

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Feeding you, body, mind and soul

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

WHAT'S NEXT FOR GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH?

JAN. 26: DISCOVER!

At 11am, discover the Holy Eucharist, our main service of Sunday worship. For newcomers and long-time members, knowing the Eucharist better can deepen your experience of weekly worship. Bring your questions and an open mind!

This class follows on December's well-received "Discover the Rosary" class.

FEB. 2: CANDLE BLESSING

Bring your candles to our 8am and 10am services! February 2 is a day set aside for their blessing. We will bless our altar candles for the year and invite you to participate too!

FEB. 2: SOUPER BOWL

Bring donations for our soup pot to collect money for this annual Friendly Kitchen appeal. Please make our checks to "Friendly Kitchen."



FEB. 9: YOUTH JAM SESSION

Bring your musical instruments at 12 noon! Almost all of our youth play some instrument or can sing!

Upcoming Meetings

January 26, 9am..... Property Cmte.
February 2, 11am..... World Café
February 9, 9am..... Community Life
February 16, 11am..... Stump the Priest
February 20, 7pm..... Vestry

All welcome to participate!

SPRING TRAINING

LENTEN SUPPER CLASS: POVERTY IN CONCORD

Join us at 6pm on Wednesdays in Lent (March 12, 19, 26, April 2 and 9) for a simple soup and bread meal. During each meal, a guest speaker who will talk about how poverty affects different people in our city.

Topics include **Poverty and...**

- ...Hunger
- ...Homelessness
- ...Refugees
- ...Children & Families
- ...Health
- ...Spirituality

LENT AND HOLY WEEK

Ash Wednesday..... March 5, 6:00pm
We will host only one Ash Wednesday service at Grace Episcopal Church. St. Paul's on Centre Street welcomes us to their lunch-hour service at 12:10pm.

Jason will join with Rev. Kate Atkinson in distributing ashes in various places around the city of Concord during that day, in a program known as "Ashes to Go." Locations TBA.

Palm Sunday April 13, 8 & 10am
Maundy Thursday April 17, 6:00pm
Good Friday April 18, 6:00pm
Great Vigil of Easter .. April 19, 7:00pm
Easter Sunday..... April 20, 8 & 10am

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MEETING AGENDA

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1. Opening Prayer & Call to Order
 2. Reception of Reports
 - a. Rector's Report: State of the Parish
 - b. Warden's Report
 - c. Clerk's Report: Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting
 - d. Treasurer's Report: Budget Presentation
 3. Approval of New-Bylaws
 4. Vestry Election
 5. Diocesan Convention Delegate Election
 6. Ministry Reports
 7. Other Business
 8. Adjourn

The Alternative Future

Grace Episcopal Church shouldn't be here.

Our recent history shows that Grace is the only congregation in the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire that has seen consistent rise in its Average Sunday Attendance since 2008. We have also seen, with one exception, increases in pledge giving every year as well.

But our history before 2008 is not as happy. Our records reveal past declining attendance and massive deficit spending.

Most of our growth has come from God's inspiration to Grace Episcopal Church in leading us to Take-a-Tote, Monthly Suppers, Pork Fest and other revived forms of "feeding people body, mind and soul." But what if that revival had not happened?

So, what if our revival and growth had not happened? What would the year 2013 have been like for us?

Between 2003 and 2008, our average Sunday attendance dropped by about 6 people per year.

At that 2008 Annual Meeting, we reported an average of 51 in Sunday worship. If we continued that rate of decline, 6 per year, our attendance would drop annually to 45, 39, 33 and then 27. If nothing had changed, this Annual Meeting would report only 21 people in Sunday worship each week.

This substantial drop in attendance would mean that our pledge giving would also go down. Between 2003 and 2008, we usually had a deficit of over \$15,000. Given our average pledge of about \$1,200, that deficit would likely grow by about \$3,000 each year. In order to make ends meet and keep our ministries, we would spend our invested funds to make ends meet. At this point, those funds would be reduced by 75%.

In short, in 2014, we might be having an Annual Meeting that seriously considers closing this congregation after 13 years.

But that wasn't the future God intended for us. Instead, we are a congregation newly sent on God's mission to feed his world. That mission, by God's grace, has proven to deepen our spiritual commitments and been attractive to a whole new generation of individuals and families ready for a faith that can change the world.

