

**The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of
Grace Church in the City of New York**



Report for the Annual Meeting - February 5, 2017

Preface

As in years past, this Annual Report will review governance, finance and parish life for the year ending December 31, 2016. Reports from Standing Committees of the Vestry and related business areas will precede those dealing with parish life.

Within the Episcopal Church, the Rector has the care of souls in a parish, while the Vestry is canonically responsible for the stewardship of things temporal, that is, property in all its forms. This canonical duty is reinforced by applicable legislation of the State of New York. At the 2017 Annual Meeting, parish leadership will provide a summary of 2016 and an outlook for 2017.

The religious corporation that is commonly known as "Grace Church" is properly named the "The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of Grace Church in the City of New York". Throughout this document, "Grace Church" and "Corporation" will be used as shorthand for our full corporate name.

This document is intended to supplement the remarks of the Wardens and certain Vestry members at this annual meeting. It is not intended to replace the Corporation's audited financial statements or ratified minutes, but should be read in conjunction therewith.

Greetings from the Rector

February 5, 2017

Dear People of Grace Church,

An annual meeting is a natural time both to look back on the year behind us, and to look ahead at the year to come.

Historians are likely to look back on 2016 as a tumultuous year in America, dominated by a rancorous presidential campaign and election. At Grace Church we strived to be responsive to the needs of society and be an open place of welcome for all, while at the same time staying faithful to our call to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. I encourage you to read in the pages that follow the details of all the ways that we lived into our mission.

Allow me to tease out just a few highlights. In late 2015 we had been laying the foundation for a collaboration with Habitat for Humanity. We were able to raise enough money above our annual giving to sponsor our own project, affectionately named, "the House that Grace Built." By July the site had been chosen and was ready for us to begin working. It is a side-by-side duplex in the St. Alban's neighborhood of Queens. The right side of the structure has been well kept over the years. The left side had been abandoned, and left to the devices of vandals, squatters, and time's rude hand. Since July volunteers from Grace Church have been on the site at least two Saturdays a month, working under the supervision of Habitat construction experts. At some point this year the project will be finished, and become the home of a deserving family who otherwise could not afford it. It is a project that has blessed us as much as it will bless others. Not only have we restored a house, but we have deepened the bonds of our own community among the many volunteers who have participated.

In June we said farewell to Stephen Holton, our Associate Rector of four years. Stephen was called to be the Rector of Christ Church, New Haven, in the Diocese of Connecticut. It is a credit not only to Stephen to be given such a call, but a credit to us to send him, and an indication of the depth of ministry at Grace Church. With Stephen's departure the office of Associate Rector was open, so we embarked on a search and eventually called Martha Korienek to join us from St. Paul's Church, Burlingame, CA. She made quick work of the long move, and by September was here and ready to go. We have been blessed by her presence. We also saw natural turnover in two positions. We said farewell to George Fergus, the Organ Scholar, and welcomed Mary Pan. The Pastoral Resident, Gretchen Ratterree returned to her home diocese of Atlanta, and we welcomed Alissa Anderson in her place.

Another highlight of 2016 was the feasibility study, testing our level of support for another capital campaign. It's been five years since we last raised funds to restore interior sections of the church, and we've always known that the time would come when we needed to undertake another phase. Throughout the year we worked with architects and contractors who were clear in their findings. The high ceilings of the nave, crossing, and north transept are in critical need of repair. What is also in need of restoration is the endowment of Grace Church, a vitally important resource to help us maintain the building in perpetuity. To accomplish the previous phases of restoration we borrowed from the endowment, and it is essential that we make good on the loan. Sadly, the Episcopal Church across the country is strewn with the vacant buildings of congregations who spent down and did not replenish their endowments. The Vestry and I are determined that Grace Church chart a sustainable course.

So what is ahead for 2017? The feasibility study showed strong support for a campaign, and the Vestry voted unanimously to proceed with the fundraising and the project. It's going to be fun, and the results will be dramatic! It is likely that the church building itself will be closed for the summer (when attendance is light) so that crews can work without interruption. Meanwhile, we will worship exclusively in the chantry from mid-June until September.

Finally, I wish to express words of thanks. Thanks to the people of Grace Church for your faithfulness and generosity. Thanks to our hardworking staff. Thanks to our dedicated wardens, Brett Pertuz and Leona Chamberlin. Thanks for the wisdom and guidance of our talented Vestry.

No priest could reasonably ask for a more inspiring parish to serve. It is a blessing to be here, and I look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

*The Rev. J. Donald Waring
14th Rector of Grace Church in New York*

Annual Meeting of the Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of Grace Church in the City of New York

February 5, 2017

Agenda

Call to Order, Opening Prayers, Opening of Polls

The Rector

Luncheon is served

Corporation Business and Reports

Report of the Nominating Committee

Mr. Brett Pertuz

Brief remarks by candidates for the anticipated Vestry vacancies

For Church Warden: Mr. Brett Pertuz (third, two-year term)

For Vestry: Mr. John Berringer (first, three-year term)

Ms. Lethe Black (first, three-year term)

Mr. David DiDomenico (second, three-year term)

Mr. Douglas H. Evans (his own first, three-year term)

Report of the Church Wardens

Mr. Brett Pertuz

Overview of key events in 2016

Ms. Leona Chamberlin

Report of the Treasurer

Ms. Jennifer San Cartier

Review of 2016 financial results

Discussion of 2017 budget

Report of the Investment Committee

Mr. Brett Pertuz

Discussion of endowment performance

Report of the Fabric and Grounds Committee

Ms. Anne Rieselbach

Ms. Sara Queen

Report of the Development Committee

Mr. Douglas Evans

Greetings from The GO Project

Ms. Leona Chamberlin

Ms. Chantal Stevens

Greetings from Grace Church School

Mr. George Davison, Head

State of the School

Report of the Rector

The Rector

State of the Parish

Closing of Polls

Closing Prayers and Adjournment

The 2016-2017 Vestry

Grace Church's 2016-2017 Vestry was composed of:

The Rector, the Rev. J. Donald Waring
Senior Warden, Mr. Brett Pertuz *(Serving until February of 2019)*
Junior Warden, Ms. Leona Chamberlin *(Serving until February of 2018)*

The Head of Grace Church School, Mr. George Davison, *ex officio* (non-voting)

Vestry Members:

Serving until February of 2017

Ms. Singleton Cox
Mr. David DiDomenico
Mr. Douglas H. Evans
Ms. Jennifer San Cartier, *Treasurer*

Serving until February of 2018

Mr. Erik Sorensen
Mr. Harper Anderson
Ms. Anne Rieselbach
Mr. Jason Slibeck

Serving until February of 2019

Mr. Justin Brownhill
Ms. Elana Foundos
Mr. Owen Boger
Ms. Anastasia Rotheroe, *Clerk*

Observations from the Church Wardens

It is a great privilege to serve as wardens of Grace Church. The reports that follow give a full picture of the financial condition of Grace Church and the activities of the parish in 2016. In these observations, we offer some thoughts on the past year, echoing the Rector's remarks.

