



# Grace

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Episcopal Church

**Jamaica, New York**

**2022 Annual Report**

320<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish

Sunday - January 30, 2022

## 2021 Clergy, Vestry, Delegates and Staff

**Clergy** The Reverend Gary J. Parker  
Interim Priest

**Vestry** Glenn Greenidge - Warden  
Yvonne Duffus - Warden  
Dorien Moon, Treasurer  
Andrea Williams - Clerk  
Rudy Elias 2022  
John Phillips 2022  
Lorraine Powell 2022  
Andrea Williams 2022  
Tamara Byam 2023  
Allison Kelly 2023  
Nichelle Phillips 2023  
Tyron George 2024  
Wendy Small-Brassell 2024

### **Delegates to Convention**

Reverend Father Gary J. Parker  
Doreen Hodge  
Youth – Gabrielle McIntosh

### **Parish Staff**

Reverend Farther Gary J. Parker, Interim Priest  
Bookkeeper Ngozi Iwuoha  
Parish Administrator Rolly J. Lee  
Administrative Assistant Grace Newton  
Director of Music D. Barrington Morton  
Sexton Heaven Colter  
  
Caretaker(s) Dana Watson

**AGENDA**  
**Grace Church Annual Meeting**  
**January 30, 2022**

Prayer Fr. Gary Parker  
 Opening Remarks Fr. Gary Parker

**Election of the Vestry**  
 Report of the Nominating Committee Yvonne Duffus

Motion to have Secretary cast a vote for the slate

**Business Meeting**

2021 Annual Meeting Minutes Andrea Williams  
 2022 Budget Dorien Moon  
 Treasurer's Report Dorien Moon ,  
 Interim Priest Fr. Gary Parker  
 Stewardship No Report

**Reports**

Wardens Glen Greenidge/Yvonne Duffus  
 Buildings & Grounds Rudy Elias  
 Lay Eucharistic Ministry Team No Report  
 Lay Readers Ministry No Report  
 A. I. M. Dancers/Steppers No Report  
 Altar Guild Claudia Duggan  
 Choir Ministry D. Barrington Morton  
 Brotherhood of St. Andrew Leon Dacon  
 St. Elizabeth's Guild No Report  
 Ushers Sophia Smith/Allison Kelly  
 Sunday School Jean Bain/Erleen McLain  
 A.I.M. Youth Group Jean Bain  
 Christian Social Action Shirley Ford  
 Soup Kitchen Adelene Collwood  
 Health & Wellness Dr. Beverly Lyons  
 Acolytes Laurence Benn

No Reports Submitted Anglican Fellowship  
 Tender Loving Committee, Union  
 Of Black Episcopalians

Outreach No Report

Annual Convention No Report

**Recognition of Retiring Vestry**

**Dismissal**

**Adjournment**

**2021 Parish Register**

	<b>2021</b>
Sunday Services	52
Weekday Services	04
Funerals	06
Baptisms	03
Marriages	01
Average Sunday Attendance	64
Home Communion	06
Easter Sunday	116
Sunday School Enrollment	15

**Baptism**

Cameron Christopher Kirt Stewart  
Ines Akouavi Aholow, Alex Koffi Aholou.

**Received into the Church**

0

**Confirmation**

Ines Akouavi Aholou, Alex Koffi Aholou

**Deaths**

Carole Richardson, Etwyn Robinson,  
Amy Nembhard, Eliza Smith, Deborah Margo  
Chase-Pilgrim, Phyllis Ellis

**Transfers**

Into Grace: 0

Out of Grace: 0

**2021 Use of Facilities**

**Church**

Choir

Sunday school/AIM Youth Group

Wellness Ministry

February Black History Month

Homecoming

**Outside**

None

## Election of the Vestry

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### Voting Eligibility Requirements

All persons eighteen years of age or over belonging to the Parish who have been regular attendants at its worships and contributors to its support for at least twelve months prior to such meeting shall be qualified voters thereat, and the presiding officer shall be the judge of their qualifications. Such of them as are present in person shall continue a quorum.

### Warden & Vestry Qualifications

To be eligible to serve as Warden, a nominee must meet the *Voting Eligibility Requirements* and must be confirmed members of the Episcopal Church. Those nominated to serve as members of the vestry must meet the *Voting Eligibility Requirements*.

### Report of the Nominating Committee

The Grace Nominating Committee – Yvonne Duffus

#### • The 2022 Nomination slate is as follows:

Vestry and Warden Nominations: Warden - Lorraine Wills-Powell - 2 years

Vestry - Andrea Williams - 2 years

Vestry - John Phillips - 3 years

Vestry - Christine Ashby - 3 years

# Grace Episcopal Church Jamaica

## Annual Meeting Minutes from January 2021

The meeting began with a prayer from Father Parker marking our 319<sup>th</sup> year as Grace Church Jamaica.