We are already living in God's alternative future.

The Rev. Jason Wells

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

God's blessings are visibly flowing at Grace! In 2013 every aspect of Grace was enhanced, increased, inspired, and improved; and 2014 is going to bring far greater gifts thanks to the incredible talents and efforts put forth by our congregation. We are a church of doers, so here is a quick look at what we did and what we will be doing.

2013 was our first full year as our own Parish. As such, we faced some tough growing pains particularly in the budget. With full hearts and clear eyes the Vestry took on the task of shortfalls and deficits and I am pleased to report that the membership at Grace was more than willing to overcome our budget gap. The confirmation of our ministries through financial support was resolute and we are off to an even stronger 2014. The generosity of our Parish will provide will not only provide comfort and relief to those we serve through our outreach but also a beautiful and sustainable place to worship.

2013 brought the gifts of God to us through a second grant we received from the Diocese of NH. Those monies allowed us to better serve those in our church who serve our community by providing them the necessary tools to make their work more enjoyable. We have new furniture, new kitchen equipment, upgraded appliances, a drier basement, more shelving, better Sunday school facilities, upgraded technology, and more things coming like new air conditioners and seating for the Parish hall. It is the intention of the Vestry that these improvements will make life easier for our incredible committees and that they will inspire more members to join in the outreach we provide (that is a big HINT for those of you not on a committee).

As we head into 2014 I have no doubt that this congregation will inspire and be inspired to continue our missions. Our Community Life and Take-a-Tote committees are truly a blessing and they deserve great praise and laudations! Our St. Nicholas Fair continues to provide a fantastic amount of funds to our outreach, and the work that group does should not go unnoticed – God Bless you all!

And behind all of these wonderful works are the unsung heroes that quietly make Grace what it is. Sunday school, Altar Guild, Property committee, Ushers, Counters, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, and the list goes on...

In 2014 your Vestry will continue its work to support all that we do. We will strive to improve what we can and inspire those who make Grace, well, Grace. We expect to enhance our building, our landscape, and the resources available to our committees. And if you have ideas, inspirations, or any suggestions please speak with a member of the Vestry. We are here to serve by the grace of God and by God's graces we will.

Randy Makee

2012 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The 2012 Annual meeting was called to order by the Rector, Reverend Jason Wells (note this is the first annual report in which the presiding Priest is referred to as Rector and not Vicar)

The meeting began with prayer and then moved on to the collection of Reports.

Barb Ashworth (outgoing Clerk) submitted the meeting minutes from 2012 and they were accepted without dissent.

Reverend Wells presented the State of the parish report. Grace continues to grow in membership and ministry. 2013 will be our first full year as a Parish as well as the 130th year of Grace as a church in East Concord. He reminded us that the church originally began because the distance was too great for the people in East Concord to travel to St. Paul's in downtown Concord. The congregation in 1883 met above what is now Quality cash market at the west end of the street. Jason called on the congregation to continue its hard work through our outreach and ministry and congratulated the members for another year of growth. He went on to thank the outgoing members of the 2012 Vestry.

In 2012, 7 youth began their journey to be confirmed as members of the Episcopal faith. Jason is looking forward to their confirmation ceremonies this spring and has great faith in the Faith of our soon-to-be confirmed Christians.

Jason reports that our pledges in 2013 have increased by 14% over 2012. Grace is alone in the diocese of NH with that increased pledge amount and the Diocese will continue to look to Grace as a leader in the revitalization of congregations.

Ruthann Fox presented the Warden's report. She thanked the congregation for her time as Warden and spoke fondly of her time in that position and as a convention delegate.

The Treasurers report was presented by Stephen Wheeler, Treasurer. A copy of the report is included with these minutes. Grace is on solid financial footing in 2012 but we will be running a deficit in 2013 due to the rising costs of becoming a Parish. Doing so means we will stand our own financially without the support we have had over the years as a mission church of St. Paul's.

