

134th ANNUAL MEETING

Grace Episcopal Church Port Orange, FL






Vision

Grace Church is a welcoming community of hope and healing, where all can experience and share God's transforming love.

Mission

We are the Church of Open Arms.

Guiding Principles

-  Through worship, we experience the presence of God through Word, Sacrament, Music, and Community.
-  Through outreach, we serve others by providing for their physical, spiritual, and social needs.
-  Through congregational care, we express our love for one another.

January 12th, 2025

AGENDA

Call to Order
Opening Prayer
Appointment of Secretary
Minutes of (previous year)
Senior Wardens Remarks
Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members
Introduction of Vestry Nominees
(Balloting procedure if necessary)
Treasurer Report
Presentation of Budget
Review and approval of revised By Laws
Committee Reports As Written
Ministry Leader Remarks
Rector's Closing Remarks
Necrology
Dismissal

VESTRY & OFFICERS OF GRACE CHURCH

Jamie Roberts, Senior Warden
Hal Read, Junior Warden
Gary Lincoln, Treasurer
Nancy Fitch, Secretary

Class of 2024

Ben Coursen

Class of 2025

Dale Millar
Jamie Roberts
Bob Normington

Class of 2026

Corinne Stebner
Hal Read
Suellen Stenhouse
Alan Titkemeier
Ann Zerbach

GRACE CHURCH STAFF

Fr. Gary Jackson, Rector
Rev. Jonnette DeMarsico, Deacon
Rev. Stephanie Whitman, Rev. David Whitman, Assistant Priests
Kim Mansfield, Bookkeeper
Demetria Stevenson, Parish Administrator
Kevin Davids, Sexton

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb , Bishop of the Diocese of Central Florida
4110 S. Ridgewood Avenue, Port Orange, FL 32127
Office: (386) 767-3583, email: parish@egracepo.org
Web page: www.egracepo.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/egracepo/

**GRACE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
STATISTICS FOR 2024**

Members	2024	2023	2022
Active - Adults	258	235	234
-Youth Under 16	12	16	4
Total Baptized Members			234
Total Transition			0
Family Units (Active & Transition)	202		148

*Software improvements to reflect more accurate accounting

Winter Members	2024	2023	2022
Adults	4		6
Total Baptized Members	4		4
Family Units	2		4

Parish Register Statistics	2024	2023	2022
Added by Transfer	12		12
Restored to Active	2		6
Removed by Transfer	2		2
Removed Other			1
Removed by Death			7
Moved to Inactive	5		4
Confirmations		9	0
Reaffirmations		6	0
Received		1	0
Baptisms		4	5
Marriages		0	0
Burials/Memorial Services		11	9
Average Sunday Attendance	157		134

MINUTES OF THE 133rd ANNUAL MEETING OF GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH – JANUARY 28, 2024

The meeting opened at 11:10 am in Goddard Hall with a prayer by Rector Gary Jackson. The written annual report containing ministry summaries and the 2024 budget was sent to all members by email on Thursday, January 2. Several printed copies were placed on each table. Gary Lincoln made a motion to appoint Nancy Fitch as secretary for the Annual Meeting. Bobbi Palmer seconded; motion passed. David Whitman made a motion to accept the minutes from last year's meeting. Suellen Stenhouse seconded; motion passed.

SENIOR WARDEN REMARKS – John Palmer thanked the congregation for their support during his three years as Jr. Warden and one year as Sr. Warden. He thanked them for fully funding the Vestry Wish Lists allowing us to fund additional expense items outside of the budget. He thanked Fr. Gary for being our guiding light in growing the church. Fr. Gary presented John with a certificate of appreciation and Jamie Roberts presented him with a symbolic “key” to the church.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING AND INCOMING VESTRY MEMBERS – Fr. Gary thanked outgoing vestry members John Palmer, Sue McIlrath and Lynda Moore who all worked hard during their four-year extended terms due the Rector search. He noted that Grace has an active working vestry who does more than meet once a month. He introduced incoming vestry nominees Corinne Stebner, Alan Titkemeier and Ann Zerbach. Fr. Gary asked for nominees from the floor. There being none, Daneen Read made a motion to close the process and approve the appointment of Sue, Alan, and Ann. Suellen Stenhouse seconded; motion passed. Fr. Gary announced that Hal Read will be continuing in his role as Jr. Warden and Jamie Roberts has been appointed Sr. Warden.

TREASURERS REPORT - Gary Lincoln noted we were short of our budget goals last year by only 1.1%, which reflects good planning and good stewardship of our resources. We completed many big projects in 2023 which will not need to be addressed again for 20 years, including a new church roof, new lighting in the sanctuary and new air conditioners in the hall. Most of the shortfall was due to a \$16,000 increase in liability insurance.

Our Pledge Campaign this year was highly successful. We received over 100 pledges, totaling \$315,000. However, for the first time in many years we are unable to provide a balanced budget. The 2024 budget is as lean as honestly possible with no further options for cuts. Despite this, we have a \$9,000 shortfall in the 2024 budget due to a \$16,000 increase in our liability insurance.

The budget was adopted by the Budget Committee on Jan. 11 and approved by the Vestry on Jan. 15. The Budget Committee, the Vestry, and Fr. Gary strongly believe that if we remain good stewards of our time, talent and treasure, God will provide through you. With this in mind, we have created a \$9000 income line item called “Faith Income Estimate.” Barry Piteck made a motion to file the 2024 Budget for audit; Kay Ingram seconded; motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Members of the congregation were invited to share remarks about their ministry. Carol Titkemeier spoke about the request from Sugar Mill Elementary for adult mentors to have lunch weekly with at-risk students.

Jamie Roberts and Sherri Davids spoke about the Order of St. Luke. This year they will be offering the 14-week study session, “26 Healing Miracles of Jesus”.

