

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



Report for the Annual Meeting - February 3, 2019

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**Preface**

As in years past, this Annual Report will review governance, finance and parish life for the year ending December 31, 2018. 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 2019 Annual Meeting, parish leadership will provide a summary of 2018 and an outlook for 2019.

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.

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## Greetings from the Rector

February 3, 2019

Dear People of Grace Church,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ as we gather today for our annual parish meeting.

Diligent readers of our Weekly Epistle will recall that just a week ago I described how a burst pipe in a second-floor bathroom of the rectory threatened to flood the library portion of my office. Thanks to some quick work on the part of the staff, we were able to shut off the water and clear away most of the books before too much damage was done. Some of the books that dwell on the highest shelves are the old Grace Parish Year Books, the hardbound predecessors of this document. As I was lifting them back into place I noticed that one of them was from 1919 – exactly one-hundred years ago. I wondered what the 7<sup>th</sup> Rector had written, hoping that his words might inspire the 14<sup>th</sup> Rector (me) to sit down and start typing.

Here is Charles Lewis Slattery's opening sentence: *"The first word in this Year Book must be the expression of our thanksgiving for the men from Grace Church and Grace Chapel who have given their lives for the protection of our beloved Country and for the winning of righteousness and peace in the earth."*

Slattery then went on to list the names that would later be inscribed on the World War One memorial stone plaque that hangs in the narthex to this day. The Rector continued: *"We remember with gratitude all others who, between the Epiphany of last year and the Epiphany of this, have entered into the new life."* The list that follows contains thirty-seven names, indicating that 1918 was a year of much loss at Grace Church.

One-hundred years later, as we look back on the year 2018, I too would like to begin with an expression of gratitude for the deceased, one in particular. On Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> of last year we learned at the parish office that Ted Keane had "entered the new life" the night before. Ted was truly a great elder statesman of Grace Church whose membership stretched back to the late 1950s. Throughout his sixty years of being a parishioner Ted served the Lord through Grace Church in nearly every capacity, blessing the parish with wisdom and devotion. Just two years ago he gave the new columbarium in memory of his beloved wife, Mary, whose membership extended back even further than his own. Mary, who died in 2015, was a little girl here in the 1930s, and thus had known seven of Grace Church's fourteen rectors. In his death Ted had one final blessing for this church that he dearly loved: a legacy gift of \$1.6 million that will breathe

new life into our endowment and enable us to be more proactive in maintaining our magnificent building.

As you will read in the pages that follow, 2018 was a full and exciting year at Grace Church. The ministries of worship and music, Christian education for all ages, pastoral care of our members, evangelism to the community, and outreach to the poor all sought to be faithful to the high calling God has given us. We have a new website and new staff members. Cecily Millen joined us in July as the new Manager of Membership and Communications. Then when the Associate Rector's office came open last summer I offered the position to Chase Danford, who had been the Assistant Rector. Happily, Chase accepted the responsibility, and we embarked on a search for a new assistant. Eventually I offered the position to Julia Offinger, a new priest who had been serving in the Diocese of Long Island. Julia joined us in October and in less than four months she has brought a wonderful energy and enthusiasm to the clergy team and her work with children and youth. Also, we welcomed Duy Nguyen to the staff. Duy is an Episcopal Service Corps fellow who is with us for one year to help with outreach and youth ministry.

Lastly, I am immensely grateful to our talented and committed Vestry members and wardens. This year a larger-than-usual number of lay leaders is rotating off the Vestry: Justin Brownhill, Elana Foundos (clerk), Anastasia Rotheroe (treasurer), and Brett Pertuz (senior warden). These four have blessed the work of the parish in countless ways. Normally, such a loss of leadership would be a staggering blow to any board of trustees. But thankfully, Grace Church has a rich pool of gifted parishioners to draw upon for new energy and vision that will keep the parish thriving.

It is hard for me to believe that come July we will mark 15 years together as priest and people. In many respects – at least for me – it feels like our work has just begun. It is a joy to be your Rector, and I look forward to all the challenges that God has in store for us between the Epiphany of this year, and the Epiphany of the next.

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 3, 2019

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## Agenda

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### 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. Owen Boger (first, two-year term)

For Vestry: Mr. Douglas Armer (first, three-year term)

Ms. Mary Cannon (first, three-year term)

Ms. Shingmin Lai (first, three-year term)

Ms. Cathy Minuse (first, three-year term)

Report of the Church Wardens

Mr. Brett Pertuz

*Overview of key events in 2018*

Ms. Leona Chamberlin

Report of the Treasurer

Ms. Anastasia Rotheroe

*Review of 2018 financial results*

*Discussion of 2019 budget*

Report of the Investment Committee

Mr. Brett Pertuz

*Discussion of endowment performance*

Report of the Fabric and Grounds Committee

Ms. Sara Queen

Report of the Development Committee

Mr. Douglas Evans

### Greetings from the GO Project

Ms. Leona Chamberlin

The Rev. Chase Danford

### 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 2018-2019 Vestry**

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Grace Church's 2018-2019 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 2020*)

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

Vestry Members:

*Serving until February of 2019*

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

*Serving until February of 2020*

Mr. John Berringer  
Mr. David DiDomenico  
Mr. Douglas H. Evans  
Ms. Lethe Black

*Serving until February of 2021*

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

## **Observations from the Church Wardens**

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Unlike the steady state we experienced in 2017 with clergy and staff, in 2018 we saw a number of departures and welcomed new persons to our dedicated team of clergy and professionals. Our seminarian Brandon King completed his service in June, and, through the sponsorship of Grace Church, was assigned to St. Margaret's Church in the Bronx in the fall as part of General Theological Seminary's Wisdom Year program. St. Margaret's is among a number of under resourced parishes in the Diocese of New York, and we are blessed to be able to underwrite Brandon's services there for a year. June also saw the departure of James Romanik, who ably served as Manager of Membership Services and Communication for 3 years and helped achieve the success of our recent capital campaign, as well as streamline communications with parishioners over donations and giving options. After bidding a fond farewell to James, we were fortunate to welcome Cecily Millen in July as our new Manager of Membership Services and Communication.

In August Associate Rector Martha Korienek accepted a call to become Interim Rector at Grace Church in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. Martha is warmly remembered by her many friends at Grace Church and was celebrated at a festive coffee hour in her honor. Once again, good fortune was ours. Assistant Rector Chase Danford accepted the offer of promotion to Associate Rector, and Julia Macy Offinger joined us in October as Assistant Rector for Children, Youth and Family Ministry. Rounding out the new faces at Grace Church in the fall of 2018, Heather Sisk from General Seminary arrived as our new seminarian for the year, and Duy Nguyen joined as our first Episcopal Service Corp Fellow, assisting the clergy and staff with community outreach and youth and family programs.