Elections were held for the 2013 Vestry positions. The Vestry will be comprised of eight members, half of which will be elected in odd years and the other half in even years when the term of the position expires

In group A (odd year cycle of election) the following Vestry members were elected:

Marilyn Wilson, 2nd year 1st term

Beth Lavoie, 2nd year 1st term

Gerry Monroe, Junior Warden
Randy Makee, Senior Warden

In group B (even year cycle of election) the following vestry members were elected:

Stephen Wheeler, Treasurer
Scott Cumming, Clerk
Audrey Rose, 1st year 1st term
Brittany Wheeler, 1st year 1st term

All Vestry members were elected without dissent by the necessary vote count.

Our convention delegates were also chosen by vote and they were approved without dissent as follows:

Ruthann Fox
Nicki Bourne
Barb Ashworth
Beth Lavoie (alternate)

The Take-a-Tote committee co-chairs, Barb Ashworth and Janet Cumming, spoke to report that they delivered more than 1000 meals in 28 weeks to the Mill Brook School. Their hard work has inspired other programs and drop off locations in the city. They also report that the need is on the rise and that they hope to provide meals to all the children in need in our community. Barb and Janet thanked everyone for their help throughout the year.

Tiffany Dodd, the St. Nicholas Fair chairwoman reported a record breaking year for that ministry. \$3452 and change was raised through the hard work of the fair volunteers and those that donated goods and goodies. The monies will be used to support the Concord Homeless Resource Center and take-a-Tote. Tiffany thanked everyone for their generosity and support.

Justine Paul, our music minister, made a brief address thanking the choir for their work in 2012. She reviewed some of the wonderful musical moments at Grace in 2012 including our march into convention and some of the special Sunday music that was provided throughout the year. She reminded us that the choir is always seeking new members.

A motion for adjournment was offered shortly after Ruth fox and Stephen Wheeler presented Jason with a token of appreciation from the entire Parish. The motion was carried.

Randy Makee, Clerk

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The Vestry's 2014 budget is balanced. Unlike 2013, we should not need a mid-year campaign to increase giving as our parish grows.

We have increased spending through raises for staff but also adding in the costs of maintenance to our church and at Stevenson House (28 Eastman Street).

INCOME

Pledge	\$98,583
Plate	\$6,500
House Rental	\$23,198
Investments	\$10,850
Mission Resources Grant	\$9,000
Other	\$10,700
TOTAL INCOME	\$158,831

EXPENSE

Outreach	\$21,000
Administration	\$4,915
Facilities: Grace	\$18,820
Facilities: Stevenson House	\$18,657
Ministry	\$4,500
Organist	\$10,695
Rector	\$79,582
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$158,169

Net Income	\$662
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BUDGET IN DETAIL

As approved at the December 19, 2013 Vestry Meeting

INCOME	2013	2014
Pledge	92,593	98,583
Stevenson House Rental	23,198	23,198
Endowment Dividends	10,850	10,850
Mission Resources Grant	6,000	9,000
Plate	6,500	6,500
St. Nicholas Fair	3,000	3,000
Parish Hall Rental	2,500	2,500
Pork Fest	1,500	4,000
Fundraising	500	500
Flowers	700	700
TOTAL INCOME	147,341	158,831

EXPENSE

Outreach

Diocesan support (Fair Share)	16,000	16,000
Take-a-Tote	200	3,200
Homeless Resource Center (St. Nicholas)	1,000	1,000
Vicar's Discretionary Fund	300	300
Other outreach	500	500
	18,000	21,000

Administration

Office Supplies & Equipment	2,000	2,000
Telephone & Internet	800	800
Postage	400	400
Interfaith Council	100	100
Diocesan Convention	75	75
Supply Organist	400	400
Supply Clergy	900	900
Payroll Service - Paychex	240	240
	4,915	4,915

Facilities: Grace Episcopal Church

Janitorial Service	4,320	4,320
Heat	4,000	4,000
Insurance	2,000	2,000
Electricity	3,700	3,700
Maintenance	750	3,750
Mowing	50	50
Snow Removal	300	300