Stephanie and David Whitman thanked the congregation for their support and prayers in the past year as they were ordained Transitional Deacons.

RECTOR CLOSING REMARKS - Fr. Gary thanked the congregation for making 2023 a great year. He thanked the many hard-working ministries. He thanked Rev. Susan for her support for him personally and her pastoral care support by making 122 visits.

The meeting was dismissed at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted.

Nancy Fitch, Secretary

* * * * *

ASSISTANT PRIESTS REPORT

Fr. David & Rev. Stephanie Whitman

This past year has been a joyous reminder to us of God’s faithfulness and provision, and all of you have played a key role in our journey. On January 11, 2024 we were both ordained as transitional deacons at The Cathedral of St. Luke. The service was holy and Spirit-filled, with so many Grace attendees that Bishop Holcomb even remarked on your outpouring of support. In the months that followed, Father Gary and Reverend Susan guided us in serving as deacons. We are so grateful for the instruction, as we were given a safe, loving environment to learn and grow.

On August 11, 2024, Grace hosted our ordination service to the priesthood. We were overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and support from our Grace family, worshipping with us, fellowshiping together, and donating generously to our discretionary fund. Since that time, we have been able to use many of those donations to help those that we serve in our ministries. Dave continues to serve as a full-time hospice chaplain with Gentiva. He ministers to patients and caregivers in their homes throughout the Port Orange, Edgewater, and Oak Hill areas. Dave will also be serving as a supply priest at All Saints in Enterprise for the month of January 2025.

Stephanie continues to serve as a full-time teacher at St. Barnabas Episcopal School. She teaches 6th grade math and science and leads middle school chapel each Monday. Additionally, she rotates preaching and celebrant duties at Wednesday chapel with Mother Audrey Sutton and Father Comforted Keen. She will be assisting Dave at All Saints in January and will be leading Vacation Bible School at Grace in June.

We are grateful to Father Gary and all of the congregation for providing regular opportunities for us to serve at our Sunday worship services. This has helped us to embrace our roles as priests and better understand the ways in which God is using us in ministry. We look forward to the year ahead and all of the possibilities that God has in store! Respectfully Submitted,
Fr. Dave Whitman Rev. Stephanie Whitman

DEACON'S REPORT

The Rev. Jonnette DeMarsico

THANK YOU! Thank you for your welcome, your support, your love and your commitment to Christ through the many ministries here. Your continuous outpouring of love and generous sharing the light of Christ with each other and others provides this community with a beacon of hope!

This is actually a semi-annual report because I have served as your deacon since July 7, introduced on at both services. It has been a joy and an honor to walk alongside you all through the summer and fall, which for me was definitely no "ordinary time." I learned from you each week, mourned with you in loss, celebrated, worshiped and walked in love with you! Beginning a new ministry here has been somewhat bittersweet – the loss of my trainer, beloved deacon Rev. Susan, has left a hole in our hearts. I am grateful for her steadfast dedication, always pointing the way to Christ.

I am grateful to serve as deacon here with Fr. Gary, a loving and gracious shepherd who has welcomed and guided me from day one.

Pastoral care is a large part of my ministry here. I have been visiting parishioners who have welcomed me into their homes, hospital rooms and care facilities since July. Thanks to Nancy Brunner for her assistance and guidance with serving communion monthly to the residents of Countryside Lakes. The dedicated Lay Eucharist Visiting Ministry team does wonderful work here with the leadership of Terry Cheremsak. LEV's now have cloth linens for communion kits and a new communion service guide.

In addition to serving as deacon of the Mass on Sundays and Wednesdays, I had the privilege to serve at the Ordination to the Priesthood service for Rev. Stephanie and Fr. David Whitman in August, as well as several funeral services, house blessings and a baptism! The services on Wednesdays provide preaching and pastoral care opportunities. Participating in the many Grace Church Family events provided important opportunities to learn more about who and what we are here. Included are: the "back to school BBQ bash", phone calls before and after hurricanes, the Celebration of New Ministry service and reception (thank you to those who presented the gifts!), the Walk in Love campaign and Commitment Sunday, the Thanksgiving dinner, the greening of the church, the DOK International Christmas Tea, the ECW Christmas party, the Vestry Christmas dinner, the decorating of the church and the many outreach events that occurred during the fall months. This is indeed a church that practices walking in Christ's love!

Throughout the summer and fall weekends I attended the KAIROS OUTSIDE team meetings serving as Music Chair for the KAIROS OUTSIDE women's weekend held in October at the Retreat in Ocala. Sixteen women who have been impacted by incarceration attended the weekend. Many of you supported the weekend by purchasing meal tickets, providing financial support and prayer. THANK YOU! And as one of the Spiritual Advisors for the Diocesan Cursillo Commission, I attend monthly meetings in Orlando. I serve as the chairperson for the Daughter of the King Daughters-at-Large and presented the HOLY MOMENTS workshop at this year's National DOK conference in Louisville, KY. In October I attended the Diocesan Clergy Conference at All Saints Church in Winter Park. In addition to on-line courses with Nashotah House Chapter, I attend weekly Bible study lessons with FBS (this year is the book of Revelation).

Regarding parish education and development, I had the privilege to work with Fr. Gary developing and presenting the four October WALK IN LOVE evening sessions, complete with pizza and salad, as well as the "blue Christmas" HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS service in December. ADVENT devotionals were made available during December, and we trained 6 new and existing

acolytes with the assistance of Nancy Brunner, Sue McIlrath and Hal Read. The new acolytes began service on Advent 1. I was blessed to assist Rosie Shaw, Sue Wright and the Altar Guild with their Show and Tell Sunday and help with the selection of the new STATIONS OF THE CROSS, Rev. Susan's gift to the church.

