

The Eleventh Annual Meeting of GRACE CHURCH

an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires



February 5, 2023

GRACE CHURCH

an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires
Eleventh Annual Meeting – February 5, 2023

AGENDA

Call to Order

Opening Prayer (all say)

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who gather today for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Business

Minutes of the 2022 Grace Church Annual Meeting (January 30, 2022) are presented.
Vote to approve the Minutes.

New Business of Grace Church

Vestry and Convention Delegate nominations are presented.
Vote to approve nominations.
Presentation of the Ministry Budget of 2023

Remarks from the Rector and Senior Warden

The Blessing

May God give you grace to never sell yourself short, grace to risk something big for something good and grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but truth, and too small for anything but love. (William S. Coffin) And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

The Dismissal

People's response "Thanks be to God."

Step into Grace...

...where strangers become friends.

We are an Open and Affirming church. Every one of every age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, or economic status is invited to join us as together we live out the Gospel message of love, forgiveness, service, and justice. No matter where you are in your spiritual journey—you are welcome here.



Cutting down the sunflowers in our Gun Violence Memorial Garden
after harvesting the seeds. Gideon's Garden October 2, 2022

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MINUTES OF THE TENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF GRACE CHURCH
JANUARY 30, 2022 Via Zoom 10:45 – 11:40 AM

Call to Order: Kathy Clausen, Senior Warden, opened the meeting with 41 parishioners in attendance. All committee chairs were thanked for submitting their reports. No additions or changes to the agenda were requested.

Opening Prayer: Rev. Cristina Rathbone led the group in opening prayer.

Old Business:
A motion to pass the minutes of the 2021 Grace Church Annual Meeting (January 24, 2021) was presented, seconded, discussion, passed with a majority. Poll voting on Zoom question 1.

New Business:
Vestry nominations and Convention delegates were presented. Additional nominees were requested from the floor. No additional names were presented. Motion to pass the vestry nominations and convention delegates, seconded, discussion, passed with a majority. Poll voting on Zoom question 2.

OFFICERS (1 year)

Senior Warden	Kathy Clausen
Junior Warden	Pennie Curry
Treasurer	Sue Gore
Clerk	Mary Anne Grammer

Vestry - At Large (3 year terms; with 2 consecutive terms possible)
Class of 2023 Dindy Anderson (2nd), Holly Murray (1st), John Cheek (2nd)
Class of 2024 Anne Andrews (2nd), Dutch Pinkston (2nd)
Class of 2025 Cathy Haywood (2nd), Andrea White (1st), Laura Jordahl (1st)

Diocesan Convention Delegates and Alternates
Vestry Delegate Dindy Anderson
Lay Delegate Monique Kirchoff
Vestry Alternate Sue Gore
Lay Alternate Sarah Sieber

Remarks from the Rector and Senior Warden
Tina thanked the congregation for striving and growing through the recent difficult times. Tina thanked members of the congregation for taking on new responsibilities as members of the vestry and Diocesan convention delegates and alternates. Tina also thanked Rick for his 35 years of service as Junior Warden for St. Georges and for Grace Church. Tina stated that she looks forward to the new year for the church and expanding the church’s commitment to its mission. Tina offered newly elected vestry members the opportunity to offer their thoughts on serving as members of the vestry. The newly elected vestry members spoke of their commitment to the missions of Grace Church and were honored to serve as members of the vestry.

Kathy spoke on the continued growth at Gideon’s Garden and the exciting year to come. Kathy noted that as of June 1, 2022 Joel Jorgensen will join Gideon’s Garden. Joel’s time will overlap with Annalise’s time at the garden for 7 months.

Presentation of the Ministry Budget of 2022
Sue presented the 2021 budget and answered questions.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 A.M. after a blessing from Tina.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Grammer, Vestry Clerk

RECTOR’S REPORT

2022 has been a blessed and beautiful year at Grace Church – so much so that it is hard to know quite where to start. The most important thing, always, are the ways we have found to love and be loved by each other, and this work has continued unabated week by week. Grace continues to be a parish filled with faith and love and the fact that these are extending more and more into the community around us only shows how true this is.

Within the church community, the Worship and Community Engagement teams have continued to meet regularly, and have offered invaluable leadership, advice, and guidance around both our worship and our work in the world. The worship team was particularly useful after our Music Director Ryan LaBoy left to spend more time with his family at home. I am hugely grateful for the grace, wisdom and knowledge of our keyboardist, Lee Cheek, during this time, and for the generosity, support and enthusiasm of John Cheek who stepped up to become first our interim and then our permanent choir director. With their help, worship at Grace has continued to be driven by love, care and togetherness. Our new lay preachers have also drawn us to a deeper understanding of the Gospel as it works its way through our place and our time. So far, 7 members of the congregation have preached on Sunday – all powerfully. It is our communal hope that regular lay preaching will become a permanent part of our worship life together. We have been blessed, also, to welcome multiple new members of our community on Sunday mornings and have been much expanded by their presence with us. Our gathering together on Sunday mornings, combined with zoom-based Bible study on Tuesdays, Contemplative Eucharist on Wednesdays, and Centering Prayer on Thursdays combine to form the beating heart of Grace. Without them we would be nothing. With them, we are, gradually, becoming more and more who we have always been: beloved children of God, linked in knowledge of our need, and also of our various and unique giftedness. Thanks be to God!

In addition to these regular, weekly gatherings we continued, this year, to reach deep into our surrounding community, and have found both need and sustenance there, each in our own way. In March, for example, we were asked to participate in a video named The Way of the Cross: Ending Gun Violence in Massachusetts. The video featured reflections from 14 parishes across the two Massachusetts Dioceses. We used the occasion to plant sunflower seeds at Gideon’s Garden for each person under the age of 25 who was killed by gun violence this year. Each seed was marked with a brass name plate and the gorgeous flowers grew over the spring and summer until they reached more than 8 feet tall. We finally cut them down during our Gideon’s Garden Worship service in the Fall, having saved the seeds to plant again next year.

I will leave Sue Gore to speak at greater length about the Lee Food Pantry, but for now, I need at least to say that it continues to feed many families in need and to bring together people of all kinds to help make this happen. Sue and Rick are the stalwart, careful, generous and dedicated leaders of this pantry and all of us at Grace owe them a huge debt of gratitude for the ways they make God’s love known throughout Lee.

In March of this past year, Jenny Schwartz and others from The People’s Pantry in Great Barrington invited us to gather with their Pantry patrons on Monday afternoons in the hopes of helping to facilitate and catalyze community within this diverse community. Monday afternoons at the Pantry soon became a regular commitment, and our relationships with the people there – adults and children, long-time residents and newly arrived families from across Latin America - have deepened as a result. Cultural, language and political divisions which at first seemed absolute began to lessen, and over the summer we were able to draw together a group of English and Spanish speaking leaders who wanted to assist the Pantry in its first ever fundraising drive. Here is an excerpt from the English language version of a letter they wrote, published in the Berkshire Eagle, and signed, simply: “The People of People’s Pantry”

“We are a group of people from the community which uses The People’s Pantry regularly and we feel strongly about giving back and claiming our place as part of the solution to scarcity in our county. The Pantry has been such a gift for us. Now they are in need, and we want to be there for them. So we have decided to hold a raffle....”

What became known as ‘The People’s Raffle’ ended up raising more than \$5000, all from \$5 tickets. Sadly, one of the leaders of this group, Joe Merola, passed away from COVID complications in December. His funeral was beautiful: full of love and support and he will be much missed.

Our presence at the Pantry is now being supported by the Berkshire Food Co-Op, which provides coffee and cookies free of charge every week and by our Diocesan Missioner of Latino Ministries, The Rev. Jose Reyes. In addition, our own Rob Clausen fixed the heating system that helps keep those who are waiting for food at least a little warmer in the cold winter months.

