

# Grace Episcopal Church

## Mt. Clemens

### Annual Meeting

*January 28, 2024*



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# The Annual Parish Meeting of Grace Episcopal Church

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**The purpose of Annual Meetings** Our diocesan laws, national church laws, and/or parish By-Laws require that our parish hold annual meetings, each January, *at which 10% of the voting membership must be present, to:*

- Adopt By-laws
- Elect lay leaders to the Vestry by “majority”, that is one more than half of the voting members present
- Elect three voting members to be delegates to the annual Diocesan Convention

## **Communicant in Good Standing**

Any communicant who, during the preceding year, has been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and in working, praying and giving for the spread of the kingdom of God, shall be considered a communicant in good standing of the congregation.

**Voting Member:** An adult communicant who has been a communicant in good standing of his/her congregation for not less than six (6) months shall be eligible to vote at annual or special meetings of the congregation.

*By standing for election to Vestry, nominees agree to:*

- Make a financial pledge to the church
- Regularly participate in the worship and ministry of the parish
- Come to meetings regularly and prepared
- Act as liaison to ministries in the parish.
- Sign the Vestry Stewardship Statement and Covenant of Right Relations
- Take diocesan classes regarding Sexual Ethics and Diversity

# Agenda

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- 1. Appointment of Clerk**
- 2. Call to Order**
- 3. Establishment of a Quorum**
- 4. Opening Prayer**
- 5. The Approval of 2023 Minutes**
- 6. Nominations for Vestry, Diocesan Convention, and Deanery**
- 7. Voting**
- 8. Verbal Reports**
- 9. Capital Campaign Conclusion**
- 10. Review of 2023 Financials and Presentation of 2024 Budget**  
*Gary Keranen*
- 11. Election Results if needed**
- 12. Thank you to the retiring vestry members and treasurer**
- 13. New Business**
- 14. Auction Winners**
- 15. Questions or Comments**
- 16. Closing Prayer**

# Candidates for Vestry, 2023

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## **Michael Oakley**

I am Michael Zubas Jr. I have been a congregant of Grace for a little over 5 years now after being baptized here back in 2019. I love this church, and its community, and the various ministries. Furthermore, I have participated in various events, including assisting the MCREST homeless shelter when it's our turn to provide a place to stay when it's as cold as it is right now, and in the Santa Parade downtown here, in order to encourage more people to participate in our cookie walk events. As a member of the Vestry, it will be my goal to find more ways to support and grow our various ministries, and outreach to bring more into our beloved church over the next year. I have always wanted to help this

church that has helped me so much, and I feel God has led me to here. If you have confidence in my candidacy, please vote for me!

I'm a long-time member of Grace Church. In fact, I moved to Clinton Township with my parents at the age of two in 1960 and we began attending Grace Church soon after. Before that, I was baptized at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in East Detroit, so like some of you I moved from there to here.

Obviously, I grew up in the church as I attended Sunday School, participated in Youth Group, and was confirmed here as well. Although I lived away from Mt. Clemens for a short time, Grace Church has been my home for nearly 60 years. I know or knew many of the clergy who are pictured in the passage from the sanctuary to Merifield Hall, including George Merifield. Soon after my wife Donna and I were married we came back to Grace, and have been quite active since the mid 1980's. I served on the Vestry twice during this time, helped Donna as Sunday School co-superintendent, and have been active in fundraising. My children Mary and Andrew were baptized, confirmed, and grew up here at Grace Church.

During this time, I have developed a deep love for Grace Church. We have a long history of community service and thought provoking preaching. I hope we can keep going for another 150 years!

Currently, I run the family manufacturing business that my parents founded, and I think that experience, along with previous experiences here at the church will be useful to the Vestry. I'm ready to make a contribution.



## **Mike Zubas**

I am Michael Zubas Jr. I have been a congregant of Grace for a little over 5 years now after being baptized here back in 2019. I love this church, and its community, and the various ministries. Furthermore, I have participated in various events, including assisting the MCREST homeless shelter when it's our turn to provide a place to stay when it's as cold as it is right now, and in the Santa Parade downtown here, in order to encourage more people to participate in our cookie walk events. As a member of the Vestry, it will be my goal to find more ways to support and grow our various ministries, and outreach to bring more into our beloved church over the next year. I have always wanted to help this

church that has helped me so much, and I feel God has led me to here. If you have confidence in my candidacy, please vote for me!

Sincerely,

Michael Zubas Jr.



## **Lucy Smith**

Lucy has been a member of Grace Episcopal Church, Mt. Clemens, since 2010 near the time of the consolidation of Grace and St. Gabriel Churches. She and Jim, her husband, attended the Annual Meeting and the Contract hiring of Reverend Susan Boch as the Rector.

During Rev. Susan Boch's tenure, Bishop Wendell Gibbs officiated the commitment service for Lucy and Jim to become members.

Lucy is an active member of Grace. She currently is a Pastoral Care Member, Choir Member, Lector and a Volunteer for Wednesday Supper. She has been on the Cookie Walk Committee.