In December, Fr. Gary said YES to including a short children's Christmas pageant at the beginning of the Christmas Eve service. With the help of Nancy Brunner, Sue McIlrath, Jamie Roberts, Rosie Shaw and Suellen Stenhouse, and ten young persons, including Noah Jackson, we experienced the story of Christ's birth as told in the Gospel of St. Luke, sweetly underscored with musical accompaniment by Amy Crane! We even had a built-in live Baby Jesus, thanks to the Roberts' family!

My "office hours" on campus are Tuesdays from 9 – 1 or whenever the need to be present arises. My door is always open. Thank you to Demetria, Kim, Kevin and the office volunteers who are most helpful and gracious to work with!

Thank you so very much for the many cards, prayers and gifts during Clergy Appreciation month in October, at the celebration of New Ministry in November, and the very generous Christmas clergy purse in December! As Hermia says in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, "I am amazed and know not what to say!" Except THANK YOU and BLESS YOU!

Although it has been just six months, this assignment feels like I have "come home" – in some ways it is as if I have always been here. Your acceptance and prayerful support make every day a true blessing. To God be the Glory!

As Proper 19 states: "O God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee, mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord!" May it be so for each of us! **Numbers 6:23-26** to each of you this new year! In Christ's steadfast love and tender mercy, Rev. Jonnette

RECTOR'S REPORT

Fr. Gary Jackson (At Services)

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Jamie Roberts

2024 was an eventful year at Grace Church. We sadly said goodbye to our beloved Reverend Susan and lovingly welcomed Deacon Jonette. We celebrated the ordination of Reverend David and Reverend Stephanie with a visit from Bishop Holcomb. Grace is so blessed to have such an amazing team of clergy led by Fr Gary.

Our Lenten and Advent studies were a great success and well attended. We welcomed several new parishioners into the family of Grace proving that we are truly the "Church of Open Arms". Our Grace family has continued to show their love and dedication to the many ministries our parish supports.

A strategic planning committee was formed to review and update our current strategic plan. We weathered two hurricanes and managed to come out with minor damage.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of Tinny Ryder and the chapel grant committee, Grace church was awarded a grant to help restore our historic chapel.

We began our Christmas service with a wonderful Christmas Pageant thanks to Deacon Jonette and our talented children and youth.

As I reflect on the end of my term on the Vestry, I want to express my gratitude to all you for your prayers, love, and support. I am humbled and honored to have served this amazing congregation. I could not have done it without you! I look forward to what the future holds for our amazing community of faith.

TREASURERS REPORT 2025

Gary Lincoln

Your Vestry worked diligently all year to implement the budget approved at the 2024 annual meeting last January. The final budget numbers will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting.

The annual Pledge Campaign was conducted by the Stewardship Committee. Additional pledge details are included in the reports for the Stewardship and Budget committees.

Last year the approved budget included a "Faith Undesignated" line of \$9000. It is the first time that a deficit budget was presented at the annual meeting in many years. It was the hope of the Budget Committee and your Vestry that parishioners would prayerfully consider covering the shortfall through grace and their generosity. The full \$9000 was realized by October. Thank you!

Parishioners may pay their pledge in several different ways. Pledge envelopes are provided to everyone who pledges. Parishioners may also donate electronically through their own bank's automated pay program by creating "Grace Episcopal Church" in Port Orange, Florida as your payee. Pledges may also be paid electronically through PayPal or Donor Box by using our QR code.

I would like to thank the Vestry and all the members of the parish for their continued financial support of Grace Church. May God bless.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Hal Read, Junior Warden

With two hurricanes this year we were very fortunate to escape with only minor damage. Grateful for the hurricane shutters, and assistance to put them into place, and remove them for storage until next season. The roof repair, trees cut down and clean up, was done in-house and with a few transient day laborers. The high-water mark was within 5" of the floor level of the church. Ben Beaulieu of Redwood Tree Service removed the trash piles in the front on US 1 and the down trees in the back.

The waterfall in the Memorial Garden still needs a new pump and pump enclosure. Of particular note, a new memorial stone was added to the garden. The sound and internet streaming desk are complete in the back of the church, however, we are still tweaking this arrangement. As time and money allow, and lights burn out, we are converting old florescent light bulbs into LED lights. Thanks to Dale Millar, the sprinkler system is presently operational. We replaced 4 parts on the children's playground which cost about \$3000. And we will need to do the same probably this coming year.

Many thanks to all of the helping hands who assist and keep all of these projects moving forward. This coming year we look forward to the chapel bell tower restoration project. Tinny Ryder has been heading this up and Grace has been awarded a grant from The Department of State Division of Historic Resources and the State of Florida. Pray that this project.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Rosemary Shaw

The Memorial Garden and grounds are maintained regularly to create a peaceful and beautiful environment conducive to prayer and meditation. It is a holy resting place for our loved ones, and it is hallowed ground. Our garden team also maintains the church grounds around the main church building and the Chapel, as well as the parking lot planting beds, the property around Goddard Hall, and the hedges fronting Ridgewood Ave.

The Memorial Garden is funded by donations which are used as needed for upkeep and beautification.

This year we have been blessed by many volunteers. These include Peter Sigmann, Mary Weathers, Jeff and Suzie Torborg, Ken and Judy McGuigan, Tinny Ryder, Carol Smith, and Darlene VanAuken. We also thank our custodian, Kevin Davids, who helps us so much. Always needed are younger workers who can go up on ladders. Any volunteers for this ministry would be greatly appreciated.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Carol Wilhelm

Children's Sunday School meets Sundays at 10:30. The purpose of Children's Sunday School is to fall in love with Jesus, grow in relationship with God, and participate more fully in the Eucharist. During the school year, lessons are presented from Godly Play and Catechesis of the Good Shephard, both of which are Montessori-based faith formation programs. Summer Sunday School is presented VBS style with interactive Bible lessons, music, games and crafts.