The litany of transitions at Grace Church would not be complete without mention of momentous transitions in the lives of two former parishioners Stephen Lee and Michael Watson, who, together with Julia Offinger, were ordained to the Episcopal priesthood at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on September 15. Grace Church was honored to have sponsored Stephen and Mike for ordination and is deeply grateful for their commitment to pursue lives in service to Christ.

In last year's report we focused on the ministry of the laity and the vital impact that the work of the laity has on the life and mission of Grace Church and for the Church as a whole as Christ's kingdom on earth. That theme was highlighted throughout the past year in a number of ways. In early 2018 a Committee on Leadership consisting of the wardens, two members of the Vestry and the clergy was formed for the purpose of discussing how to cultivate leadership within the parish community through service on standing committees and identifying other ways for parishioners to become more deeply involved in life at Grace Church. Worldwide, 2018 was a year in which

political and social systems continued to be tested and strained, and many longed for leadership that could unite rather than divide and build rather than tear down community. What better place to hone leadership skills and discover one's personal potential to guide and direct others to achieve shared goals than our vibrant, diverse and immensely talented Grace Church community? Where else is there the satisfaction of knowing that whatever contribution of time and talent one can make, accepting the invitation to take a leadership role in any of the many facets of parish life will contribute to the rich legacy that we have inherited and will leave for future generations at Grace Church?

As a powerful example of what leadership can accomplish, in April we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the GO Project and honored the extraordinary vision of parishioner and co-founder Cree Harland. What began as a modest notion between two friends of providing weekend tutoring assistance to a handful of under resourced students in local public schools has grown to a cutting edge organization today serving 700 students and their families. Grace Church is proud to have supported GO since its inception and of the contributions made by the dedicated parishioners who have volunteered as tutors in the program. More recently, our collaboration with Habitat for Humanity NYC, currently embodied in partnering with Who is Hussain? NYC, not only achieves the goal of providing desperately needed affordable housing, but reaches across ethnic and religious lines to prove that unity can exist in an otherwise seemingly divided world. The many service projects underway at Grace Church under the aegis of the Outreach Committee provide rich opportunities for new leaders to broaden and increase the impact of these initiatives. Other opportunities for leadership exist through service on the standing committees of the Vestry, Open Door, Usher Corps, and Altar Guild – to name only a few. Opportunities abound!

As the Rector has noted in his Report, this is an unusual year of transition for the Vestry, which includes Senior Warden Brett Pertuz among a group of highly talented individuals who have provided exemplary leadership for Grace Church. It is both fitting and appropriate that the co-author of these Observations extend her deepest gratitude to the other for the wisdom, dedication and faithfulness that have been the hallmarks of his leadership as Warden.

Brett Pertuz  
Senior Warden

Leona Chamberlin  
Junior Warden

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**Finance & Audit Committee**

The Finance & Audit Committee is a Standing Committee of the Vestry. Its members are:

Mr. Owen Boger  
 Mr. Justin Brownhill  
 Mr. Jackson Browning, Jr.  
 Ms. Leona Chamberlin  
 Mr. David DiDomenico  
 Ms. Christine Harland  
 Mr. Charles Johnston  
 Ms. Anastasia Rotheroe, *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 2017 audit was completed on June 12, 2017 and was unqualified.

Grace Church continues to rely on three main income streams: giving (pledge and plate), investment income from our endowment, and real estate revenue. 2018 operating revenue was up 8% from 2017 but on par with non-construction years. Real estate revenue received from 100 and 102 Fourth Avenue increased due to predetermined lease terms. Expenses were largely as expected.

The following chart details recent annual campaign cash receipts by calendar year:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>AC17</b>	<b>AC 18</b>	<b>AC 19</b>	<b>Total</b>
2016	\$146,706	\$0	\$0	\$146,706
2017	\$896,095	\$217,696	\$0	\$1,113,791
2018	\$26,205	\$833,945	\$250,327	\$1,110,477
2019	\$0	\$8,390	\$19,881	\$28,271
<b>Total Funds Received by Campaign</b>	<b>\$1,069,006</b>	<b>\$1,060,031</b>	<b>\$270,208</b>	<b>\$2,399,244</b>
<b>Annual Campaign Goal</b>	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,200,000	
<b>Percentage of Goal</b>	97%	96%	23%	

The 2019 Budget, as reviewed by the Committee and approved by the Vestry at its December 2018 meeting, assumes that pledges will amount to \$1,200,000 (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 consistent spending from 2017 to 2018, but it should be noted that 2018 expenses were modestly over budget due to unexpected major repairs to the buildings. For 2019 budgeting purposes, discretionary items were largely held flat to reduce encroachment of the endowment. It is expected that the operating deficit of -\$76,602 will be reviewed and adjusted quarterly as necessary.

The 2018 Diocesan Assessment, as budgeted was \$247,582. The Committee is pleased to report that after a visit from the Bishop Dietsche on May 21, 2018, he forgave the balance of arrears owed to the Diocese. Our 2019 assessed share is budgeted at \$248,493.

As in years past, the Committee intends to review periodically actual 2019 results against the 2019 Budget, and to recommend necessary adjustments to the Vestry.

The next page outlines financial results for 2017 and 2018, as well as the approved 2019 budget.

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

	<b>2017 Actual</b>	<b>2018 Provisional</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Pledge Payments	\$1,148,028	\$1,110,477	\$1,200,000
Plate and Other	250,463	240,807	173,500
Program Revenue	111,864	52,062	24,500
Bequests <sup>1</sup>	94,078	1,933	1,500
Space Rental	29,817	27,489	30,476
Special Gifts/Grants/Misc.	5,000	6,000	
<b>Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,639,250</b>	<b>\$1,438,768</b>	<b>\$1,429,976</b>
<b>REAL ESTATE REVENUE</b>			
Rental Income - 100/102 Fourth Avenue	\$209,189	\$230,022	\$165,210
Owner Distribution - 80 Fourth Avenue	900,000	900,000	900,000
<b>Real Estate Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,109,189</b>	<b>\$1,130,022</b>	<b>\$1,065,210</b>
<b>DRAW ON INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>\$450,000</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>REVENUE + DRAW</b>	<b>\$3,198,439</b>	<b>\$2,968,790</b>	<b>\$2,995,186</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Parish Ministry	\$594,667	\$644,417	\$647,887
Outreach/Education/GO Project	290,337	210,538	215,451
Music	354,506	317,263	312,879
Diocesan Support	250,000	247,582	248,493
Fabric and Grounds	866,834	843,031	838,696
Finance & Administration	614,532	576,692	635,486
<b>Operating Expense</b>	<b>\$2,970,876</b>	<b>\$2,839,523</b>	<b>\$2,898,892</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$114,554</b>	<b>\$189,620</b>	<b>\$172,896</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$3,085,430</b>	<b>\$3,029,143</b>	<b>\$3,071,788</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$113,009</b>	<b>-\$60,352</b>	<b>-\$76,602</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Gift from the Estate of Mr. Edward W. Keane (2018) was restricted to the endowment. See IC report, page 13

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**2019 Annual Campaign**

Grace Church remains blessed to have very generous and supportive parishioners. The 2018 Annual Campaign concluded with total pledge commitments of \$1,148,985.

