makes the parents wary of bringing the children to church again.

My wish would be for us to think outside of the box and look for more ways of inclusion. It's one thing to put out toys and coloring pages. It's quite another to plan a service that will actively involve families with children without it being a "children's service". Separating children and adults into different services is not necessary. Rather children deserve our respect and a place at the Lord's Table with the entire parish. Inclusive services supplement our regular worship by seeking out ways to involve children without talking down to them. This can be in the form of using child readers, ushers and other helpers. It can mean allowing children to come up with music and drama and art that support our worship. It can be as simple as announcing each hymn in advance to allow little fingers time to get to the right page.

It has been my observation that the individual parts of the liturgy are planned separately and then fit together later. This often leads to confusion. If we are to rethink our services, a strong liturgical planning committee would be an absolute necessity, involving the rector, music staff, education staff and those who train and schedule liturgical helpers, such as lay readers and acolytes.

- D. Parents are unaware of their commitment to religious education and church participation. Perhaps we have not done enough to stress the importance to our families. There may be a tendency to excuse certain behaviors out of a desire not to offend anyone, or chase them away. No offense is necessary. We simply need to remind parents of the Baptismal vows they took. We also need to remind ourselves of the vows we took, as a parish, as these children were baptized. There is no reason why we cannot stress more firmly that the children in Sunday School are expected to attend the service with their parents. There is also no reason why a support and follow-up program for the parents of newly baptized children can't be developed

With that in mind, here are ideas that can be implemented quickly:

- A. Let the teachers teach 3 out of 4 weeks. The fourth week should be spent on liturgical education, ideally producing something that can be brought to and used in church, tying the children's education more firmly to the liturgy.
- B. Remove 6th graders and up from Godly Play. This will start on January 28. We have a new curriculum for middle school students and their classes will take place after Communion. Church attendance is expected and this will be communicated to their parents,
- C. Invite children and parents to explore the church on their own terms. We have titled these events "Taste and See" and they will start soon. Small groups of families will be invited to eat, play, sing and move around in the sanctuary. We will talk about church behaviors, stressing that no child is "too little" or "too loud" or "too fussy" for church. The goal is for families to see our sanctuary as a place where all are welcomed.
- D. Coordinate schedules of ushers, acolytes, gift bears, readers etc so there is a balance between young and old at each service. One idea is to create "family teams" that greet people, hand out bulletins, point out bathrooms, etc. Again, we can make this an expectation so that each family takes a turn and the same 4 or 5 people don't end up getting called on all the time.

These are only a few ideas that can be implemented. Many involve changing the culture of Grace to expect more from our children yet at the same time be more welcoming. The biggest challenge is to change our culture and this difficult. In the long run, however, it will provide us all with a chance to better know our fellow parishioners and to make sure that all are truly fed at the table.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Greil
Director of Christian Education

Schedule:

Class Room: 9:00am to 9:50am (snack is provided)

Chapel Time: 10:00am to the Peace at the 10:00am service (approximately 10:45am)

The children then join their parents at church.

Staff:

Patty Tetreault, Mickey Fournier, and Polly Keister, remain the lead teachers. Amy Greil is the Christian Formation and Education Coordinator.

Cost

The cost of Sunday School is \$25 per child and \$60 per family. There is no cost if parents volunteer in the Sunday School Program or other church activities at least 1 hour per week. Funds go toward the cost of materials provided to the students.

Children's Inclusion Mass

Rev. Maryalice is focusing on including children as part of the church service. It is a "hands on" learning experience to help children understand the different parts of the service and "experience it". Children get to help bless the bread and wine and serve it to the congregation. They also get to do the readings. It is a very engaging process for them to help them feel like they belong in church.

Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel is each Sunday, after Sunday School. It is celebrated by Wayne Janelle. He is a fantastic speaker and loves to have fun when teaching. He makes this time an interactive experience and the Grace kids love it! Parents learn a lot too!