We currently have 12 regular members, although on average the class size is 8-10 on any given Sunday. We also have 6 semi-regular members and the occasional guest. Children range in age between 4 and 12. We have wonderful volunteers to help with School, as well as to meet diocesan requirements of a second adult in the room. Thank you, Judy Tabb, Karen Blecher, Kay Ingram, Tina Firicano, Debi Laliberte, Suellen Stenhouse, and our alternate, Sherri Davidson.

Sunday School hosted an Advent Wreath Making/Pizza party on November 30. We had 12 children, 12 family members and 7 families attend. The wreaths turned out beautiful and everyone seemed to have a good time. God Bless you all.

JUNIOR DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Jamie Roberts

Junior Daughters are young women and girls from 7 to 21 years of age, who make a promise to pray daily and to serve our Lord Jesus Christ. Membership is extended to all baptized girls, regardless of denomination.

On February 16th, 2024, The Ruth Abigail Junior Daughter Chapter Celebrated its Fourth Birthday!

The Juniors continue to assist with events and outreach at Grace Church such as, HUM Pantry, Campus Clean Up & assisting with community events like Trunk or Treat and The Easter Egg Hunt. If something needs a poster or sign or needs something to be counted, collected, or distributed you can count on the Junior Daughters to help.

If there is a young girl in your life who may be interested in becoming a Junior Daughter of the King, please contact Jamie Roberts for more information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CURSILLO/ULTREYA

Jamie Roberts

Want to deepen your relationship with Jesus? Want to learn about some tools that will help you in your daily Christian living? Ask Father Gary about going on a two-day Cursillo weekend.

Cursillo, a Spanish word meaning a short course, can help you deepen your relationship with Jesus while giving you some tools that will help you in your daily Christian living. Cursillo is an intentional method that involves Christian accountability and support through small groups that meet regularly and, a quarterly deanery reunion of the groups called "Ultreya", another Spanish word meaning "to keep on keeping on;" to persevere.

Enjoy a weekend of love and discerning as you learn "what is fundamental for being a Christian and how to live in the world by hearing and heeding God's call". There are two Co-Ed weekends each year taking place at the San Pedro Center in Winter Park Fl.

During 2024 Grace was able to send six women and two men from the parish to Cursillo and had several parishioners that worked on the men's & women's, weekend teams. If you are interested in attending a weekend, please see Jamie Roberts.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

St. Monica Chapter #2433 Glenda Poarch, President

Continued hosting Grace Way Café. Finished our study of Twelve Extraordinary Women of The Bible. Helped host Jamie Roberts with a surprise baby shower. Helped host Rev. David and Rev. Stephanie Whitman's reception when they were ordained into the Priesthood. Helped host Deacon Jonnette with a cake at her celebration into ministry at our church. Welcomed two new Daughters to our Chapter- Anne Davis and Gail Merritt. God Bless Everyone.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

Sally Harter-President

Mission: "To respond to Jesus Christ, to witness, work and pray for the spread of God's kingdom; submitting to and being guided by the Holy Spirit and providing for the needs of Grace Church and its people."

Events/Activities/Ministries & Fellowships:

1. ECW Memorial Sunday
2. Rev Susan's Lenten Retreat
3. Military Parishioner Care Project
4. Sewing Project 2024
5. Loaves & Fishes/Home Bounds
6. ECW Graceway- 3rd week all year long
7. Crafts & Summer Events-1st & 3rd Saturday, May to Oct.- Fr Gary's Spiritual Education Series, Bingos, Dancing lessons, Senior Symposium, Craft Making for Christmas Market Fund Raiser.
8. International Fellowship Dinner
9. Funerals/Receptions

Fund Raisers (profits):

1. Easter Chocolate Bunny & Cross Sale -\$560
2. Mini Yard Sale & Craft/Vendor Event- \$2,144
3. Christmas Market- \$3,128

Disbursements:

1. Diocese Gift of Support-\$100
2. Camp Wingman Scholarship- \$500
3. ECW Memorial Flowers- \$100
4. Church Memorial Garden Gift- \$300
5. Clergy Discretionary - \$1,000
6. Kitchen New Coffee Maker- \$418
7. Episcopal Relief Fund-\$300
8. Loaves & Fishes & Home Bound Christmas Gifts- \$400
9. Sound System for Church- \$5,000

CELL GROUP (SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY)

Alan & Carol Titkemeier

The Small Group Bible Study meets every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Schedule changes with holidays and summertime. We begin each year with My One Word study, picking one word to focus on for the year. We look up the word in relation to meaning in the dictionary and in God's Word. We find a Bible verse to concentrate on that contains our "one word." One member in the group forms a prayer using all our one words. It has been an interesting study and discipline.

In February we began our new study Life Lessons from James, by Max Lucado. It was a 12-session study. Life lessons we learned were God gives us true wisdom, Satan tempts to break us, God tests to strengthen us. Words we use are powerful and influential; Faith and good deeds go hand in hand. This study took us through the year, as we stopped during Lent so we could concentrate on the Lenten Study at church and also off during the summer months.

If you are interested in a small group study, and if you would like more information, please call Alan or Carol's home number 386-788-3845. There's a chair waiting for you.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Alan Titkemeier

The Grace Men's Bible Study meets every other Saturday in the St. John's classroom from 9:00-10:00 AM. The purpose is to offer fellowship, study, discuss and apply God's word to our daily lives. We are currently reading and studying "The Screwtape Letters" by C.S. Lewis. We will be starting a new study in early 2025.

The Men's Bible Study is open to all men. We invite you to attend and study God's word and to fellowship with other Christian men.

COMMUNICATIONS

PARISH DIRECTORY

Demetria Stevenson

The parish phone directory provides a means of communication for our Grace family, newcomers, and visitors. A phone directory was published for Winter 2023. An updated copy was emailed out in December, and we had hard copies available upon request.