Lucy and Jim began attending Grace in 2011 and were received by Bishop Gibbs at Grace on January 24, 2013

# Candidates for Convention Delegate, 2023

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**Kris Eckert**



**Shirley Lappi**



**Pam Sherry**

# 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

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## Annual Parish Meeting Minutes Grace Episcopal Church January 29, 2023

**Meeting convened 11:55 P.M.—In person /ZOOM**

Opening prayer by Pastor Steve

**I. Appointment of Clerk**—Cheryle Kahl will take minutes

**II. Call to Order**—Pastor Steve calls meeting to order. Quorum present.

**III. Approval of 2022 Minutes**—Gary moves to accept, Donna seconds.

### **IV. Nominations for Vestry, Diocesan Convention, and Deanery**

#### **A. Vestry Nominees**

1. Martha Houser, Dash Heath, Bill Siewart
2. Elected by acclamation

#### **B. Diocesan Convention Nominees**

1. Pam Sherry, Bill Siewart, Kris Eckert
2. Convention in October at Showcase Suburban Expo Center in Novi
3. Elected by acclamation

### **V. Verbal Reports**

#### **A. Outreach Room**

1. Now located in what was previously the Yoga Room
2. Thank you to Shirley for coordinating

### **VI. Capital Campaign Conclusion**

- A. Completing and concluding campaign was difficult
- B. Challenge and goal of \$150, 000 met
- C. Thank you to Mike Oakley
- D. Money used for building and grounds projects—Thank you to those involved.

### **VII. Review of 2022 Financials and Presentation of 2023 Budget—Gary Keranen**

#### **A. New financial position and personnel.**

1. Marianne Grenier new accountant
2. Ann Farrell—treasurer
3. Gary Keranen—Financial matters

#### **B. Pledges**

1. Numbers from 2018-2023 declining
2. Service remains flat
3. Giving has increased on a per unit basis

#### **C. Calculation of Risk**

1. Ten units donate 49% of the budget
2. Increased risk

#### **D. Revenues over expenses**

1. Assets dropped \$118,000
2. State of stock market can also account for this
3. As long as money is not spent, loss is just on paper

#### **E. Cash analysis**

1. Deficit has been running for last five years
2. PPP loans forgiven—Result of pandemic
3. Rector search committee cancelled—financial gain
4. Checkbook balance \$19,000
5. Liquidation of asset funds may be necessary
6. Borrowing from internal funds within ministries approved by vestry

**D. Discussion**—What are additional plans for offsetting deficit? Fundraisers needed. Mini-auction at annual meeting successful. Parish hall rental raises revenue. Cookie walk successful.

#### **E. Financial assessment**

1. “You can’t cost cut your way to profitability.”
2. More parishioners needed.

4. Invite people to church
5. Youth needed
6. Middle-aged people needed
7. What attracts people to church?
  - a. Need to offer something to attract younger members.
  - b. More community events in a social setting needed.
8. Rich in ministries
  - a. Generates grant money
  - b. Generates donations from other churches
9. Building fund was helped by insurance covering roof replacement

#### **VIII. Thank You to Retiring Vestry Members and Treasurer**

- A. Ann Farrell—vestry
- B. Pam Sherry—senior warden
- C. Jim Smith —vestry
- D. Tish Germain—treasurer

#### **IX. New Business**

- A. Rummage sale planned for spring.
- B. Christmas in July event planned for summer.
- C. Fundraising current guidelines
  1. For non-designated fundraisers within Grace, 1/3 goes to outreach  
1/3 goes to operating fund, 1/3 goes to building and grounds.
  2. Designated fundraisers within Grace—100% goes to designated  
cause  
fund.
- D. Proposed update of bylaws
  1. Requires vote of parish
  2. Parish can't change vestry resolutions.
  3. Vestry can't change parish resolutions.
- E. Proposal for change in fundraiser guidelines
  1. Mike motions a change that even in designated fundraisers within  
Grace, 25% of proceeds go to operating fund.
  2. Potentially all fundraisers could be considered designated fundraisers.
- F. Resolution
  1. All fundraisers must be approved by vestry
  2. All vestry approved designated fundraisers give 25% to operating  
fund.

#### **X. Auction winners**

- A. Thanks to Lori and Rosemary for co-chairing.
- B. Great success/ great donations.

#### **XI. Questions or comments**

- A. Thank you to Scott and students for brunch
- B. Plans for growth to be discussed at vestry retreat
- C. Lenten plans—Watch *The Chosen*, Download on YouTube.

#### **XII. Move to adjourn**

Closing prayer by Pastor Steve.