<u>Water</u>	700	700
	15,820	18,820
<i>Facilities: Stevenson House</i>		
Janitorial Service	800	800
Mortgage and Roof Loan	6,807	6,807
Property Taxes	5,400	5,400
Insurance	1,000	1,000
Maintenance	0	2,500
Snow Removal	300	300
Water	800	800
<u>Electricity</u>	1,050	1,050
	16,157	18,657
<i>Ministry</i>		
St. Nicholas Fair	400	400
Pork Fest	800	800
Flowers	700	700
Music	600	600
Altar & Worship Supplies	500	500
Christian Education	500	500
Come and See	500	500
<u>Community Life</u>	500	500
	4,500	4,500
<i>Organist</i>		
Organist Salary	9,759	9,955
Social Security Tax	600	600
<u>Medicare Tax</u>	140	140
	10,499	10,695
<i>Rector</i>		
Salary	18,604	22,297
Housing Allowance	33,000	33,000
Self-employment Tax Offset	3,948	4,230
Pension Premium	9,999	10,715
Additional Life Insurance	240	240
Retirement Savings Plan	8,000	8,000
Business & Travel Expense	600	600
Professional Support	200	200
<u>Continuing Education</u>	300	300
	74,891	79,582
TOTAL EXPENSE	144,782	158,169
Net Operating Income	2,559	662

INVESTED FUNDS

Grace Episcopal Church currently has nine invested funds at TD Bank as part of the funds managed by the Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New Hampshire.

1. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The Bishop's Committee may vote to use the principal and income for any purpose.

Memorial Gift Fund \$46,675.99

This fund is primarily made up of undesignated memorial contributions (i.e. someone dies and the family requests that memorial contributions be sent to Grace Episcopal Church in lieu of flowers).

Fifield Fund \$96,319.39

Enid G. Fifield made provisions in her 1988 will to give \$10,000 plus one-half of the liquidated remaining assets of her estate. The total amount received was \$100,000.

2. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Organ Fund \$11,571.67

Originally Miriam Massey's fund to purchase a rectory, the Bishop's Committee voted in 1979 (with Miriam Massey's permission) to make it a fund for the upkeep of the organ.

3. SEMI-RESTRICTED FUNDS

These funds have restrictions in that only the income derived from these funds may be used for any purpose by vote of the Bishop's Committee.

Miriam Massey Fund \$17,497.87

Miriam Massey made provisions in her will to give \$10,000 with the principal restricted and the "income only be available for use by Grace Church."

Murray Memorial Fund \$23,130.23

Reuben H. Murray family established the fund in 1975. Income from this fund is to be used for operating expenses of the church when, and if, absolutely necessary.

4. INCOME-ONLY FUNDS

These funds must remain invested by the trustees of the diocese. Grace Episcopal Church receives the income only and this provision cannot be changed, as the trustees are responsible for investing the principal.

P.E. Pecker Fund \$11,847.66

Mr. Pecker made provision in his 1905 will that the sum of \$5,000 be held by the Trustees of the diocese and "to pay over the net income annually for the support of said Grace Episcopal Mission."

Tibbetts Fund \$27,531.74

In 1924 the Rev. John Knox Tibbetts closed and sold St. Timothy's Episcopal Church (67 Broadway). We now receive the income from the sale of the land.

TOTAL \$234,574.55

ELECTION OF LEADERS

Last year's Annual Meeting approved new bylaws for the parish. The new bylaws allow for 8 Vestry members, more than the previous 7. Those 8 members are elected in two classes. This method keeps the leadership both fresh (with new members) and stable (with old members).

At last year's meeting, we had an unusual election. We elected our Class A for a special, one-year term. Today, they stand for election for their final two-year term. Vestry members of Class B continue in their terms and are not up for election today.

VESTRY

The Vestry has four officers (Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Clerk, and Treasurer) and four members. Each member serves a two-year term and may serve two consecutive terms. In order to run, one must be an adult member of the parish in good standing (at least 16 years old).

The Treasurer, Senior Warden and two members are elected on even years (Class A). The Clerk, Junior Warden and other two members are elected on odd years (Class B).

Class A: Even-year terms

Randy Makee, Sr. Warden.... 1st year, 2nd term
Stephen Wheeler, Treasur.... 1st year, 2nd term
Beth Lavoie 1st year, 2nd term
Marily Wilson..... 1st year, 2nd term

Class B: Odd-year terms

Scott Cumming..... 2nd year, 1st term
Gerry Monroe, Jr. Warden.. 2nd year, 1st term
Audrey Rose 2nd year, 1st term
Brittany Wheeler..... 2nd year, 1st term

DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES

Our delegation consists of three people, plus one alternate. Each person is elected to serve one year. There is a term-limit of three consecutive years for serving in either capacity. One delegate must also be a member of the Vestry, according to diocesan canon.