For the 2019 Annual Campaign, Grace Church is slightly behind the 2018 campaign in terms of number of units and dollars pledged. As of January 30, 2019, 194 households have pledged a total of \$1,057,341 or 88% of the \$1,200,000 goal for pledges. This figure is below the total as of January 30, 2018, when 189 households pledged \$1,065,629. The Vestry and Development Committee will be following-up with all of our member households to ensure that our pledge goal is met.

**2018 Actual vs. 2018 Budget**


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<i>2018 - total pledged:</i>	<b>\$1,148,985</b>	250 individual pledges
<i>*2018- total budgeted:</i>	<b>\$1,045,000</b>	

**2019 YTD vs. 2018 YTD (Jan. 30th)**


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<i>2019 - total pledged:</i>	<b>\$1,057,341</b>	194 individual pledges
<i>2018 - total pledged:</i>	<b>\$1,065,629</b>	189 individual pledges

\*2018 - total budgeted less 5% reserve of unpaid pledges

\*2019 - total pledged is provisional

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## 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 are: Mr. Douglas Armer, Ms. Julia Bates, Mr. Winthrop Chamberlin, Ms. Sarah Cogan, Mr. Colbert Cannon, Mr. Peter Gailliot, Mr. Brett Pertuz, *Chair*, Mr. Jeffrey Volling, Ms. Nancy Walker, The Rev. J. Donald Waring, *ex officio*, and Ms. Melinda Weir.

The value of the Corporation's securities endowment before withdrawals showed a loss in 2018 primarily as a result of 4Q18 market volatility. The net loss on the endowment was -5.96% and total investment losses were -\$679,783.

Withdrawals to cover operating expenses totaled \$350,000, representing a gross withdrawal rate of 3% against the average endowment balance for the year, which is consistent with our guidelines. The endowment increased from \$12,359,331 at year-end 2017 to \$13,407,423 at year-end 2018. Gifts received from the Estate of Mr. Edward W. Keane and the *Lift Up Thine Eyes* capital campaign, allowed the Corporation to make a contribution of \$1,738,232 to the endowment. Total loans to the Capital Campaign stood at \$5,283,790 as of year-end 2018. The Loft Building value is not included in the endowment.

In March 2018, after an extensive vetting process, the Committee approved to engage Morgan Stanley Foundation & Endowment Services as the investment advisor of record. In planning the transfer of the Corporation's assets to Morgan Stanley, the Committee revised the Investment Policy Statement (IPS) in August 2018 with unanimous Vestry approval.

We are pleased to report that four new members joined the Committee in 2018, and throughout the year all members met regularly to transition management, retool governance policies, review performance and allocations, and discuss portfolio strategy with our advisors at Morgan Stanley. The Committee made the following portfolio adjustments in 2018:

- Assets held in global equity funds, and cash positions, were transferred to the Morgan Stanley Asset Management as outlined in the Corporation's IPS.
- Marketable Alternatives are scheduled to rebalance in January 2019 to targeted asset allocations.
- The Committee will retain one legacy manager due to better risk / reward characteristics.

- The Vestry Fund for Outreach (VFO), a compounding fund of the annual Christmas plate, is held in a passive management index fund in keeping with the IPS benchmarks. Given the volatility of the market in 4Q18, the VFO holdings closed down for the year at \$197,991, or -1.69%. The Fund is restricted and not calculated as part of the Church's endowment but closely monitored by the Investment Committee and Vestry.

The approved asset allocation as of December 31, 2018 was:

Grace Church Of New York				
Asset Allocation	Tactical Ranges			
	Current Targets	Strategic	Lower End	Higher End
<b>EQUITIES</b>	50%	50%	25%	75%
US Equity		20%	10%	30%
International Equity		20%	10%	30%
Global Equity		10%	5%	15%
<b>FIXED INCOME</b>	25%	25%	15%	60%
US Fixed Income		20%	15%	45%
Global Fixed Income		5%	0%	15%
<b>ALTERNATIVES</b>	25%	25%	5%	30%
<b>CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		0%	0%	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>		100%		

Estimated 2018 investment performance, by manager, and fund descriptions follows:

<u>Manager</u>	<u>Estimated Total Return</u>
The Children's Investment Fund	-0.14%
Adamas Partners	-2.31%
Morgan Stanley Asset Management	-9.76%
<b>Total Portfolio Return</b>	<b>-5.96%</b>
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	<b><u>Index Return</u></b> -4.38%

*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.

*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.

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**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. It remains occupied by a long-term 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 estimated 2018 net operating cash flow (before distributions) of approximately \$885,667 implies a value of about \$22,000,000. The Board is committed to preserving this asset’s historic cash flow and value through a high standard of maintenance and service.

For 2018, the governing board [“Board”] of the LLC was unchanged from past years: Mr. Harper Anderson, Ms. Wendy Pelle-Ber, Ms. Sarah Cogan, Mr. Charles Johnston, Mr. Brett Pertuz, and Ms. Shingmin Lai.

The building remains professionally managed by Tri-Star Equities, Inc. Total income in 2018 was \$1,681,449, which was modestly above the year’s budget. Despite the anticipated increase in real estate taxes, other operating expenses were largely in-line with the budget, reflecting lower than expected energy and utility costs, offset by certain higher spending on HVAC unit replacement and apartment renovations. 2018 saw additional spending on the main boiler and intercom system. The next capital spending project is modernization of the passenger elevator to comply with new safety requirements that come into force in January 2020. An initial estimate for this work is \$200,000 to \$225,000, depending on the scope of work, but there are adequate funds on hand to complete the project. The building’s operating account had \$329,281 and the capital reserve account had \$191,328 as of December 31, 2018.

We project modest positive revenue growth in 2018. As noted in last year’s report, property taxes will 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 estimate that taxes will increase from \$301,945 in calendar 2018 to \$380,436 in 2019 to \$385,478 by 2020. Our long-term capital and budget plan suggests that the current distribution level of \$900,000 may warrant future adjustment, since our net annual cash flow deficit after distributions will increase to \$(29,336) in 2019 from \$(14,333) in 2018. However, conservative budget assumptions on capital spending, revenue and expenses are cumulatively expected to provide sufficient financial flexibility for the Board to maintain such distributions.