**Meeting adjourned 1:20 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryle Kahl—Clerk

**Note:** 2022 pledge information is not available due to software change

Grace Condensed Balance Sheet									
Updated 1/18/2024						Amended 4/07/2022	Amended 2/17/21		
				A	B	C	D	E	
1	Assets			Dec 31,2023	Dec 31,2022	Dec 31,2021	Dec 31,2020	Dec 31,2019	
2		Unrestricted							
3		Opportunity Interfaith Fund		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
4		Chk'g, Savings & Mutual Funds	#1	360,257	388,491	448,163	404,886	384,295	
5		Gift Undesignated							
6									
7		Restricted							
8		Doll Memorial Fund		29,327	35,217	56,936	61,154	55,026	
9		Designated							
10		Operating Fund	#3	53,607	19,830	54,030	55,771	54,939	
11		Building & Grounds Capital Fund		48,389	92,055	96,729	41,640	22,165	
12		Parish Ministries		76,077	97,151	94,914	83,630	70,752	
13		Fr Bob's Food Shelf CD		21,010	6,040	6,040	5,781	5,781	
14									
15			Total Assets	598,667	648,784	766,812	662,862	602,957	
16	Liabilities								
17		Accounts Payable		2754	0	0	10,633	10,559	
18		New Rector Search Encumbrance	#2					0	
19		Matching Pledge Gift \$ - Deferred							
20		Revenue							
21		Gift Undesignated							
22	Fund Equity								
23		Restricted Fund Balances		29,327	35,217	56,936	61,154	55,026	
24		Designated Fund Balances		199,083	215,076	251,713	186,822	153,636	
25		Unrestricted Funds Balance		367,503	398,491	458,163	404,253	383,736	
26			Total Liabilities & Equity	598,667	648,784	766,812	662,862	602,957	
	#1	Investment valuation as of the latest statement of market value (EDOMI@12/31/23 and Wells Fargo as of 12/31/2023). All EDOMI 2023 cash dividends were allocated to the Operating Fund . The Net 2022 Market to 2023 Market Adjustment is outlined below							
						Investment Acct at Mkt Value 12/31/2022	2023 Mkt Adjustm	Investment Acct Principal Additions (Withdrawals)	Investment Acct at Mkt Value 12/31/2023
27		EDOMI Growth & Inc. Fund				198,608	21,766	(45,000)	175,374
28		Wells Fargo Investment Accounts				185,247	(4,427)		180,820
29		Doll Fund (EDOMI Growth & Inc. Fund)				35,217	4,110	(10,000)	29,327
						419,072	21,449	(55,000)	385,521
	#2	In anticipation of a traditional Rector search the Vestry set aside monies to fund the estimated cost per EDOMI staff							
		In 2019 the Vestry returned \$20,929 to the Operating Fund as the Rector Search was concluded in November 2018.							
		Monies restored to the Operating Fund in December 2019.							
	#3	In response to COVID-19 the US Federal Government the PPP loan program. The parish qualified for a \$30,415 forgivable loan.							
		if certain conditions are met the loan is forgiven. As of 12/31/2020 the parish has met those conditions and the loan proceeds were							
		taken into the Operating Fund revenue. Additionally, Macomb County had received certain COVID relief monies from the federal government.							
		The parish applied and received a grant for \$10,000 to support utilities cost which support all our various food distribution / feeding programs							
		The grant monies were taken into the Operating Fund as of 12/31/2020							
		The Parish did not meet the loan criteria for the 2021 PPP2 Loan / Forgiveness program.							

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Row #	Grace Episcopal Church							
	Updated 1/18/2024	Operating Fund						
	Column Label	A	B	C	D	G	H	J
	Account Name	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 TTL Actual	2022 TTL Actual	2023 TTL Actual	Adopted 2023 Budget	Adopted 2024 Budget
1	<b>Income</b>							
2	<b>Ordinary Income</b>							
3	<b>Operating Fund Contributions</b>							
4	Misc. Gifts	625	3,451	500				
5	Non-Pledge Income	26,142	24,581	766	13,383	21,283	11,400	15,000
6	Plate Offerings	3,664	312	2,649	1,793	4,186	1,600	3,700
7	Pledge Income	179,571	183,278	213,318	196,128	189,160	196,000	193,400
8	<b>Total Operating Fund Contributions</b>	<b>210,002</b>	<b>211,622</b>	<b>217,233</b>	<b>211,304</b>	<b>214,628</b>	<b>209,000</b>	<b>212,100</b>
9	<b>Other Operating Fund Income</b>							
10	Advertising Income	0						
11	Parking	1,560	1,160	280			0	
12	Rent Parish Hall	7,596	2,750	1,450	4,950	6,715	4,200	6,800
13	Rent Rectory Bldg.	16,005	17,045	19,800	18,600	20,475	20,400	20,400
14	Sanctuary Rental				300		0	
15	Restricted Accounts			0				
16	Scrip Income			0				
17	Unbudgeted Income	568	10,649	3,133	3,122	30,438	1,000	1,000
18	Unrestricted Accounts (Cash Dividends)	9,721	6,971	9,677	9,822	10,446	8,500	10,300
19	<b>Total Other Operating Fund Income</b>	<b>35,450</b>	<b>38,575</b>	<b>34,340</b>	<b>36,794</b>	<b>68,074</b>	<b>34,100</b>	<b>38,500</b>
20	<b>Total Ordinary Income</b>	<b>245,452</b>	<b>250,197</b>	<b>251,573</b>	<b>248,098</b>	<b>282,702</b>	<b>243,100</b>	<b>250,600</b>
21	<b>Fund Raising</b>		0		600	7,729		7,500
22	<b>Pledge Matching Gift</b>		0					
23	PPP Loan forgiveness		30,415					
24	Transfer from Other Assets	30,929	850	10,050	10,000	55,000	10,000	10,000
25	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>276,381</b>	<b>281,462</b>	<b>261,623</b>	<b>258,698</b>	<b>345,431</b>	<b>253,100</b>	<b>268,100</b>
26	<b>Expenses</b>							
27	<b>Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>							
28	B&G - General Expenses	28,745	19,354	22,020	23,651	26,874	26,000	26,000
29	Church Electric	11,220	8,284	9,727	8,520	10,110	10,152	10,200
30	Church Gas	7,682	8,199	5,038	7,407	8,057	8,790	8,790
31	Church Insurance	10,696	8,086	10,974	12,549	14,299	13,051	15,000
32	Church Phone/Internet	1,494	2,068	1,544	1,823	3,090	1,923	3,400
33	Church Water	1,585	1,037	864	1,137	2,684	1,196	1,600
34	Rectory Gas Electric & Water	1,127	1,758	1,674	1,407	4,262	1,122	4,500
35	Property Taxes - 22 Church	6,228	3,600	1,282	4,059	1,703	4,498	1,900
36	<b>Total Buildings &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>68,777</b>	<b>52,386</b>	<b>53,123</b>	<b>60,553</b>	<b>71,079</b>	<b>66,732</b>	<b>71,390</b>
37	<b>General Operating Expenses</b>							
38	Advertising Expense	250	0	148	524	29	1,000	500
39	Bank & On line FeesCharges/Fees	101	52	9	441	1,369	540	1,200
40	D.R.I.V.E. Membership	1,500	0	0	0	0	0	0
41	Diocesan Pledge	27,579	26,934	23,215	24,272	23,591	23,591	24,500
44	Music	1,209	956	689	1,083	575	2,000	1,500
45	Office Equipment	9,708	6,601	5,430	2,724	8,534	2,808	8,700
46	Office Supplies	1,707	2,116	5,381	7,916	9,843	8,038	8,400
47	Payroll Service	225	216	171	234	322	250	315
48	Postage	495	631	207	478	707	400	800
49	Hall Rental Expense	1,150		0	0	0	0	
50	Unbudgeted Expense	399	817	816	1,162	456	300	500
51	Worship	559	712	433	197	165	800	200
52	<b>Total General Operating Expense</b>	<b>44,882</b>	<b>39,035</b>	<b>36,499</b>	<b>39,031</b>	<b>45,591</b>	<b>39,727</b>	<b>46,615</b>
53	<b>Rector</b>							
54	New Rector Search Encumbrance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	Annuity in Lieu of Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
56	Health Ins	21,563	24,909	20,866	22,132	21,216	21,216	21,318
57	Dental /Life Insurance	572	364	125	1,504	1,504	1,414	1,505
58	Pension	13,043	11,037	10,869	13,042	11,274	15,491	15,608
59	Continuing Ed.	434	606	910	650	2,066	1,000	2,100
60	Auto & Professional Expenses (#6)	1213	538	1,050	385	0	2,200	2,200
61	Rector's Cell Phone	1,200	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
62	Rector's Discretionary Acct.	1,238	1,370	765	650	700	600	600
63	Rector Sabbatical Funding	900	1,100	400	0	0	0	0
64	Rector's Salary	78,000	80,341	82,750	82,750	86,060	86,060	86,060
65	<b>Total Rector</b>	<b>118,163</b>	<b>121,265</b>	<b>118,935</b>	<b>122,313</b>	<b>124,020</b>	<b>129,181</b>	<b>130,591</b>