Alongside all of this, our Gideon’s Garden Internship Program grew substantially this year. Seven middle school aged interns came to the garden every Tuesday and Thursday for the 10 weeks of summer vacation to plant, nurture, harvest and deliver fresh healthy food to people up and down the county. With help from many members of the congregation who provided assistance with curriculum development, driving support which enabled transportation for those interns who needed it, and delicious, imaginative and healthy lunches for us all summer long, every one of our interns felt both valued and seen. We continue to gather with all but one of these young people through regular overnight camping and day long field trips and hope to sustain relationships with them and their families for a long time to come. Because we instituted weekly field trips for the interns this year, we were also able to deepen our relationships with many local farms and organizations in the community, and we look forward to building on those relationships also next year. None of this would have been possible without the grounded leadership – and plain old skill - of Annalise Clausen. The garden has flourished under their care and we will miss them as they go on to explore new and broader horizons. God speed, Annalise. May your future rise up to meet you with grace, and welcome, and light!

Lastly, and in partnership with The Guthrie Center (and with help from Christ Trinity and St. Paul’s), we were able to welcome Swords to Ploughshares Northeast to Great Barrington in November. More than a hundred people of all kinds gathered on a windy but dry day outside the Guthrie Center where they were – every one of them – given the opportunity to hammer guns into garden tools over an anvil, thereby doing their part to transform weapons of death into tools for life. We donated several of these refashioned tools to Mumbet’s Freedom Farm, Greenagers and Multicultural Bridge’s Solidarity Gardens, where they will be used for many years to come. The Great Barrington Police Department joined us with free gun locks to give away, and two extraordinary women, including Kathy Clausen’s daughter, Chelsea Day spoke of their experience of gun violence in the lives of their loved ones – moving many of those gathered to both grief and action.

None of this would have been possible without the prayers of all, and the active help, support and assistance of the leadership of Grace Church. This year three faithful members of the vestry are stepping down: John Cheek, Holly Murray and Dindy Anderson have been literally invaluable in the smooth running of our community and we both owe them a lot and will miss them! This year marks also the tenth and final year of Kathy Clausen’s tenure as Sr. Warden. Through all the changes of Grace, all the ups and all the downs, Kathy has been there, faithfully at the helm, full of energy, calm, wisdom and prayer. I am so grateful to her – as are all at Grace – for her extraordinary leadership of our community, and I am particularly grateful for her staying on as Sr. Warden this past year in order to help get me settled. I pray her time with fewer responsibilities and more space, lead to joy and peace for her and every member of her blessed and astonishing family.

The Rev. Tina Rathbone, Rector

SENIOR WARDEN

As I write this report, I am aware that this will be the last of my senior warden reports after having the privilege and honor to serve in this position during the first ten years of Grace Church’s existence. Each of these years has been full of opportunities for my own faith journey as well as the chance to work closely with the other leaders of this dynamic church. I have been and am deeply appreciative of this experience and thank the people of Grace who trusted me to serve in this capacity.

This year has seen much activity because our rector, Tina Rathbone, has extended Grace’s reach into new areas. Her report outlines these new and expanded endeavors. Behind the scenes the vestry works to support and becomes involved in these initiatives as leaders of the community. We were able to improve our communications with those who meet and worship with us online, become more involved with The People’s Pantry and engage with them in important fundraising, add a dimension to the Gideon’s Garden blessing by participating in the Rogation Day visit by Jimmy Pickett and Bishop Fisher and the list goes

on as will be detailed in others’ reports. In each case the vestry considers these initiatives and helps Tina and our Gideon Garden directors, Annalise Clausen and Joel Jorgensen, to have in place what is needed to assist these events. We have framed our year with an overall consideration of how we expand our mission, consider what might need giving up or changing to further God’s work in the world.

How can we, as a rather small congregation, accomplish what we feel God is calling us to? How do we manage Grace’s resources and respond to the great needs that are evident in our world? Just as individuals strive for balance so must we continually and prayerfully discern what we commit to. The vestry’s responsibility is to recognize the blessings bestowed on Grace and let those blessings flow through. It has been said many times that because we are not encumbered by a large building, we can dream big and accomplish much. This is true as long as there is commitment to the initiative or event.

How do we hear what we might consider the voice of God? Each vestry meeting begins with time to reflect on something brought by the chaplain of that month’s meeting. During vestry meetings this year, we heard the spiritual biographies of each member and had a visioning time led by Tina at our March meeting. Deepening our knowledge of each other’s faith journey, enhanced by an overnight retreat to the Wisdom House in October, helps us hear what we feel God is saying to us and better enables us to discern how to shape Grace’s activities in our community.

This process of governing is also possible because of the individuals who step up to offer their prayers and time to Grace. I’m always reminded of Paul’s letter to the people of Corinth where he says: For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. (from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27) And so it is with our vestry, I say. As we work through the agenda each month, we can hear the questions and musings from each member with the sure knowledge that we all fit together into one voice answering God’s call to do what we can in this world. Are we crazy enough, as Bishop Curry says to “...change the world from the nightmare it often is into something close to the dream that God dreams for it.” With careful deliberations, lots of prayer and the constancy of intention, we have been and can continue to be ‘crazy’ enough to do this work. As we celebrated Grace’s first ten years, as I reviewed numerous photos to put into a slide show, I was struck by how Grace has been built up by individuals, each with his/her own contribution to the whole. Someone said, in a memory piece, that God is not finished with us yet. What will we be called to? Who will our new partners be? How will continue to bring God’s love to this world? Thank you all for participating in this adventure!

Also leaving the Vestry this year is John Cheek (10 years), Dindy Anderson (7 years) and Holly Murray (3 years). They, along with continuing members, Pennie Curry, Sue Gore, Mary Anne Grammer, Anne Andrews, Cathy Haywood, Dutch Pinkston, Laura Jordahl and Andrea White have been an amazing team with which to work. Tina has inspired us and challenged us. She has stepped fully into her role this year, is helping to bring Grace more into the community, and more of the community to Grace. It has been a real joy to serve with Tina from her first days and I thank God continually that she chose Grace. In closing, I pray that we may all continue to serve the mission of Love that we have been called to.

Kathy Clausen, Senior Warden

REPORT FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

I am so thankful for all members of our vestry that have heard God’s call to serve his church. I am grateful for all the help I have received serving as Jr. Warden this year and especially for Rick Gore’s ongoing support.

At our April 24th vestry meeting, I discussed our need to upgrade our ZOOM capabilities from our church office. I recommended working with Tune Street Video/Audio for upgrading our sound and visual equipment improving the quality of our meetings and worship opportunities from the office space and chapel. The motion was made and approved to move forward with Tune Street. Our new ZOOM equipment was installed in May of 2022 and has improved our capability to communicate with others who cannot attend our meetings in person.

In July of 2022 our cooling and heating system at our church office broke. I called LePrevost Plumbing and Heating and they discovered a damaged blower wheel unit. The piece of equipment was repaired, and the entire system was serviced and back in action.

The vestry discussed the need to clear out our storage unit located in Sheffield. The items in the storage unit have not been used or looked over for a number of years. We will work with members of our congregation to evaluate what to keep and what to give away to other churches in need of some of the items. We will also be working with the Great Barrington and Lee Historical Society to see what they might be interested in preserving.

Mary Anne Grammer took over the task of finding the best possible chairs for us to have available for our services at Crissey Farm. These 4 chairs will be available for those who might need chairs with better support and side arms to stand and sit without losing balance. Thank you, Mary Anne, for your research and recommendation to purchase these chairs.

This past year we were finally able to obtain a signed lease from our landlord, Christina Giannaris, for our church office located at 67 State Road. Our current lease ends August 31, 2023 and we are in the process of negotiating a renewal of the lease going forward.

We are blessed to have Tina as our Rector helping us ask, *What is Church?* God is showing us how to trust and take risks as we serve one another and our community in his love. I am deeply grateful to be part of this church family.

Pennie Curry, Junior Warden

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

St Paul’s Stockbridge, Christ Trinity Sheffield and Grace Church continued to gather for Bible Study and prayer most Tuesday evenings over Zoom. The year began with a four-week Icon workshop which I led and continued with specialized courses of study led by Revs. Erik Karas and Libby Wade, interspersed with simple, lectionary-based bible study. After a break in the summer, a newer member of our community, retired Lutheran pastor Bob Pohl, led us through a six-week study of Acts, using the question ‘What is Church?’ as a lens through which to view these stories about the church’s beginnings. This question was the theme of our Vestry retreat just prior to the study and will continue to be a source of focus and prayer as we move into 2023.