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## Fabric & Grounds

The Fabric & Grounds Committee is a Standing Committee of the Vestry. Its members are: Ms. Bonnie Berringer, Mr. John Bishop, Mr. Jaques Black, Ms. Lisa Chapman, Mr. Charles Johnston, Mr. Michael Kirchmann, Mr. Grant Marani, Ms. Elizabeth O'Donnell, Mr. Brett Pertuz, Ms. Sara Queen, *Chair*, Ms. Anne Rieselbach, Mr. Kevin Rotheroe and The Rev. J. Donald Waring.

2018 was a productive year for the Fabric & Grounds Committee as it saw the completion of multiple self-directed and shared restoration projects. The Committee continued to carry-out and update its five to ten year strategic plan for ongoing repairs and capital improvements.

Throughout the summer, the rectory roof, skylights, eaves and isolated areas of the façade were given an application of waterproof epoxy to stop water infiltration. The waterproofing work is a temporary measure until a complete roof replacement is budgeted. After being found a hazard, a terracotta fireplace chimney located on the rectory roof was reset and the Federal House brick wall located in Seymour Close was dismantled and rebuilt. In a joint project with Grace Church School, the furnace chimney which provides heat to the church and school was repointed and restored.

Drainage wells and traps located throughout campus were cleared of debris, and the blue stone path in the Broadway garden was repaired and leveled. The wrought iron Broadway gate hinge was repaired and the cross was restored. The interior of the spire was cleaned of pigeon guano and wire mess was fastened at openings to prevent further nesting. A plumb survey of the spire was taken to record a benchmark and subsequent surveys will be conducted bi-annually starting in 2019.

In December, a comprehensive façade inspection of the church and chantry was conducted by Rod Gible Consulting Engineers. On their recommendation seven pieces of deteriorated stone, which varied in size were removed. The team also inspected eighteen exterior tie rod braces and all were found to be sound. The immediate onsite assessment proved positive, and a written report is forthcoming.

In January 2019, iron reinforcement braces were fitted to the low roof rafters, and the chantry roof will be fitted with a waterproof membrane to block further water infiltration. Projects and goals for the coming year and beyond include ongoing repairs and capital improvements; upgrades to the campus HVAC system; water-metering & zoning; localized masonry repair; and the ongoing measures to stop moisture infiltration in the chantry and rectory.

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## Development & Communications

The Development Committee is a standing committee of the Vestry. The 2018 members were:

Mr. Owen Boger  
Ms. Mary Cannon  
Mr. Colbert Cannon  
Ms. Karin Dauch  
Mr. Douglas 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 the Lord throughout the year. Building on the progress of 2018, we will continue to look for additional opportunities for increased growth and engagement in 2019.

A major focus for the Development and Communications Committee in 2018 was to prepare for the 125<sup>th</sup> Grace Church Choir Anniversary. On Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, the celebration was officially launched with a festive event held at the home of Mary and Colbert Cannon. The evening allowed attendees to reflect and celebrate the choirs' storied history, as well as raise awareness of the Anniversary campaign to fund the restoration of the choir stalls and generate enthusiasm for naming opportunities. The Committee extends a special thank you the Cannon family for hosting the kick-off event.

The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration will be held on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019, with a concert featuring current and alumni choristers, followed by a ticketed reception. Proceeds from the reception will benefit the campaign to restore the choir stalls and furniture.

2018 marked the second year of the *Lift Up Thine Eyes* three-year capital campaign to raise funds for the restoration of the church ceiling and to replenish a portion of our endowment. Over 170 families pledged a total of \$3,088,237 to the capital campaign, over 20% above our primary goal. Grace Church humbly thanks everyone who made a pledge or gift to the *Lift Up Thine Eyes* capital campaign.

On May 25, 2018, we launched our new website, the culmination of a two year project dedicated to creating a more dynamic site. Since the website's unveiling in May, over 14,300 people have visited the new site. The site has seen over 285,000 impressions, or appearances on Google, and has an average click through rate of 5%, which is higher than industry standard. Our mobile rollout has proved particularly successful, as we are now able to capture a new audience who use mobile

devices to access the site. Our data shows that of all our website visitors, 57% access by desktop, and 43% access by mobile and tablet.

Just as Grace Church is a living, breathing entity, the website is a reflection of the Grace Church community, and we look forward to growing our digital presence to be a more effective tool for ministry in the community. Special thanks to Anne and Jim Wroten for their tireless efforts.

In 2018, Grace Church continued to increase its digital presence, particularly through social media. As of January 22, 2019, Grace's Facebook page has 1,805 likes, a 7% increase from January 2018. The Grace Church Twitter page has also expanded its reach, with 786 followers as of January 22, 2019, a 7% increase from January 2018. The Grace Church Instagram page has shown measurable growth in the last year. As of January 22, 2019, the page has 1,011 followers, an increase of 33% from January 2018. Each post has an average of 83 engagements.

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**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 (30 choristers)	The Parish Choir (volunteer) (8)
The Girls' Choir (50 choristers)	The Adult Choir (professional) (9)
The Sunday Six o'clock instrumentalists (2)	Bach at Noon and Weekend Organ Meditation Programs

Patrick Allen is supported by highly effective Music and Choir Steering Committees. These vestry members, parishioners, current and former choir parents oversee all aspects of the music program, organize various support activities and fundraising projects, as well as, to raise 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 Jacob Reed. We are very proud of our two previous scholars who now are placed as Assistant Organist at the Washington National Cathedral (George Fergus) and as Organ Scholar at Saint James Cathedral, Chicago (Mary Pan). Mr. Reed will finish his second and final year on Labor Day weekend and it is anticipated that a new scholar will be named to start in September.

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 several special projects have taken place. The first combined our Annual Spring Concert that featured music to be offered on the summer concert tour with the annual and very beautiful reception that acts as a fund raiser for the Choir Special Projects Fund. New was the

location of the reception in the Chantry. It was a beautiful evening and a good time was had by all.

The second was the Choir Tour to Spain that took place between 17 and 24 June. Twenty-six Choristers, 7 Adult Singers and some 40 parents and siblings traveled together offering concerts and singing in the celebration of the Eucharist in Cathedrals, Monasteries and Churches between Madrid and Barcelona. El Escorial Monastery; The Church of El Salvador, Toledo; Cathedral of Toledo; The Basilica of San Manuel y San Benito, Madrid; Basilica del Pilar Zaragoza; Abbey of Montserrat; Cathedral of Barcelona; Sagrada Familia, Barcelona. It was an extraordinary experience of music, beauty, fellowship and love.