- Journals will be given out through emails. Unless you request a hard copy to be a mailed.
- If you have submitted a report, please say some highlight about it.
- **Vestry** Yvonne reported the nominating committees slate 2021. Warden 1-year term; Yvonne Duffus, Vestry person 1-year term; Rudy Elias, Vestry person; Wendy Smalls-Brassell 3-year term; Vestry person Tyrone George 3-year term. Yvonne motioned for this slate to be accepted. Rudy seconded. Father Parker closed the nominations. Nominations are not allowed to be made from the floor in this year's virtual meeting. The secretary was asked to cast a vote. Nichelle Phillips seconded. All in favor. Motion past.
- 2020 Annual meeting minutes for February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 were submitted by title from Yvonne Duffus.
- **Budget** - Dorien Moon presented highlights for the 2021 budget which was included in the January newsletter. Pledges are \$87,268. We expect the investment income to be \$36,500 and rental income for Gordon House to be \$33,048 for a total of \$456,816 in revenue. The biggest line items would be the diocesan assessment for \$20,000. Utilities for the church and the parish house are \$35,370. Office expenses are \$12,550 which includes the copier. There are some major repairs that need to be done \$20,000 to the Gordon House, \$20,000 to the rectory, \$120,000 for the church and parish house and the salaries for the staff. We end up with a total of \$492, 093.70 in expenses. Which leaves us with a negative operating revenue of \$336,157.70. Father Parker stated we do not have a full- time sexton so there are no benefits, vacation or pensions to pay which cuts back on the expenses. The biggest expenses are the boiler in the church. We are waiting

- **Altar Guild** - Given by Carrol Richardson Due to Covid the altar guild was not able to do much in 2020 until September when we came back into the church. And they have a small team at this time and are welcoming parishioners to join. No comments or questions. Father Parker thanked her for all her help with everything she does and for extending herself.
- Mr. Morton N/A
- **Brotherhood of St Andrew** given by Leon Dacon. On February 17<sup>th</sup> the Brotherhood of St. Andrew had the annual scholarship luncheon. The A.I.M. dancers performed. Later in the year Dainelle Headley was awarded the seconded prize. Congratulations to her. On December 13<sup>th</sup> the Queens Assembly celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The guest speaker was the national president Greta Jeffery Butcher. Also, the Dean of the Jamaica Deanery, Reverend Steve Forster spoke. Leon spoke about several members and spoke of their outstanding participation with the brotherhood. They are still meeting monthly during Covid. They are planning on having a service on Presidents Day but without the luncheon. Please continue to make donations to the scholarship fund and he thanked everyone for their support. No questions or comments. Father Parker thanked him for his service
- **St Elizabeth Guild** – report given by Hyacinth Dacon. The annual luncheon was cancelled due to the pandemic. The money received from the parishioners was refunded. Everything is on hold. Everything has been cancelled for the rest of the year. They look forward to resuming their activities in the very near future. She thanked everyone for their support. No questions or comments. Father Parker is looking forward to working with them in the future and thanked them for their service.
- **Ushers** given by Alison Kelly. The ushers resumed in September with a skeleton crew. She is appreciative of the participation of the ushers that have been present. She thanked them for their service. No questions or comments. Father Parker thanked them for their service.

- **No reports** were given, probably due to Covid, from the following organizations Acolytes, TLC, UBE, Outreach, and the Annual Convention.
- **Vestry-** Father Parker thanked the outgoing vestry members Sonia Geder Diggs, Doreen Hodges, Erleen McClain for their service. He also thanked the entire Vestry for their commitment and service. Thanks to Tyrone George and Wendy Small-Brassell for becoming new members of the Vestry. On February 20, 2021 from 10-3 the Vestry will participate with a Mutual Ministry Review with Cannon Woodley from the Diocese.
- The meeting ended with a prayer from Father Parker. Glenn Greenidge made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded. All in favor. Motioned carried.