It has been said that there is an ancient Chinese curse that says "may you live in interesting times". While the curse is likely apocryphal, this sentiment certainly may ring true for many in our community and those we serve in Christ as we consider what has unfolded in our city, nation and world throughout 2016. In these "interesting times" however, we are blessed to have Grace Church in our lives to provide mission, meaning, hope and community.

It has been the custom of the Vestry for the last few years to begin each year with a special session to help direct our energies for the coming year and help the group engage with the particular challenges and opportunities facing the Church. In last year's report, we discussed the work we did with the Episcopal Church Foundation on a five year outlook. This session resulted in an increased focus on activities to promote parish growth and enhance our stability and vitality as a Church community. In furtherance of this effort, the Vestry began 2016 with a workshop specifically oriented around Newcomer Ministry and parish growth entitled "Invite-Welcome-Connect". Our task forces have worked to incorporate these values in their activities throughout the life of the Church, and we are confident that the seeds of "Invite-Welcome-Connect" are finding root throughout the various activities of Grace Church.

Examples of where these efforts are flourishing include the House That Grace Built, our Habitat for Humanity project in Queens. Grace's participation in Habitat has provided a meaningful way for parishioners to connect in service to our larger community through two build days a month. There is always room for volunteers to join in this project, so we encourage you to consider joining in a build day! The Episcopal Church Women also continues to grow in community, spirit, and service through activities including twice yearly pot roast dinners at the NYC Rescue Mission, meditative "quiet days" and the ever-popular Grace Christmas Fair. A youth ministry under the Rev. Chase Danforth for tweens and teens has taken strong root this year, and the Christmas pageant and other programs for younger children continue to thrive. This is by no means a comprehensive list - the efforts of our dedicated staff and lay volunteers to foster growth and community are sprouting up everywhere at Grace!

This year also saw transitions. In June we were gathered to give thanks for the ministry of the Rev. Stephen Holton and to wish him well in his new position as Rector of Christ Church New Haven in Connecticut. With Stephen's departure came the opportunity to bring on a new priest to our staff, and we were extremely fortunate to be able to welcome the Rev. Martha Korienek as our new Associate Rector. Martha has been a great addition to our team and has already made a considerable impact with our outreach ministries and welcoming newcomers into our community.

We continued our participation in the Pastoral Resident program in 2016. In the past year we saw our second resident Gretchen Ratterree ordained to the transitional Diaconate, then to the Priesthood; and then bid her a fond farewell back to the diocese of Georgia and her first position as a parish priest. We then welcomed our third Pastoral Resident, Alissa Anderson, who has hit the ground running at Grace and who, among other things, has been integral in our newcomer efforts and assisting in the 6:00 pm Wednesday worship service. We congratulate Alissa on her recent ordination to the transitional Diaconate and look forward to working with her through the remainder of her time as our Pastoral Resident.

In the fall of 2016, we began a period of discernment, assisted by the Episcopal Church Foundation, around the scope and capacity of the Church for a new capital campaign to continue the much needed restoration of our church structure and replenishing our endowment. This process was followed by a feasibility study including a survey which many of you responded to; our thanks to those who participated either through an interview or through a survey response. The Development Committee and Vestry have reviewed the results of this study and are pleased to see that there is substantial support within our community to undertake this campaign. As a result, the Vestry has committed to undertake a capital campaign in 2017 and to move forward in the summer of 2017 with the restoration of the high ceilings of the Church. Our special focus session in the first part of 2017 will be around the design and strategy of the campaign, and how we can use this effort, and the work it will facilitate to further our connection and engagement as church community.

It is the community of Grace Church that makes all of these wonderful things possible. As Wardens, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has participated in the life and vitality of the Church in 2016. We look forward to continuing to serve the Church in the year to come!

Brett Pertuz
Senior Warden

Leona Chamberlin
Junior Warden

Finance & Audit Committee

The Finance & Audit Committee is a Standing Committee of the Vestry. Its members in 2016 were:

Mr. Justin Brownhill
 Mr. Jackson Browning, Jr.
 Ms. Leona Chamberlin
 Mr. David DiDomenico
 Ms. Christine Harland
 Mr. Charles Johnston
 Ms. Anastasia Rotheroe, *Clerk*
 Ms. Jennifer San Cartier, *Treasurer*

The Committee reviews financial performance, engages in the review and approval of a draft budget and reviews various matters with our auditors.

Capin Crouse LLP, the Corporation's auditors, fully consolidated the results of 80 Fourth Avenue LLC and Saving Grace NYC. The Committee remains pleased with the firm's responsiveness and engagement with our finance staff. Our 2015 audit was completed on June 14, 2016 and was unqualified.

Grace Church continues to rely on three main income streams: giving (pledge and plate), investment income from our securities portfolio, and real estate revenue. 2016 giving was below expectations as a result of reduced pre-paid 2017 pledges. Although space income received from 100 and 102 Fourth Avenue increased due to tenant turnover and renovations, other 2016 revenues were down primarily due to the timing of gifts. Expenses were largely as expected. The following chart details recent annual campaign cash receipts by calendar year:

	AC15	AC 16	AC 17	Total
Calendar Year				
2014	\$202,271	\$0	\$0	\$202,271
2015	\$840,433	\$214,194		\$1,054,627
2016	\$27,211	\$833,223	\$146,506	\$1,006,940
2017		\$6,145	\$52,191	\$58,336
Total Funds Received by Campaign	\$1,069,914	\$1,053,563	\$198,697	\$2,322,174
Annual Campaign Goal	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	
Percentage of Goal	97%	96%	18%	

The 2017 Budget, as reviewed by the Committee and approved by the Vestry at its December 2016 meeting, assumes that pledges will amount to \$1,100,000 (before a standard 5.0% reserve for unpaid pledges), that there will be a draw rate of 4.0 – 4.5% on the Corporation's securities portfolio for routine capital and operating items, and that the Loft Building will be able to provide approximately \$900,000 in cash flow.

The Corporation experienced a modest decrease in expenses from 2015 to 2016. For 2017 budgeting purposes, discretionary items were largely held flat to further balance the budget, and reduce encroachment of the endowment.

The 2016 Diocesan Assessment, as budgeted, was \$255,178 in 2016. Our 2017 budgeted amount is \$250,000 which reflects both current funds due, and a repayment of arrears from prior Diocesan Assessments.

As in years past, the Committee intends to review periodically actual 2017 results against the 2017 Budget, and to recommend necessary adjustments to the Vestry.

The next page outlines financial results for 2015 and 2016, as well as the approved 2017 budget.