The third project will take place next week - our annual concert of music for treble voices. Our friend Dr. Barry Rose will be back to work for an entire week with all the choirs and especially in an intense schedule with our novice and junior choristers. Some forty-five choristers will rehearse daily with Dr. Rose to offer the special afternoon of song at 4:00 p.m. in the Church on Sunday 10 February. Twenty-seven novice and other new choristers in their first year will receive their surplice and personal copy of the hymnal as they are promoted into the choir. There will be a special reception following the concert in Tuttle Hall.

The choirs are already in preparation for Lent and Holy Week as well as their annual spring concert the last Friday of April, the 26th at 7:00 p.m. This year is extra special as we will celebrate with a festive reception, the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Choir in 1894. The committee is hard at work developing this celebration and making contact to invite as many old friends and choir alumni home for the evening. Alumni are invited to participate in the concert. They should contact Dr. Allen for details. Mary Cannon is chairing this special anniversary committee.

Over the past several years the development of a new outreach ministry has been envisioned and the groundwork accomplished. A "live streaming" ministry to make it possible for those who cannot attend services or other programs offered at Grace Church to do so via the internet. Jim and Anne Wroten have taken up the development of this ministry with extraordinary grace and expertise. A good amount of funds has been given towards this project, and we thank you. As resources become available to complete the hardware end of the project we hope to finish installation and bring this outreach "on line" so to speak in the coming year.

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**Christian Education – Children, Youth & Family Ministries**

The children, youth, and family (CYF) programming at Grace Church provides children with a Christian foundation through spiritual formation, biblical literacy, pastoral support, and grounding in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. CYF programming includes 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. This year is marked by the arrival of our new assistant rector, the Rev. Julia Macy Offinger, who took over leadership of these ministries in October 2018, as well as the formation of a new Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Committee last spring.

**Sunday School** – Classes are held at both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services for children age 4-12, September through June. All ages are included in one classroom, with a variety of enrichment activities available to different age groups. Both classes have the same lectionary story-based curriculum, are taught by Mother Julia and volunteer teachers. A total of 45 children are currently registered in Sunday School, and weekly attendance between the two class times averages about 15 students, with wide ranges of 4 on holiday weekends to around 35 on very high attendance days.

**Confirmation** – Clergy-taught classes prepare students in grades 7-12 for confirmation. 2018 saw our largest confirmation class in many years, with 3 adults received and 20 youth and 2 adults confirmed. Three students are already registered for 2019, with classes beginning in March, though historically class size fluctuates greatly year to year. Confirmation will take place on June 2, 2019.

**Acolyte Ministry** – Youth in grades 3-12 and 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 8 youth and 5 adults on the roster. Increasingly busy youth schedules are a challenge; volunteers serve only about once every six weeks. We are actively recruiting new acolytes!

**Youth Group** – The youth group for middle and high school students has taken a new shape this school year through a partnership with The Church of St. Luke in the Fields. We now meet monthly on Fridays for service, fellowship, and fun. Attendance ranges from 6-22 teenagers. We will be exploring opportunities for work trips in the summer.

**Baptism Ministry** – Last year, 35 people were baptized, including 4 adults and 31 children and youth. Preparatory classes for families and sponsors are taught by the clergy and give participants an opportunity to learn about and discuss Christian spirituality and the meaning of baptism. Fellowship is always included, providing an opportunity to deepen families' engagement in the life of the parish.

**Family Friday Eucharist** -- We had a successful "soft launch" of a new monthly communion service for families with elementary school-aged children on January 11, 2019 in the Chantry. This service will begin in earnest March 8, 2019 from 5:30-6:10 pm, continuing on the second Friday of each month through June.

**Family and Parish-Wide Programming** – A variety of events are offered through the church year:

**Shrove Sunday Pancake Brunch** – Last year we expanded this tradition to both morning coffee hours in 2018, but will return to one event after the 11am service in 2019. The CYF committee is currently planning this year's pre-Lent festivities which will be March 3.

**Easter Eve Walk** – In this beloved parish event, children learn about Holy Week and Jesus' journey from Cross to Resurrection. Last year around 30 children participated.

**Annual Parish Picnic** – This event provides a festive June close to the program year and celebrates our choirs.

**Vacation Bible School** – Re-introduced in June 2017 and continued in 2018, this is a 3-day program for children 4-12. This year we had 6 participants. Each day focused in turn on the creation story, prayer, and Eucharist.

**Welcome Back Sunday** – A festive outdoor reception opens the church program year.

**Halloween Carnival** – This fun event served 30 children, aged 2-12, and their parents and included crafts, games, and goodies. This is a particularly good event for babies and toddlers.

**Gingerbread House Build** – A fun annual tradition designed the program to raise awareness and support for our "House that Grace Built" partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Thirty houses were constructed by families this year.

**Christmas Pageant** – Nearly 100 children and youth between the ages of 5-18 participated in the 2018 pageant as cast members, narrators, singers, acolytes, and backstage volunteers. Pageant Co-Directors Adrienne Goldthorpe and Erin Hussein ably led the production for a third year, joined by assistant director Michelle Choo.

**Sunday Child Care** – Nursery care is provided for children under 4 years old each Sunday during 9a.m. & 11a.m. services. Sundays average 2-4 children, and up to 10 on "high" days, between the services.

2019 promises to be an exciting year for CYF ministries. Conversations begun by our new CYF Committee last spring are blooming into realities such as the Family Friday Eucharist and a rethinking of Sunday children's formation.

## Christian Education – Adult Education

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In 2018 the 10 a.m. Sunday Forum featured a mix of guest speakers, parishioners, and clergy as presenters whose expertise and commitment expanded and informed our community. Thematically linked topics and individual sessions offered to newcomers and long-time parishioners' spiritual nourishment, fellowship, and in-depth information 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 2018 members were:

Dr. Diana Benet  
 Dr. Nicholas Birns, Co-Chair  
 The Rev. Chase Danford, Clergy Advisor  
 The Rev. Julia Macy Offinger, Clergy Advisor  
 Ms. Anne Rieselbach, Co-Chair  
 Dr. Catharine Stimpson  
 Ms. Kanchana Ugbabe  
 The Rev. J. Donald Waring, Clergy Advisor

Throughout the year the Sunday Forum once again explored scriptural, historical, ecclesial, and current issue-driven topics that are relevant to the Grace congregation and the Episcopal Church at large as we strive to examine what it means to live and work together as a faith community and in the broader world.