**Grace Episcopal Church**  
**Budget vs. Actuals: 2021 Final Budget - FY21 P&L**

January - December 2021

	Total			
	Actual	Budget	over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Revenue</b>				
4200 Investment & Dividend Income		\$ 36,500.00	\$ (36,500.00)	0.00%
4205 Investment Income			\$ -	
4206 Merrill Lynch Interest	\$ 0.23		\$ 0.23	
4220 General Interest,Saving	\$ 67.75		\$ 67.75	
<b>Total 4205 Investment Income</b>	<b>\$ 67.98</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 67.98</b>	
4210 Dividend Revenue			\$ -	
4211 Meta Hull Smith Dividend	\$ 50,707.80		\$ 50,707.80	
4212 Dividend Diocese of L.I	\$ 401.30		\$ 401.30	
4214 Sale of Property Dividend	\$ 15,302.64		\$ 15,302.64	
4215 ExxonMob Dividend Income	\$ 2,205.68		\$ 2,205.68	
<b>Total 4210 Dividend Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 68,617.42</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 68,617.42</b>	
<b>Total 4200 Investment &amp; Dividend Income</b>	<b>\$ 68,685.40</b>	<b>\$ 36,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 32,185.40</b>	<b>188.18%</b>
4320 Contributions			\$ -	
4323 King Room Donation	\$ 5,150.00		\$ 5,150.00	
4325 Funeral	\$ 407.50		\$ 407.50	
<b>Total 4320 Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 5,557.50</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,557.50</b>	
4800 Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.02		\$ 0.02	
4802 Energy Rebate	\$ 48.11		\$ 48.11	
4900 Fundraising Income	\$ 454.03		\$ 454.03	
<b>Total 4800 Miscellaneous Income</b>	<b>\$ 502.16</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 502.16</b>	
<b>Donations</b>				
4000 Stewardship	\$ 177,567.95	\$ 87,267.96	\$ 90,299.99	203.47%
4001 Plate	\$ 2,751.08		\$ 2,751.08	
4003 Sunday School	\$ 157.00		\$ 157.00	
4004 Initial Offering	\$ 659.00		\$ 659.00	
4005 Ash Wednesday	\$ 590.00		\$ 590.00	
4007 Easter	\$ 2,142.00		\$ 2,142.00	
4009 All Saints	\$ 1,195.00		\$ 1,195.00	
4010 Memorials	\$ 4,183.00		\$ 4,183.00	
4011 Easter Memorials	\$ 1,734.00		\$ 1,734.00	
4013 Thanksgiving	\$ 1,244.00		\$ 1,244.00	
4014 Christmas	\$ 2,660.00		\$ 2,660.00	
4015 Advent Dinner Services	\$ 25.00		\$ 25.00	
4016 Homecoming	\$ 1,345.00		\$ 1,345.00	
4017 Birthday	\$ 1,841.00		\$ 1,841.00	
4020 Special Offering	\$ 4,770.30		\$ 4,770.30	
4024 Grace Church Scholarship	\$ 2,026.00		\$ 2,026.00	
4026 Heat Fund	\$ 5,604.00		\$ 5,604.00	
4027 Vision Fund	\$ 5,330.00		\$ 5,330.00	
4028 Good Friday	\$ 484.00		\$ 484.00	
4033 Noonday Service	\$ 6.00		\$ 6.00	
<b>Total 4000 Stewardship</b>	<b>\$ 216,314.33</b>	<b>\$ 87,267.96</b>	<b>\$ 129,046.37</b>	<b>247.87%</b>
4300 - Restricted Donations	\$ 152.24		\$ 152.24	

5500 - Conference & Training		\$	1,500.00	\$	(1,500.00)	0.00%	
5700 - Soup Kitchen	\$	1,000.00		\$	1,000.00		
5700 Social Action Committee	\$	2,000.00		\$	2,000.00		
5700G - Episcopal Church Women	\$	90.00		\$	90.00		
5700M - St .Elizabeth Guild	\$	100.00		\$	100.00		
5700N - TLC Committee	\$	75.00		\$	75.00		
5700O - Union of BLk Episcopal	\$	75.00		\$	75.00		
5800 Legal & Professional Fees	\$	31,100.56		\$	31,100.56		
5805 Bank Charges	\$	1,138.07	\$	4,000.00	\$	(2,861.93)	28.45%
5902 - Discretionary Fund	\$	1,500.00		\$	1,500.00		
5905 - Bldg & Grounds Maintenanc	\$	14,416.58		\$	14,416.58		
6200 Repair & Maintenance				\$	-		
6201 Repair & Maintenance - Gordon House	\$	43,670.00	\$	20,000.00	\$	23,670.00	218.35%
6202 Repair & Maintenance - Rectory			\$	20,000.00	\$	(20,000.00)	0.00%
6203 Repair & Maintenance - Church/Parish House	\$	14,806.52	\$	120,000.00	\$	(105,193.48)	12.34%
<b>Total 6200 Repair &amp; Maintenance</b>	\$	<b>58,476.52</b>	\$	<b>160,000.00</b>	\$	<b>(101,523.48)</b>	<b>36.55%</b>
6600 Payroll Expenses				\$	-		
5019 Payroll Processing Fees	\$	668.81	\$	1,625.00	\$	(956.19)	41.16%
<b>Total 5020 Payroll Expenditures</b>	\$	<b>7,730.10</b>	\$	<b>230.00</b>	\$	<b>7,500.10</b>	<b>3360.91%</b>
5021 Employer's share of FICA	\$	3,464.07	\$	3,250.00	\$	214.07	106.59%
6612 Salary - Caretaker	\$	7,635.00	\$	14,820.00	\$	(7,185.00)	51.52%
6613 Salary - Rector	\$	55,819.92	\$	55,632.00	\$	187.92	100.34%
6614 Salary - Office Bookkeeper	\$	14,817.00	\$	22,000.00	\$	(7,183.00)	67.35%
6615 Salary - Administrator	\$	9,860.00	\$	14,820.00	\$	(4,960.00)	66.53%
6616 Salary - Sexton	\$	5,842.50	\$	14,820.00	\$	(8,977.50)	39.42%
6617 Salary - Administrative Assistant	\$	6,930.00	\$	14,820.00	\$	(7,890.00)	46.76%
6618 Salary - Organist	\$	13,750.00	\$	13,000.00	\$	750.00	105.77%
<b>Total 6600 Payroll Expenses</b>	\$	<b>126,517.40</b>	\$	<b>155,017.00</b>	\$	<b>(28,499.60)</b>	<b>81.62%</b>
6700 Staff Benefits				\$	-		
5090 Pension - Rector	\$	-		\$	-		
5104 Health Insurance - Rector	\$	12,675.00	\$	12,588.00	\$	87.00	100.69%
5105 Life Insurance - Rector	\$	360.56	\$	450.00	\$	(89.44)	80.12%
5106 Clergy Housing Allowance	\$	27,815.84	\$	27,816.00	\$	(0.16)	100.00%
<b>Total 6700 Staff Benefits</b>	\$	<b>40,851.40</b>	\$	<b>40,854.00</b>	\$	<b>(2.60)</b>	<b>99.99%</b>
Travel				\$	-		
5005 Travel Allowance-Rector			\$	1,200.00	\$	(1,200.00)	0.00%
<b>Total 5007 - Travel - Staff</b>	\$	<b>178.03</b>	\$	<b>-</b>	\$	<b>178.03</b>	
<b>Total Travel</b>	\$	<b>178.03</b>	\$	<b>1,200.00</b>	\$	<b>(1,021.97)</b>	<b>14.84%</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$	<b>459,781.64</b>	\$	<b>492,973.70</b>	\$	<b>(33,192.06)</b>	<b>93.27%</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	\$	<b>(115,041.56)</b>	\$	<b>(336,157.74)</b>	\$	<b>221,116.18</b>	<b>34.22%</b>