Delegates attend periodic meetings of the Central Convocation and represent Grace Episcopal Church at the Annual Diocesan Convention in October. We may also elect one additional youth delegate (minimum age is sixteen.)

Delegates Elected January 2013

Ruthann Fox Second Term
Nicki Bourne First Term
Barbara Ashworth Third Term
Beth Lavoie (*Alternate*)..... First Term

Delegates to Elect January 2014

Ruthann Fox..... Third Term
Nicki Bourne Second Term
Beth Lavoie..... Second Term
Andre Garcia (*Alternate*) First Term

CAMPAIGN SUMMARY

Shake it up!

Our pledge campaign for 2013 is complete! We definitely shook things up and looked at our parish and our future in a new way. We rotated our pews to focus on our community and look again at our familiar church. We recognized our many ministries with party hats. We joyfully baptized and confirmed 6 new people with our Bishop on All Saints' Sunday.

On November 17 you all brought your pledge certificates in for an exciting celebration with our parish hymn, "We are marching in the Light of God."

I am blown away by the commitments that you all made that day! We received a total of \$87,903 from 56 pledgers, up a little from last year's total of \$87,788!

We still have 8 pledgers that we usually hear from, but haven't yet. If they keep their past commitment again, then our total rises to an impressive \$98,583!

Increased pledges come from two places. First, they come from new members who weren't here last year. Second, they come from increased pledges from current members. People pledge because of their growing spirituality and the effectiveness of our community service. Thank you for your deepened faith commitments!

PLEDGE DETAIL

50 repeat pledgers	\$81,403
6 new pledgers	\$6,500
56 total pledgers	\$87,903
8 past pledgers	\$10,580
64 potential pledgers	\$98,583

SPECIAL THANKS DO OUR DONORS

Thank you to everyone who pledged financial support for our mission! Our ministries will be well-funded because of your generosity.

Peg Aldrich	David and Deb Allen
Andre & Lisa Garcia	Will & Barb Ashworth
Muriel Back	Dave and Gail Barrett
Harold and Kathleen Beliveau	Ann Bridge
Tom and Mara Clark	Scott Cumming
George and Carol Coronis	Sean Dugan
Jim and Janet Cumming	Doris Dunbar
Stevyn and Tiffany Dodd	Kate Ess
Adam Czarkowski	Ruthann Fox
Ed & Sharon Billingsley	Armand Francoeur
Bill & Claudette Fontaine	Caroline Gardner
Warren and Barb Geissinger	Mary Hamilton
Mike and Michelle Gray	Jay Hendee
Fernanda and John Harrington	Beth Lavoie
Ken and Louise Hazen	Rob and Jen Holt
Ellen Little	Randy and Susan Makee
Gertrude Lutze	Ray Miner and Peter Lapre
Gerry and Sharon Monroe	Pam Olin
Justine Paul	Heidi Pelchat
Margaret Perry	Tina Preston
Lee Reinheimer	Alice Robertson
Joe and Audrey Rose	Laura Simoes
Joel and Deb Smith	Christine Sokol
Thea Thacher	Don and Carol Walczyk
Charles and Sally Walker	Marily Wilson
Jason and Courtney Wells	Steve Wheeler
Aini Yuskaitis	Anonymous

ARCHIVES

Frequently during our year of celebration of our 130th anniversary as a place of worship in East Concord, the archival collection of pictures, annual reports, records of church events, celebrations and the work of the congregation in building, rebuilding, and enhancement have been called upon to make past history related to present action! The collection is housed in the "Take a Tote" room and can be made accessible to anyone interested in our past history. Work is needed to identify hundreds of photographs, and other documents that need tender loving care. Volunteers are welcome!

Peg Aldrich

COMMUNITY LIFE

Community Life members are interested in hospitality, fellowship, welcoming visitors, working on monthly suppers and other special events at Grace Church. We also coordinate Coffee Hour after the 10 a.m. service, baptism and funeral receptions, Sunday School celebrations, Lenten suppers, the Annual Meeting luncheon, and the Bishop's Visitation. The Friendly Kitchen crew has been very active this year. Tina Preston is in charge and welcomes new helpers.