Examination of scriptural texts focused on connecting the Bible to how we think about and live our daily lives. Parishioner Dr. Nicholas Birns led a study of the Epistle of James, a text he describes as containing "some of the most consoling and altruistic statements of the Christian faith." In a session titled "Wisdom and Uncertainty in the Book of Proverbs," The Rev. Dr. Robert Owens surveyed the text to test the belief that "divine truth can be discovered by observing ordinary life," and to ask whether Jesus shared this belief.

A number of historic and contemporary topics within the Episcopal Church were surveyed in three sessions. The Rev. Dr. Kevin Moroney, Professor of Liturgics at the General Theological Seminary, traced the history of *The Book of Common Prayer* in America, looking to the diverse sources that have shaped our unique Prayer Book tradition. Grace seminarian Brandon King, quoting the opening sermon for the 1913 General Convention of the Episcopal Church "Wherever the flag goes, there goes the responsibility of this Church," explored how the national church responded to the crisis of the First World War. The Very Rev. Kurt Dunkle, President and Dean of the General Seminary, provided an overview of the recent 2018 General Convention in "The Episcopal Church Today and

in the Future,” addressing some of the contemporary issues confronting the church, including prayer book reform.

Christian education takes many forms, in higher education, school classrooms, and even through the tradition of Christmas pageants reenacting the story of Jesus’s birth. The Rev. Canon James G. Calloway, general secretary of the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion and the Association of Episcopal Colleges outlined the history, cross-cultural contacts, and educational mission of the global and national network of these institutions of higher education. Bringing the topic closer to home, the Rector talked about the joys and challenges of teaching 5th Grade Bible at Grace Church School. Attendees were challenged to take the initial class exam, testing their own knowledge of the New Testament. The Rev. Julia Macy Offinger traced the evolution of Christmas Pageants as a way of telling our Christian story. Starting from before the time the Gospels were written down to our annual pageant here at Grace Church, she described how people have spread the story of Jesus’ birth through pageants and plays.

Intersections between theology and justice formed the basis for studying individual American political leaders and theologians as well as for addressing issues related to violent acts and Christian forgiveness. Brooke Allen, author of *Moral Minority: Our Skeptical Founding Fathers*, critically examined the Enlightenment origins of our Constitution and Bill of Rights, with a specific focus on the religious beliefs of six of the nation’s founders: Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Alexander Hamilton. The Rev. Chase Danford discussed the thought and spirituality of Howard Thurman, who is primarily remembered as a mentor to Martin Luther King Jr., but was also a prominent leader in his own right as a scholar, author, and church planter. Danford described Thurman’s articulation of a theology of non-violence that inspired Dr. King and other civil rights leaders. Nicholas Birns examined Dr. King’s sense of Biblical justice as demonstrated in his last speech, "I've Been to the Mountaintop," delivered in Memphis on April 3, 1968 just before his murder; a speech Birns described as an “astonishing orchestral blending of central Biblical themes, especially the Exodus, the prophets, and the life and mission of Jesus Christ.” Bringing the topic of justice to recent violent events that rocked the city and Grace Church community, the Rector led a panel discussion with parishioners Andrew Blane and Sally Hines that addressed the question “How Much Forgiveness?” in relation to how Christians are to regard criminal perpetrators.

Two sessions provided the opportunity to hear authors describe their own spiritual journeys. Australian poets, Dr. Lachlan Brown, author of *Limited Cities*, an evangelical Christian raised in the Anglican Church, and Nathanael O'Reilly, who lived in a Christian cult until his early twenties, read excerpts from their poetry that conveyed their experience and beliefs. Kanchana Ugbabe,

Grace parishioner, and Writer at Risk in Residence at Fordham University's English Department, discussed her writing process in the context of her transnational journeys and life in conflict zones, notably her home country of Nigeria where, as an Indian Nigerian, her personal safety was under threat. Her talk included brief readings from her work, including her book *Soulmates*.

The value of meaningful communication between patients and caregivers about medical and spiritual issues was shared in two presentations. Daniele Ofri, MD, an associate professor of Medicine at NYU and author of the recently published *What Patients Say, What Doctors Hear*, addressed how refocusing the caregiver-patient conversation can lead to better health outcomes. Geoffrey Dunn, MD, Medical Director of UPMC Hamot Palliative Care Consultation Service led an interactive discussion about palliative care, including aspects of spirituality, in the hospital setting.

Historic and current topics related to Grace Church and the surrounding community were explored in presentations ranging from a description of the evolution of the GO Project by current executive director Gayle Villani and co-founder Cree Harland on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its founding by members of Grace Church and Grace Church School to an examination of the centrality of the Social Gospel to the education, spirituality and work of Walter Russell Bowie, the eight rector of Grace Church by The Very Rev. Harry Krauss. The historic environs of Grace Church set the stage for William Minifie's illustrated discussion of how two nearby buildings designed by the architect of Grace Church figured into the intersecting lives of the Lincolns and the Booths.

Additional topics during the year included a report by the Rev. Martha Korienek on the recent Trinity Institute conference entitled "Values in Action" and the Rev. Chase Danford on the philosophical, theological, and historical background on the concept of authenticity, as well as its importance in Christian spirituality. Seminarian Brandon King gave a talk on the life and writings of C.S. Lewis - focusing on how Lewis's theology, as well as his family and friends, influenced the themes of his literature. Photographer Peter Aaron and author Brooke Allen documented their 2009 travels in Syria, sharing compelling images of cities such as Aleppo, Damascus, and numerous early Christian sites, and their experience of everyday life before the onset of Syria's devastating civil war.

Guest speakers included Peter Aaron, Brooke Allen, Lachlan Brown, The Rev. Canon James G. Calloway, Geoffrey Dunn, MD, William Minifie, Danielle Ofri, MD, Nathanael O'Reilly, The Rev. Dr. Robert Owens, and Gayle Villani.

In addition to clergy-led sessions, parishioners Dr. Diana Benet, Dr. Nicholas Birns, Dr. Andrew Blane, The Very Rev. Kurt Dunkle, Cree Harland, Sally Hines, The Very Rev. Harry E. Krauss, The Rev. Dr. Kevin Moroney, Jason Slibeck, and Kanchana Ugbabe led classes.