Altar Guild

We were saddened to lose two very long serving members, Carlene Galvin and Claire Miner. We wish to thank both Carlene and Claire for the many, many hours they devoted to our guild and to Grace Church. At this time a most grateful appreciation is sent to Jo Ann Bourgeois for the maintenance of our laundry and also to Jackie Almon for her sewing talent. These two ladies do a wonderful job with our linens.

The Altar Guild is responsible for setting and arranging those items needed for the clergy to administer the communion at each weekly service, weddings, funerals and any other Communion celebration or service in the church. It is a sacred ministry which one gives to the entire parish.

All teams are responsible to be available to help both Holy Week and Christmas week. Basically we set out the chalice, paten (bread basket) wine and water. We also fill the candles, set the hymn boards, change the hangings and just set the church for which ever service is about to happen. We are also responsible for the flowers on the altar, but without generous contributions, we will not be able to decorate with any abundance. Please consider giving a donation in memory or thanksgiving.

The Altar Guild would like to thank all who help each year with the hanging of the greens at Christmas and of course taking them down. This is not a difficult task, but the altar guild needs strength and height to accomplish these tasks.

We are thankful for all those who contribute to the cost of the bread, wine, liquid candle wax and the many supplies needed for the services to be complete. This takes a tremendous burden from the church budget. If a donation to the Altar Guild for these supplies fits into your budget, please either send this to the church office or contact any member of the Guild. We would be most grateful.

Altar Flowers

I would like to encourage all parishioners to have flowers placed throughout the church. Flowers for most Sundays cost about \$50.00 and anyone can be remembered on any Sunday with a memorial or thanksgiving. Flowers may also be given at Easter and Christmas. There are forms in the Sunday bulletin and weekly newsletter or you may call the parish office or Joan Tinkham at 508-695-9346.



The Ministry of

Ministers

the Eucharistic

2011 has been a very busy year for the liturgical assistants and also a year of growth. We have provided support for the clergy by assisting with the monthly Family Worship services, by reading lessons, by serving chalices and by leading Prayers of the People. In addition to Sunday services we have served at weddings, funerals and other occasional services.

Our group meets about five times a year to review any procedural service changes, to hear concerns of our liturgical people and most importantly we take time to listen to each other and to pray together. We are blessed to have had some of our children step forward with pride to read lessons and learn how to serve. Each year we hope to give them more responsibility in the worship leadership.

Our growth came in the form of accepting change. Because the altar was moved to the main floor of the church, we needed to make adjustments as to how we were to serve (where we are to stand/sit, where did we bow, where did we read from and how best to serve the Eucharist). Change can be somewhat intimidating and we are still in the “growth period”. Through trial and error we will get it right and be able to provide service to all with dignity!

One of the great gifts of this ministry is that it is open to many. Anyone who would like to participate in either the 8:00 am or 10:00 am service, please don't hesitate to speak with Maryalice.

Respectfully submitted
Virginia Bliss, Liturgical Assistants Coordinator

Eucharistic Minister Ministry

One of the greatest privileges a layperson can have is to be a Eucharistic Minister. Our parish is blessed with several licensed Eucharistic Ministers who are able to bring the Eucharist to a parishioner who is homebound. The Eucharistic Minister acts as a liaison between the Church and the parishioner and shares the activities going on in our parish with them at home, in addition to administering the Eucharist. Visits are usually made on a monthly or bi-weekly basis. If anyone is interested in this ministry, please speak with Maryalice.

Submitted by
Virginia Bliss



Acolytes

We are delighted that several young people have stepped up to the role of acolyte. They add so much to our Sunday Eucharist. There have been several training sessions with more sessions planned for this winter and spring. A Christmas gathering was held; ornaments were made and placed on the small tree in the common room. A fun time was had by all.

A very large thank to each of our acolytes and their families.

Ushers

These individuals continue to serve every Sunday greeting people and passing out service bulletins as they come into church. They also have the responsibility of asking people to bring up the bread and wine. It would be great to have a couple more teams to help out. If you are interested, please let John Sullivan or Rev. Maryalice know.