The monthly community suppers operate on a free-will donation basis. If we realize a profit after expenses, it helps support the Take-a-Tote weekend food program for neighborhood schoolchildren. The attendance has grown to an average of 68 guests. This translates into 748 meals that we have served in the past year.

The Community Life Committee thanks the Vestry for the additional kitchen equipment and appliances that now makes our ministry of helping others that much easier to accomplish.

We are always looking for new members. Don't be afraid to step up and volunteer at any of our activities because your ideas may lead to new or improved ways of serving our church family. We meet on the second Sunday of the month at 9 a.m.

Will Ashworth

This is my first year as co-chair, so bear with me- Louise asked me this year to take her place, she needed some time for other things. I was worried about filling her huge

shoes, but after talks with Fr. Jason and her –accepted. If I forget someone here, please forgive. I have seen many great things happen with community life this year. We have gotten some new kitchen items-much needed (we are close to feeding 100 people at our monthly dinner), a donated freezer much needed-wonderful new stoves-no burnt desserts-new furniture for the hall-everyone seems to enjoy their time there. We have fed people after funerals, Baptisms, Bishop's Visit, and coffee hour bringing us more together as a family. We have raised a large amount of money to feed Gods children who are hungry. It is AMAZING.

Will and I are fortunate to have great leaders for Community Kitchen, Pork Fest, the Fair, and Monthly dinners that make our lives easy. I was trying to think of what to say here and the words THANK YOU to our CHURCH FAMILY was what kept coming up. YOU all have made these things possible by all YOUR time and hard work. I stand there sometimes and look around and can feel Gods hand on our church family. So again thank you everyone for all the dirty dishes you have done, tables you have moved, food you have cooked and most of all for the good nature and love that you have shown while doing it. (Even when the desserts where burnt)

I look forward to next year and all the great things our family can do for the children.

Audrey Rose

HARVESTINGS

The newsletter from Grace Church continues to be published monthly, lavishly illustrated with photographs of parish activities, some historical news as well as current and upcoming events, milestones, and glad tidings of great joy! With an arrangement with Staples, the paper is printed, labeled, and folded ready for distribution to our doors every month, a great boon to budget, time management in the office, and generally prompt delivery! If you have reports from various activities, news that needs to be shared, things you would like to see in the paper, please be in touch with the Rector with any contributions! And, if you are not receiving a copy or have changes of address, please leave a note in the office or in the Rector's slot in the hallway.

Peg Aldrich

MUSIC

Our small but dedicated group of choir members always help in the leading the congregation in song. The past year the choir sang an anthem once each month. I always love it when they are up front. Their singing enhances the music of the congregation. I am so grateful to them!

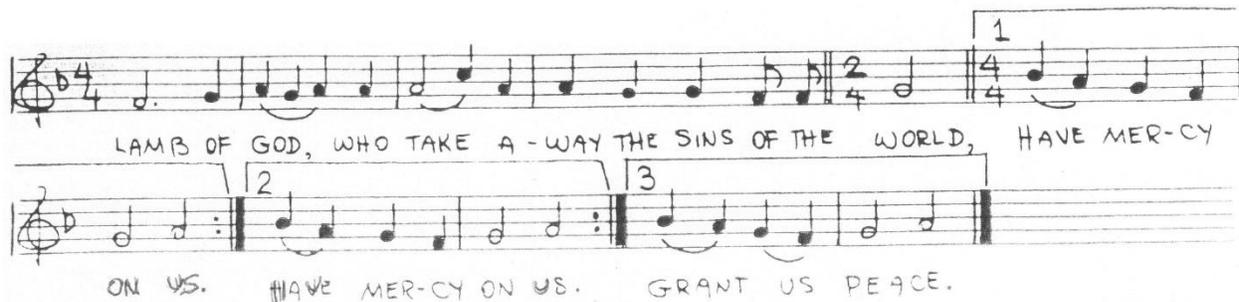
For a month or two we sang a Sanctus and Agnus Dei by Guy Bernard. I think we all enjoyed adding these tunes to our repertoire.