Comparative Financial Information *(Unaudited – Cash Basis Presentation)*

	2015 Actual	2016 Provisional	2017 Budget
REVENUE			
Pledge Payments, (2017 less 5% reserve of unpaid pledges)	\$1,132,952	\$1,006,940	\$1,045,000
Plate and Other	230,806	159,704	147,500
Program Revenue	49,015	54,537	44,000
Bequests	83,910	8,797	91,452
Space Rental	21,982	46,818	34,816
Special Gifts/Grants/Misc.	5,837	6,000	0
Operating Revenue	\$1,524,502	\$1,282,796	\$1,362,768
REAL ESTATE REVENUE			
Rental Income – 100 & 102 Fourth Ave.	\$174,341	\$214,299	\$219,698
Owner Distribution - 80 Fourth Ave.	900,000	900,000	900,000
Real Estate Revenue	\$1,074,341	\$1,114,299	\$1,119,698
DRAW ON INVESTMENTS	\$355,000	\$390,552	\$486,492
REVENUE + DRAW	\$2,953,843	\$2,787,647	\$2,968,958
EXPENSES			
Parish Ministry	\$629,084	\$652,798	\$681,447
Outreach/Education/GO Project	270,341	271,563	272,179
Diocesan Support	250,000	255,178	250,000
Music	300,664	308,477	310,000
Fabric and Grounds	699,125	667,201	647,810
Administration (includes investment fees)	585,385	619,447	639,626
Operating Expense	\$2,734,599	\$2,774,664	\$2,801,062
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$182,595	\$116,262	\$167,896
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$2,917,194	\$2,890,926	\$2,968,958
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$36,649	-\$103,279	\$0

2017 Annual Campaign

Grace Church remains blessed to have very generous and supportive parishioners. The 2016 Annual Campaign concluded with total pledge commitments of \$1,100,060.

For the 2017 Annual Campaign, Grace Church is slightly behind the 2016 in terms of dollars pledged. As of February 2, 2017, 217 households have pledged a total of \$1,042,488, or 95% of the \$1,100,000 goal for pledges. Pledges increased from this same time in 2015, when 224 households pledged \$1,031,454. At \$4,818, the average pledge for 2017 is \$135 above the 2016 average of \$4,683.

2016 Actual vs. 2016 Budget

<i>2016 – total pledged:</i>	\$1,100,060	272 individual pledges
<i>*2016 – total budgeted:</i>	\$1,045,000	

2017 YTD vs. 2016 YTD (Feb 2nd)

<i>2017 – total pledged:</i>	\$1,042,488	217 individual pledges
<i>2016 – total pledged:</i>	\$1,031,454	224 individual pledges

*less 5% reserve of unpaid pledges

The Investment Committee

The Investment Committee is a Standing Committee of the Vestry, with a mandate to make investment allocation decisions; decisions to purchase or sell securities or other investments; decisions regarding the hiring, firing and compensation of any investment managers or consultants; and determinations of the appropriate and prudent level of withdrawals from the Corporation's securities portfolio.

Its members in 2016 were: Mr. Winthrop Chamberlin, Ms. Sarah Cogan, Mr. Colbert Cannon, Mr. Kenneth Garschina, Mr. Brett Pertuz, *Chair*, Mrs. Anastasia Rotheroe, Ms. Jennifer San Cartier, *Treasurer*, Ms. Nancy Walker, The Rev. J. Donald Waring, and Ms. Melinda Weir

The value of the Corporation's securities endowment before withdrawals showed a gain in 2016: the net gain on the endowment was 7.17%, and total investment gains were \$781,860.

Withdrawals to cover operating expenses totaled \$390,552, representing a gross withdrawal rate of 3.5% against the average endowment balance for the year, which is consistent with our guidelines. The endowment increased from \$10,908,068 at year-end 2015 to \$11,299,376 at year-end 2016. Total loans to the Capital Campaign stood at \$6,200,914 as of year-end 2016. The Loft Building value is not included in the endowment.

The Committee met quarterly to review performance and allocations. At these meetings, Committee members also discussed portfolio strategy with our advisors at Cambridge Associates. The Committee made the following portfolio adjustments in 2016:

- The Committee has maintained an overweight to Marketable Alternatives and an underweight to Fixed Income and cash due to better risk/reward characteristics in the current environment.
- In keeping with this allocation, withdrawals were funded mainly through a reduction in the endowment's investment in Gold, which saw considerable appreciation during the year; currently the endowment maintains a small Gold position but may look to reduce this further to fund cash needs in 2017. Withdrawals were also funded through a small reduction in short term Treasuries and the final exit from a legacy equity manager the endowment largely moved away from in 2015.

The approved asset allocation as of December 31, 2016 was:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Target</u>
Global Equity / Opportunistic	53.29%	50%
Marketable Alternatives	37.73%	25%
Fixed Income/Cash	8.98%	25%

Estimated 2016 investment performance, by manager, and fund descriptions follows: (place holder – Cambridge confirming)

<u>Manager</u>	<u>Estimated Total Return</u>
FPA Crescent Fund	10.3%
IVA Diversified Global	6.2%
The Children's Investment Fund	11.5%
Burgundy Global Equity	7.3%
Adamas Partners	5.4%
Vanguard Short-Term Treasury	1.2%
<u>SPDR Gold Shares</u>	<u>8.0%</u>
Total Portfolio Return	7.17%
	<u>Index Return</u>
S&P 500	11.96%

FPA Crescent is a value fund that invests in both equity and fixed income markets. Over the last several years it has held a significant amount of cash. This fund also takes a long-term view on markets with the majority of investments in U.S. domiciled companies.

IVA Worldwide seeks long-term growth of capital. The fund invests at least 40% (but no less than 30%) of total assets in equity and debt securities issued by foreign companies and governments. It may invest in a range of securities and asset classes from markets around the world, including U.S. markets.

The Children's Investment Fund seeks to achieve equity-like returns with limited capital losses. It seeks to achieve its investment objective primarily by taking long positions in equity securities and debt (and their derivatives) globally. The fund may also short securities to provide downside protection. The fund seeks to invest in securities where there is a significant mis-pricing and a potential catalyst or event to correct this.

Burgundy Global Equity is an equity mutual fund launched and managed by Burgundy Asset Management Ltd. The fund invests in the public equity markets across the globe excluding Canada. It invests in stocks of companies operating across diversified sectors. The fund invests in value stocks of companies.

Adamas Partners is an absolute return fund-of-funds. The portfolio is made up of 14 managers primarily investing in long/short equity funds and event/arbitrage funds. The fund's objective is to earn attractive absolute returns net of fees. 45% of the fund is placed with equity managers and the remainder in event/arbitrage/multi-strategy.

Vanguard Short Term Treasury Fund seeks current income. The fund invests at least 80% of assets in short-term bonds issued by the U.S. government and its agencies and instrumentalities. It is expected to maintain a dollar-weighted average maturity of one to four years.