Counters

This important “behind the scenes” ministry is in charge of collecting and tabulating all pledged, donated, fundraising, gift and rental income monies. Counters are like the parish’s “bank tellers”, ensuring that each donor’s contribution is credited properly, that memorial/gift funds are acknowledged and that each incoming dollar is allocated to the correct financial “bucket” for our Treasurer’s recordkeeping.

To make this process easier and more efficient for our counters, we kindly ask that all donations be labeled at minimum, with the donor’s name and pledge(envelope) number, and purpose of the donation (i.e. Pledge, altar flowers, Down with Debt/Capital Funds, Easter, etc.) Lastly, when making several different types of contributions via check, we ask that SEPARATE checks be written for each type of donation. (If unsure about your pledge/envelope #, please contact the parish secretary.)

To ensure monthly continuity of your pledges and parish operating income, we suggest that parishioners consider setting up an automatic weekly or monthly payment from their personal banking institution to the Parish. Those who have done this state that it makes giving easier, less time-consuming and offers peace of mind.

It requires three people to complete the counting after the later Sunday service. Presently counting are Ed Burrows, Brian Auclair and Phil Greil, with support from John Sullivan. However, all are welcome to volunteer their services and time (about an hour each week) to this ministry. Please see any of those mentioned above, Maryalice or the parish secretary if you would like to assist on a regular or occasional/back-up basis.

Thank you to all who give of their time in support this critical function.

Phil Greil, Head Counter, Vestry

Prayer Chain

The Grace Church Prayer Chain is a small but mighty force. Its purpose is to pray for the concerns and joys of our parishioners, when requested. The Prayer Chain operates 24/7 so when a prayer request is received by the Chairperson, it is immediately sent out to those who are part of the chain.

This is a ministry that is open to all. A powerful way to share concerns is to have a family pray together. Being a part of this ministry takes very little time. We believe the power of prayer can move mountains – so please join us! If interested in becoming a member of the prayer chain, please contact Ginny Bliss at 508-695-7301

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Bliss, Coordinator

Prayer Circle

We have faithfully met once a month to pray for the ministries of the church. We are a small group but a very faithful one. I would like to thank Julie Hart, Marjorie Saylor, Diana Berberian, Carlene Galvin, and Alisa West for their dedication to prayer and Grace Church. All of us have a sense of peace when we are done praying for the church. We are always looking for more members. We meet the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 – 10:00 AM. Come and join us and find the peace of Christ.

*Submitted in Christ's Name,
Mickey Fournier*

Prayer List in Service Bulletin

During worship we pray for the sick, the weak, and the dying. If you'd like a name added or removed from the service bulletin prayer list please call the parish office at 508-695-5471 or email Sherry at sherryatgrace@yahoo.com.



Fellowship, Fundraising, and Outreach

Grace Episcopal Church in North Attleboro, in partnership with several other parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, is actively supporting several mission projects in the Tanga Diocese of the Anglican Church of Tanzania. These projects are:

1. Construction of a new health care facility in a remote region of the Diocese, in a village called Kizara. This health care facility will provide both inpatient and outpatient care to 15,000 people in Kizara and nine surrounding villages. These villagers must presently travel for more than 8 hours, usually on foot, to receive health care.
2. Renovations to a home for the elderly in the town of Mapinduzi. The inhabitants of this home are entirely dependent on the local Anglican parishes for food and shelter.
3. Support for a community of lepers that includes people affected by this devastating disease and their families in the village of Misufini. To date we have helped construct a water cistern for collection of rain water (as the village's primary source of potable water), and helped them to purchase livestock that they rely on for food and products that they can sell.
4. Financial support for the parish church in the village of Mgombezi. This village is home to a large number of HIV orphans (whose parents have fallen prey to the epidemic of AIDS). Our support has helped the orphans attend school, renovate their parish building and construct a small shop in the village



Relay for Life

The Relay for Life is a fund raiser for the American Cancer Society and is held at the North Attleboro High School Track. The relay was held on June 10-11, 2011. Walking with Grace raised \$4,037.70, doing better than we did in 2010. It was an inspiring weekend even with the rain. The necklaces to count laps were again a big success. We had a great yard sale where we raised \$1064.70 making \$430 more than we did in 2010. Thank you everyone who supported the yard sale. It was great seeing the Grace Church family coming up to the track to walk laps and lend us their support. We are planning on the next relay which will be held May 18-19, 2012 at the North Attleboro High School Track. We are looking for team members, please see me for information and look for announcements in the church bulletin.