Regular lay preaching on Sunday mornings has also offered plenty of opportunity for Christian formation – both in and through the preacher themselves. Accompanying people as they pray their way through a text until its meaning becomes personal has been incredibly powerful, and the sermons that have resulted have carried with them – every single one – a message of faith, hope and love that has informed us all.

Naturally, Centering Prayer on Thursday evenings and our communal reflections on the Gospel during the Contemplative Eucharist on Wednesdays both continue to form and shape the people of Grace. And last but not least, our work together through Gideon’s Garden, the Lee Food Pantry and the People’s Pantry, has acted as a kind of lab for the Gospel in our hearts as well. A quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer struck me the other day: “*As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbor, as the one through who God calls you, speaks to you, makes demands on you.*” I believe this is true. There is no end to what we learn and become through spending real time with our neighbors - particularly those who are most often overlooked.

The Rev. Tina Rathbone

ALTAR GUILD

Grace Church continued to worship in person at Crissey Farm throughout 2022, with additional services for the Blessing of the Animals and Gideon’s Garden at Gideon’s Garden, and Christmas Eve in the greenhouse at Taft Farms. Additionally, midweek contemplative eucharists were held at the chapel on State Road. All of these were supported by the work of the altar guild, which, this year included both long-time and new members, including the acolytes, who are learning how to assist with this necessary work. We also now have a couple of men in our Altar Guild, which is great for us, and amazing to some of our sister parishes. Hopefully, this will inspire our brothers in other churches to give this hugely helpful work a try. Particular thanks go to Tina and to Pennie Curry for making sure that all necessary items were transported back and forth on those occasions when we were worshiping off-site.

In the process of cleaning out our storage areas, led by Pennie, we are finding that we have a lot of “altar stuff”, some of it quite valuable, which needs to be inventoried, and decisions made about use and storage. This has given us the chance to use and admire some beautiful pieces that have been donated to both St. George’s and St. James’ in the past, and, as it is more than we will use regularly, will allow us to make some donations to other churches in the near future, as we have done throughout our history.

Gratitude is also due to our regular members who often buy and make the many small items that are needed over the course of the year, not seeking reimbursement, which keeps our expenses low. It is also an indicator of the dedication of the altar guild, and the willingness of members to help the rector, the altar, each other, and the people of Grace to worship in beautiful spaces, wherever we are.

Sarah Sieber

BOOKS & BREAD

Now in its twenty-sixth year, Books & Bread has long been an important ministry of Grace Church. Attendees of these monthly gatherings continue to share their passion for books with others. Despite the challenges of Covid early in 2022 regarding in-person meetings, we were able to resume getting together at each other’s homes most of the year. A special thanks to the hosts noted below.

The grid captures all of the important details for 2022. Except for February, we met in person. Meetings began either at 6:00PM for appetizers, dinner and dessert or at 7:00PM. Those opting to attend on Zoom joined us at approximately 7:30. This pre-discussion time traditionally allows for the opportunity of social interaction before we review the book. Attendance this past year ranged from 4-5 to upwards of 12 people.

Peter Kirchoff

CHURCH SCHOOL

We returned to in-person Sunday school meetings this year. We managed a few times to Zoom with a child who is a member of Grace and lives in Brooklyn, New York. We welcomed Holly Murray as a teacher this year, too. We are blessed to have four to six children who regularly attend, ranging in age from two years old to young adulthood.

We focused on teaching the traditional Bible stories to build a foundation of Christian vocabulary and connection to the Bible. We began with the Creation Story and the story of Noah’s Ark. Of course, the children asked about Noah’s wife, so we learned about Naamah, too. The children always enjoy discussing the Bible story each week and asking wondering questions. And what would Sunday school be without creative coloring and drawing? We all especially enjoyed making paper Advent wreaths and the Christmas story scene. We had a Christmas pageant reading during church school, which included our friends in Brooklyn.

We use various resources to weave together a curriculum to meet the needs of our children.

Beulah Land

- Developed by Christian educator Gretchen Wolff Pritchard, Beulah Land is a felt board teaching resource that offers children stories of the Christian faith. Children hear themes such as *God has never stopped loving us; God’s love is always enough and more than enough* repeated in the context of the foundational stories of the faith: Creation, Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham, the Exodus, the fall of Jerusalem and the Exile, the prophecies relating to Jesus, Jesus’ life, death and resurrection and teachings and, finally, the church and our own story as part of the unfolding story of the faith.

Illustrated Ministry <https://www.illustratedministry.com/>

- Founded by Adam Walker Cleveland, a Presbyterian minister, the team at Illustrated Ministry creates accessible faith-based intergenerational resources for the church and home.
- Illustrated Ministry mission: *We celebrate the expansive image of God in everyone through open and inclusive language, diverse imagery, and progressive theology.*
- Everyone at Grace Sunday school loved coloring activities and making Christmas ornaments and Nativity scenes.

Lesson Plans that Work from The Episcopal Church <https://lessonplans.episcopalchurch.org/>

- Published by the Episcopal Church and designed to follow the Revised Common Lectionary, we adapt these plans within the context of the needs and interests of the children who come to our church.

Books

- Tomie dePaola’s Book of Bible Stories - New International Version
- I Sing A Song of the Saints of God, by Lesbia Scott
- We read three books by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso intended for children of all faiths and backgrounds. Rabbi Sasso is the second woman to be ordained as a rabbi (1974) and the first rabbi to become a mother. Sasso, who holds a doctorate in ministry, is active in the interfaith community and has written and lectured on the renewal of spirituality, women and religion, and the discovery of the religious imagination in children of all faiths.
 - God’s Paintbrush This story invites children of all faiths and backgrounds to encounter God through moments in their own lives and gives adult and child questions for exploring faith together.
 - A Prayer for the Earth - The Story of Naamah, Noah’s wife This is a story celebrating the wisdom of Naamah, whom God calls on to save each plant in the Great Flood.
 - In God’s Name - What is God’s name? This story celebrates the ultimate harmony of belief in one God by people of all faiths.

Participating with Dindy Anderson, Margaret Layton, and Holly Murray has been a pleasure. We continued to welcome all to join us and were very grateful for Mary Booton, who joined us on many Sundays with her granddaughter.

Andrea Saville White

Books & Bread							
Now in its twenty-sixth year, Books & Bread has long been an important ministry of Grace Church. Attendees of these monthly gatherings continue to share their passion for books with others. Despite the challenges of Covid early in 2022 regarding in-person meetings, we were able to resume getting together at each others' homes most of the year. A special thanks to the hosts noted below.							
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by Peter Kirchoff							
Grace Church - Books and Bread							
Book List - 2022							
Date	Book	Author	Leader	Pages	Host	Time	Dinner / Appetizers & Desserts
Feb. 9	Beneath A Ruthless Sun	Gilbert King	Frank Garretson	375	Zoom	7:00 PM	NA
March 9	Educated	Tara Westover	Monique Kirchoff	352	Tina Rathbone	7:00 PM	A & D
Apr. 13	The River Of Doubt	Candice Millard	Peter Kirchoff	353	Carol Way	6:00 PM	Dinner
May 11	The Indigo Girl	Natasha Boyd	Martha Katz	349	Martha Katz	6:00 PM	Dinner
June 8	The Summer Book	Tove Jansson	Sally Brooke	170	Peter & Monique Kirchoff	6:00 PM	Dinner
Sept. 14	Hamnet	Maggie O'Farrell	Dindy Anderson	302	Frank Garretson	6:00 PM	Dinner
Oct. 12	Green	Dan Tawczynski	Penny Curry	184	Carol Way	6:00 PM	Dinner
Nov. 9	The Reader	Bernard Schlink	Carol Way	226	Peter & Monique Kirchoff	6:00 PM	Dinner

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

On November 5, 2022, we gathered at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst for the 121st Diocesan Convention. Attending from Grace Church was Rev. Tina Rathbone, Sue Gore (Vestry Delegate Alternate), and Monique Kirchoff (Lay Delegate).