SPDR Gold Shares (SPDR) represent fractional, undivided beneficial ownership interests in the SPDR Gold Trust, an exchange-traded fund the sole asset of which is gold bullion, and, from time to time, cash. SPDR Gold Shares are intended to offer investors a means of participating in the gold bullion market without the necessity of taking physical delivery of gold, and to buy and sell that interest through the trading of a security on a regulated stock exchange.

80 Fourth Avenue LLC

80 Fourth Avenue LLC is a wholly-owned entity of the Corporation that, in turn, directly owns what is known as the “Loft Building” at 80-82 Fourth Avenue, which was substantially renovated over 1999-2001. For 2016, the governing board [“Board”] of the LLC was unchanged from past years. Its members in 2016 were: Ms. Sarah Cogan, Mr. Charles Johnston, Ms. Shingmin Lai, Ms. Wendy Pelle-Ber and Mr. Brett Pertuz.

The building remains occupied by a commercial tenant (basement and ground floor), Grace Church School (floors two and three) and residential tenants in the remaining five upper floors. The building provides a base distribution to the Corporation of \$900,000 annually, and so is a key element of the Corporation’s finances. It is not included in the value of our endowment, but applying a 4% capitalization rate to 2016 net operating cash flow (before distributions) of \$1,089,796 implies a value of \$27,250,000. The Board is committed to preserving this asset’s historic cash flow and value through a high standard of maintenance and service.

The property is professionally managed by Tri-Star Equities, Inc. Total income in 2016 was \$1,613,129, which was essentially at the budgeted level for the year. Despite an increase in real estate taxes, operating expenses were materially below budget, reflecting lower than expected energy and utility costs, as well as the end of a major series of building repairs and associated professional fees. After two major façade repair projects, we have completed the next Local Law 11 cycle with no additional work required. We do not expect major capital projects in the foreseeable future, although we continue to upgrade various systems as suggested by the Corporation’s maintenance staff. The building’s operating account had \$238,514 and the capital reserve account had \$135,071 as of December 31, 2016; certain contractual recoveries from Grace Church School will rebuild that fund to our \$250,000 target.

We project modest positive revenue growth in 2017. As a Board, we are focused on the cash flow impact when property taxes increase substantially with the expiry of a partial assessment exemption at the end of the City of New York tax year ending June 30, 2019. This exemption, pursuant to the City’s J-51 program, went into effect on July 1, 2005. We successfully managed through the expiry of the tax abatement portion in 2011, but note that the looming expiry of the assessment exemption may increase taxes as much as 60% from the \$210,036 paid in 2016. We challenge our assessed value each year, but do not plan on a material reduction. The board is in the process of updating its long-term cash flow model to reflect these increased expenses, as well as anticipated revenue gains from increased rents.

Fabric & Grounds

The Fabric & Grounds Committee is a Standing Committee of the Vestry. Its members in 2016 were:

Ms. Bonnie Berringer
Mr. Charles Johnston
Mr. Michael Kirchmann, *Co-Chair*
Mr. Grant Marani
Mr. George McNeely
Mr. Brett Pertuz
Ms. Sara Queen
Ms. Anne Rieselbach, *Co-Chair*
Mr. Kevin Rotheroe
Mr. Brett Seamans
The Rev. J. Donald Waring

2016 was a productive year for the Fabric & Grounds Committee as it saw the continuation and completion of several projects, as well as the planning of the next phase of the church's ongoing restoration. The Committee continued to carry-out and update its five to ten year strategic plan for ongoing repairs and capital improvements.

Work on the grounds included the replacement and leveling of the flagstone path located in the Broadway garden, improving drainage and reducing water pooling, and the replacement of a section of granite curb located at 100 and 102 Fourth Avenue.

Updates and repairs were made to the rectory drainage system, general plumbing and plaster ceilings, and a marmoleum eco-friendly flooring was installed in the Sunday school hallway. Over several months, an extensive refurbishment was performed on the combustion chillers housed on the Parish House roof which provide AC to the church and gymnasium.

The most comprehensive project to begin in 2017 will be the plaster consolidation and restoration of the high ceiling and ornamentation in the church. The Committee is working with Séamus Henchy & Associates and Acheson Doyle Partners Architects to outline a schedule and fully detailed budget for the next phase of the restoration. Leading up to the project, integral preemptive repairs were carried out including: the repair of active leaks found in the church roof, the installation of roof hatches for future ease of access, cutting and pointing of the north façade, and a thorough sounding of the Church's ceilings and ornamentation.

Projects and goals for the coming year and beyond include ongoing repairs and capital improvements, centennial maintenance of the bell bolts, and the ongoing issue of moisture infiltration in the Chantry.

Development & Communications

The Development Committee is a standing committee of the Vestry. Its members in 2016 were:

Mr. Owen Boger
Mr. Colbert Cannon
Ms. Karin Dauch
Mr. Doug Evans, *Chair*
Ms. Angela Fellers
Mr. Erik Sorensen

Grace Church works to build up the Kingdom of God through faithful worship and ministries that serve the congregation and the wider community. In concert with the Development Committee, Grace strives to strengthen the financial resources of the parish to support the work of Lord throughout the year. Building on the progress of 2016, we will continue to look for additional opportunities for increased growth and engagement in 2017.

In order to address the pressing restoration concerns in the church, the Development Committee began laying the groundwork for a capital campaign to secure the continued vitality of Grace Church. After interviewing five different campaign consulting firms, the committee chose the Episcopal Church Foundation to guide us during this process. In the last six months of 2016, the congregation was in the midst of the campaign's discernment phase, an important step to educate membership about the campaign's goals. Three tours were held during October that provided a history of the church's construction as well as an overview of the needed restoration. During December of 2016, Grace Church engaged in a feasibility study to determine a campaign goal and hear comments directly from the congregation. Ultimately, the study's responses were very encouraging. The Development Committee looks forward to the next steps in the capital campaign.

On May 19, 2016, Grace Church held "Toast to Grace," a Brazilian-themed cocktail party to thank our generous supporters. The event was hosted in the home of Karin Dauch, overlooking the magnificent Grace Church spire. It was a wonderful night attended by over 40 parishioners. On May 26, 2016, we welcomed over 90 of our pledging members to the "Spring Garden Party," a festive annual reception in the Rectory Garden. We greatly appreciate all who joined us for the reception. On June 2, 2016, Grace Church hosted a small reception for our newest pledging members in the Rectory, and with our newcomer ambassadors at hand, we were delighted to celebrate our growing parish family.

The annual Grace Church Christmas Tree sale was a wonderful success. The trees, generously donated by Olivia Douglas and David DiDomenico, were a festive way to jumpstart the Christmas season. In 2016, the Grace Church lumberjacks harvested over 30 trees, raising \$3,000.

