

Grace Presbyterian Church

2025 Annual Report



Pastor's Annual Report

At our first preschool chapel back from summer break, I asked the children a simple question: “What did you do this summer?”

One little girl shot her hand into the air and exclaimed, “I went to camp!”

Naturally, I followed up, “Who did you go camping with?”

With a huge smile on her face, she proudly replied, “I went to Bible Camp with you!”

When I reflect on this past year at Grace, it's easy for me to focus on attendance metrics or immediately reach for a copy of the budget. I am passionate about growing the church, and I care deeply about being faithful stewards of what God has entrusted to us. And yet, moments like this remind me of what Jesus said: “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”

In the hustle and bustle of church life, it's easy to overlook these holy moments—these glimpses of God's kingdom breaking through. This past year at Vacation Bible Camp, we welcomed preschoolers into camp. It was a joy to watch as each child heard about God's great love for them—many for the first time.

Every child who attended camp received their very own Bible, including our preschoolers. Since camp, families have shared with us that their child now loves reading from their Bible each night before bed. This is what God is doing at Grace.

This is just one example of how we have seen God's kingdom breaking through here at Grace in 2025. My prayer is that these stories continue to be shared. My prayer is that we turn outward—to our church community, our friends, and our neighbors—and tell them about the impact Jesus has made in our lives this past year. Like that preschooler joyfully shouting, “I went to camp!” may we share those moments of grace with others.

As I enter my fourth year as pastor here at Grace, I am continually reminded that ministry does not happen without our incredible staff. I am deeply grateful to serve alongside people who bring creativity, imagination, and faithfulness to their areas of ministry every single day. I thank God for our amazing staff and leaders who make these kingdom-building initiatives possible.

Thank you, church.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. John Denton



Finance Committee

The Finance committee is tasked with coordinating preparation of the annual budget, tracking and reporting on the income and expenses of the church and making spending and investment recommendations to the Session. The Finance Committee also serves as the Stewardship Committee and as the Trustees of the Legacy fund.

For 2025, the Finance Committee consisted of Tom Bryan, Chair, Patrick Ryan, Larry Luther, Ken Sanger and Sue Bouchard. We also want to acknowledge the hard work of the staff, Albina Lumetta, Church Bookkeeper and Christie Elliott, Director of Church Operations, who handle the day-to-day bookkeeping, banking and reporting activities.

BUDGET

We started the year with a balanced budget for the first time in many years, meaning the anticipated income would be enough to cover the anticipated expenses. Included in the budget was the first full year of operations for the Pre-school which presented several financial challenges, such as the fact that we had to hire teachers before we could enroll additional students. However, as we closed out the year, thanks to some unexpected year end gifts, income was greater than anticipated and expenses were also less than anticipated. Leaving us with \$13,271 income.

At year end, our cash reserves were \$65,800.

We are again beginning 2026 with a balanced budget. Based on pledged giving we are able to project an increase in income over last year sufficient to cover the projected increase in expenses.

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee coordinates the activities throughout the year to encourage biblical giving culminating with the annual commitment card campaign.

LEGACY FUND

The Legacy Fund is a long-term endowment fund set up in 2017. It is funded primarily by money in the form of bequests from estates of past members as well as gifts from members and friends of Grace to help preserve the financial future of the church. The money is invested by New Covenant Trust Company and pays 5% of the principal balance to the church general fund annually (paid in 2 installments in January and July). The fund has a principal balance of \$579,000 at the end of the year.

Submitted by Tom Bryan, Chair



Worship Committee

It is truly a blessing to be able to gather as a fellowship to worship our Lord each Sunday. Rev. John Denton, Scott Huston, Frances Hummel, Jayne Parker, Alice Nolf, and Pat Sexton make up the Worship Committee. We meet once a month to discuss our services. We look for ways to enhance and improve our worship service, as well as looking ahead to upcoming events. Pastor Denton is in charge of the order of worship, but our committee has the responsibility of overseeing our ushers, greeters, decorations for the church, music, and the overall worship experience.

We are very blessed to be led in worship each week by our very talented and dedicated Praise Team. Scott Huston has served for many years as the director of this group, and we are truly grateful for all he does. We are also blessed by the talents of Anna Belle Beamon, Ed McKearney, and Michele Earnest.

Our A/V team does an excellent job each week providing the sound and video for our live services as well as our on-line services. A big thank you to Jose Contreras, Joseph Cleary, Sue Bouchard, and Burt Anderson.

Our annual Christmas Eve Candle Light service was a beautiful worship experience. It was truly thrilling to see such a large group gather for this event. It was a blessing to see our sanctuary lit by candles as we worshipped together!