# Grace Episcopal Church

## Budget Overview: 2022

January - December 2022

### 2022 Budget

#### Revenue

4210 Dividend Revenue	0
4211 Meta Hull Smith Dividend	50,000
4212 Dividend Diocese of L.I	8,000
4214 Sale of Property Dividend	15,000
4215 ExxonMob Dividend Income	2,100
<b>Total 4210 Dividend Revenue</b>	<b>75,100</b>
4320 Contributions	0
4323 King Room Donation	4,450
4325 Funeral	0
<b>Total 4320 Contributions</b>	<b>4,450</b>
4800 Miscellaneous Income	0
4900 Fundraising Income	5,000
<b>Total 4800 Miscellaneous Income</b>	<b>5,000</b>
Donations	0
Pledges	89,855
<b>Total 4000 Stewardship</b>	<b>89,855</b>
4410 ChurchYard	5,000
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>89,855</b>
Rental Income	0
4020 - Rental Income-G.H.1st Fl	18,540
4021 - Rental Income-G.H.2nd Fl	19,800
<b>Total Rental Income</b>	<b>38,340</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>212,745</b>

5301 - Maintenance Supplies	1,500
5302 - Maintenance Fees	10,000
5905 - Bldg & Grounds Maintenan	46,800
5303 - Parking Coupons	800
5325 - Piano & Organ Repair	120
Special Occasion Music	2,000
5329 - Web Site	250
5340 - Miscellaneous Expense	2,000
5800 Legal & Professional Fees	10,000
5805 Bank Charges	1,147
5902 - Discretionary Fund	1,500
Rector Search	14,820
6200 Repair & Maintenance	6,500
6201 Repair & Maintenance - Gordon House	25,000
6203 Repair & Maintenance - Church/Parish House	63,900
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Total 6200 Repair & Maintenance	95,400
6600 Payroll Expenses	0
5019 Payroll Processing Fees	652
5020 Payroll Expenditures	0
4076 FICA Employee reimbursement	6,443
5022 New York State Disability	1,044
5072 - Employer's share Medicare	803
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Total 5020 Payroll Expenditures	8,290
5021 Employer's share of FICA	3,614
6612 Salary - Caretaker	8,757
6613 Salary - Rector	58,611
6614 Salary - Office Bookkeeper	22,823
6615 Salary - Administrator	20,748
6616 Salary - Sexton	0
6617 Salary - Administrative Assistant	0
6618 Salary - Organist	14,438
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Total 6600 Payroll Expenses	137,932
6700 Staff Benefits	0

## 2022 INTERIM PRIEST ANNUAL REPORT

When it comes to 2021, words fail us, yet we keep talking about it. The truth is, it will be years before we begin to grasp the effect that the last 21 months have had on our lives, country, and Church. But one thing I know for sure is how grateful I have been for Grace Church, Jamaica, NY, during this time.