In 2016, Grace Church continued to increase its digital presence, particularly through social media. As of January 23, 2017, Grace's Facebook page has 1,522 likes, a 22% increase from January 2016. The Facebook page boasts an average organic reach of 327 people per post. The Grace Church Twitter page has also expanded its reach, with 646 followers as of January 23, 2017, an increase of over 170 since January 2016. The Grace Church Instagram page also shows healthy growth. As of January 23, 2017, the page had 382 followers with an average of 40 engagements per post.

To help harness our social media presence for church growth and evangelism, Grace Church entered into a pilot project with several other churches in the diocese, including the Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest and Holy Trinity in Inwood. The project tested the effectiveness of Facebook advertisements to engage a wider constituency and promote our good work in the community. The initial phase focused on our work with Habitat for Humanity and "The House That Grace Built," with a video encouraging people to volunteer. The project was a large success, generating thousands of unique views to our website as well as several new volunteers at the Habitat build site. Special thanks to Mr. Jesse Lawrence and TiqIQ for planning, executing, and underwriting the online campaign.

In addition to our efforts with social media, Grace Church has also launched an initiative to redesign our website in 2016. After assembling a team of parishioners to assist with the project, a new design was chosen that was sensitive to our existing content while offering ample opportunity for increased capability. The website task force is energized and ready to complete the redesign with a plan to launch in mid-2017. Special thanks to Mr. Chris Walker and Mrs. Anne Wroten and Mr. Jim Wroten for all of their efforts.

Music

The Music Program offers praise to God in a variety of liturgical and concert settings. The following programs continue to maintain a high standard of musical excellence:

The Choir of Men and Boys (26 choristers)
 The Girls' Choir (43 choristers)
 The Sunday Six o'clock instrumentalists (2)

The Parish Choir (volunteer) (8)
 The Adult Choir (professional) (9)
 Bach at Noon and Weekend Organ
 Meditation Programs

Patrick Allen is supported by highly effective Music and Choir Steering Committees, comprised of Vestry members, parishioners, and current and former choir parents. The Committees oversee all aspects of the music program, organize various support activities, and fundraising projects. The Committees secure the funds necessary to maintain high standards and unique opportunities for the musical offerings of our community, and in the case of the Choir Steering Committee, the care and support of the children in their musical growth.

The Music Program continues the relationship established in 2014 with the Yale University Institute of Sacred Music to staff our Organ Scholar appointment. A graduate student from Yale works with Dr. Allen on the weekends and for special offerings such as those during Christmas and Holy Week. During the week the student is in New Haven pursuing their graduate degree. In the summer months the Organ Scholar is in residence and in charge of the musical offerings to gain directing and management experience. This year's organ scholar is Ms. Mary Pan. She will graduate from Yale this May.

Musical offerings continued this year under the banner "If music be the food of love, play on – sing on" asking all those who attend to bring food and toiletries to support those in need. In the past year many guest artists and choirs from home and abroad have played during the Bach at Noon and Weekend Organ Meditation offerings or have offered noonday or weekend afternoon Choral Concerts.

Since the last report three special projects have taken place. The first project combined our Annual Spring Concert, that featured music from the Psalter and by Ludwig van Beethoven, Louis Vierne, John Ireland, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Jean Titelouze, Nicolas Formé, Franz Joseph Haydn, John Stainer and Malcolm C. Boyle, with the annual and very beautiful reception that acts as a fundraiser for the Choir Special Projects Fund.

The second project was a new endeavor, THE AMSTERDAM/NEW AMSTERDAM FESTIVAL OF ORGAN MUSIC that celebrated the music of Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck and his students up through Johann Sebastian Bach. Mr. Matteo Imbruno, Sweelinck's successor at the Oude Kerk of Amsterdam was our guest, offering concerts and master classes with Patrick Allen. It was a great three day festival of music and learning. The program will be offered again in January 2018 during the week leading up to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. The program theme will be under a different banner and will focus on the art of accompanying the Anglican service and sacred vocal music.

The third project, which just took place, was our annual concert of music for treble voices, now in its ninth year. Our friend Dr. Barry Rose was back to work for an entire week with all the choirs, which included an especially intense schedule with our novice and junior choristers. Some forty-five choristers worked daily with Dr. Rose to offer the special afternoon of song at 4:00 p.m. in the Church on Sunday 22 January. Eleven novices received their surplice and personal copy of the hymnal as they became Junior Choristers. The program featured the world premiere of a new movement of Dr. Rose's "Songs for Grace" written for and dedicated to Dr. Allen and the choristers.

The choirs are already in preparation for Lent and Holy Week as well as their annual spring concert the last Friday of April, the 28th at 7:00 p.m. Works by New York City composers will be featured: Bernstein, Friedell, Hampton, Hancock, Ives, Piccolo, Rorem and Thompson. Bring family, friends and colleagues and plan to attend!

Christian Education – Children, Youth & Family Ministries and 20's and 30's MinistryChildren, Youth, and Families

The children, youth, and family (CYF) programming at Grace Church aims to establish a Christian foundation for children and youth based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, as well as to provide spiritual formation opportunities, pastoral support, and fellowship to parents and family members. The combination of Sunday School, worship leadership as acolytes, youth group, confirmation class, parent baptism classes, and year-round, family-friendly activities constitute this programming. The Rev. Chase Danford, Assistant Rector, directs these ministries. A highlight this year was the addition of a graduate student intern, Ms. Wesley Gregory, who serves 8 hours per week.

Sunday School – Classes are held at both the 9 a.m. and 11a.m. services for children age 4-12. All ages are included in one classroom, a change this year recommended by the CYF Advisory Committee, with a variety of enrichment activities available to different age groups. Both classes have the same lectionary story-based curriculum, are taught by Father Chase, Ms. Wesley, other clergy, and volunteer teachers. A total of 50 children are currently registered in Sunday School, and weekly attendance averages 15-17 students, with a varying degree of participation on holiday weekends. The Sunday School year starts in September and runs through June. The 9 a.m. class size averages 10-12 students, with a weekly range of 4 to 23 students, and the 11 a.m. class size has an average of 5 children, with a weekly range of 2 to 20 students.

Confirmation – Clergy-taught classes prepares students in grades 7-12 for confirmation. Two students participated last year. We anticipate a larger group this year.

Acolyte Ministry – Youth in grades 3-12 (as well as adults) assist in the liturgies of the church as crucifers, torchbearers, and banner-bearers. These special items they carry add to the beauty and symbolism of our worship, and acolytes also help make the service flow smoothly by assisting at the altar, Sunday school procession, and with the collection of offerings. We currently have 23 youth and 4 adults on the active acolyte roster.

Youth Group – The first year of our new ministry for teenagers was an exciting development in the life of Grace Church, culminating in our first annual trip to Heifer Farm over the summer of 2016. Heifer Farm is a 2 night immersion into global hunger and poverty awareness. We also included time for spiritual reflection and worship. This year the youth group has been meeting an average of 3 times per month and is looking to take on more service opportunities.