The convention opened at 8:00 AM with registration and a continental breakfast followed by Holy Eucharist which was streamed to YouTube for those who could not attend in person. The business meetings began at 10:30 AM, breaking for lunch at noon, before continuing again at 1:00 PM with business meetings until adjournment. at about 3:00 PM.

We covered a lot of ground that morning including hearing the report of the Committee on Credentials and Registration, and electing a Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and a Secretary. We commissioned House Interns and listened to a Special Order Report on the Human 2 Human program. After a short break we heard the Second Ballot and Third Ballot results. Lunch was followed by the 2021 Treasurer's Report and the 2023 Mission Plan Budget. We watched several videos, one on the **Global Mission Committee**, another on **Swords into Plowshares**, followed by the **Good News Gardens** video which featured our own Gideon's Garden. After another round of Clergy appointments, retirements and moves, Table Talk, appointments of Commission on Ministry, reports from Committee on Resolutions and lastly, the Bishop's Address and Courtesy Resolutions. We prayed, were blessed and were dismissed.

It was a long day full of exciting ideas, some familiar faces, and many new ones. For me, most of all, it was humbling to witness the tireless devotion and thought that goes into running a church that functions as the arm and messenger of Jesus in the world.

Monique Kirchoff, Lay Delegate

GIDEON'S GARDEN

From Annalise Clausen: *Gideon's Garden and the Grace Church community have given me an incredible gift this year. I have been so moved over the last two years that in fact my faith in community and in the word of God has been internalized and solidified. I have newly discovered a place of foundational caring from my community, a kind of acceptance I believed to be out of reach. My gratitude for this opportunity will support me for years to come as I seek to continue to do God's work bringing the truth of love to those whose paths intersect with mine.*

From Joel Jorgensen: *I have been delighted and deeply grateful for getting to be just a small part of the work at the Garden and at Grace Church. I am glad to have had the guidance of Annalise in their last year as director so that the Garden is able to have steady and sure growth for the future. Thank you for everyone who has welcomed and supported me in the transition from one job to another and thank you especially for the generosity and kindness of everyone at Grace. I look forward to all that's in store for the coming season and all there is to learn.*

Returning for their second year, Annalise began in January setting goals with Rev. Tina Rathbone for local student engagement with a focus on building connections to continue the summer internship program for middle-school students. Through the first several weeks of the year, Annalise and Tina, both separately and together met with Dom Sacco of Du Bois Middle School. Dom Sacco was (and continues to be) enthusiastic about what Gideon's Garden has to offer to his students. Mr. Sacco directly introduced applicants for the summer program to Annalise and Tina individually which helped to create a sense of positive anticipation for students who had not had activities to look forward to in the summer.

With renewed focus on the Internship, Andrea and Meredith from the Grace congregation offered their input on creating a curriculum for the summer. Tina, Andrea, Meredith, Annalise, and later Joel, met via Zoom and in person to discuss structure, teaching topics, policies and crisis management. The Summer Internship program was created anew!

In February, Annalise applied for grants through Grow Better Great Barrington, a program to disperse American Rescue Plan Act funds locally. Through a connection to the Great Barrington Board of Agriculture, Annalise was able to apply for funding through an anonymous donor to build an additional greenhouse structure to support the perennial establishment of the butterfly house. Annalise also applied for a cover crop grant through the Northeast Organic Farming Association. Annalise started over 60 dif-

ferent varieties, some perennial some annual, to re-establish the butterfly house. Kyle Gangell visited the garden as well to advise and guide our efforts.

Propagation started in early March for a small planting of onions. Annalise planned for extra seedlings and was able to distribute over 500 seedlings during April and May at The People's Pantry, Lee Food Pantry and later in June directly to families receiving food assistance through Southern Berkshire Regional School District community members. Out of regular meetings with the South County Food Access Collaborative Working Group, Annalise organized three opportunities to share the Front Lawn Food programs from Greenagers with the People's Pantry clients as they selected their seedlings to take home. They were also able to collect seedling donations from Farm Girl Farm, Gould Farm and North Plain Farm to distribute.

A solid support group of volunteers composed of Dutch Pinkston, Jim Wade, Holly Murray and Dindy Anderson came out early in the season to assist with seeding. Together, we sowed over 3,000 seeds this year. We mixed more than 400 pounds of potting soil. We planted 1,800 linear feet of the garden.

In early May, both grants came back with awards totaling \$10,750! The intention for the grant request was to cover labor, materials, plants and "livestock" for the butterfly house as well as erecting and installing an 18' by 20' greenhouse that is intended for propagation.

By the middle of May, students interested in the internship program were given take-home packets advising their guardians of the summer Internship program. Rev. Tina handled the preparations and communication with parents, as well as arranging all the meals and transportation for the 10-week program. On the last day of May, Rev. Tina brought together the families and their young people who would be interns to welcome them to the garden and answer questions. This same day we welcomed Joel for his first unofficial day to the garden. The event was incredibly successful and left those who attended full of anticipation and hope for the summer.

Shortly after welcoming the interns, we had our community planting day with our community partners including Multicultural Bridge, Railroad Street Youth Project, Project Connection, and folk from surrounding churches. It was a great success. Together with many hands, we made light work of the 4,600 feet of beds in our main field. Following planting, Joel began working on a rudimentary irrigation system to keep the plants well-watered in their first weeks in the field.

On June 21st, Rev. Tina, Annalise, and Joel welcomed seven middle school interns to their first day at the Garden. Nervous and excited, these interns soon began to find pieces of the Garden they could call their own. The shape of the internship program evolved considerably from the first day to the last. From originally having a regular curriculum, the internship team was able to shift focus to address the needs of each of the students, allowing for plenty of time to work, eat, relax, and simply enjoy each other's presence. When not in the field tending and harvesting, the interns were given a variety of projects to express themselves and to even have a bit of fun. Alongside our regular days at the Garden, the new internship program also saw the introduction of field trips to discover new interests and pique the curiosity of our students. Locations for these field trips included: Berkshire Botanical Gardens, Greenagers, Mumbett's Freedom Farm, Berkshire House of Corrections Aquaponics program, the Guthrie Center, the People's Pantry, and two trips to Lake Mansfield for some much-needed R&R on exceptionally hot days. The internship concluded with a party planned and executed by the interns for their friends and family. It involved a simple meal using produce from the Garden and skills learned from home and field trips and a graduation ceremony to welcome our interns as once and forever alumni of Gideon's Garden. The gratitude shown by all was palpable.

Outside the internship, Annalise and Joel welcomed three students from Taft's new fellowship program. They were of great help around the Garden and made sure there was plenty of laughter and fun to be had as well. This season also saw many new visiting groups who were able to handily take care of larger projects such as mulching, planting, and mass harvesting that would otherwise be exhausting for smaller groups. This included group visits from Project Connection, Camp HiRock, Camp Mah-Kee-Nac, Multicultural Bridge, and weekly group visits from BCARC and the Master Gardener's Association. In August, Gideon's Garden hosted Multicultural Bridge's Happiness Toolbox's Ice Cream celebration to close their summer programming. Over 50 kids ranging from 4 to 14 years old attended. George the Rooster was a favorite among all visiting groups.

Halfway through the season, Joel installed a much-needed upgraded irrigation system that was able to provide water from the nearby pond to the field in the driest months of the year. Despite minimal rain, we managed to maintain nominal conditions to grow through August and September. Our biggest harvests this year were tomatoes, watermelon, and winter squash. Much thanks must be given for the generosity of our faithful volunteers for the success of this season. Thank you, Jim Wade, Dutch Pinkston, Laura Jordahl, Jainee McCarroll, Ellis Ericson, and Aaron Rourk! This season also saw the reopening of the butterfly house in which we introduced twelve different native species to begin experimenting and establishing residency to provide added community engagement and beauty to the Garden. We saw a trickle of visitors with growing interest to visit, learn, and even help from outside groups next season.

As activity in the field began to wind down, we began to shift our focus towards infrastructure projects. These included the construction of a new propagation house, reclamation of storage space in the barn, remodeling the chicken coop to be more comfortable in all seasons of the year, and organizing all of our spaces to be more intern and volunteer friendly. The propagation house includes a heating system to begin seeding in the early months of spring and an automatic ventilation system to provide maximum health for our seedlings. Our storage spaces have been greatly improved with shelving donated by Raymond at Carr Hardware and a gravel donation for flooring from Donovan & Son, Inc.