Submitted in Christ's Name,
Co-Captains
Mickey Fournier and Deb Werner

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

In 2011, the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was held on March 8, 2011. The yearly fare of all-you-can-eat pancakes, bacon, homefries, fruit, juice, milk and coffee was again a success however due the weather the crowd was a little light. A total of \$78 dollars was collected and given to the Rev. Maryalice Sullivan for gift cards to area food markets. Almost weekly the church gets request for food donations and food cards and all donations from this event go to this outreach ministry. The cost of food and paper goods is purchased with Graceful Gourmet funds. Many thanks goes out to our many dedicated pancake flippers, prep chefs, servers, set-up and clean-up volunteers.

Plans are in place for 2012, so please plan to attend on Tuesday, February 21st.
submitted by Alisa West

Grace Church Partners with DANA Community Events 2011 Chocolate Lovers Stroll

For the second year in a row, Grace Church participated as a member of the Downtown Associates of North Attleboro Chocolate Lover's Stroll held the weekend of Valentine's Day. The event draws between 250-300 chocolate loving locals who follow a trail of chocolate given out by participating members of DANA. Tickets are sold the day of the event at a specified downtown location. This year Grace Church distributed two varieties of truffles to each stroll participant, Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Truffles and Oreo Truffles. Grace's participation was partnered again this year with the Grace Church 2011 Home From the Heart Charity Gingerbread House Building Display. A special thank you goes out to Nina Bertelli and Marjorie Saylor for helping prepare the truffles and for the many hands who helped bag, label and serve the chocolates.

submitted by Alisa West

2011 DANA Downtown Days in July

The some 1,000 prizes were sorted, the balloons were flying, the kids games were ready and waiting, the droves of Grace Church volunteers were poised to sell game tickets, make cotton candy and grill hotdogs but Mother Nature had other plans. By 5:15pm, the skies opened with a deluge of rain and lightning and what few people who had started to trickle in at 5pm were gone and the event was over. Thank goodness for our well-secured tents. The good news is that all the games and prizes were saved and will be good for this summer's event. Many thanks for all the effort with set-up and break-down especially to our youth who definitely got the wettest.
submitted by Alisa West

2011 Made from the Heart Gingerbread House Display

For the second year, Grace Church organized and hosted the Made from the Heart Gingerbread House Display. Thanks goes out to our 22 talented builders, our set-up and breakdown volunteers, our raffle ticket takers and the many other behind the scenes planning and promotion volunteers. The display was open to the public both Friday evening, February 11 and Saturday, February 12 during the DANA Chocolate Lover's Stroll. We collected \$144 in donations from the public for Lenore's Pantry. A similar event is being planned for 2012. Please look for more information and get ready for another worthwhile community outreach event.
submitted by Alisa West

The Graceful Gourmet

2011 proved to be a blessing for Grace Church in many ways but because of the building's few changes in progress and limited time for all of our volunteers, the standard services of the Graceful Gourmet were put on hold starting May 1 of 2011. Many services that did continue in 2011 were: non-perishable food collection, frozen food distribution from stocked meals, organized and delivered hot meals and non-perishable supplies to area families in need throughout the year, purchase of food for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, provide affordable catering for area senior housing, prepare food for parish functions and Christmas cookie dough-making. The Graceful Gourmet will resume standard meal assembly and sales later in 2012.
submitted by Alisa West