We had several wonderful soloists who enhanced our worship: Matt Langley (Easter), Peggo Hortsman-Hodes (Pentecost), Courtney Wells (Bishop's visitation) and Naomi Durand playing violin on Christmas Eve.

Choir members Doris Dunbar and John Harrington offered several solos during the year.

I encourage all of you to sing out. Our prayers go up faster in song! Don't be shy. Join the choir while you are at it—all are welcome! I love my job. Once again, special thanks to Jason for his continuous support.

Justine Paul



PROPERTY

It has been a busy year with the Church and the house at 28 Eastman Street. During the winter of 2013, 28 Eastman Street had a leak over the front window repaired and several courses of new siding were installed. During the spring of 2013 the motion light located adjacent to the Garage was replaced. Also at 30 Eastman Street an electrical light was rewired recently.

The Church property also had several repairs and upgrades. One will notice the two new stoves in the kitchen as well as a new garbage disposal. The small sink was repaired as well as the drain pipe below the kitchen which allows a better flow of waste water. We had an unexpected failure of the hot water tank in the basement which resulted in the replacement of the water tank. It should be noted that the plumber Robert Blanchette changed out the water tank at cost and did not bill the Church for labor. We recently had Joe Martel make a temporary repair of the roof above the ramp. This will buy time for the vestry to determine the best method of permanently repairing this problem. In the spring the garden tractor and push lawnmowers were maintained. The mowing during the spring summer and fall was accomplished with the volunteers of Joe Rose, Steve Wheeler's Parents, Adam Czarkowski and Gerry Monroe. Numerous weeks unfortunately were not mowed due to lack of volunteers. Hopefully some new church volunteers will sign up to mow in 2014 so the usual subjects will get a rest.

Looking forward to 2014 the vestry will be meeting with a capital campaign consultant from the Episcopal Diocese. This advice will provide the groundwork to help the church decide the best method to fund renovations and hoped expansion of the Church Hall.

Special thanks to Jay Hendee for his expert weed-whacking and snow removal touch up Sunday mornings prior to the early service.

Gerry Monroe, Junior Warden

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Grace Episcopal Church's Sunday Program is off to a strong start for 2013-2014 with 26 registrations for our Sunday School program in September. Heidi Pelchat and Pam Olin have been overseeing the Nursery and Pre-K group each week by engaging the younger children in simple arts and crafts, songs and stories. The nursery area received a "make over" using a portion of the diocesan Mission Resources Grant funds to purchase a new carpet, toys and books as well as a shelving unit and a "pack n' play." The nursery has been very active and full of new faces in 2013!

Susan Makee has been working with the Kindergarten through 5th graders. The elementary group started the year off in September by learning about a selection of the Old Testament lessons starting with Noah, Abraham and Sarah and finally Moses. The theme for the Fall was that God has a special purpose for each one of us and he spoke to these people to help them find their purpose. The Sunday School also made thank you cards and tissue flowers for all those who made pledges for 2014 and worked on the hats for the "Shake it Up" program.



In December, the Sunday School students turned their attention from bible lessons to planning and practicing the annual Christmas Pageant. The pageant was performed during the 4pm Christmas Eve service and 17 children participated using a script that the Sunday school students wrote themselves! The pageant showcased our talented youth through song and music.

We are looking forward to 2014 and continuing our study of bible lessons. We will be shifting our focus from the Old Testament to the New Testament and the stories about Jesus and his disciples.

**The Sunday School purchased the DVD set of "The Bible" which premiered last Easter on the History channel as a mini-series produced by director Mark Burnet. It was hugely popular and*

widely acclaimed receiving three Emmy awards. Anyone interested in borrowing the DVD set, please see Susan Makee.

TAKE-A-TOTE

Take a Tote delivered over 1,000 meals over 30 weeks in the 2012-2013 year!

Now in its fourth year, Grace Church's Take-a-Tote ministry continues to make weekly food deliveries to Mill Brook School off Portsmouth Street. We thank our four delivery teams: Tina and Chuck Preston, Will and Barb Ashworth, Susan Makee and Kate Ess, and Jim and Janet Cumming. Before heading to the school each Thursday, they add fresh produce to the packed totes. Helping us fill the brightly colored cloth bags each week is Tom Pelchat, a student at Bishop Brady High School, and his mom, Heidi. Thank you, both.