The 2022 year closed with Annalise and Joel’s transition to assisting Taft Farms with their holiday season productions as a part of the continuing partnership between Grace and Taft. Deliveries on behalf of the South County Food Access Collaborative and the Berkshire Community Health Program continued throughout the off season, helping deliver and distribute to several different organizations from suppliers across South County. Gideon’s Garden continues to be committed to efforts working towards food access and ending insecurity and looks forward to partnering with pantries and programs in following years.

Annalise Clausen, Joel Jorgensen, Co-Directors

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

The Scholarship / Grant Committee had one meeting by telephone. There were two requests:

- 1) From Maya VanSant who had a strong resume, and we granted her \$3,000 for first semester with the information that if she was successful her first semester, she needed to let us know and we would give her another \$3,000 for the second semester in January 2023.
- 2) From Juan Diego for a grant to pursue exploring a career in aviation we gave him a grant of \$600. He came to us in December outlining everything he has done, and we honored a second request for \$600 to pursue higher level flying lessons.

Dollars Spent: \$7,200.00

Doreen Hutchinson

HEALING MINISTRY

The Healing Ministry provides personal prayer for those who wish to come to the prayer team in the back of the worship area during the administration of communion on Sunday morning. Members of the Healing Team are: Ted Cobden, Pennie Curry, Kathy Clausen, and Sue Gore.

Ted Cobden

HOSPITALITY

We started out the year unable to have coffee hour due to an increase in COVID. However, in March, we were able to resume coffee hour and to enjoy socializing and good food. We were able to have a wonderful Easter celebration complete with the usual Easter hunt for the children. In August we had a great celebration for Tina’s one year anniversary. Such a happy day!!

We had a special celebration at Taft Farms the first Sunday in October in thanksgiving for the bounty of Gideon’s Garden and the Blessings of the Animals, complete with donuts and apple cider. A wonderful

day! The Sunday before Christmas we were given wreaths to take home and decorate. Many thanks to Taft Farms for this.

We had a special casual service for Christmas, as it was a Sunday. We gathered in front of the fireplace and were invited to dress casually, even to wear pajamas. The service was followed by mince pies provided by Tina and other holiday treats.

We ended the year with fabulous 10th anniversary celebration of Grace Church on Epiphany. We were joined by Francie Hills and Janet Zimmerman, the two other rectors since Grace Church’s founding. The celebration included lunch, wonderful cake made by Debbie Holmes and cupcakes, games, and reminiscences of our time together. A big thank you to all who planned it.

Many thanks go to all those who participated in providing treats and setting up and cleaning up for coffee hour during this year. This includes: Ian and Mary Booton, Mary Anne Grammer, Laura Jordahl, Sue and Rick Gore, Monique and Peter Kirchoff, Cathy Haywood, Carol Way, Lee and John Cheek, Marcia Doelman, Sally Brooke, Nancy Fishell and Howard Seip, and Andrea and Steve White. A special thanks goes to Debbie Holmes who always makes sure that we have plenty of supplies, as well as taking her turn at coffee hour!! None of this could happen without all of you!!!

Dindy Anderson

LEE FOOD PANTRY

To respond to human need by loving service

1/1/22 Beginning Balance \$130,247
Income: 2022 Donations\$47,565
Expenses:\$61,245
12/31/22 Ending Balance \$116,567

TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS SERVEDTOTAL INDIVIDUALS SERVED 2022 – 1855 2022 - 4486

In January of 2022, we approved \$10,000 to Construct to help with their deficit and \$5,000 to Human to Human. Both were in need and both respond to our mission statement. Thank you to our partners; Berkshire Bounty, Berkshire Diaper Project, Irie’s Pet Pantry and Big Y here in Lee. A special thanks all volunteers from St. Paul’s in Stockbridge, St. Mary’s Church and First Congregational Church of Lee, our team from the Lee community and all at Grace Church. Our 2022 donations received came very close to our expenses.

Susan Gore

MEN’S GROUP

The purpose of the Grace Church Men’s Group is to provide fellowship and to enrich the faith of all who participate. Although we do not meet every month, when we do meet, it is usually on a Wednesday evening. Generally speaking, we meet at a residence from 6-9 for supper and discussion focused on specific topics. All men of the parish and their guests are invited. There are no attendance requirements or attendance expectations. Now and then, someone can come to a particular meeting that interests him or he can become a “regular” by attending most all the meetings. At the evening meetings we are 8-10 although there are about 20 on our mailing list. We meet at 6:00 pm for soft drinks, wine and cheese followed by supper. Our discussion begins at about 7:45 pm and we adjourn promptly at 9:00 pm. We feel God at work in our fellowship and care for one another. We are strengthened when we share our life stories and feel the support of the other men.

During 2022, our first meeting of the year was at Frank Garretson’s abode on March 1 to hear a presentation by Steve White about his long career in the mental health field. On April 6, we gathered at the home of Peter Kirchoff for a presentation on the current status of the Clinton Church restoration project. On May 17, we met at Steve White’s residence to hear a presentation by Peter Kirchoff on his life in general and more particularly his long career as a public radio DJ. On August 24, we held our Annual BBQ at the Cheek place in Egremont. Our last meeting of 2022 was on November 30, again at John Cheek’s home, with Reese Shad, representing the People’s Pantry of Great Barrington, as our presenter.

This ministry began early in 2002 when a small group of gentlemen parishioners met monthly at the Barrington Brewery for lunch and conversation. In November of that year, shortly after Cathy Richardson became the new Rector of St. James Church, the Vestry met in Retreat at which “involving the men of the parish more fully in parish life” was identified as one of three strategies “for the purpose of furthering the life and growth of St. James in the coming year.” Within a few weeks, that resolve gave birth to the Men’s Group as we know it today with Ted Cobden in the lead. While the small lunch meetings at the Brewery continued for a while, a much larger group began to meet on a regular basis in the evenings as described in the first paragraph of this report. The group has continued to operate ever since.

Committee: John Cheek, Ted Cobden, Peter Kirchoff, George Raymond and Steve White

George Raymond

MOVIE NITE

At their leisure, participants watch the movie that has been selected for the next Zoom get-together. At that Zoom meeting, the film is discussed for one hour. What kind of movies? They may cover a variety of genres and would, generally speaking, be ones getting high marks from critics including those with R ratings. Movies known to contain an excess of sex and violence would be avoided, regardless of critical acclaim.

The current practice is the have monthly Zoom meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm with no meetings in July and August.

Information about the currently scheduled film appears in *Tuesday’s Child*.

It is now the practice to send a short promo of all movies selected to an “all parishioners” email list within 1-2 weeks of the scheduled monthly Zoom meeting.

Following is a list of movies we watched and discussed in 2022;

If you have an interest in becoming active in the movie selection process and leading discussions, please send an email to George Raymond graymond747@gmail.com

George Raymond

Discussion Date	Movie Title	Discussion Leader
January 6, 2022	Breaking Away	Peter Kirchoff
February 3	My Name is Salt	Rev. Tina Rathbone
March 3	A Raisin in the Sun	Carol Way
April 7	Some Kind of Different as Me	Mark and Dindy Anderson
May 5	Resurrection	Sarah Sieber
June 2	Babette’s Feast	Janie McCarroll
July	No Movie Night	-
August	No Movie Night	-
September 1	Mudbound	Sally Brooke
October 6	The Power of the Dog	George Raymond
November 3	Room	Jennifer Clark
December 1	Green Book	Monique Kirchoff

SAFE CHURCH

As of this writing, all employees, staff, officers, vestry members and volunteers who work regularly with vulnerable people in the parish, including Gideon’s Garden, and Church School staff are certified in Safe Church Training, as provided by the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, with one exception. Following the annual meeting, any new vestry members, or other identified members who need or wish to take the Safe Church training, will be contacted and their participation in the training arranged. At this time a policy to cover safe church mandates within our programs and programming areas is being drafted for presentation to the vestry.