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## Outreach

Grace Church supports various forms of outreach to our neighborhood, city, and diocesan community as a tangible expression of our commitment to following the way of Jesus Christ. The Outreach Committee plans and leads opportunities for the members of the Grace Community to put our collective faith into action. All parishioners are encouraged to engage in service as they are able. The Outreach Committee's members in 2018 were:

Mr. Justin Brownhill  
 Mr. Win Chamberlin  
 The Rev. Chase Danford, *Clergy Advisor* (since August 2018)  
 Ms. Currie Estreich  
 The Rev. Martha Korienek, *Clergy Advisor* (through August 2018)  
 Ms. Ashleigh Madureira  
 Ms. Cathy Minuse  
 Mr. Duy Nguyen (since September 2018)  
 Mr. James Romanik (through June 2018)  
 Mr. Jason Slibeck, Chair

This was a year of transition for the Outreach Committee, with staffing changes at the church. In August, the Rev. Chase Danford began serving as Clergy Advisor. Over the summer, Grace Church signed on to participate in supporting the Episcopal Service Corps by funding a one-year fellowship, and in September our 2018-19 ESC Fellow, Duy Nguyen began serving as Ministry Assistant for Youth and Outreach.

In 2018, the people of Grace Church:

- Welcomed over 50,000 visitors to the church, including almost 12,000 greeted by volunteers from the Open Door Ministry on their Saturday and Sunday shifts.
- Prepared and served hundreds of meals at the New York City Rescue Mission.
- Ministered to the social and physical needs of homeless New Yorkers through the "Don't Walk By" program.
- Donated clothing, comfort items, and necessities to those in need through the Church of the Ascension food pantry, New York City Rescue Mission, and the Seamen's Church Institute.
- Served meals and organized regular collections for a neighborhood food pantry, Hope for Our Neighbors in Need, located at the Church of the Village.
- Hosted graduation celebrations and opportunities to share stories of recovery for previously homeless veterans in the Life-Skills Training and Empowerment Program.

- Volunteered and financially supported New York City students through the GO Project.
- Financially supported and renovated affordable housing in Queens, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity New York City as we completed work on “The House that Grace Built” and began our collaboration with the Islamic social service organization, Who is Hussain, on “Unity House.”

Grace Church’s principal outreach commitment 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 seven hundred public school children in Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn each year. GO students receive an additional 42 days of instruction, and graduates of the program have GPAs six points higher than their peers citywide. Grace parishioners and clergy act as volunteers, tutors, fundraisers and board members. In addition to significant funding provided individually by parishioners, Grace supported the use of space by the GO Project valued at \$88,000 for 2018. GO celebrated a significant milestone in 2018, with the fiftieth anniversary of its founding; parishioners and staff organized a celebration at a special coffee hour, and the Grace community was instrumental in breaking GO fundraising records at the fiftieth anniversary benefit dinner. In November 2018, our annual Grace Church volunteer day at the GO Project attracted our highest ever number of one-day volunteers and resulted in two new committed volunteers for the program year.

In February 2018, we continued an annual series of February programs focused on alleviating hunger and homelessness in New York City. Members of Grace Church participated in “Don’t Walk By.” Volunteers strive to walk every block of our city during the month of February distributing information on services available and bringing hope to neighbors on the street. Everyone is invited to receive a new winter coat, a warm meal, medical assistance, and long-term support. Other activities in February included a NYC Rescue Mission meal and a “Souper Bowl of Caring” fundraiser for Hope for Our Neighbors in Need. In 2019, we look forward to a new February program, the Parish Day of Service.

In a tradition extending over a decade, the Outreach Committee again facilitated an opportunity for parishioners to donate items and gifts throughout Advent. This year, items were donated to the Seamen’s Church Institute, NYC Rescue Mission, and the Food Pantry of the Church of the Ascension. Our community at Grace Church contributed 203 hats, gloves, and scarves, 286 undergarments and socks, and 1,219 toiletries to help provide basic comfort to some of our neighbors in New York City and around the world. These numbers reflect an increase from the previous year. The ongoing Grace Church food drive collected 1,050 food items which were donated to the Church of the Village Hope for Our Neighbors in Need food ministry.

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, co-chaired by Karen Krueger and Malcolm Armstrong, 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 members of the Grace community. The Open Door volunteers meet throughout the year for fellowship and to review their ministry goals. Karen will continue as co-chair for 2019, while Malcolm will be stepping down after several years of devoted service. Many thanks to both Karen and Malcolm! Please contact the Rev. Chase Danford if you are interested in serving in the Open Door ministry.

At the Diocesan level, Grace Church's annual 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 Congregations in Strategic Settings plan.

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 focus on alleviating homelessness and hunger in the New York City area. In 2018, grants totaling \$11,113 were made to the Homecoming Life-Skills Training & Empowerment Program of Xavier Mission (which serves veterans transitioning out of homelessness), Hope for Our Neighbors in Need (the food ministry of the Church of the Village), the Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison (which boasts an impressive success rate in keeping released prisoners off the streets and out of jail), and the Seamen's Church Institute (which serves vulnerable and exploited mariners, including those docked at the Port of Newark). Each year, the entire Christmas offering goes to build the corpus of the VFO. The Christmas plate for 2018 totaled \$20,738 (an increase from last year), bringing the corpus of the Fund for year end to \$218,729. 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.

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## Episcopal Church Women

The Guild of Episcopal Church Women (ECW) supports the life of the church through service and prayer, nourishing the spiritual life of the women in the parish. In 2018 the ECW was led by Co-chairs Teresa Conway and Sara Queen, assisted by Maggie Metzger (Treasurer) Lethe Black, Ginger Blake, Sandra Bowman, Doris Kong, Mary Jenkins, Bonnie Recca, Susan Soler Nascimento, and Kristen Whitehurst of the steering committee.

In 2018 the ECW continued to support parish events such as the twice-yearly New York City Rescue Mission meal, by cooking, baking and helping to serve the meal. The women also volunteered and assisted with the Parish picnic, Advent wreath making, Shrove Sunday Brunch and other Children, Youth and Family events.

On March 4th, a fancy tea was held to thank all who supported the previous year's Christmas Fair through their volunteering, shopping and attendance. The tea was served with our newly polished antique silver tea service, a gift from the late Lettice Stokes, a much-respected and loved parishioner. Bill Minife entertained us with a talk about her interesting life and times. Special thanks to Elana Foundos, chief organizer and chef, and also to Bill Minifie, Bonnie Recca, Ellen McElduff, Mary Connally, Bob Martini, Susan Nascimento, Teresa Conway, Kristin Whitehurst, and Millicent Essandoh-Bergwerk. On March 24<sup>th</sup> The Rev. Martha Korienek led us on a wonderful one-day retreat. We experienced the last week of Jesus' life through Bible readings and a Eucharist with foot washing as a way of connecting to Jesus and our sisters in Christ. A luncheon was served in the reception room.

We gathered the women of the parish for a "no pressure pot-luck" on April 24th to share news, ideas, concerns and fellowship. In June we said farewell to the Rev. Martha Korienek with a special reception after the 11am service. Elana and many of the women prepared their special cookies and tea sandwiches.