This beloved community has kept me connected to my humanity, and my beloved sense has inspired me to hope. It has reminded me regularly of the powerful presence of God in even the darkest times. Grace has helped me to see Love in action every day. I know it is done the same for so many of you, and we know whom to thank. We thank the vestry, lay leaders, staff, and youth who worked with such passion and intention, such as persistence and flexibility, demonstrate that even when the doors of the buildings were not open, the Church is never closed. We worshipped at 10:00 at 10:00 AM in person, Zoom, and FaceBook. We had five funerals and one wedding. Confirmation was at the deanery level. In September, I started home visitations, and with a new parish administrator and bookkeeper, I can do more phone visits. Homecoming was in person and a festive meal in King Hall. Bible Study and Lenten programs were in cooperation with the deanery. In the fall, we resumed the 2nd Wednesday at noon service in the Church.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Body of Christ lives and moves daily in the world. The creativity, generosity, grace, and faithfulness of the people of Grace show this to be true. I want to welcome you to this Annual Meeting and invite you to read and hear several stories that illustrate the presence of God and the resilience of God's Church as we continue to ask you to see sharing the love you find with the people of your church. This is the work of the 3rd Spirit.

Thank you for helping me to see Love. God bless you, and we all continue to be in each other's safety in 2022.

Your brother in Christ Jesus,

The Rev. Gary J. Parker  
Interim Priest

## **Warden Report 2021**

- Coordinated the replacement of the south west corner of the Church roof.
- Had Cemetery cleanup day where we picked up garbage, small tree limbs, and leaves and coordinated with NYC Sanitation Department who supplied rakes, shovels, brooms, and garbage bags.
- Replaced broken pipes under sacristy.
- Repaired and maintained Church lawn mowers for grounds keepers.
- Coordinated BIDs for cemetery cleanup.
- Picked up freezers for the Soup Kitchen.
- Removed major fallen tree limbs from cemetery.
- Fire Alarm System violation was updated and is currently awaiting Fire Department final inspection.
- Provided cleanup of the Rectory yard.
- Removed fallen tree in front yard of the Church.
- Cemented the floor where maintenance equipment was kept in basement of Church.
- Provided Zoom & Facebook remote access for Sunday Church services and Vestry meetings.
- Upgraded computers, and network in Church Office.
- Installed WIFI network for the Church.
- Coordinated the upgrade of the Con Edison connection to the Church.
- Made repairs and upgraded Gordon House apartments.

## THE ALTAR GUILD 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

To: Rev. Gary J. Parker, Interim Priest

From: The Altar Guild Members:

Claudia Duggan – Retired Director

Adelene Collwood – Treasurer

Yvonne Duffus – Secretary

Erma Hinds, Enid Campbell, Grace Newton, Mavis Rookwood, Lirril Hylton,  
John Phillips.

During our very challenging times in 2021 the Altar Guild made sure that things were taken care of for various events even though we had only had a few members.

During the season of Lent we prepared for Ash Wednesday. Giving out the ashes and the night service. Getting the garden of Gethsemane to grow and take shape. The stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and then preparing the church for Easter Sunday.

When the church has summer hours the members of the Altar Guild still have to keep the church going to prepare for any event that happens.

Harvest Sunday with the Sunday school, we give thanks for produce and can goods that God has given us.

Last we prepare for the Advent season with the trees, lights and plants. Once again the church is decorated in the colors of the season.

We must give thanks to the men and women who are official members and unofficial members. We are in need of new members, but these people are doing a great job.

We would like to also thank Mr. Benn, Mr. Elias and Mr. Phillips for helping to do the heavy cleaning for the guild.

Thanks to everyone for their faithfulness.

## THE ADULT CHOIR 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

**MISSION AD PURPOSE:** To serve as Leaders of Worship (ancillary to the Priest) in the sings of Hymns, Anthems, and Psalms, praising our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Adult Choir rehearses on Saturdays at 10:00 AM and Sundays one-hour before Worship., Membership is open to all persons who love to sing and are willing to become a Leader of Worship in this capacity.

The Adult Choir needs male voices. Grace Church is looking for males to step forward and become Leaders of Worship in this important Ministry.

The Adult Choir presently consists of the following Leaders of Worship.

Christine Ashby  
Hazel Benn  
Steven M. Drakes  
Gary George  
Icelma Gilkes  
Claudette Goldson  
Jacqueline Headley  
Pamela Henry  
Errol James  
Rolly Lee  
Phillip Phillips  
Nichelle Phillips  
Mahalia Prescod-Onuzuruike  
Ivy Savage  
Wendy Small



**FUTURE OBJECTIVE:** To have the Organ Plaque dedicated and appropriately placed in the Church....a service to include a short organ recital and recognition of the Organ Fund Committee that raised over ninety thousand dollars for its restoration.

The Choir thanks John Phillips for his generous gift – the purchase of new robes.