The Boston String Quartet, "Celtic Christmas 2011" Concert

The Boston String Quartet returned on Sunday, December 11th for their most successful concert at Grace Episcopal Church in North Attleboro. With over 85 in attendance, the talented quartet was joined by soloist Pan Murrigan and accompanied by the Grace Church adult choir. The magical evening was filled with sounds of traditional Christmas tunes uniquely arranged by the electric talents of the quartet. The choir sounded wonderful!!! An special added bonus for the evening was the prelude to the concert. Dr. Robert Lambe on piano and his talented daughter Jenny on flute delighted the audience with numerous Christmas and classical arrangements. The weather cooperated by providing a mild December evening. The beautiful decorations and tasty intermission treats rounded out a splendid evening. The event was organized by the Grace Church Mission and Outreach Committee as a community outreach ministry as well as a Grace Church event. The event raised \$778 dollars of which \$500 goes to the Grace Church general fund and \$278 goes to community outreach to area food pantries.
submitted by Alisa West

Knitting Ministry

Knitting Group – Crocheting too!

What a wonderful year this has been for the Knitting Ministry at Grace Church. By decision of the group we have met all year, even in the summer, for fellowship, help with our projects and good food. Many prayer shawls have been blessed and sent out to those who need them over the past year. We always seem to need these shawls and they always seem to appear when we need them. The same thing can be said for yarn. When our supply runs low, suddenly a bag or two appears in the office for us. This year Bonnie Maddix knit over 150 hats and the rest of us knit mittens and gloves for those in need. These went to Lenore's Pantry, the Attleboro Food Pantry for the Elderly, E-Cubed Academy in Pawtucket and Common Cathedral in Boston. Well over 150 people have warm hats, scarves and mittens as a result of the work of this group and the generosity of the parish.

We invite anyone who knits, crochets or wants to learn to do so to attend our meetings the third Saturday of the month. Bring some yarn and needles or crochet hooks, and something to share for lunch. We have some master knitters and wonderful teachers who love sharing their skills with others and we would love to have you join us.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Cull and Bonnie Maddix, Conveners

Men's Group

Another wonderful year for the Men's Group and each month as we gathered to share stories, talk over common issue and enjoy each other's presence we strengthen our connection with our call to follow Christ. This year was a time to explore new ways to contribute our time and talents to help Grace Church and our community.

In 2011 we organized another Hockey Night with the Providence Bruins and include family and friends as part of trip. We had about 20 individuals attend, Fathers and daughters, mothers and sons and grandfathers and grandchildren...it was a grand gathering of many generations. The Men's Group supported the annual Auction via transportation of supplies and we donated a wonderful basket full of tools, gadgets and a 'how to' book for the lady of the house to repair items around the house. The men also organized a successful Bake Sale and Auction. The men baked a variety of treats for this after Sunday service event...a bounteous blueberry cobbler; a variety of cookies and brownies; beautiful layer cakes; special breads and other 'yummies'. We raised over \$600 and donated the proceeds to the building of the Handicap Ramp. Speaking of the handicap ramp...the men spent hours and hours working on the handicap ramp. Whether is one person or multiple, we completed task after task to ensure the ramp was ready for the Great Easter Vigil of 2010.

The goal of the Men's Group is to gather monthly to strengthen our bond between each other and with God. We accomplish by a variety of activities and we invite all men of Grace Church and the community to join us at 7pm on the first Tuesday of every month at Grace Church.

Peace to all,
Thomas May

Library Report

It has been a year of huge change and, yes, disruption in the life of the libraries at Grace Church. Due to the new configuring of the first floor of the church, we have had to move all the books in the library. Deciding how to do this and planning for the future and actually carrying out the plans kept us very busy during the late spring and early summer.

The plan at present is only partly completed and it will probably be another year at least before all the books find their homes and we are up to full operation. At present many of the books are in storage boxes in the basement. Some books were found and displayed for the Christmas season and the large book case in the first floor hallway has stayed full of books, mainly fiction, to be borrowed. This area seems to be quite active with books going and coming all the time.