Please help keep our database accurate and up to date by notifying the church office of: changes in addresses, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses

- addresses of "adult" children who have moved out on their own.
- names of those you may know are no longer attending Grace.

My email is parish@egracepo.org

MINISTRY CATALOG

Nancy Fitch

Our Ministry Catalog is a 38- page summary of the many diverse ministries at Grace. The Catalog was revised this year to reflect our 2024 Revised Strategic Plan. Ministry summaries are divided into eight categories which represent our core values as a community of faith.

The back of the catalog contains contact information for each ministry leader. It is a reference for everyone to explore the ministry opportunities at Grace. Printed copies are given to newcomers, and it is posted on our website under the "ministry" link.

Please contact me whenever there are significant changes to your ministry or a new leader named so we can keep the catalog updated.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Becky Riley

Thanks to the volunteers for the front office for smiling, opening the front door, answering

phones and doing whatever is necessary. We have four spots that are Monday thru Thursday 9am to 1pm.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Becky Riley

This has been an exciting year for Grace and photography. Not only for all of the regular functions but also for the added functions such as ordinations and the children's pageant. Thank you for all of your smiles!

PUBLICITY

Nancy Fitch

The Publicity Committee's mission is to keep our parishioners, and the wider local community informed about the mission of Grace. We do this through articles and news releases to the local press and social media as well as internal communications through brochures, flyers, and posters. 2024 was a busy year with many wonderful events happening at Grace. We are available to assist any ministry increase their visibility or publicize a church event.

We always welcome suggestions for new and better ways to publicize Grace and we welcome more volunteers to this committee.

TWAG (THIS WEEK AT GRACE)

Nancy Fitch

TWAG is our weekly parish email newsletter. It is usually emailed on Thursdays for the following week. It contains the scripture readings for the coming Sunday, the week's church calendar, announcements about upcoming events, and other news pertaining to Grace and its mission. It is a fast, effortless way to stay informed about "all things Grace." Attached to TWAG is *Good News Daily*, providing a weekly devotional reflection on Scripture. TWAG is also posted to our website each week.

Ministry leaders are encouraged to submit news items and photos to TWAG to inform parishioners about their activities. We particularly thank Becky Riley and everyone who went out of their way this year to take photos of their ministry events.

To submit items for inclusion in TWAG, email me before 3:00 pm on Wednesdays at nanvt@yahoo.com.

CHURCH LIBRARY

Cathy Petersen and Susan Wright

Our Library is user friendly and always open. We have over 2000 volumes. You can look up books by Title, Author or the Dewey Decimal System. All books are found by their number listed.

The Library works on an Honor System. Just record your name, date and title of book borrowing. Upon returning the book just sign that it has been returned.

A free table of duplicate books will occasionally be available for the taking in Goddard Hall.

WEBSITE MINISTRY REPORT

Terry Cheremsak, Website Administrator

Our website offers an opportunity for members of the congregation to stay well-informed and active in what is happening at our church. The website provides a central location to share events on the Calendar, Bulletins, Birthdays, TWAG, Church Documents, and Virtual Streaming.

The website also extends an open invitation to prospective members and those who are seeking spiritual guidance. It is a hub for everything future members will need to know when considering our church. Through the website, you are able to donate or contribute your pledge when it's convenient for you online. We have a secure portal that collects payments digitally and goes directly to our bookkeeper for accounting.

We also offer confidential prayer requests online. When you fill out the prayer request form, it then goes to our office to our clergy, so that they may be informed of the request. The website is kept current with Bulletins, TWAG, birthday lists and event flyers as needed on a weekly basis. This year the HUM and Pet Pantry page was added to the website to allow the church to apply for grant funding for these ministries, as well as to inform people as to the dates and times that the ministries are open. On September 27, 2024, the domain "EGRACEPO" has been returned back to the church.

FELLOWSHIP

GRACEWAY CAFÉ

Rotating Hosts

Graceway Café is a ministry of fellowship to the people of Grace Church. Every Sunday between services, volunteers provide coffee and light refreshments in Goddard Hall.

We thank this year's Graceway rotating hosts: the Vestry, the DOK, the 8:00 am "Noisy Corner" group, the ECW and the Outreach Committee.

LUNCH BUNCH

Ann Zerbach

Lunch bunch was a success again this year. We visited 10 area restaurants with much approval from the group.

We had repeaters from last year and some new faces. Again, this year, we had almost a 50/50 split between 8 o'clock and 10:30 service attendees.

The average attendance was 18, with most being 25 and least being 4! The 4 was on a day with a hurricane rolling in. We had a blast getting to know each other better and talking for a couple of hours. We would term the year a success! Thank you for the support of this group.

CHRISTMAS CARD POST OFFICE

Sue McIlrath, Postmistress

The Grace Episcopal Church "Christmas Card Post Office" is offered every Christmas holiday to all Grace Parishioners. This is a cost-effective way for parishioners to send Christmas cards to each other at no charge. The Post Office is open on Sunday following Thanksgiving and closes on the first Sunday in January. This year we facilitated delivering thousands of Christmas Cards to bring joy to our parishioners and shut ins.

NEW MEMBER MINISTRY

BREAD BAKERS

Gary Lincoln

As part of our welcome to visitors, a small loaf of homemade bread is given. Labels and ribbon are provided for the bakers.

We have a very dedicated group of bread bakers. Each baker makes 2 to 3 mini loaves of bread one Sunday a month. We have bakers for both the 8:00 and 10:30 services. Alternate bakers are also available if a baker is unable to make the bread for one of their weeks.

If you love to bake, please consider joining this important Newcomers ministry

NAME TAGS

Tinny Ryder

The Name Tag Ministry's purpose is to establish a closer relationship within the congregation. We are the welcoming face to members and newcomers to our Parish. Name tags allow the members to get to know one another and welcome newcomers. We also use this ministry to keep clergy apprised of any parishioners who may be sick and in need pastoral contact. This is a really pleasant and fun ministry as you get to meet and greet everyone.