Sarah Sieber, Safe Church Officer

THIRD SUNDAY SUPPERS

In 2013, we began the Third Sunday Supper program. (In the beginning the suppers were held on the Second Sunday). The idea was for parishioners to be invited to join together on a Sunday evening, once a month, at a local restaurant for some fellowship and dining. Our first dinner was at Sullivan Station in Lee on May 10, 2013 (that was a Friday but that’s another story). With very few exceptions, we continued to meet in-person, month in and month out, always on a Sunday, until March 15, 2020. Only 4 people attended that dinner and it was clear then that the pandemic was closing in. Starting on April 19, 2020, and continuing through June 20, 2021 we dined only by Zoom. The December 18, 2022 dinner was our 109th get-together. We have visited 29 different venues since 2013.

What we did in 2022:

Date	Dining Venue	Location
January 16	<i>Cancelled</i>	
February 20	Frankie’s	Lenox
March 20	Xicohtencatl	Great Barrington
April 24	Koi	Great Barrington
May 15	Aegean Breeze	Great Barrington
June 20	Agaves	Great Barrington
July 17	Morgan House	Lee
August 21	Amici	West Stockbridge
September 18	Xicohtencatl	Great Barrington
October 16	Frankie’s	Lenox
November 20	Frankie’s	Lenox
December 18	Morgan House	Lee

The program has been successful and apparently well received. The first supper of 2023 is scheduled to take place at 6:00 pm on Sunday, January 22. In May, 2023, we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Third Sunday Supper program!

George Raymond

TUESDAY’S CHILD

Tuesday’s Child, the Grace Church e-newsletter, is emailed to members of the congregation, and to anyone else interested, every Tuesday. It contains information about upcoming Grace Church events, as well as provides ample opportunities to volunteer, to donate, to socialize, to learn, and to be inspired. In this time of social distancing and remote meetings, Tuesday’s Child has also been an important source of Zoom links to all the Grace Church services and ministries as well as to programs produced and offered by the Diocese. This has made it possible for some who cannot travel or who are ill to benefit from these resources in the comfort of their homes.

After some restructuring, the newsletter now opens with a message from Rev. Tina Rathbone, our Rector, offering her thoughts on the liturgical season. This is followed by photos and an update on the mission and work of Gideon’s Garden by Annalise Clausen, Director of Farming, or Joel Jorgensen, the Director of Programs. Lee Cheek, our organist, submits videos and articles from Becoming Beloved Community, and John Cheek, our Music Director, contributes a hymn every week. Dindy Anderson, Andrea White, and Margaret Layton regularly fill us in with photos and descriptions of student activities from the Grace Church Sunday School. Our Senior Warden, Kathy Clausen, keeps us informed about future Grace Church events, and decisions made at Vestry meetings. George Raymond (Movie Nite, Men’s Group, and Third Sunday Supper) and Peter Kirchoff (Book Group) lend their skills to gathering us together for conversation and entertainment. The dates, links, and details are in Tuesday’s Child.

Now in its ninth year, about 69% of the 148 people to whom the TC is sent open the email. Last year the organization of the newsletter was revised to give it a broader appeal and clearer layout, but it will probably be further revised as the content and readership increase. Thanks to all those who help to make Tuesday’s Child an enriching resource for the Grace Church Community.

Monique Kirchoff

WELCOME TABLE

The Welcome Table, staffed by two committee members, is truly a welcoming presence for Grace. The members arrive early to distribute necessary pamphlets and supplies on the table. Incoming parishioners can pause at the table for a name tag, a copy of the worship service, bulletins, and updates on ever-

yone’s news. The members make sure the names of those present, either on Zoom or physically, either new or old, are recorded on the Grace Attendance Sheet which is included in the weekly table supply.

It is a joy to see newcomers, old and new friends and neighbors, enter and greet each other before the service begins. These weekly informal gatherings by the Welcome Table often spark friendships and conversations which will later be continued at coffee hour.

Once the service begins, the next duty for the committee members is passing loose plate collection and delivering it to the altar. After the service, they pack up the contents of the table in the bin provided.

Current Welcome Table Committee members are: Rick & Sue Gore, Sally Brooke, Doreen Hutchinson, Marcia Doelman, Sarah Sieber, Carol Way, and Anne Marie & Robert Pohl.

Sally Brooke

WISDOM COMMITTEE

The Wisdom Committee had multiple meetings with the rector to discuss the future role of the Wisdom Committee. Discussion occurred since we now have an active Community Engagement Team and Wisdom felt redundant and its role if any needed to be discerned. After much praying, discerning, and conversing, a recommendation was brought to the Vestry. The Vestry contemplated and later voted to support the recommendation.

Recommend:

- ☐ Wisdom will consist of 5 people (limited to 2 from Vestry)
- ☐ One Meeting will be held 1 month after the annual meeting
- ☐ Other meetings will be virtual when needed
- ☐ Vestry is accountable for budget decisions and currently funds Gideon Gardens and Berkshire Immigrant Center request in its operational budget.
- ☐ Any other need/ initiative will be brought to Wisdom
 - ☐ Members will validate congruency of mission of requesting group with mission of Grace
 - ☐ Wisdom members research the requesting group for amount of financial resources and needs it will fill
 - ☐ Wisdom members gain information and send a recommendation to Vestry to support. (So, in a sense, Wisdom will discern and research the request.)
- ☐ There are currently organizations that require funding from the Vestry already but may have a new request. Ex. Multicultural Bridge

This gives Wisdom a key role which does not duplicate the role of the Community Engagement Team and supports the fiduciary function of the Vestry.

Doreen Hutchinson

WORSHIP

I mentioned in my Rector’s report above how important the Worship Team has become to our community. With their help, and at their urging, we have made various changes in our main, Sunday service which help more people sink more deeply into Love each week – and what could be more important than that? The Worship Team has met every other month and will continue to do so this year. All who want to come are welcome, and all have equal say.

Thankfully we have not had to shut down or revert to all-Zoom services at all this year, and we have been able to continue to gather at Crissey Farm every Sunday morning at 10:00. With the help of Abe Streeter, Pennie Curry, and Rick Gore, we continued to iron out kinks in our Zoom service and to improve and deepen the worship experience for all those who are not able to join us in person.

So many people have a role in making our main Sunday worship service what it is that I cannot name them all here. The altar guild, welcome team, lectors and intercessors, healing prayer and coffee hour teams all share their energy and their giftedness with generosity and grace, and the Sunday school team continues to nourish and care for the kids who come regularly and the kids who come sometimes with steadfast love and deep welcome. With the help of all these people our worship has continued to sustain an ever-growing group of us each week. I am so grateful.

Thinking of our Sunday services this past year, a few specifics stand out: We again celebrated Holy Week with our neighboring congregations: on Maundy Thursday, we washed one another’s feet at Christ Trinity; on Good Friday we venerated the Cross in the Grace Church Chapel; and on Saturday night we joined together at Trinity Church in Lenox for the Great Vigil of Easter. Easter Day was full of joy, gorgeous flowers and beautiful music at Crissey Farm.

Pentecost this year was celebrated extravagantly also – complete with flashing red umbrellas and whirly-gigs of every kind that kids of all ages waved behind our image of the Holy Spirit as it arced its way down the aisle.

Later in the year, after the bounty and energy of the summer had passed, we gathered under a tent at Gideon’s Garden on St. Francis Day again to give thanks for all of God’s creation. Together, we blessed many, many animals (pets people brought for the occasion as well as every single animal at Taft farms). I am grateful to Joel Jorgensen and Annalise Clausen who co-preached at this service as well.

All Saints was another important day as we gathered together to remember all those we have loved and see no more and reflected on their beauty and worth in our lives. And, after a lovely, gentle Advent, we were once again able to celebrate Christmas Eve at Taft Farms, where the greenhouse was miraculously transformed by Pennie Curry and many wonderful people from Taft into a sacred space for us to celebrate the birth of the Lord of Love. Nine baby rabbits joined 104 humans of all sizes for the evening, and together we sang, prayed and gave thanks for the greatest truth of all: *Emmanuel – God with us*. The following day, a Sunday, a smaller group of us gathered at Crissey Farm for a very casual, and deeply moving, eucharist in front of the fire. Two of us came in pajamas and one – being more intimidated – wore her slippers. It was lovely!