The most wonderful and exciting part of this move so far has been the establishment of a room for all our archives and reference books. Finally almost all of our church history is gathered in one room and easy to search through as needed. This room is attractively furnished, has a computer that will eventually be used to keep track of all our materials, and allows us to display historical pictures and other objects from our past. In the hallway outside this room are more exhibits of art and items that tell our story. Also in this room we have started putting all the reference books from our library. Bibles—all versions, concordances, historical reference books and much more are now all in one easy-to-access location. This is a small, warm, quiet room that can be used for small groups and private prayer and meditation. As materials get filed and books shelved this room will become even more of a blessing for the parish. A large thank-you goes to Larry Ruark who organized the reference books for us.

Those papers, books and records from the earliest years of the church are now protected in new fire safe cabinets along with the official church records. At some point in time, perhaps a conservator will be hired to preserve and protect these fragile items, but this is one of those dreams we have been talking about recently.

Many books are still in boxes in a closet in the basement. Hopefully, we can go through these boxes and organize and put in better order to allow us access to them as needed. It will be a while before the permanent location for the books will be available. What we have now is strictly temporary but we need to make it as useful as possible.

A large book case just outside the Archives/Reference Room will allow us to put some of the books in a more convenient place for the time being.

Patience is definitely the word for the library at the present time, but there is plenty of work to do and much to be accomplished as we wait for our more permanent library home. Thank you to all those who helped us move last summer and who continue to help us make this a wonderful library of which everyone at Grace can be proud.

*Sincerely,
Marjorie Cull, Archivist and Librarian*

Building & Grounds

As 2010 was focused on getting the Rectory ready for tenants, 2011 was focused on finishing the Handicap Ramp for the Great Easter Vigil and cleaning out the Parish House in preparation of starting the Virtual Office Project.

On April 23, 2010, on a raining, cool Saturday afternoon, the Handicap ramp was officially opened and blessed. This accomplishment was a compilation of many miracles...if one ever questions whether God is present...just look at the faces of the parishioners of Grace church who participated in the building of the handicap ramp. We had so many people contributing to the success of this project. It is easy to remember the individuals who dug foundations, mixed cement, hammered nails and drove screws, but the people that made this possible are the ones that cared for us as we worked in the cold, in the rain and the sunshine. We must remember the men and women of the church who prepared the nourishment that sustained us each day we worked. This nourishment came in so many different forms...obviously the wonderful breakfast and lunches filled our bodies and gave us strength to continue, but we must remember the kind words of support that we received, the recognition of the job we were doing, the reminder of the good that we were doing, the telling of jokes and sharing of stories. This was the spiritual nourishment that feed our souls and strengthened our minds and bodies. This was the motivation that kept us going each day.

In 2011 the Building & Grounds committee focused our energies on updating many of the systems that support and sustain the parish house and sanctuary:

- Completed renovations and open the first two virtual offices
- Cleaned-out every cubby hole in the parish house and disposed of much rubbish; shredded countless documents (thank you Bonnie); recycled several hundred pounds of paper and recycled old office furniture and copper. The recycling of materials netted Grace Church over \$700.
- Sold the old safes for \$450 and purchased new fire-safe filing cabinets to secure our key documents.
- We installed a new drain system to prevent future flooding of the basement and in doing so increased the efficiencies of our gutter system.
- Installed new programmable thermostats through the parish house and sanctuary. This is helping to maintain the facility as a consistent temperature and in doing so saving Grace Church on our utility bill and making us even better stewards of our natural resources.
- Grace Church entered into a contract with a not for profit provider of natural gas to help reduce the cost of our largest over head cost and allows the vestry to more accurately budget our expenses for 2012 and beyond.
- Renovated the sanctuary by moving pews around to create a more intimate layout for our Sunday services; move the organ, piano and choir pews to bring us all closer together.
- Installed a new organ pipe window to allow more sound from the organ pipes to reach the heart of the sanctuary. What a difference this made to the acoustics of the sanctuary.
- The administrator's office was moved to a front office to provide more room; installed new office furniture in the rector's office, administrator's office and the treasurer's office.
- Replace broken panes of glass in the parish house and re-glazed many windows.