Last year, we had 82 new visitors, 23 of which we are happy to have continued worshipping with us. Anyone interested in joining this ministry can contact me or the Church office.

NEWCOMERS' BRUNCH/ORIENTATION

Vestry Members

These sessions are designed to offer an introduction to things Episcopal and things unique to Grace Church as well as a brief introduction to our many ministries. In September of this year, the Vestry hosted this event and provided brunch with over forty people in attendance.

OUTREACH

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Carol Titkemeier, Chairperson

Outreach Ministries 2024

Outreach Ministries at Grace Church is Grace Church reaching out with open arms. Our mission statement is ... "To reach out to the community at large as Christ's arms of love to serve, stand with and invite into fellowship your people outside the doors of Grace Church.

Below you will see what that looked like this year from the leaders of each ministry. Thank you all so much for your support.

HUM (Halifax Urban Ministries): Grace is the location of the HUM Food Pantry. The HUM pantry has been busy this past year. We averaged giving food to just under 300 families and sign up an average of 36 new people a month. We decreased our days to 2 per week due to financial problems at the main headquarters. We also bought a new freezer for the pantry. Donations have helped us to make sure the clients get what they need. Grace Church continues to be very giving as well as several other groups in the area, which helps us take care of the people. ***Deborah Fleming***

T-Bags (Transient Lunch Bags): This is a lunch bag given to a homeless person who comes to our church looking for lunch. This ministry is done during the times HUM is operating. Those working at HUM give out lunch bags and help as able to those who find themselves in need. ***Becky Riley***

Grace Pet Pantry: Grace Church Pet Pantry is open on the first Monday of every month to provide pet food for owners in need. Our clients must be registered with HUM in order to be eligible for our assistance program. We provide dry dog food, dry cat food, canned dog and cat food and dog and cat treats. We operate completely on donations of pet food and monetary donations to Grace Church with "Grace Pet Pantry" on the memo line. We are very blessed to have these volunteers Terry Cheremsak, Terri Winand, Darlene VanAuken, Nancy Brunner and Mary Finger. ***Rosie Shaw***

Baby Bottle Fundraiser: This fundraiser supports Resources for Women, a pregnancy crisis center. We thank you for taking an empty Baby Bottle and filling them with loose change or special monetary donation by way of check or cash. This year we raised \$1,764.44 which was up \$700 + from last year. Thank you for your generosity and support of these young woman. ***Rosie Shaw***

School Supplies Ingathering: Grace partners with local schools to help the teachers and staff meet the needs of students from their low-income families. Each spring we contact two local schools whose enrollment includes a majority of students in low-income families. A "wish list" is developed, then shared with Grace Church to meet those needs. This year our Grace members gave a generous donation of school supplies along with \$670 monetary donation. These monies were used to purchase specific clothing needs identified. There

were monies left over to be used for future needs. The decision was made to change the designated school, South Daytona Elementary to Sugar Mill Elementary, because of the greater need at Sugar Mill. The second school is Port Orange Elementary. The schools were greatly appreciative of our support, and thanked Grace Church for our donations. **Glenda Coursen**

Mission Sunday: American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem was our international fundraiser on October 6th. Fr Gary did a five-session study between services in September about the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, "Bearing Witness – A Journey with Holy Land Christians. The collection totaled \$410.00 which was sent to the Episcopal Diocese. **Peter & Jeannie Sigmann**

St Nicholas/Chiles Academy Outreach: The annual St Nicholas Day ingathering for Chiles academy took place on November 17, 2024. The generous donations of unwrapped toys, clothing, diapers, and wipes covered the Altar and filled the entire back and back seat of the Roberts family minivan. The donations were delivered on November 18th and accepted by Sheryl Bell the Family Care Coordinator. These items assist the teen mothers who are continuing their high school education at Chiles Academy and helped 18 young women get their high school diplomas in May of 2024. **Jamie & David Roberts**

Thanksgiving Bake Sale: annual virtual bake sale is held the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Monies raised this year went to Fr. Gary to distribute to those in need through Walmart Gift Cards. Outreach gave \$500.00 as matching funds. You generously donated \$959.00 equaling \$1,459.00. \$40.00 gift cards were purchased. **Alan & Carol Titkemeier**

Angel Tree: Thank you to all of you who bought gifts and helped on the day of the ingathering sorting. This year gifts were given to 152 children from Port Orange, Horizon and Sugar Mill Elementary schools. The delight and joy on the faces of the office staff who received the gifts on behalf of the children was priceless. All expressed their gratitude to you. This ministry is very personal to the people in our immediate community. It is very much appreciated by them and an extension of Grace's outreach to the neighborhood surrounding us. Thank you for generously giving to this important ministry that is a physical reminder of God's love. **Roseann Kurrle**

Care Portal: Following is a summary of Grace CarePortal activity over the past 12 month:
Number of requests met: 16
Number of children served: 29
Economic impact in our community: \$17,254.00 (Savings to local community agencies)
Thank you for your generous support. **Mary Finger**

World Vision Global 6-K: Amazing Grace is the name of our team. This was our second year for walking for water so the children in 3rd world countries don't have to. We hoped to raise \$2,000 and we raised \$4,715.00 with 40 walkers and 67 online donations. Plus, we ranked 90th out of 552 participating organizations! The largest donation we received was \$980 from Grace Church, which was from all of you who donated money on Sundays leading up to May 18th. We had a great time strolling together at Bushman Park off Spruce Creek Rd in Port Orange. **Mark your calendar for Saturday 5/17 to join us in walking for water!** Thanks to all the walkers and the donations received. We could not have done it without our generous church family giving of their time and treasure. **Carol Titkemeier**

Whatever you do, whether in word or in deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS (LEV)

Terry Cheremsak

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) are laypersons licensed by the bishop to bring the sacrament to the homes and sick beds of parishioners who are not able to come to church. We currently have a group of seven dedicated volunteers for this most appreciated ministry. The visitors currently take communion to 21 of our homebound parishioners on a regular monthly basis.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Audrey Rajter

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been active at Grace Episcopal Church since 2004. Over the years we have distributed over 500 shawls. This year 20 Shawls have gone locally and across the country to Grace Church families, friends, friends of friends and to Care Portal clients.