Baptism Ministry – Last year, 39 people were baptized, including 9 adults and 30 children and youth. This is an increase of 9 baptisms over 2015, and the increase was largely adults. Preparatory classes for families and sponsors are taught by the clergy, which gives participants an opportunity to learn about and discuss Christian spirituality and the meaning of baptism. Fellowship is always included in the class and rehearsal, providing an opportunity to deepen families’ engagement in the life of the parish.

Family and Parish-Wide Programming is a variety of events offered throughout the church year, they include: **Shrove Sunday Pancake Brunch**, last year we served close to 100 parishioners a wonderful and spirited brunch; the **Easter Eve Walk**, during this beloved parish event, children learn about Holy Week and Jesus’ journey from Cross to Resurrection. Last year around 30 children participated; the **Annual Parish Picnic**, provides a festive close to the program year in June and celebrates our choirs; **Welcome Back Sunday**, a festive outdoor reception opens the church program year; the **Halloween Carnival**, an event which served 32 children, aged 2-12, and their parents, and included crafts, games, and goodies; and the **Gingerbread House Build**, in 2016 we designed the program to raise awareness and support for our “House that Grace Built” partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

Christmas Pageant – A total of 72 children and youth between the ages of 5-18 participated in the 2016 pageant as cast members, narrators, singers, and acolytes. This year marked the debut of new Pageant Co-Directors, Adrienne Goldthorpe and Erin Hussein, after shadowing retired directors, Dana Foote and Shannon Cave, last year.

Sunday Child Care – We provide nursery care for children under 4 years old each Sunday, during both morning services. Most Sundays average six children in nursery care (and up to 16 on “high” days).

20’s and 30’s Ministry - The Rev. Chase Danford also oversees this ministry. Preceded by an effort to reinvigorate the church’s young adult ministry in 2015, 2016 saw a Lenten book discussion series, a highly attended Lenten “Sushi Friday” program, the reintroduction of quarterly Sunday brunches, and the creation of a new Small Group spiritual formation opportunity. Grace was also well-represented at diocesan Young Adult Network activities, including a spring kickball tournament and the annual St. Nicholas Day Advent party.

Christian Education – Adult Education

In 2016 the 10 a.m. Sunday Forum featured a mix of guest speakers and parishioners as presenters, whose expertise and commitment expanded and enriched our community. Thematically linked series and individual sessions for the 2016 season offered to newcomers and long-time parishioners’ spiritual nourishment, fellowship, and in-depth discussion on issues that are central to both the Church and its people. The classes had an average attendance of 25 - 40 each Sunday.

The Adult Education Committee’s 2016 members were:

Dr. Diana Benet
 Dr. Nicholas Birns
 The Rev. Stephen Holton, *Clergy Advisor*
 Ms. Elizabeth Howard
 The Rev. Martha Korienek, *Clergy Advisor*
 Ms. Emma Presler, *Co-Chair*
 Ms. Anne Rieselbach, *Co-Chair*
 Ms. Wendy Strothman
 Prof. Catharine Stimpson
 The Rev. J. Donald Waring, *Clergy Advisor*

The Epiphany 2016 series titled "Telling Our Stories-And Listening to God's" recalled the Presiding Bishop's exhortation to each of us to join again in the “Jesus movement” just as the first apostles did. Classes, the majority clergy-led, explored how we can reclaim the Jesus story and how we can tell our own stories effectively enough to truly live into the Jesus movement.

Speakers in the 2016 Lenten series drew on their own experience – whether through the lens of art or literature, work or leisure, joy or sorrow – to describe those times when they felt that God has been trying to get their attention. Topics ranged from examining adolescent experiences of faith, as depicted in literature and pop culture, and how those activities shape the developing teen identity, to *The Color Purple*, and its relationship to the womanist theology of Alice Walker, to a study of literary and scriptural sources related to the Puritan rejection of Lent and Lenten practice.

The Easter series examined the state of the Anglican Communion present and past. Current perspectives included a focus on the status of The Episcopal Church USA (TEC) after decisions made during the Primate's meeting of Anglican Archbishops and how might it affect our community at Grace Church, the Episcopal Church at large, and the Anglican Communion from a global perspective. As part of the series, we welcomed the Rev. Canon Dr. Titus Presler to share his first-hand account of how Pakistani Christians are employing reconciliation as a missional response to persecution. Other sessions looked back to key eras in Anglicanism such as the influential work and ideas of Nicholas Ferrar and the religious community of the early 17th century

Caroline Divines, and the theological underpinnings of the nineteenth century theologian and author Charles Gore, exploring how his belief in a very traditional Christian life and liturgy led to a lifetime of commitment to social justice.

A seven-week fall series in this year marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, reflected the upsurge of academic interest in Shakespeare's relationship to religion in general and Christianity in particular, featured a number of leading scholars in the field today who discussed how Shakespeare's relationship to Christianity is relevant to us today with an examination of Shakespeare's plays. Topics included; "Measure for Measure and the New Law," "Race Gender and The Tempest," "King Lear and Coriolanus: The Shadow of the Cross," and "Exploring Christianity through Pagan Religion in The Winter's Tale." We also explored overarching issues such as "Shakespeare Memory, and the Sacred," and "Charisma and Shakespearean Tragedy."

Later in the fall a number of sessions focused on topics related to the missional work at Grace Church, including the parish's Habitat project, the work of The GO Project, and the spiritual formation at Grace Church School. Special topics during the year included a presentation by Dr. Mark Larrimore about his experiences of the church during a year spent in Shanghai as well as a historical and theological analysis by author James Carroll about "Jesus After the Holocausts: How Ancient and Modern Catastrophes Shape Faith." Throughout the year, Margaret Hoover and John Avlon led sessions about the presidential election beginning in the spring with "How We Got Here: Anger and Opportunity in the 2016 Campaign," continuing with pre-election follow up, and most recently with a post-election session, "Now for Something Completely Different."

Guest speakers included the Rev. Michael Battle, the General Theological Seminary; noted historian and author James Carroll, the Rev. Mark Hummell, Chaplain for Grace Church School; Dr. Raphael Falco, the University of Maryland; Dr. Mark Larrimore, The New School; Cecilia Rubino, The New School; Bp. Andrew St. John; Dr. Roy Tsao, Brooklyn College; the Rev. Canon Dr. Titus Presler, Principal-in-Exile of Edwardes College, Peshawar, Pakistan; and lawyer and scholar John Wirenius.

In addition to clergy-led classes, there were classes led by parishioners John Avlon, Dr. Diana Benet, Win Chamberlin, Currie Estreich; Cree Harland, Margaret Hoover, Elizabeth Howard, Dr. Diana Benet, Dr. Nicholas Birns, the Rev. Dr. Robert Owens, Chris Shoemaker, Jason Slibeck, and Dr. Catharine Stimpson.