Grace Episcopal Church								
Updated 1/18/2024			Operating Fund					
Row #	Column Label	A	B	C	D	G	H	J
	Account Name							
		2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 TTL Actual	2022 TTL Actual	2023 TTL Actual	Adopted 2023 Budget	Adopted 2024 Budget
66	<b>Salaries/Expenses - Other Employees</b>							
67	Administrator	22,725	22,865	15,590	22,760	23,265	25,958	23,460
68	Administrator - Pension	1,960	2,284	594	2,182	2,304	2,077	3,000
69	Accountant				1,780	6,596	10,400	10,400
70	Christmas Bonuses	600	500	600	550	300	900	900
71	Contractors (Temp Help)	100		0	0	0	0	0
72	FICA/Medicare	3140	3,086	2,421	3,254	3,354	4,213	3,895
73	Music Director	18,014	17,473	17,998	17,998	15,401	18,718	17,000
74	Cleaning Service	14,036	18,031	15,715	15,860	15,770	16,224	15,800
75	Sexton - Pension	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
76	Supply Clergy	534	207	240	2,117	1,474	2,125	3,000
77	<b>Total Salaries/Expenses - Other Employees</b>	<b>61,109</b>	<b>64,446</b>	<b>53,158</b>	<b>66,501</b>	<b>68,464</b>	<b>80,615</b>	<b>77,455</b>
78	<b>Total Rector/Other Salaries/Expenses</b>	<b>179,272</b>	<b>185,711</b>	<b>172,093</b>	<b>188,814</b>	<b>192,484</b>	<b>209,796</b>	<b>208,046</b>
79	<b>Other Ministries Funding</b>							
80	Altar Guild Funding #1	600	600	140	1,000	1,000	1,000	0
81	Children's' Formation Funding	600	600	0	0	0	0	0
82	Christain Ed General				1,000		1,000	0
83	Deacon's Education Funding #3	800	0	0			0	0
84	Evangelism Funding	300	300	0			0	0
85	Health Ministry Funding	250	250	0	0		0	0
86	Other Outreach Funding	1,000	500	0	1,000		500	0
87	Parish Life Funding	1,500	500	719	500		500	0
88	Prison Ministries		0	830	1,000	500	500	0
89	Stewardship Funding	600	600	158	0	1,000	0	0
90	<b>Total Other Ministries Funding#</b>	<b>5,650</b>	<b>3,350</b>	<b>1,847</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>0</b>
91								
92	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>298,581</b>	<b>280,482</b>	<b>263,562</b>	<b>292,898</b>	<b>311,654</b>	<b>319,755</b>	<b>326,051</b>
93								
94	Surplus (Deficit) for Year	(22,200)	980	(1,939)	(34,200)	33,778	(66,655)	(57,951)
95					Unbudget Inc.	(30,438)		
					Net Fund Raising Inc.	(7,729)		
96					Tranfers from Investments	(55,000)		
97	<b>Surplus (Deficit) for Year prior items outlined above</b>					(59,389)		