Respectfully Submitted, D. Barrington Morton, Organist/Choirmaster

**THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW - GRACE CHURCH CHAPTER -  
2286-S**

This past year was again another challenging year for our Brotherhood Chapter, and all of us, for that matter in one way or other, due to the pandemic still being very much with us. Our chapter, however, was able to participate in the two events put on by the Queens Assembly of The Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

Since our Assembly could not hold our annual President's Day luncheon in February of last year due to Covid, a virtual program was held under the theme: **'TOWARD DISCONCEMENT FOR COMMITTED CHRISTIAN SERVICE.** At this program, Ms. Shana Dacon, my daughter, gave a presentation on what life has been for her since receiving her award and graduating from college. Shana was one of two past scholarship recipients who spoke in this regard, Robert Gonzalez, a member of St. Josephs Church in Queens Village. Incidentally, both Shana and Lorraine Benn, one of our youth members at Grace, received the first [pre for our Annual Assembly Scholarship Award. We congratulate Lorraine and wish her the best as she begins her college career.

Our Chapter's other event was our National Day of Service. Our National Day of Service is usually celebrated on April 25th each year. In contrast, we went out and gave service to the community as an organization. Still, since April 25th last year fell on a Sunday, our Assembly decided to celebrate the 25th on Friday, April 23rd, and Saturday, April 24th. On that Friday, we donated food items to a shelter in Jamaica, Queens, and on the following day Saturday, we held a virtual church service, with the Very Rev. Gilberto Hinds, Preist-in-Charge at Grace and Resurrection Church in East Elmhurst, and our Brotherhood Province II Chaplain, leading us in this service. The hope of our Assembly will have more of our annual events about our youths once the pandemic is behind us and it is safe to do so. Our youths at Grace Church have been a big part of these events held in past years, and I thought our youth leaders for their support over the years very much.

As we drew close to the end of 2021, our Chapter held a meeting via conference call. It happened to be the first meeting among us in quite some time, but we vowed to continue this more than in 2022, as we strive to continue the work of our Brotherhood through our disciplines of **prayer, Sunday, and Service.** May God continue to be with us all.

Leon Dacon  
(Director, Grace Church Chapter of The Brotherhood of St. Andrew)

# GRACE CHURCH USHERS REPORT 2022

As we still navigate through this pandemic we think about the safety of our parishioners. And as ushers we kept up with the guidelines pertaining to the CDC and the Diocese.

We would like to thank parishioners and ushers for their donations of hand sanitizers, masks, tissues and water.

We would also like to thank the ushers from the 8am and 10 am services as well as the youth of the church for all their time and dedication during this difficult time.

Allison Kelly  
Chair

Sophia Smith  
Co Chair

Tamara Byam  
Secretary

, Sent from my iPhone

## Sunday School Annual Report for 2021

### Mission of the Sunday School

The mission of the Sunday school at Grace Church is to provide young people with a foundation in Christian education. It is designed to help young people to develop belief in God's love and presence in their lives and to follow Christ's example.

### Curriculum

The Sunday school seeks to help young people to gain knowledge of the Bible and the Episcopal faith by focusing on the prayers and weekly Bible readings of the Episcopal Church. Young people are encouraged to engage in discussions of the readings and to act out some of them. They are provided with age appropriate Bible related materials such as coloring pages, words finds, crosswords, songs and games to enhance their understanding. They learn to read the Bible passages out loud so they can be prepared to participate in the services in the Church. The young people attending Sunday school range in age from five to twenty.

### Meetings During the Year

During 2021 in-person Sunday school sessions were suspended from January to September due to COVID-19. During those months children received the weekly readings, activities and questions on line. Beginning in October 2021 the Sunday school at Grace met at 10 AM on the second, third and fourth Sundays of the month. On the first Sunday from October to December, Sunday school members attended 10 AM church service, during which they ushered and read.

Some activities resumed early in the year such as programs for Black History month in February and Graduate Sunday in June. In November the Sunday school youngsters participated in decorating the church for Harvest Sunday and collecting non perishable items. Christmas caroling for the residents of Grace Houses did not occur because of the pandemic. However, in December the Sunday school children and parents donated items for placement in holiday gift bags for the residents, and the children helped to fill bags. They also participated in a Christmas program in the Church.

### Goals for 2022

The immediate goal for 2022 is to continue in person Sunday school and have the children participate in learning activities and special programs,

Submitted By Erleen McLain, Sunday School Superintendent  
Jean Marie Bain, Sunday School Teacher

## The A.I.M Youth Group Annual Report for 2021

### Mission of the Organization

The A.I.M Youth Group was formed to provide young people with a forum to discuss issues important to them, to participate in community service and to attend recreational events. It is opened to young people who attend Grace Church and to their friends and relatives.

### Meetings During the Year

The A.I.M Youth Group met bi-weekly on Fridays from 6 PM to 8 PM from January to July via ZOOM due to COVID-19. From October to December the Group met once or twice a month on Fridays from 7 PM to 9:30 PM or Saturday from 10:30 AM to 1 PM at the Parish Hall. The group engaged in discussions of topics including handling of finances, working part time, study habits, faith, relationships with others, life changes and challenges during the pandemic, bullying and substance abuse in the community.