Outreach

Grace Church supports various forms of outreach at the local level and in the wider community, and encourages each parishioner to engage in some personal work of service. The Outreach Committee plans and leads opportunities for the members of the Grace Community to serve other people. The Outreach Committee's members in 2016 were:

Mr. Justin Brownhill
 Mr. Win Chamberlin
 Ms. Currie Estreich
 The Rev. Stephen Holton, *Clergy Advisor*
 The Rev. Martha Korienek, *Clergy Advisor*
 Ms. Cathy Minuse
 Mr. James Romanik
 Mr. Jason Slibeck, *Chair*
 Mr. Mike Watson

In 2016, parishioners led the following service projects:

- Welcomed visitors to Grace Church through the Open Doors Ministry
- Prepared and served meals at the New York City Rescue Mission (NYCRM)
- Sought to meet the social and physical needs of homeless New Yorkers through the "Don't Walk By" program
- Donated gifts to those in need through the Church of the Ascension food pantry, NYCRM, and the Seaman's Church Institute
- Organized regular collections for the feeding program at the Church of the Village
- Hosted graduation services for Veterans participating in a mentoring program through Like-Skills Training and Empowerment Program
- Volunteered for the GO Project
- Worked on "The House that Grace Built" through Habitat for Humanity

One of Grace Church's largest outreach commitments remains The GO Project, which was founded in 1968 by parishioners and parents at Grace Church and Grace Church School. The GO Project provides highly successful educational enrichment and social support to over six hundred "at risk" school children in Lower Manhattan each year. Grace parishioners and clergy act as volunteers, tutors, fundraisers, and board members; in addition to significant funding provided by parishioners, Grace supported the use of space by The GO Project valued at \$94,000 for 2016. As GO continues to grow to serve more students and sites, the parish will continue to develop and strengthen its relationship with and support for this vital outreach ministry.

The other significant outreach commitment in 2016 was "The House that Grace Built." Following on successful rebuilding work after Hurricane Sandy on Staten Island, Grace entered into partnership with Habitat for Humanity NYC to continue to provide housing for New Yorkers in need. In 2015-2016 we raised the necessary \$100,000 towards a planned home building project in the St. Alban's neighborhood of Queens. There was a well-attended kick-off in July at the home,

and regular work days began in September. In 2016, there were 73 people who worked on The House that Grace Built, for a total of 1200 hours worked!



“The House That Grace Built” in Nov, 2016.



“The House That Grace Built” in Jan, 2017.

In June of 2016, Grace Church Outreach funded a group of volunteers to go to White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, for a week-long effort to help rebuild homes devastated by massive flooding there. The group worked with our former seminary intern, the Rev. Josh Saxe, Rector of St. James Episcopal church in Lewisburg, WV, to restore flooring, plumbing, sheetrock and tile in the residence of a single mom schoolteacher and her two children, which allowed them to return to their home prior to the beginning of the school year in the fall.

In February of 2016, members of Grace Church participated in “Don’t Walk By,” an initiative in which volunteers walk every block of our city inviting everyone they find who is without a home to receive a winter coat, a warm meal, medical assistance, and long-term support.

Grace Church continues to welcome over 50,000 visitors annually to enter the church for rest and prayer. This ministry of hospitality is supported by the Open Door volunteers, who greet visitors, provide materials about the building and its history, and answer questions. Prayers of pilgrims are recorded in a prayer book and offered as intercessions by our Tuesday Morning Prayer circle. The Open Door volunteers meet throughout the year for fellowship and to review their ministry goals.

At the Diocesan level, Grace Church's annual diocesan assessment helps advance the mission of the Church across our diocese, including helping to support programs and parishes that are not yet financially self-sustaining through the Congregational Support Plan. After six years of active service, in June the Rector rotated off of the Board of Episcopal Charities, the outreach arm of the Diocese of New York, which provides funding and support to parish-based programs serving children and adults in need. Yet, our connection is still strong; twenty members of Grace Church attended the Episcopal Charities Tribute Dinner in the fall.

As has become the tradition, the Outreach Committee again created an opportunity for parishioners to donate necessary items throughout Advent. This year, items were donated to the Seaman's Church Institute, NYC Rescue Mission, and Food Pantry of the Church of the Ascension. Our community at Grace Church contributed 169 hats, gloves, and scarves, 366 undergarments and socks, and 863 toiletries to help provide basic comfort to some of our neighbors in New York City. Separate from the Advent drive, there is a year-round food drive, through which Grace has given about 600 food items to the feeding program at the Church of the Village, Hope for Our Neighbors in Need.

Other financial support from the parish is carried out through grants from the Vestry Fund for Outreach (VFO), a fund set apart by the Vestry to relieve homelessness and hunger in New York City. In 2016 grants totaling just under \$8,000 were made to Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing and Hope for our Neighbors in Need, the food ministry at the Church of the Village. Each year the entire Christmas offering goes to build the corpus of the VFO. The Christmas plate for 2016 totaled \$19,324, bringing the corpus of the Fund for year end to \$178,472. As the corpus of the VFO grows, so too will Grace Church's ability to increase financial support for works of mercy in New York.

Episcopal Church Women

The Guild of Episcopal Church Women (ECW) supports the life of the church through service and prayer while nourishing the spiritual life of the women in the parish. In 2016 the ECW was led by new co-Presidents Ms. Teresa Conway and Ms. Sara Queen, assisted by Ms. Mary Jenkins (Treasurer), Ms. Ginger Blake, Ms. Sandra Bowman, Ms. Doris Kong, Ms. Margaret Lee, and Dr. Kristin Whitehurst. Longtime president Ms. Elana Foundos stepped down at the beginning of the year and we celebrated her years of service with a dinner, and later a reception after the service on April 24th for the congregation at large. Elana's contribution is immeasurable and she continues to be an active member of the ECW.

We began the year's projects on February 20th with "Prepping the Pews". After some coffee and conversation, we went to work in the sanctuary, placing new prayer books and Bibles from the previous fall's book drive into the pews, repairing old ones, placing new pencils and welcome cards and making notes of which pews needed repairs. We also surveyed the women of the parish for their input regarding important services we could render or ways in which we could strengthen our spiritual lives and community.

We continued to support the New York City Rescue Mission, preparing pot roasts and cupcakes and helping to serve meals, in February and November. We also continued to support the women's shelter there, by collecting toiletries and other necessities for the residents, a ministry we started last year after they opened the shelter to women.

ECW women have also participated in several of the Habitat Build days and some of us have even learned to use power tools!

We have had several of our "no pressure pot-luck" gatherings which provide the women of the parish an opportunity to share news and concerns, and more importantly, to enjoy each other's company. On June 28th we hosted a wine and cheese social event to welcome new members and reconnect with old ones.

Our Quiet Day, led by Pastoral Resident Gretchen Ratteree, was held on April 16th. The topic "Made in God's Image" allowed us to explore our potential as God's creation through prayer, meditations and art. We shared a brown bag lunch, with beverages provided.