- Repaired the sidewalk and added a new sidewalk to complete the access from the three new handicap parking spaces to the handicap ramp entrance.
- Added low voltage lighting to the handicap ramp.

I know there are many projects that are not mentioned in this report and I apologize for the ones I missed. So much was accomplished in 2011 with respect to the upkeep and improvements to the buildings and the grounds. As we move into 2012 our focus will be on completing the surveillance system for the entire facility (inside and out); starting the renovations to support the Virtual Office project and install a lift/elevator in the parish house.

Please keep the buildings and grounds committee in your prayers and we are always looking for new members to participate on the committee. Also, please look for Building and Grounds updates in the monthly newsletter.

Peace to all,
Thomas May

Financials

In 2011 there was much to be thankful for on a financial basis. The accomplishments we have made as a community in 2011 are as follows:

1. We have once again paid Maryalice's pension current and relieved the undeserved burden she and John have had to carry.
2. We have paid the Stokes loan on time for the third year in a row.
3. We have paid \$14,000 towards the Diocesan Assessment. This is the second sizeable payment we have made to the Diocesan Assessment for the second year in a row.
4. We have established a plan and rented the offices for \$24,000 that will cover the 2012 assessment if all pledges and fundraisers come in on budget.

We should all be proud of these accomplishments and we have so much to be thankful for as a parish. In 2012 there will be challenges that we will need to address with the Diocese and finalize the repayment plan. Our success depends on your continued stewardship. The Grace community possesses the necessary talent and faith to face any obstacle. In 2012 a strong stewardship campaign and a commitment to making our plan a reality will eliminate the uncertainty we have lived with for so many years as a parish. This is the year we need to make considerable progress with the Diocese and repay our debts.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nomination Committee would like to put forth thanks to all who considered or accepted the call to vestry. The call to vestry is a privilege to those members of the parish who are currently engaged and active in the daily life of the parish, regularly attend Sunday worship and take seriously our ministry of stewardship with annual pledge. As outgoing members of vestry who have made great strides to see our parish succeed in all areas, it is important to us to solicit and engage positive, energetic individuals to continue this task. We put forth the challenge to all who have not served on vestry to prayerfully consider the privilege if asked.

Co-Warden	Barbara Hanson	(to be elected)
Co-Warden	Bill Carlson	(to be elected)
Clerk	Nina Hamilton	(to be elected)
Treasurer	Brian Milette	(to be elected)

Vestry	Term	Expires
Ken Dumas	1 year	2013
Tom May	1 year	2013
Joan Tinkham	1 year	2013
Phil Griel	2 years	2014
Debbie Langlois	2 years	2014
Frank McIsaac	3 years	2015 * to be elected
Michelle Rosinski	3 years	2015 * to be elected
Crystal DeFreitas	3 years	2015 * to be elected

Osgood Trust Fund Board

Wayne Janelle
Sheila Deffely
David Mortimer

Attleboro Area Council of Churches

The Rev. Maryalice Sullivan
Marjorie Saylor
Lyle Pirnie

Deanery Representatives

Nina Hamilton
Barbara Hanson
Lyle Pirnie
John Sullivan
Alisa West

Diocesan Convention Delegates

John Sullivan
Alisa West
Lyle Pirnie

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts: Inviting, Forming, Sending, Serving

As a member of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts we believe God in Christ is working everywhere in the world to heal, to reconcile, to love every person and all of creation into wholeness. Through the life, cross and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, the power of sin and death has been broken; like and hope is the new reality.

It is our mission to join in God's transforming mission. We will form our children, our young people, and our adult members, through prayer, worship and scripture, to become followers of Christ that we might discern where God is carrying out this mission in our world. And we will send our people to serve with Christ, inviting everyone and all of creation to share in the just reign of God.