Grace Building Fund 2019 through 2023 Fund Analysis - Projects & Major Repairs													
Updated 1/18/2024													
Row #	Column Label	A		B		C	D	E	F	G	H	J	L
		Unrestricted Bldg Gen Proj		Music Improv Proj		Vestry Designated		Insurance claim		Restricted Roof Fund Raiser		Restricted Grant	
12	Balance 12/31/2019	22,165	22,165	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Parish Donations	3,196	3,196										
14	Fund Raisers	0	0										
15	Capital Drive Donations	32,775	32,775										
16	New Boiler Install	(12,885)	(12,885)										
17	Broadcast Equipment & Install- Worship Service	(3,612)	(3,612)										
18	Balance 12/31/2020 as amended as of 2/17/2021	41,639	41,639	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Parish Donations	2,129	2,129										
20	Fund Raisers												
21	Capital Drive Donations	48,855	48,855										
22	Roof & Sanctuary Insur Claim Rev	49,491	49,491							49,491			
23	A/C Furnace Repairs	(1,428)	(1,428)										
24	New Alarm Sys	(7,971)	(7,971)										
25	Freezer Repairs	(1,518)	(1,518)										
26	Roof Repairs - Hall/Kitchen	(400)	(400)										
27	Misc. Repairs	(1,829)	(1,829)										
28	Roof & Sanctuary Repairs	(32,669)	(32,669)							(32,170)			
29	Bell Tower Temp Repair	(139)	(139)							(139)			
30		0	0										
31	Balance 12/31/2021	96,159.46	78,977.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,182.00	0	0	0
32	Parish Donations	23,150.00	20,150.00	3,000.00									
33	EDOMI Grant	10,000.00	10,000.00										
34	Fund Raisers	600.00											
35	Capital Drive Donations	59,650.00	59,650.00										
36	Roof & Sanctuary Ins Claim Rev	30,518.16								30,518.16			
37	Bell Tower Temp repairs	(2,410.52)								(2,410.52)			
38	Interior Sanctuary Repair & Painting	(64,009.46)	(18,720.00)							(45,289.46)			
39	Electronic Signage	(18,765.00)	(18,765.00)										
40	New Alarm Sys-Bldg 22	(5,743.41)	(5,743.41)										
41	Misc Repair-JSL	(1,113.81)	(1,113.81)										
42	Landscaping Improvements	(2,650.00)	(2,650.00)										
43	Church Office & Hall Re-Roofing	(30,380.00)	(30,380.00)										
44	New Clavinova	(2,949.99)		(2,949.99)									
45	Transfers within project sub-accounts	0.00	0.00	0.18						(0.18)			
46	Balance 12/31/2022	92,055.43	91,405.24	50.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
	Parish Donations	2,375.00	2,375.00										
	EDOMI Grant												
	Re-build of A/C hall roof pad	(2,615.00)	(2,615.00)										
	Roof top A/C & Heating Units	(19,483.00)	(19,483.00)										
	Church Chimney Re-build	(13,998.00)	(13,998.00)										
	Church Front Dr & Court Yard Cement	(9,945.00)	(9,945.00)										
	Balance 12/31/2023	48,389.43	47,739.24	50.19									

# Vestry Report

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With hopes of addressing diminishing revenue, fundraising was a major theme for the Vestry in 2023. Many creative ideas came to fruition, and progress was made toward whittling down the deficit. Successful Vestry projects included the following: Christmas Cookie Walk, Rummage Sale, Parking Lot Space Rental, Fall Spaghetti Dinner, Quarters for a Cause which also featured an auction, Friday Movie Nights, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and exploration into obtaining a gaming license. After sharing her talents with us for a short time, Marianne Grenier moved on to new career opportunities, and we welcomed Alice Tumi as an experienced bookkeeper. Financial concerns continue to be in the forefront of prayerful discussion, and the Vestry is exploring options for conserving resources and preserving the mission and future of our church. This may include pursuing collaborative ministry with another local church. Other important Vestry activities included hiring our new talented music director and organist, Josh Dulin. Josh brings vast experience and fresh ideas as well as a wonderful positive attitude to the Grace Music Program. We also participated in the Mount Clemens Pride Festival, provided a Wednesday luncheon for the soup kitchen at Crossroads Church, hosted a weekly community band that culminated with well-attended concerts, and shared in a weekly Lenten viewing of The Chosen. Several Grace members marched in the Santa Parade, and over 80 people attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Program put on by the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice and hosted at Grace. Additionally, over 20 Christmas gift bags for our shut-in members were assembled and delivered. The Outreach room was structurally reorganized and now allows any parishioner that becomes aware of need to access the contents and provide support. The Vestry continues to be led by dedicated Co-Wardens Lori Simon and Martha Houser. We thank Karen Davenport, Brooke Lau, and Kris Eckert for completing their faithful terms on Vestry and look forward to working with the 2024 newly-elected members.

## Pastoral Care

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During this past year our Pastoral Care team continued to provide spiritual guidance, prayer, communion as well as financial, emotional, and other physical assistance to people who needed other in-home supports. This team met monthly by Zoom and various assignments were made at these sessions as to who was going to do what for the coming month. There was always back up ready to support each member and they could always contact the priest for assistance. When it was appropriate, we would approach other parishioners outside of the team to assist someone with a specific need, e.g., driving a person to a doctor's appointment. We welcome anyone who would like to join our pastoral care team, no previous experience necessary. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, or if you know someone in our parish who might appreciate a call or visit from this team, please contact Pastor Steve. THANKS!