On October 15th the ECW sponsored a flower-arranging workshop with our own Ms. Ellen McElduff showing us beautiful, yet simple and inexpensive ways to use flowers to brighten our church, our homes and our world.

ECW again hosted the Grace Christmas Fair on November 5th and 6th. On the opening night, there was a wine and cheese reception, highlighting a lovely evening of arts and crafts by 25 talented vendors. On November 6th, 100% of the proceeds collected at the door totaling \$338.00, were donated to the food pantry at the Church of the Village. In total, we raised \$2,540.00, which will help us to contribute to the life of the church and the wider community.

On January 7th, we sponsored a guided tour of the Martin Luther exhibit at the Morgan Library, attended by many of our members, friends and a few gentlemen of the Parish. It was a very enlightening afternoon, and though the Library guide was quite knowledgeable of 16th century history, some of our parishioners contributed more insight into Luther's teachings and the reformation on a whole.

On the 21st of January 2017, a contingent of the ECW (including a few gentlemen of the parish) joined thousands in marches around the country for women's rights, human rights, and fundamental freedoms. Here in New York City, we marched with the League of Women Voters to give voice to the importance of our voting rights.

ECW women continue to volunteer and assist with the Parish picnic, Advent wreath making, Shrove Tuesday (Sunday) Brunch and other parish events.

Watch for upcoming events in the bulletin announcements including the next Quiet day, a Habitat build day and the next potluck this spring. All women of Grace Church are considered members of the ECW. Please join us in our next year of service, study and fun.

Grace Church Archives

The archives collection continues to be an accessible resource to members of the Church and public for research on a variety of topics including genealogy and many different aspects of Grace Church history. This year we provided interesting facts about the American art collector and philanthropist Isabella Stewart Gardner, who attended Grace Church as a child, to her biographer. The archives have also provided research material to Sunday Forum speakers.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild, chaired by Mrs. Helen Du Bois (9 a.m.), Ms. Lillie Chance (11 a.m.) and Ms. Jennifer San Cartier (6 p.m.), assists the clergy in the day-to-day organization of our worship life at Grace Church. Guild members are responsible for the care and well-being of our collection of plate and linens, and preparing the same for worship. Members also manage inventory of all consumables, such as wafers, wine and candles. Many members have expressed that their service to the Guild provides a welcome prayerful and meditative enhancement to their own worship time, as well as an enjoyable way to get to know other members. The Guild has welcomed some new members this year and is always looking for others who might be interested in this enriching service to God.

Flower Guild and the Walter J. Parker Flower Fund

The Flower Guild, under the dedicated leadership of Ms. Ellen McElduff, each week adorns the church and chantry with beautiful arrangements of flowers and greenery as a living symbol of our worship. As Chair of the Flower Guild, Ellen refines her professional development by attending the New York Botanical Garden Certificate Program in Floral Design, and we remain grateful for her expertise and creativity. In addition to the weekly altar arrangements, the Guild works tirelessly to plan and carry out the stunning arrangements seen throughout the church and grounds during the Easter and Christmas seasons. The Walter J. Parker Flower Fund is fully supported by the generosity of the congregation.

Program Reports from the Pastoral Resident

As many of you know, I am the third in a line of “pastoral residents” serving Grace Church on a half-time basis while finishing seminary, an opportunity that has been very engaging and beneficial for me. In addition to participating in liturgical leadership and preaching on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings and joining in various meetings, I am involved in several aspects of programming at Grace, in particular the Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study and newcomer ministries. I have already learned a great deal and look forward to the rest of my time at Grace.

The women's Bible study, which predates my time here by several decades, continues to thrive. Each week about a dozen women from Grace Church and beyond gather to read and discuss Scripture. This year, we enjoyed a nine-week series on women of the Bible “in their own voices,” as well as a special adventure series focused on some of the more...interesting passages in the Gospel of Matthew.

Newcomer ministry at Grace is much bigger than just me: a newcomer committee meets regularly to discuss best practices for welcoming newcomers, newcomer ambassadors offer welcome from fellow parishioners, and newcomer cards pass through a process all their own: each newcomer who fills out a card receives a personal email (usually from the rector), is recorded in the Grace Church database and begins receiving the e-newsletter, as well as specific invitations to newcomer classes and events, is connected with other clergy as relevant, and receives a phone call from me, the pastoral resident. I have had several meaningful conversations with visitors to Grace Church, and short but positive interactions (And yes, I have also left a lot of voicemails). I am pleased with the care Grace Church takes in welcoming newcomers, and glad to be a part of the process.

Canterbury Downtown

Canterbury Downtown is a campus ministry of the Diocese of New York, housed at Grace Church. The Rev. Mary Cat Young serves as Chaplain to this community as well as a Senior Chaplain Affiliate at New York University. She has been in this role as a member of the Bishop's staff since 2011.

Canterbury Downtown provides opportunity for students in Manhattan to gather for worship, meals, service and community. Students connected with the ministry hail from NYU, The New School, Cooper Union, Marymount Manhattan College, The Fashion Institute of Technology, Hunter College, Julliard and Pace University. Both undergraduate and graduate students are served. Some faculty and staff are also affiliated with the campus ministry.

2016-2017 is the 13th year of this community and its ministry with students. Regular meetings take place on Sunday evenings where 12-18 students gather for worship at the 6 pm service at Grace Church followed by dinner in the Reception Room. Guest speakers this year have included: The Rt. Rev. Allen Shin, Ms. Kayla Massey of the Young Adult Service Corps, The Episcopal Service Corps/New York Intern Program, and student-led conversations on spirituality and vocation as well as regular election engagement conversations with the Rev. Kimberlee Auletta, among others. Introduction to the Bible, and preparation for Baptism and Confirmation are regular offerings as well.

In the fall of 2016 we received a grant from The Episcopal Church's Office of Young Adult and Campus Ministries which allowed us to hire a Wisdom Year Resident, Ms. Hank Tuell, as a half time assistant chaplain/seminarian from The General Theological Seminary. Hank has spent time engaging students and campus communities in new locations around the city as well as providing support to additional offerings such as LGBTQ partner events, Muslim-Christian Dialogue events at NYU, All Saints Gathering and Night Prayers.

Canterbury Downtown partnered with other communities for a variety of projects in 2016 including: The Vine Lutheran Campus and Young Adult Ministry Community, Habitat for Humanity with Grace Church, Global Spiritual Life at NYU, Lifting Up Black Lives at NYU, Brown Bag Lunch Ministry at Trinity Wall Street, Bluestone Farm Harvest Day with Church of the Ascension, and EDNY The Young Adult Network events throughout the year.

Grace Church in New York, 802 Broadway, NY, NY 10003

www.gracechurchnyc.org

© The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of Grace Church in the City of New York