Each shawl is presented in a colorful tote bag, made by our sewing experts, along with a letter about the shawl and a prayer for healing. We are grateful to our many knitters, crocheters and sewing experts, who have put their time and talents into making these shawls and tote bags. We also make “mini shawls” and crosses and attach a prayer card to each one. These are available in a basket in the Narthex. We also provide the care portal with a special cross for each client. All the shawls are blessed at the altar.

If you know of someone in need of comfort or healing prayers, please request a shawl or if you would like to make a shawl, give me a call at 386-788-6801 or email me at audreyrajter@gmail.com. Looking forward to hearing from you.

“This ministry isn’t just about how we care for others, but how God chooses to care for others through our caring.”

STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Gary Lincoln

The purpose of this committee is to support the ministries at Grace Church. The focus of the Stewardship Committee is on Time and Talent, and sometimes Treasure. The committee adopted as its tag line from Hebrews 10:24: “And let us consider how we can spur one another on toward love and great deeds.” This encouragement is used when

we discuss ministry activities that need support. The committee was mostly quiet this past year. The one major project was the planning and implementation of the Pledge Campaign. The campaign fulfilled its goal on over 100 pledges, exceeding our pledge total from 2024. We were also blessed to have several new pledge families. Please consider joining this important committee for 2025.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Richard H. Eaton, Jr.

The Audit Committee was established to allow for Vestry approved committee style audit of Grace Church's financial status based upon requirements established by the Diocese. A financial audit takes about three days and includes ensuring that Grace Church abides by all the precepts established by the Diocese using a checklist published by the Diocese in their Methods of Business Methods in Church Affairs Manual.

A check is made of a two- month sampling of Grace Church's Checking Account to ensure each check has the appropriate number of signatures of those church members authorized to sign a church check and the necessary documentation supporting each check is available. Currently the Audit Committee consists of five parishioners all who happen to be either current or previous Senior Wardens who therefore have extensive knowledge of the financial setup of Grace Church.

The Audit Committee's final act is to create two audit letters for the Diocese. The first is a basic letter that signifies to the Diocese that a committee style audit has been performed. The second contains a list of items that were successfully completed as suggested in the previous year's audit. A list is also included of items that the committee suggest should be completed as a result of the current audit. Both letters require the approval of the Vestry and the signature of our Rector before being forwarded to the Diocese.

INVESTMENT & ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Alan S. Titkemeier, Committee Chair

The Grace Investment Committee met on February 15, April 25, June 13, September 19, and December 5 in the fiscal year 2024. The current members are Keith Brunner, Gary Lincoln, Bobbi Palmer, Maggie Thompson, and Alan Titkemeier. Fr. Gary Jackson is a regular attendee. Current investments and balances were discussed and monitored at each meeting. The committee continues to use a conservative approach.

Investments were bought and sold during the year. In April, the committee approved a request from the Vestry for \$3,581.80 to repair the Fire Suppression System in the kitchen. The funds were taken from earned investment income in 2023 in the Bishop Poole Building and Maintenance Endowment and the Flex Reserve Fund. The Committee will continue to meet regularly in 2025 to be good stewards of the financial blessings we have received, to monitor and make funds available for the Ministries at Grace. Thank you for your support in 2024.

BUDGET COMMITTEE 2025

Gary Lincoln

The committee met in November and December of 2024 to build a balanced budget for 2025. Some of our deliberations were conducted electronically. For 2024, a deficit budget was presented to the congregation. The Budget Committee and Vestry approved a budget which included a \$9000 deficit. We created a "Faith Undesignated" line and asked parishioners to prayerfully consider making a one-time or ongoing contribution to help balance our budget. With thanks and appreciated, we can report that we met that goal by October. We are also pleased to report that a balanced budget is being presented this year. The budget represents the "chart of accounts" in our operating budget. This general chart of accounts identifies our income and expense lines. The proposal created by the Budget Committee was approved by the Vestry at their December 2024 meeting. The Budget Committee included past Senior Wardens Bobbi Palmer, David Roberts, and Tinny Ryder, current Senior warden Jamie Roberts, Treasurer Gary Lincoln, Audit Committee member Rick Eaton, Investment Committee member Keith Brunner, and, Investment, Audit Committee and Vestry member Alan Titkemeier.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Gary Lincoln

The purpose of this committee is to acknowledge high school seniors who are active at Grace Church by acknowledging their service with a continuing education scholarship. There were no applicants from the graduating class of 2024. Students who wish to be considered for a scholarship must submit a completed application. Applications will be available in the parish office beginning April 1st of each year. Donations to the Scholarship Fund are always appreciated.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

MUSIC MINISTRY – 10:30am Service

Terry Schmitt-Contemporary Worship Leader

In the past year we have seen God's grace working in the lives of our parish in many ways. The music department has seen new growth, and change. Adding a centrally located sound booth for the new digital sound board, and a growing technology team. Thanks to generous donations from ECW, Harlow's, and many others giving of their time and talent, we purchased a New Sound System.

The installation process took place over several weeks, and considerable effort from many volunteers including Alan, Hal, Keith, Kevin, Matt, Nick, and others around the church. Our thanks go out to them all. The new digital system can handle 48 input channels. We now have more inputs for mics and instruments if needed. The old analog system was at full

capacity. During the installation process we removed and replaced about a thousand feet of old microphone cable wire. The New mixer uses a digital network cable called S-Link. This one cable has the capacity of 32 analog cables. This will now give us a better sound quality for the sanctuary, and clearer audio signal for the Facebook broadcast stream.