# Buildings & Grounds

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I would like to thank all the members of B&G for the great support throughout the year but an extreme show of gratitude for Dave Farrell, Lare Poucher, Bill Siewert, and Fred Seewald. These men spend countless hours every week at the church saving us many thousands of dollars during the year. Here us a partial list of this years completed projects:

- Installed mirror in stairwell to food pantry.
- Repaired hall tables
- Replaced fire alarm pull handles in basement.
- New water meters installed in church and rectory.
- Inspected all plumbing fixtures in church and rectory.
- Fertilized lawn.
- Inspected backflow preventer in rectory.
- Insurance company safety walk thru of entire complex.
- Maintenance completed on all Mitsubishi units.
- New A/C units installed on kitchen roof.
- Weed control in courtyard and parking lot.
- Stored MCREST bed frames in rectory basement.
- Repaired cracks in ramp foundation in front of hall.
- Cleaned out sewer drains in rectory.
- Replaced all furnace filters semi-annually.
- Replaced broken concrete in courtyard, kitchen landing sidewalk and added 3 feet of concrete to widen circle drive in front of hall.
- Installed smoke & CO2 detectors throughout buildings.
- Rewrapped 220v line entering building.
- Repaired and caulked wood molding around louvers on east wall of bell tower.

Thank you,

Tom Murphy

# Music Ministry

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The Grace Episcopal Choir continues to be a ministry who lift their voices during 10:30 a.m. service. The group has maintained a very tight-knit community of prayerful individuals who strive to share the message of Christ in song even after some time apart without a director.

They are continuously willing to lend their voices to a variety of musical selections that instill the message of Christ with themes consisting of love, forgiveness, charity, peace, and unity. Special instrumental selections and accompaniment have also been generously provided this year by talented members of the church and group. The choir agrees to meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary for rehearsal which lasts forty-five minutes to an hour. Later in the week, recordings are emailed to the group by the coordinator with the intent of their being revisited again before meeting once more one hour prior to service in the sanctuary.

We are looking forward this year to continued consistency and growth in membership after several months apart, developing our repertoire, and lending our time and talents to local appropriate events.

Submitted respectfully by,  
Joshua Dulin  
Minister of Music

# Christian Education

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## **Children's Program**

We have not had an active Sunday School program for children since the pandemic started. We always have activity sheets and coloring materials in the back of the sanctuary hanging in see through plastic bags that anyone may hand out to any parent who brings in younger children on a Sunday. We have had a few younger children occasionally attend the 10:30 service throughout 2023 and we greatly appreciate your attentiveness and patience with them as we seek to accommodate them in the sanctuary throughout the entire service. If you have ideas on how we may grow our Sunday school program or if you would like to join us in creating one, please contact Pastor Steve.

## **Adult Program**

Our Adult Christian formation had two components during 2023. The first was our bible study on Sunday mornings at 9:30 between the two services. This group meets in the Guild room and has had a regular attendance of between 8-14 people. The focus of bible study is on the readings of the day, and no advance preparation is needed, anyone may join in the conversation. This is an in-person only group, there is no Zoom option. At the end of 2023, Kris Eckert started a Friday evening bible study with different topics. This group will continue in 2024 so please be on the lookout for more information regarding days and times.

The second, component of our Christian education focused on watching "The Chosen" during Lent and it continued through early June as we finished watching the remainder of season three. The Chosen is a groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Israel, the seven-season show shares an authentic and intimate look at Jesus' revolutionary life and teachings. Season four is being released in February so we will watch this season during Lent 2024. More information will be forthcoming, we hope you will be able to join us!

# Lay Eucharistic Ministry (L.E.M.)

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Total L.E.M. membership has remained at seven members with the addition of Becky Eraybar. We are always looking for more L.E.M. members.

# Verger

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Verger ministry remains available for all appropriate occasions, as decided by Fr. Steve.

# Worship Committee

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Throughout 2023 we have continued our regular pattern of hybrid worship at 8:30 and 10:30 on Sunday mornings. At the early service people may attend in person and Pastor Steve uses his laptop to broadcast the service over Zoom. The 10:30 service also has an in-person and online component, but our technology committee members facilitate the broadcasting of this service on YouTube. Since we split the services on these two social media platforms our technology problems from 2022 seemed to be solved so viewers are able to hear and see our services!

Our worship committee has also used a hybrid approach of in-person and Zoom meetings to plan worship for the various liturgical seasons and special services. People sometimes think that the worship in any church is the sole responsibility of the clergy. While it is true that the priest has the final say, it is really a collaborative work of many people coming together to plan and facilitate our worship every week. On our worship committee we have people who serve on the altar guild, technology committee, music ministry, and members who are ushers, lay eucharistic ministers and lectors. We try to represent all the groups that are involved in our worship services. We are always open to having more people join us on the worship committee. You do not need any experience and you don't have to be involved in any of those groups mentioned. If you come to worship at Grace, you are invited to join us on this committee to plan our services! We typically only meet about 4 times a year so if you are interested, please talk with Pastor Steve.

## Altar Guild

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We have two new members who have joined the Altar Guild. Welcome Carolin Karal and Tish Mastro! Other Altar Guild members include; Sandy Atkinson, Donna Chapman, Fran Merlo, Jill Cottrell, Karen Davenport, Monica Dunbar, Barb Keranen, Suzanne LaMontagne, Wendy Oravec, Marliee Racine, Julie Saph, Ann Strevel and Ann Farrell.

We are truly blessed to have our faithful altar guild members who quietly and carefully prepare the altar each week as well clean and decorate for holidays, weddings and funerals. Thank you for all you do.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us in this service. Please contact Ann Strevel or Ann Farrell for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Farrell and Ann Strevel

Co-chairpersons

# Wednesday Supper

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The Wednesday Community Supper has been serving a home cooked meal every Wednesday since 2008. We serve about 120 meals each week to the homeless, sheltered, seniors, vulnerable adults, families in need of stretching their food budgets and anyone who just wants company while enjoying a free dinner out.