### AIM Youth Group Activities

The young people in A.I.M attended Church services from January through December. They participated by ushering and reading during the services. They performed in programs for Black History month in February and Youth Sunday in June. Members of the Group participated in community service projects. These included distributing food in July and August, decorating the church for Harvest Sunday, donating nonperishable items, and giving out food during a Thanksgiving turkey and grocery give away in November. They filled holiday gift bags for the residents of Grace Houses and participated in a Church Christmas program in December. The group attended recreational activities including reunion lunches in April, May, June and October.

### Goals for 2022

The immediate goals for 2022 are to continue to meet at the Parish Hall and to participate in community service projects that are safe. When the COVID 19 infection rate decreases, the goal is to increase attendance in the A.I.M Youth Group and to participate in more community service projects and recreational activities.

Submitted By Jean Marie Bain, A.I.M Youth Group Advisor  
Erleen McLain, A.I.M Youth Group Advisor  
Allison Kelly, A.I.M Youth Group Advisor

## Report of the Grace Church Soup Kitchen for 2021

For twenty eight years the Grace Church Soup Kitchen opened the doors of the Parish House on Tuesdays from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM to serve homemade dinners to needy members of our community. This outreach ministry is supported with donations from parishioners and friends of Grace Church. A group of faithful volunteers planned, purchased and prepared delicious meal on a weekly basis.

Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 and environmental issues our doors have been closed for almost two years. We hope to safely reopen as soon as possible once these issues are resolved. We are grateful to all who participated in the recent cleaning and organizing of the pantry and for all the donations we received.

## Goals for 2022

The goal for 2022 is to reopen the Soup Kitchen

Submitted By Adelene Collwood

Financial Report of the Grace Church Soup Kitchen for 2021

1/1/21	Balance Forward	\$7,930.06
	Total Deposits/Credits 2021	\$3,696.00
	Total Debits 2021	\$ .00
12/31/21	Total Amount in the Administrative Account	\$11,626.06

Submitted By Adelene Collwood

## Tips for staying healthy and eating well during the holidays

Submitted by the Wellness and Health Outreach Ministry

As the holidays approach, parties become numerous along with platters of rich and delicious seasonal foods. If you are hosting a gathering this holiday season and want to lighten up your offerings without sacrificing taste, you have plenty of options.

**Try swapping out a few ingredients in your favorite recipes** with some of these simple tips.

- Using two egg whites in place of one egg can reduce dietary cholesterol and produce the same tasty result.
- Try low-sodium vegetable broth in your mashed potatoes to add flavor and cut back on added butter or margarine.
- Substitute applesauce for oil, margarine or butter in muffins and quick breads such as banana bread. Try substituting a small amount at first, as too much may change the texture of the finished product.
- For dips and sauces, try using fat-free yogurt in place of sour cream or mayonnaise.
- Try sliced or slivered almonds as a delicious, crunchy topping in place of fried onion rings.
- Choose reduced-fat or fat-free cheeses for salads and casseroles.

**Pack your shopping cart with plenty of fresh produce** including sweet potatoes, winter squash, broccoli, carrots and green beans. Apples, cranberries and pears combine easily for a tasty salad, fruit crisp or topping for the turkey.

**If you are a guest at a dinner party or other gathering**, consider these tips to keep your night healthy, happy and safe:

- Try starting your day with a small meal that includes whole grains, fruit, vegetables and some type of lean protein.
- Consider eating a small meal or snack before the event so you aren't tempted to overeat later.
- Socialize and settle into the festivities before seeking out the buffet.
- Savor foods you truly enjoy and pass up on those that don't really interest you.
- Move your socializing away from the buffet tables or appetizer trays. This will minimize the unconscious nibbling.

When it comes to alcohol, satisfy your thirst by drinking water first. If you are of legal age and choose to drink, moderate alcohol consumption is defined as up to one drink per day for women and up to two drinks for men.

Keep in mind, even a single drink will affect your reflexes for several hours. If you plan to drink, keep your holidays merry for everyone by designating a driver who won't be drinking.

The holidays are a great time for gathering with friends and family over food and drinks. With just a little preparation, you can enjoy celebratory foods mindfully and still experience all that the season has to offer.



## Acolytes Report 2021

In 2021, the Acolytes attended the Annual Acolyte Festival in Washington DC at the National Cathedral on Saturday, October 12, 2019.

With the pandemic raging, the Acolytes Festivals were unable to attend this festival in 2021

Acolytes participating in services during 2021 are as follows:

Lawrence Benn  
Lorraine Benn  
Gabriel McIntosh  
Danielle Headley

## HISTORIC GRACE CEMETERY

Greetings,

God has a plan for everyone and everything. That includes you, and it includes **Historical Grace Episcopal Church of Jamaica NY**. None of us can fully know God's plan—the best we can do is pray and listen for clarity. Our church leadership has been doing just that pertaining to the condition of our **Grace Church Historic Cemetery**.