Matt Peterson has volunteered his time on Sundays, and music practice nights, for running the new mixer board. More volunteers are needed, for those interested in learning the basics about the sound board, we will be offering some instruction in the New Year.

The praise team has adopted this new technology and more. Most are using iPads or a tablet for their sheet music, instead of printing dozens of pages each week. The Music Stand app links to Planning Center Online and gives new functionality for musicians.

As the technology grows, we remain focused on the spiritual connections to God and community. All this to worship our great GOD.

Keep your eyes on Jesus!

1 Corinthians 10:31

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

MUSIC MINISTRY – 8:00am Service

Amy Crane-Organist

The musicians have become more and more an integral part of the service of the church. To that end, we have seen growth in the choir in various ways. We have gained strength with our members who have been together now since 2021: Carole Carpenter, Terry Cheremsak, Jo Ann Reams, Jeannie Sigmann, Peter Sigmann, Stephanie Little. Our choir members are always happy to rehearse, do an incredible job of learning or re-learning the skills cited above, and display a worshipful attitude toward the service and toward our Lord, Jesus Christ.

With God's leading, we continue to work well together, inspire one another, and support each other through our life situations. We hope to grow stronger in capability, worship, and love for Him in leading worship in His service. The 8am Choir rehearses each Tuesday at 12:00 pm.

ALTAR GUILD

Rosemary Shaw-Directress

The Grace Church Altar Guild prepares the church and chapel for every service, including all special services such as weddings, funerals and baptisms. We care for the altar and the vestments, linens and vessels. We belong to the Diocesan and National Altar Guild Association. Currently we have two teams, and the time involved is approximately one hour every other Saturday in addition to special services.

We have eleven dedicated members. They are Susan Wright, Dolora Petteys, Betty Stecker, Sally Harter, Stephanie Whitman, David Whitman, Will Whitman, Judy McGuigan, Dottie Clement, Carole Carpenter and Rosemary Shaw. We offer training to anyone interested in joining the Altar Guild Ministry and no experience required. If you are unavailable on Saturday mornings, other times can be arranged. Please prayerfully consider joining our ministry.

THE FLOWER GUILD

Daneen Read

The Flower Guild's responsibility is to arrange flowers and greenery to beautify the sanctuary and honor the seasons at the church. Each week flowers and greenery are purchased and arranged in the sanctuary. After Sunday services have ended, the arrangements are placed into smaller vases, and distributed to shut-ins, the sick or those having birthdays or anniversaries. Grace Church is blessed to have the support of the congregation, by their contributions for flowers, vases and necessary tools.

If you wish to contribute flowers in memory of a loved one, in thanksgiving or celebration, sign up for a particular Sunday in the flower book on the counter in the narthex.

Flower arrangers are Joyce Williams, Joan Normington, Ann Zerbach, Connie Rice, Kay Ingram, Daneen Read, Vivian Holloman, Jeannie Mickler and Cyndi Hoeskstra. Flower Deliverers are Shaun and Ada Emmert. We Welcome new members, no experience required, just a willing heart.

If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Daneen Read 386-426-3025

PRAYER CIRCLE

Daneen Read

We have 41 prayer warriors who faithfully pray for our congregation and anyone who has needs and requests prayer. The requests come from our church website, our clergy and people in our congregation or friends of friends. The requests are passed along by text, email or a phone call. We have confidence in the healing power of God and His loving care for all of His children. If you would be interested in joining this ministry, contact Daneen Read 386-426-3025

PRAYER TEAM MINISTRY

Sherri Davids

One of the greatest gifts we can give each other is the gift of prayer -Linda Schubert

Grace Church is blessed to have a very active healing prayer ministry that believes in the power of prayer and the love of Jesus Christ. Prayer stations are located at the back of the church and are available during communion at both services every Sunday. We are also available at monthly evening healing services.

All prayer requests are held in strict confidence. Prayer ministers are also active participants in the monthly healing services.

Our trained prayer ministers seek to provide a safe environment for those desiring prayers for healing or any other difficulties they may be facing. If you have a heart for God and for others, this may be a wonderful ministry for you.

If you would like additional information, contact Sherri Davids 386-679-2968

ORDER OF ST. LUKE (OSL)

Jamie Roberts, Sherri Davids

OSL is an international, interdenominational Christian healing organization made up healing communities dedicated is dedicated to offering healing prayer in the name of Jesus to all who are in need. It is a Christian community of faith, prayer, and service who come together to learn more about God's healing love and the power of the Holy Spirit to transform lives and bring wholeness. They offer a variety of resources and classes to help those seeking to further explore healing prayer.

OSL offers The Miracles of Jesus which is designed to:

1. Help people learn how to pray for those in need.
2. Provide opportunities to experience the healing power of Jesus.
3. Empower people to confidently pray for anyone, anywhere, in the name of Jesus.

Several members in our ministry have completed the **OSL 26 Miracles of Jesus** class and found it to be a very enjoyable, insightful, in-depth Bible study of his Jesus and His healing ministry. This workshop was offered to the entire congregation this year by trained leaders Jamie and Sherri.

USHERS/GREETERS

Bob Normington

Ushers prepare the church for each service by setting temperatures, lighting, distributing service programs, and welcoming guests on arrival. New members are provided with additional information about the church. A loaf of bread is offered to visitors and new members.

For those with special needs such as wheelchairs, hearing devices will be provided by ushers. During the service, one usher remains in back of the church with entry doors secured. Ushers have been trained in how to respond in case of an incident including medical needs. During the service, ushers direct congregation to communion, collect offertory and secure at the end of service.

We are grateful for the dedication and service our ushers provide.