Through your generous weekly donations of food and monetary gifts as well as fund-raising profits from the *Pork Fest* and St. Nicholas Fair, we were able to increase from twenty to twenty-five bags in February. (Thanks to Pam Olin who stitched up extra totes.) At the suggestion of Lisa Garcia, a nutritionist and new *parishioner*, we have added more protein choices to our offerings. Please check the poster in the narthex for a complete listing. We appreciate your diligence in reading food labels so we avoid products containing tree nuts and peanuts.

Jessica Fogg, a friend of our church, again spear-headed the holiday food drive, increasing the number of participating drop-off locations from four to six downtown and Heights businesses. We appreciate her time and social media skills to inform the Concord community of our mission. It is our hope that in 2014 more churches and organizations will follow our lead by partnering with their neighborhood schools.

Barbara Ashworth and Janet Cumming

PORK FEST



This year's Pork Fest gained a co-chair, Joe Rose, and a Fund-Raising group. This group comprised of Courtney and Jason Wells, Jessica Fogg, Steve Wheeler and the co-chairs worked tirelessly to develop underwriting sponsorships and raffle prizes for the event. They created a public relations brochure which gave sponsor recognition as well as telling the story of the Take a Tote ministry.

On the day of the event (August 18):

- The weather was perfect

- The music of balladeer Jim Barnes was excellent
- Our largest crowd ever (over 300) were served by parishioners
- The raffles were fun but will need some fine tuning

We extend our thanks and gratitude to Tony Heath and staff at Quality Cash market for providing grills and pork and to our generous merchants who donated raffle items. We're already planning an even better Pork Fest in 2014. Don't forget to volunteer!

Will Ashworth and Joe Rose, co-chairs

SAINT NICHOLAS FAIR

All the volunteers and parishioners of Grace Episcopal Church should be very proud of the results of the 2013 St. Nicholas Fair. It was a grand success as we celebrated the 10 year anniversary for the Fair as well as our ongoing support and assistance to the local Concord community. Once again, proceeds from the Fair have been donated to the Concord Homeless Resource Center and our Take-a-Tote program feeding local school children. The 2013 Fair raised



\$2,790.34 in total sales designating it as one of the top five years we have reached over \$2,500 in sales. We had steady traffic at the Fair even though there were many other holiday events taking place on December 7th. Many of the same faces visited the Fair this year and one in particular shared the following story with us regarding why she always makes a point of attending the St. Nicholas Fair at Grace:

Several years ago I came to the St. Nicholas Fair at Grace Church. My husband had been laid off from work and was unemployed, my daughter had just moved home, and finances were very tight. At the fair, I found and bought a "Snowman." I brought the "Snowman" home and our family looked at the design of the "Snowman" and determined how we could make them. We started making a couple for family and friends, then coworkers and ended up selling between \$300-400 in the end. It was such a blessing for our family. Since then, I come back each year to support the St. Nicholas Fair at Grace Church and give back to others.

Thank you to everyone for sharing their talents from baking tasty treats and knitting beautiful works of art, to making chili and soup for lunch and greeting guests as they

arrived for the Fair. The Fair is such an impressive presentation in so many different ways!

Much appreciation to all who contributed loving gifts for the Fair, and worked so hard before and on the day of the event to make it all come together.

Tiffany Dodd

YOUTH CONFIRMATION



In 2013, seven youth participated in a year-long Confirmation Class. The program began in September 2012 with a formal commitment ceremony during our Sunday worship. Each youth received prayer support from an adult other than their parent.

Throughout the year, the youth met with Father Jason twice monthly for a class modeled on the Cursillo short course in Christianity. They also hosted a Good Friday

lock-in and invited 15 other youth from Concord and Hopkinton to participate.

The year ended in May with Bishop Hirschfeld's Confirmation service in Manchester.

Youth	Sponsor
Jamie Ess	Audrey Rose
Jennie Ess	Beth Lavoie
Gabriella Kelly	Debra Allen
Harrison Makee	Joe Rose
Christian Smith	Adam Czarkowski
Brittany Wheeler	Carol Flavin-Veenstra
Brooke Wheeler	Gerry & Sharon Monroe

The Rev. Jason Wells