We have been brainstorming on how to proceed with the restoration, preservation, and maintenance of **Grace Churches Historic Cemetery**. Graces Cemetery is a part of our collective history, and their gravestones tell stories of various loved ones who once lived, worked, worshipped, loved, and they are memorialized by tombstones which have been inscribed with a sacred and emotional message.

This cemetery includes burials dating to 1734, when the church located at this site. Notable interments include Rufus King (1755–1827) signor of the US Constitution and US Senator – NY Federalist compatriot of Alexander Hamilton; Charles King (1789–1867) President of Columbia University; and William Duer (1743–1799) who's activities prompted the formation of the NY Stock Exchange. One such person buried here was Edward Willet. Willett died at the age of 93 on Dec. 8, 1794, and his tombstone contained the following verse: "Exact my soul in the joys that follow from God's Almighty hand. While here my mould'ring body lies to rest at God's Command."

Cemeteries and burial grounds require significant ongoing maintenance following restoration, such as surveying and documentation, stone cleaning and resetting, and site maintenance. We also need to pay the expenses of a groundskeeper who can manage the routine landscape work but should do so in a way that doesn't damage or disturb the grave markers. And as you know, our historic cemetery depends primarily on the financial support of those remaining lot owners, family members, heirs, and friends. Many of these occupants' relatives have relocated or passed on themselves.

We would also, like to make it visitor-friendly with a few amenities such as trash cans and informational signs which can go a long way in making a historic cemetery welcoming. In addition, we are planning for visitor-friendly activities such as scheduled tours for the community to learn more about the history right in their backyard.

But we can't pull this off without your support. Whether you give to the church on a regular basis, or just attend on occasion, we are asking you to consider contributing to this massive undertaking. **Now** is the time for you to **make a donation**. Beginning on Homecoming **Sunday, September 19th**, we will kick off this ambitious fundraiser. All contributions received will go entirely toward the upkeep, expenses and beautification of our historic cemetery beginning with the upcoming year of 2022.

Even if you cannot make a large gift, know that every little bit helps. It is more about coming together as a community united behind a common cause. **We hope that you will consider making a donation towards this great step forward**. This is something we need our entire church community's help with. Still another way you can help ensure the upkeep of our cemetery is to include it in your will (called a bequest).

On behalf of your church community at **Grace Episcopal Church**, we would like to thank you in advance for your support. You can give online at [www.historicgrace.org](http://www.historicgrace.org) or make a payment by check, indicating "cemetery fund". Thanks again for your support and for helping to ensure the future of our place of worship and our church community.

Sincerely,

## **Gordon House**

There have been a lot of changes to the Gordon House in 2021. Early in the year new electric meters were installed, making each tenant responsible for their own electricity. The second-floor apartment was completely renovated. A new bathroom and a new kitchen were installed. The floors were sanded and stained. Repairs were done to the windows and the closets; and the apartment and the stairwell were painted. The first-floor apartment also had work done. The kitchen received a facelift. New bottom cabinets and counter tops were installed; and repairs were made to fix pipes in the shower. Additionally, a new water heater was installed in June.

New leases were issued to the tenants of both apartments. The first-floor tenant, Mr. Singh, signed a one-year term lease effective June 1, 2021 and the new second floor tenants, Lovepreet Singh and Mubashir Habib signed one year leases effective July 1, 2021.

## THE 155TH CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND

*Submitted by Andrea Williams*

This past Saturday, November 13th, I was invited to attend the 2021 Convention of the Diocese of Long Island. Every year, the convention brings together clergy and lay delegates to discuss and vote on business related to the operations of the Diocese. This year our Diocesan family gathered virtually for its 155th Convention. It was completely an online event.

There was a period before the convention began to check technology and finish up any last-minute registrations. At 9:00 AM sharp, the Convention gathered and began with an opening Worship & Renewal of Baptismal Vows, then proceeded with the business at hand. On our lunch break, we were treated to a DJ and a Get Up and Dance Party!

Attending the convention helped me as a vestry member better understand the workings of our church and its relationship to the Diocesan Community. Some of the topics that were discussed at meetings became much clearer. It was like looking through a camera lens and bringing the subject that was a little blurry into focus. Also, it was comforting to be reassured that we are not out there by ourselves, but there is support and access to many resources that can assist with our challenges.

Mostly, I was impressed by how the Diocese is in touch with the current social issues affecting our city, country, and world today. For example, voter suppression, promotion equity and reducing differences with health-related issues, the inclusion of Juneteenth, just to name a few. The Diocese is actively involved in addressing these topics in the community, among its congregants, and within the leadership of the church. For more information, you may access the Diocesan Website: <https://www.dioceseli.org/>