In addition to our regular Sunday worship, this year saw also the return of a mid-week Eucharist in the chapel. This new ‘Contemplative Eucharist’ is simple and full of both space and silence. An intimate group of six or seven gather regularly for the service, both in person and on zoom, and many of us have found that it has become an essential part of our week.

The Rev. Tina Rathbone

LITURGICAL RITES CELEBRATED

All Sunday services were on Zoom and in person, except our Christmas Eve service at Taft Farms which was only in person as there is insufficient internet to support a Zoom platform there. There was more

opportunity to celebrate Eucharist in people’s homes this year, and we saw, also, the permanent addition, from Lent 2022 onward, of a second regular weekly Eucharist in the chapel every Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM. Centering prayer continued, both in person and over zoom throughout the year, on Thursdays too, and we had a number of special services as well. Please see below.

Sunday Eucharist (all including Healing): 52

Contemplative Holy Eucharist on Wednesdays: 39

Holy Eucharist in people’s homes: 12

Memorials: 1 (for Joe Merola, a friend from The People’s Pantry)

Deaths: 0

Baptisms: 0

Confirmations/Receptions: 0

Special services: 2 (Blessing of the Harvest w/Eucharist at Gideon’s Garden & Blue Christmas Service in the Chapel.)

The Rev. Tina Rathbone

YEAR-ROUND STEWARDSHIP

The committee consisted of Lynn Walker, Sally Brooke, Dutch Pinkston, John Cheek and Mary Anne Grammer. After meeting with Rev. Tina, we planned speakers for three Sundays: Monique Kirchoff, John Cheek and Gino Furio. Each member spoke on the ways in which Grace Church has deepened their spiritual growth and commitment. The committee wrote and edited a Stewardship letter. We gathered at the office to stuff envelopes with the letter and pledge cards. The envelopes were stamped and mailed to the congregation. On December 4th, we had our In-gathering of pledges and the congregation was thanked for their support.

Mary Anne Grammer

SLATE OF OFFICERS, VESTRY MEMBERS AND DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES

OFFICERS (1 year)

Senior Warden	Pennie Curry
Junior Warden	Laura Jordahl
Treasurer	Sue Gore
Clerk	Mary Anne Grammer

VESTRY - at Large (3 year terms; with 2 consecutive terms possible)

Class of 2024	Anne Andrews (2 nd), Dutch Pinkston (2 nd)
Class of 2025	Cathy Haywood (2 nd), Andrea White (1 st)
Class of 2026	Mary Booton (1 st), Gino Furio (1 st), Meredith Haider (1 st)

DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Vestry Delegate	Sue Gore	Vestry Alternate	Pennie Curry
Lay Delegate	Monique Kirchoff	Lay Alternate	Dindy Anderson

	A	B	C	D	Q	R
1				2022 Budgeted	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
2						
3			Weekly Collection			
4			Pledge	\$ 150,480	\$ 180,214	\$ 160,024
5			Loose Plate	\$ 500	\$ 3,391	\$ 1,000
6			PayPal/Tithely Fees Paid	\$ -	\$ 51	\$ -
7			Special Offering	\$ 500	\$ 300	\$ 200
8						
9			Investment Income			
10			Trustees	\$ 160,141	\$ 141,478	\$ 154,107
11			Crane Trust	\$ 4,200	\$ 8,639	\$ 9,000
12			Nancy Cobden Memorial	\$ 94,000	\$ 85,000	\$ 66,000
13			Zimmerman Education	\$ -	\$ 4,840	\$ 7,100
14						
15			Other Income			
16			Flowers	\$ 1,000	\$ 990	\$ 1,000
17			Gifts in Memory	\$	\$ 300	\$ -
18						
19			Total Income	\$ 410,821	\$ 425,203	\$ 398,431
20						
21			Expenses			
22			Worship			
23			Flowers	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600
24			Liturgical Equipment	\$ 500	\$ 543	\$ 500
25			Special Services Expense	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,215	\$ 3,500
26			Music Supplies	\$ 1,350	\$ 297	\$ 1,000
27			Guest Musicians	\$ 1,380	\$ 300	\$ 900
28			Supply Clergy	\$ 1,610	\$ -	\$ 1,610
29			Technology	\$ 1,000	\$ 3,197	\$ 1,000
30						
31			Benevolence - Mission - Outreach			
32			People's Pantry	\$ 500	\$ 6,318	\$ 500
33			Lee Food Pantry	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
34			Gideon's Garden	\$ 3,725	\$ 8,198	\$ 6,535
35			Multicultural Bridge Initiative	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
36			Berkshire Immigration Center	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
37			Crane scholarships/grants	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
38			UTO out of Operations	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
39			Assessment for Common Ministry	\$ 31,416	\$ 31,416	\$ 28,752
40			Clinton Church Restoration	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
41			Clergy's Discretionary Fund	\$ 50	\$ 637	\$ 500
42			General Outreach	\$ -	\$ 3,941	\$ 3,000.00
43						

	A	B	C	D	Q	R
1				2022 Budgeted	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
45				2022 Budgeted	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
46						
47			Christian Nurture			
48			Adult Education	\$ 500	\$ 170	\$ 500
49			Church School	\$ 500	\$ 239	\$ 500
50			Vestry Formation	\$ 750	\$ 1,883	\$ 2,000
51			Coffee Hour	\$ 300	\$ 359	\$ 200
52			Special Receptions	\$ 500		\$ 5,000
53			Greeters Table	\$ 200	\$ 361	\$ 300
54						
55			Office and Administration			
56			General Supplies	\$ 1,400	\$ 2,123	\$ 1,400
57			Postage and Box Rental	\$ 800	\$ 436	\$ 500
58			Printing and Duplicating	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,434	\$ 3,000
59			Advertising	\$ 1,000	\$ 200	\$ 500
60			Web/Constant Contact Expenses	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,329	\$ 3,300
61			Office Cleaning	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
62						
63			Rent, Utilities and Maintenance			
64			Office Rental	\$ 19,200	\$ 24,800	\$ 21,600
65			Crissy Farm Rental & Set-up	\$ 20,000	\$ 18,360	\$ 25,200
66			Storage Rental	\$ 2,484	\$ 2,345	\$ 2,484
67			Electric	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,234	\$ 1,600
68			Gas	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,884	\$ 1,800
69			Phone	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,553	\$ 1,600
70			Insurance	\$ 3,346	\$ 4,330	\$ 2,400
71			Building Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 3,830	\$ -
72						
73			Personnel Expenses			
74			Clergy, Secretary, Choir Director Salaries and Benefits	\$ 161,980	\$ 159,268	\$ 165,960
75			Gideon's Garden Directors and Youth Supervisor	\$ 105,000	\$ 84,740	\$ 65,220
76			Gideon's Taft Farm Fellows	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500
77			Gideon's Garden Intern Stipends	\$ -	\$ 4,840	\$ 5,600
78			Accountant Expense	\$ 5,250	\$ 5,225	\$ 5,900
79			Virtual Tech	\$ 7,200	\$ 7,800	\$ 8,580
80			Keyboardist/Organist	\$ 6,480	\$ 8,720	\$ 8,910
81			Clergy Continuing Education	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
82			Sundries	\$ -	\$ 1,891	\$ -
83						
84			Total Expenses	\$ 336,656	\$ 419,116	\$ 398,431
85						
86			Net	\$ 74,165	\$ 6,087	\$ -
87						