# Sunday Supper

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The Sunday Supper Ministry serves meals every week from November through March with an average attendance of 30-40 guests. We also provide a meal on the 5th Sunday during the summer when we coordinate with First United Methodist Church in Mt. Clemens.

We have groups from local churches and other organizations who take turns cooking each week and provide food, volunteers and other needed items to offer our guests as well as a warm smile and a kind word. Volunteers from Grace cook and serve 3-4 times during the winter. Our core group; Kris, Charlie, Dave and I are “hosts” each week to make sure the cooking groups have what they need. For the past two years, we have had a Christmas Day (2022) and Christmas Eve (2023) celebration for our guests with decorations, gifts and a delicious dinner. Suki, Tony, Lynda and Charlie have worked hard to make it special for our guests. We thank all the volunteers that make this ministry possible!

Thank you for supporting this ministry.

Ann and Dave Farrell

Sunday Supper Coordinators

# Grace Food Pantry

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Our pantry continues to supply those facing “food insecurity” in Macomb County. We serve about 300 people each month, families, elders and the homeless on the street. We are open three mornings a week, manned by volunteers, many from our community who feel called to serve.

We receive lots of food donations from other area churches and Christmas gifts from individuals. We are also blessed with grants from Meijer for several thousand dollars each year. The county supplies us with food twice a month which helps greatly. Everything else, we purchase in order to keep up with the need.

We witness all the time how we have touched lives, helped families and fed the elderly. We help those who live on the edge.

Gay Gillespie, Pantry Manager

# Technology Committee

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Two people joined our team, Dash Heath and Tish M. We have a projector and screen that we used when the vestry put on movie nights. We facilitated the showing of The Chosen for lent. We have plans to update the pictures on the website.

## Blessings in a Backpack

---

Blessings in a Backpack is an organization that helps provide weekend meals to at need students. During the week, those students often qualify for supplemental meals through the school, but on the weekends, they are on their own. Through the assistance of Meijer, we provide 6 meals per weekend for \$150.00 per student for the school year. We get the shipments of food once a month for the district, and then pack the food weekly for distribution to the students.

For the new school year, we are serving 215 students in the preschool and elementary school, down from last year, as the Mt. Clemens School District faces plenty of challenges. Our volunteers from Grace Church, two other parishes, and a collection of others are back at it, packing bags weekly for the children. We are thankful for all of those who volunteer their time and efforts.

We had a successful fundraising drive in the fall and reached our goal to raise the funds needed before the school year started. Of course, we are looking ahead to fund next year's efforts.

You can help as the months progress by saving your "B" dollars (the letter on the dollar bill) and turning them in at the church. Our treasurer will then forward the donations to the Mt. Clemens chapter of Blessings in a Backpack. There are also brochures outside the church office to explain the program and provide directions for donating (or you can contact one of us).

As always, thank you for your continued support!

Michael and Donna Oakley

## MCREST

---

We held MCREST last may for a week and had 30 men stay with us. They slept on bunkbeds in the church basement. We provided them 3 meals a day, bus tickets or gas cards, and showers. We were blessed to be able to do this again.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Houser

## Health Ministry

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During 2023, there were 3 Red Cross Blood Drives at Grace. There were no other activities.

# Prayer Group

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As this new year 2024 begins, our small group will continue its mission, to pray daily for all those on our prayer list. We meet monthly at church, usually on the second Saturday, to review and update the list, sign prayer cards, and divide up the names amongst us to address and mail the cards. Our reward is receiving heartfelt messages from recipients, thanking us for praying for them and giving us updates on their situation, and best of all, learning they have fully recovered and are no longer in need of our prayers! As you know, many of these people are not even members of Grace, so this is just another example of our caring and outreach to those in need in our community and beyond.

Putting a loved one on the prayer list is as easy as contacting the church office or Pastor Steve or me.

If this is a ministry that interests you, we welcome additional members.

Blessings,

Jill Cottrell

## Hearts for Homes

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With the help of so many supporters at Grace, Hearts for Homes was able to help 116 children and 58 families get into a safe, affordable home or stay in their home in 2023. Grace also sponsored a "Giving Tree" for our H4H families. We were able to collect 159 gifts for 18 children and 6 moms.

Hearts for Homes mission is to eliminate homelessness amongst children in Macomb County. We assist homeless families with security deposit assistance in Macomb County. There are approximately 1600 homeless, school age children in our county in 2023 and that number has increase 10% already this year. This is not okay! With the help of Heart Partners, we will do our part to help lower, and eventually eliminate, that number.

Hearts for Homes will be hosting four fundraisers in 2024. We will be having a Euchre tournament this winter, which was a huge success last year and we will be having our Golf Event on June 28, 2024. We will also be announcing 2 other fundraisers as the year progresses. We hope to see you all at these FUNdraisers.

Thank you so very much for your continued support of Hearts for Homes.

Our families appreciate all you do in support of our Mission!

Christa Carpenter & Karan Bates-Gasior

Co-Executive Director

Hearts For Homes

# Rector Report

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We have been busy throughout 2023! Our regular routine of having two worship services on Sunday that may be attended in person or viewed online has worked very well. All the practice we obtained during the pandemic on how to broadcast our services over the internet has finally paid off! Our bible study between the two Sunday services has flourished and our special services during Advent and Lent are also well received. We are especially grateful to the many people who serve in our worship related ministries, i.e., Altar Guild, Ushers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Vergers, Technology Committee, Choir Members, Musicians, Worship Committee and Greeters, because they are the ones that make our Sunday services possible!