This summer the ECW sponsored two cultural outings. On July 8th a large group attended the Metropolitan Museum of Art to see "Heavenly Bodies," an exhibition of the connection between sacred garments and fashion. Our excellent guides were the Rev. Chase Danford and Ginger Blake. We concluded with refreshments and discussion on the Grand Gallery at the Met. On July 22nd another group visited the New York Historical Society for a docent-led tour of the "Four Freedoms" exhibit. We saw how Franklin Roosevelt's Four Freedoms were portrayed in art and media of the time especially by Norman Rockwell in his famous paintings.

The Annual Grace Christmas Fair, held on November 10th and 11th was well-attended, profitable and fun! We celebrated on Saturday evening with our traditional festive wine and cheese reception which was a great hit as always. The fair was open to shoppers at 10 am on both Saturday and Sunday. This year we added a very successful silent auction on Saturday. Susan Nascimento ran a table for children (and adults) to make ornaments. Many thanks to all who contributed tasty foods for sale at "Catherine's Café" which was again a big hit.

At this year's fair we were pleased to be able to donate a table to a non-profit Episcopal Church-affiliated organization called SHIMA of Navajoland, whose natural handmade soaps and other products are made by and support Navajo people through employment, as well as supporting their indigenous clergy and their churches. The products were shipped to us here, and ECW volunteers manned the table and donated the proceeds back to the organization.

Proceeds from the fair's small entrance fee (plus generous donations) allowed us to give \$580 to the Church of the Village Hope for Our Neighbors in Need food program and \$580 to Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen. In addition we raised over \$4,500, which will help us to contribute to the life of the church and the wider community. Many thanks to tireless Elana Foundos and the Christmas Fair committee who donated so generously of their time and talents to make this year's fair the most successful ever!

Watch for upcoming events in the parish announcements including the next potluck or tea this spring. All women of Grace church are automatically members of the ECW. Please join us in our next year of service, study and fun.

## **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 assistance to a number of people both within our Grace community and those with former ties to the Church. It is also often used to provide research material to Sunday Forum speakers.

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## **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.

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## **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 continually refines her artistry as a Floral Designer, 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.

**20s/30s Ministry**

The 20's/30's Ministry combines spiritual, social, and service opportunities for young adults at both the parish and diocesan levels. We offer regular Sunday brunches, volunteer opportunities, and seasonal offerings such as the annual Lenten Sushi Friday, with dinner and Compline. Grace was also well-represented at diocesan Young Adult Network activities, including a pre-Lenten reflection day and the annual St. Nicholas Day Advent party. A particular highlight of 2018 was the formation of the "Pub Theology" series. Participants meet twice a month over food and beverages in a casual environment to discuss essays and book chapters. Readings have included works by Rowan Williams, Stanley Hauerwas, Reinhold Niebuhr, as well as a multi-month study of St. Augustine's Confessions. Discussions have attracted a large enough attendance that we need to find a new venue. The 20s/30s Ministry is coordinated by the Rev. Chase Danford, who is joined on the Pub Theology planning committee by Warren Pettine and Anderson and Josefa Westerman.

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**Newcomers' Ministry**

The Newcomers' Ministry seeks to connect visitors and new members with the wider parish through monthly classes, social receptions, welcome emails from the clergy and staff, invitations to coffee chats with the clergy, and introductions to fellow parishioners through the Newcomer Ambassador program. The Newcomers' Committee is chaired by Ansley Galjour. Other members include the Rev. Chase Danford, Clergy Advisor; Cecily Millen, Staff Liaison; and John Berringer, Meg and Owen Boger, Jack Browning, Lee and Win Chamberlin, Singleton Cox, Currie Estreich, Doug Evans, Elana Foundos, Sally Hines, Charles Johnston, Rachel Kuhns, Sara Queen and Jason Slibeck, Jennifer San Cartier, Erik Sorensen.

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**Grace Cares**

The newly established Grace Cares committee is a pastoral care ministry founded by lay volunteers. Grace Cares provides care for parishioners in need through visiting, prayer, note writing, telephoning, and other forms of reaching out. It also provides a place of mutual support for care-givers and seeks to empower parishioners to be present and helpful to people who are experiencing difficulty. Volunteers are supported through quarterly trainings by the clergy, who also serve a coordinating role for the team. Grace Cares members include Lethe Black, Ginger Blake, Teresa Conway, Helen DuBois, Nancy Dobi, Currie Estreich, Elana Foundos, Mary Jenkins, and Susan Soler. The Rev. Chase Danford serves as the Clergy Advisor.

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## 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 higher education 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.

2018-2019 is the 15th year of this community and its ministry with students. Regular meetings take place on Sunday evenings where 10-15 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 Rev. Mary Julia Jett, The Rev. Gawain deLeeuw, The Rev. Julia Offinger, Episcopal Charities Volunteer Coordinator Emily Collie-Beard, The New York Service and Justice Collaborative/The Episcopal Service Corps Fellows, Lutheran Missionary Hannah Wright-Osborn, and GTS seminarian Chris Harding, among others.

Fall programming has included an Acts Bible Study, church history and denominational differences, contemplative prayer and stress relieving spiritual practices, an intro to knitting workshop, an All Saints/All Souls remembrance, attendance of the Cathedral's 125th anniversary Evensong celebration with Presiding Bishop Curry preaching, Advent Lessons and Carols and Dinner, Finals Survival Kit making and preparation of students for Baptism/Confirmation. Parents of college aged students in the NYC area and beyond are invited to contact Chaplain Mary Cat Young for further information about Episcopal Campus Ministries and Young Adult Ministry opportunities at [chaplain@canterburynyc.org](mailto:chaplain@canterburynyc.org). Learn more about our ministries at: [CanterburyNYC.org](http://CanterburyNYC.org).

## Staff

The Reverend J. Donald Waring  
Rector

The Reverend Chase Danford  
Associate Rector

The Reverend Julia Macy Offinger  
Assistant Rector for Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Dr. Patrick Allen  
Organist and Master of Choristers

Mr. Daniel Benchimol  
Director of Facilities

Mr. Bally Bharathsingh  
Church Sexton and Chief Engineer

Mr. Marvin Boozer  
Engineering

Ms. Sandy Chu  
Staff Accountant

Mr. Johnson Lambert  
Engineering

Ms. Veronica McDowell  
Engineering

Ms. Jennifer S. Metz  
Parish Administrator

Ms. Cecily Millen  
Manager of Membership and Communications

Ms. Rhianna L. Murphy  
Director of Finance and Administration

Mr. Duy Nguyen  
Ministry Assistant for Youth and Outreach

Mr. Jacob Reed  
Organ Scholar

Mr. Paul Sealy  
Engineering

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