	A	B	C	D	Q	R
1				2022 Budgeted	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
87						
88						
89						
90			Pass Through Income & Expenses			
91		Lee	Food Pantry Pass Through Income		\$ -	
92		People's	Pantry Pass Through Income		\$ 100	
93		Change the Babies	Pass Through Income		\$ 1,117	
94		Teen Gift Card	Pass Through Income		\$ 1,170	
95		Gideon's Garden	Pass Through Income		\$ 14,505	
96		Construct	Pass Through Income		\$	
97		Multicultural Bridge	Pass Through Income		\$ -	
98		UTO	Pass through Income		\$ -	
99		Rector's Discretionary Fund	Income		\$ -	
100						
101			Total Pass Through Income		\$ 16,892	
102						
103		Lee Food Pantry	Pass Through Income		\$	
104		People's Pantry	Pass Through Expense		\$ 100	
105		Change the Babies	Pass Through Expense		\$ 3,000	
106		Teen Gift Card	Pass Through Expense		\$ 1,149	
107		Gideon's Garden	Pass Through Expense		\$ 9,454	
108		Construct	Pass Through Income		\$ -	
109		Multi Cultural Bridge	Pass Thru expense		\$	
110		UTO	Pass Through Expense		\$ -	
111		Rector's Discretionary Fund	Expense		\$ 500	
112						
113			Total Pass Through Expense		\$ 14,203	
114						
115			Total Income	\$ 410,821	\$ 442,095	
116			Total Expense	\$ 336,656	\$ 433,319	
117			Net	\$ 74,165	\$ 8,776	

Grace Church - Great Barrington MA
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2022

Thursday, January 26, 2023		Page 1 of 2
Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
Assets		
1.110.110	Lee Bank Checking	51,916.52
1.120.103	Prepaid Expense	1,875.00
1.140.100	Trustee Investment Account	
1.110.135	Grace Church General Fund	684,509.25
1.120.110	Handicap Building Fund	18,155.20
1.120.145	St. George's Property Fund	704,071.80
1.120.153	Clergy Housing Fund	137,169.06
1.120.157	St James Property Fund	353,980.35
1.130.105	Crane Scholarship Fund	5,684.55
1.140.148	The Fludder Memorial Flower Fund	9,424.38
1.140.151	The Weatherbee Memorial Fund	73,580.67
1.140.154	Frank W Beatie Memorial Music Fund	80,484.07
1.140.156	The Carlson Memorial Perpetual Candle Fund	6,377.97
1.140.157	Nancy S. Cobden Fund	196,007.96
1.145.100	Zimmerman Educational Fund	13,504.74
1.170.100	Columbarium Fund	1,174.65
1.180.100	Sabbatical Fund	3,125.91
	Total Trustee Investment Account	\$2,287,250.56
1.150.110	Lee Food Pantry Checking	116,567.47
1.150.115	GCSB Rector's Discretionary Checking	2,679.63
1.500.100	Vehicles	24,969.00
	Total Assets	\$2,485,258.18
Liabilities		
2.110.100	Accounts Payable/Vendors	(80.91)
	Total Liabilities	(\$80.91)
Fund Balances		
3.110.100	General Operating Fund Balance	70,420.57
3.110.135	Grace Church General Trustee Fund Balance	684,509.25
3.120.100	Building Fund Balance	
3.120.111	Handicap Accessibility Trustee Fund Balance	18,155.20
3.120.115	St George Property Fund Balance	704,071.80
3.120.120	Clergy Housing Fund Balance	137,169.06
3.120.125	St James Property Fund Balance	353,980.35
	Total Building Fund Balance	\$1,213,376.41
3.130.100	Mission Fund Balance	
3.130.105	Crane Trust Scholarship Fund Balance	(4,321.45)
3.130.106	Crane Trust Scholarship Trustee Fund Balance	5,684.55
3.130.110	Wisdom Group Fund Balance	0.31
	Total Mission Fund Balance	\$1,363.41
3.140.100	Memorial Fund Balance	
3.140.105	Evie Cobden Memorial Fund Balance	3,000.00
3.140.248	Fludder Memorial Flower Trustee Fund Balance	5,592.50
3.140.251	Weatherbee MTF Balance	46,235.84
3.140.254	Frank W Beatie Music MTF Balance	24,777.87
3.140.256	Carlson Perpetual Candle MTF Balance	1,035.13
3.140.348	Fludder Flower MTF Restricted Balance	3,831.88
3.140.351	Weatherbee MTF Restricted Balance	27,344.83
3.140.354	Frank W Beatie Music MTF Restricted Balance	55,706.20
3.140.356	Carlson Perpetual Candle MTF Restricted Balance	5,342.84
3.140.357	Nancy S. Cobden Memorial Fund Balance	196,007.96

Grace Church - Great Barrington MA
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2022

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Page 2 of 2

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
<i>Total Memorial Fund Balance</i>		<i>\$368,875.05</i>
3.145.100	Zimmerman Education Fund Balance	13,504.74
3.150.100	<i>Cash Assets Balance</i>	
3.150.110	Lee Food Pantry Fund Balance	116,567.47
3.150.115	GCSB Rector's Fund Balance	2,679.63
<i>Total Cash Assets Balance</i>		<i>\$119,247.10</i>
3.170.101	Columbarium Trustee Fund Balance	1,174.65
3.180.101	Rector's Sabatical Trustee Fund Balance	3,125.91
3.190.100	<i>Pass Through Giving Fund Balance</i>	
3.190.105	Gideon's Garden Pass Through Fund Balance	10,959.94
3.190.106	Change The Babies Pass Through Fund Balance	(1,360.00)
3.190.110	Ghana Baby's Home Pass Through Fund Balance	16.00
3.190.120	Congregational Development Grant Balance	(593.06)
3.190.130	Lee Pantry Pass Through Fund Balance	1,008.22
3.190.155	Teen Christmas Pass Through Fund Balance	10.90
3.190.180	Rector's Discretionary Fund Balance	(300.00)
<i>Total Pass Through Giving Fund Balance</i>		<i>\$9,742.00</i>
Total Fund Balances		\$2,485,339.09
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances		<u>\$2,485,258.18</u>

A TOAST TO KATHY CLAUSEN

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, it seems so long ago that Kathy was elected Senior Warden and I was elected as Junior Warden. As this position is technically a one- year term, we knew we would be helping Grace Church with our gifts for a much longer period of time.

As we were getting our feet on the ground as a new Vestry with Francie as our first Rector, then watching the profile committee and search committee's form and proceed to do their work at searching for a new Rector, as Wardens, Kathy and I could not be on either committee. We were blessed with Janet, and then we did it again and we are blessed with Tina. Our work was to keep the church going.

The Diocese used to have dinner meetings for the Wardens. I think it was our first one together and we were going to sit down for dinner. Being an Episcopalian I said let's sit in the back but Kathy being a teacher said let's sit up front. So, we did and was pleasantly surprised that the Bishop sat down with us for dinner. Kathy has this way of suggesting something that made me open my eyes to new ways.

I was always amazed at the detail Kathy would provide at whatever task was presented to her. When we needed to have supply clergy, she was on it. When Covid came, she led the way with Zoom to keep us connected. When we were between Rector's she would be working out the details in a very loving and heartfelt way for the best outcome of the congregation and community.

During the day she would call me with a question or just to ask what I felt about this or that. Always keeping me in the loop, which I really appreciated.

This church is gifted in so many ways. Having Kathy as our Senior Warden for the past nine years has helped us to grow in so many ways.

Kathy, I wish you the best and thank you for your many years of dedication to Grace Church.

With blessings,
Rick

THANK YOU KATHY CLAUSEN

Sr. Warden for 10 years! I bet you did not count on serving that long. You have served God's church through so many twists and turns and did it with grace and truth. You have been available when a member of our church family needed you and you always planned ahead to make sure we had what we needed for our worship services. You served with three different rectors, one interim rector, and several supply priests. I am so thankful for you, my sister, that you heard God calling and you said "here I am"! You may have the title of Sr. Warden but I know you as a sister in Christ Jesus who loves Grace Church and holds us all in prayer. Thank you, Kathy, for all of it and especially for bringing us the joy and light of Koa and Vivi.

Take a deep breath and know we hold you in prayer as you go on to what God is calling you to do next. I love you and am so grateful for who you are.

In gratitude,
Pennie Curry, Jr. Warden

GRACE CHURCH

an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires



GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Bishop of Western Massachusetts: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas Fisher
Rector: The Rev. Tina Rathbone
Gideon's Garden Director of Farming: Mr. Joel Jorgensen
Choir Director: Mr. John Cheek
Keyboardist: Ms. Lee Cheek
Parish Administrator: Ms. Jean Chapin

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next Annual Meeting: January 28, 2024

Founded January 1, 2013