We always welcome anyone who would like to serve in any of these capacities, just talk with Pastor Steve.

At the end of April 2023, our music director, Amy Saari left Grace after 10 years of dedicated service. We celebrated her with a festive coffee hour and a going away gift. A special committee was created to search for, and interview potential new candidates for this position. In the summer we hired Josh Dulin and he started as our new music director in September. We are pleased to have such a talented and committed musician and choir director! Thank you for welcoming him into our Grace community!

Also, we said good-bye to Hannia Reyes who was working part-time with our bookkeeping duties as she and her husband moved back to their home in Florida. Then during the summer, our bookkeeper, Marianne Grenier, also resigned. She graciously waited until September when we hired Alice Tumidanski to take her place and then Marianne came in to train our new bookkeeper. Alice does this same work at St. John's Episcopal Church in Royal Oak and she came highly recommended by the priest at that congregation. You may not see Alice in the office as she does most of her work for us remotely, but she does come in once a month to complete all the accounting for the previous month and create the financial reports for the vestry. Our parish administrator, Marchea Brown assists Alice with data entry into our Realm software. Special thanks also to Gary Keranen who meets regularly with Alice and Marchea to consult with them on their work. We are also grateful for Donna Chapman and Fran Merlo who faithfully come in every Monday to do the counting for the previous day's offerings. And finally, I would like to thank Ann Farrell who serves as our treasurer. She is the link that keeps all of our financial pieces communicating and working well together!

Our Buildings and Grounds committee has been very busy throughout 2023 coordinating and overseeing a multitude of building maintenance and repair jobs. Just when they finish one project another one always needs attention. In addition, these dedicated volunteers meet monthly to go over all the work that needs to be done in our facility. Please see their report for a listing of projects completed this year. Thanks B&G for all you do to keep our buildings and grounds in good shape!

I am also happy to report that throughout 2023, we at Grace have continued our important outreach ministries that provide food to the hungry through our Food Pantry, Wednesday Community Supper, Sunday Soup Kitchen, and Blessings in a Backpack program. We thank all the volunteers who coordinate and staff these important ministries!

You may have heard that the Warming Center has officially closed and that a new program in Macomb County called Motor City Mitten Mission has opened to carry on this important work. They are located in St. Clair Shores rather than Mt. Clemens and we at Grace have been supporting their work. Thanks to Lori and Ernie Simon who coordinated our Warming Center ministry for so long and for their continued enthusiasm to help us become involved with the Motor City Mitten Mission.

# Rector Report (Cont.)

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We continue to support MCREST through financial contributions and our annual hosting of homeless men who are in that program. We typically take a week in May to house and feed about 30 men. This ministry would not happen without the tireless efforts of Martha Houser and her family, so thank you to all of them! We also held blood drives for the American Red Cross which were coordinated by Martha Houser and Mary Williams headed up our Prison Ministry which provided emotional and financial assistance to incarcerated people here in Mt. Clemens.

A new outreach experience for us in 2022 was our involvement at the Mt. Clemens/Macomb County Pride weekend in October. We had a booth and giveaways as we met wonderful people. We participated in this event again in 2023 but it was moved to August. We hope to make this an annual outreach activity so more information will be forthcoming later this year. Thanks to Kris Eckert for coordinating our involvement in this community wide happening!

We partnered with the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice as we hosted the Martin Luther King event in January. We had over 100 people join us in the MLK walk from Mt. Clemens High School to Grace where we hosted a keynote speaker and teacher awards in our sanctuary. Attendees were then invited to join us for a box lunch in the parish hall. We participate in this community wide event again in January 2024.

Other outreach happens when we regularly pass out various items to people who come to our door during office hours and through the priest's discretionary fund, we were also able to assist folks with money for rent, utilities, medical bills, gasoline, motel stays and other emergencies. THANK YOU for supporting our outreach programs!

Yes, 2023 has been a year of re-building coming out of the pandemic as we worked to establish a new way of being the church in Mt. Clemens. We had to revise our efforts and we will continue to change through 2024 and beyond as we assist with building the Kingdom of God here in this place!

THANK YOU for being part of our faith community!

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2023

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	WHO
Active Members	92	
Baptisms	1	Leo Lagocki
Burials	6	Dennis Howey, Walter Prazuch, Janet Stirevel, Elizabeth Moorehouse, Janet Swandt, Jack Sullivan
Confirmations	0	
Marriages	3	Joe/Jessa Villamor; Selia/Robert Tuten, Rachel/Steve Westergren
Marriage Renewals	2	Carol/Jack Sullivan, Lori/Ernie Simon
New Members	6	Jim/Carolyn Karal, Sue Sargent, Steve Arnold, Selia/Robert Tuten
Receptions	0	
Transfers Out	0	

# WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Average Sunday (ASA)	65	60	52	**67/25	86	87	96	104	115	110	112	110	71	74	70
In Person	59	53	42	67	86	87	96	104	115	110	112	110	71	74	70
Online	6	7	10	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Christmas	*108/3	*98/12	*84/11	*0/43	159	159	140	168	246	222	183	170	84	70	138
Easter	*105/10	*104/20	*40/27	*0/32	168	270	203	233	256	270	281	154	135	124	117

Note: \* = In Person/Online

\*\* = Before March 15/After March 15