Once again, the Worship Committee partnered with the Fellowship Committee for our Carols, Cookies, and Christmas Sweaters gathering. It was thrilling to see so many families show up for this wonderful event!

The Worship Committee would like to thank the members of the congregation who have helped us keep our services running smoothly, as well as drawing us closer to Him!

Submitted by Pat Sexton



Grace Music Department

God gives the gift of music, and it is a blessing to use it to praise Him. The Grace Music Department leads the congregation in worship each Sunday morning and at special services throughout the year.

Our worship service is blended—meaning we praise God with contemporary songs and traditional music. The contemporary songs are led by our Praise Band. This volunteer group of musicians consisting of keyboards, harmonica, guitar, and vocals is led by Scott Huston. The Praise Band starts our worship service with two songs each week, leading all in singing to our Lord.

Our traditional music includes a prelude, introit, two hymns, an anthem, offertory, and a postlude. The organist and accompanist for all of this is Frances Hummel, who this year celebrated her 40-year anniversary at Grace. We are so blessed to have her providing beautiful music each week.



The introit and anthem are sung by the chancel choir—a group of singers dedicated to God, to Grace, and to each other. During the month of August, the choir does not meet, so the anthem is provided by soloists and small ensembles. These musicians also provide the offertories during Advent and Lent, and starting this past year, provided the offertory the third Sunday of each month. This year, various choir members served as hymn singers with a microphone to better lead the congregation.

Unfortunately, the bell choir has taken what is hoped to be a temporary break due to a lack of a sufficient number of ringers. This group has traditionally been an important part of the music department.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayne Parker, Director of Music



Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee continues to monitor and update both Federal and State employment laws to ensure Grace Presbyterian Church is in compliance. We introduced the first retirement plan for all employees, which will begin in 2026.

The Committee now oversees 12 employees with the continuous growth of our Preschool. We also budgeted for a Director of Children's Ministry and look forward to adding that position in 2026.

As Chairperson, I want to express my gratitude to the Committee members who have volunteered their time this past year. Our current team members are Barbara Nicholson, Ron Rosol, Larry Luther and Karen England. Our staff members are Christie Elliott, Director of Operations and Pastor John Denton,

Submitted in His name,

Ken Bouchard



Christian Education

What a blessing to share some of the highlights from 2025, because members of Grace answered the call to share their time, talents and treasures when asked! Vacation Bible Camp was held in June, hosting 35 children with 28 volunteers from the congregation. Thanks to your very generous donations each child was presented with their own Bible to take home! Rally Day, the kickoff to our Fall Programs, had a large turnout and we showcased our fall offerings, including a home study group, two Thursday morning studies, Sunday School offerings for adults and our children's Sunday School which taught 51 lessons this year and averaged 12 children each Sunday. Trunk or Treat was an outreach opportunity to the community and we had over 100 attend this year! Information was shared about Grace and the Preschool to families attending. We ended the year hosting Advent Dinner & Devotions for 50+ guests each week. What a blessing to prepare for Christmas with a multigenerational group! Grace Preschool continues to grow under the leadership of Director Frankie Zavala and Staff!

I want to thank the dedicated members of the committee, Amy Cleary, Stephanie Denton, Carol Eldridge, Karen England, Elder Chris Nolf, Gloria Ryan, Patrick Ryan and Tricia Sanger. We do a lot of work and have a lot of FUN!

Respectfully submitted by Sue Weston, Chair



Buildings and Grounds

Our Mission: To maintain and improve the buildings and grounds so that members, regular attendees, guests and visitors alike are welcomed and attracted into a safe, clean and well-maintained environment where the Gospel message shines and bears much fruit.

At Large Members: Scott Huston, Norm Long, Ron Nolf, Denise Stockman, Duane Weston

Staff Members: Pastor John Denton; Director of Church Operations, Christie Elliott

In addition to the Committee Members, we are very grateful for the frequent services of church members Ken Bouchard, Bill Eldridge, Chris Nolf, Tom O'Malley and Margo Smalley, as well as others who support B&G activities.

This report is intended to highlight major undertakings of B&G, without details of the on-going general maintenance of the campus operations that have been faithfully and efficiently managed by B&G and Staff.

Many Hands Workdays: On two Saturdays, one in March (19 volunteers) and one in October (15 volunteers) B&G organized several hours of cleaning, repairs, maintenance, painting, gardening, organizing and improving the church operations in preparation for Lent and Advent, respectively. In between we had two Saturdays in August to patch and paint the inside walls of the Fellowship Hall gymnasium area with 10 volunteers. In addition to getting a lot of work done, without paying outside pros to come in, we had a blast working together— “Grouping” and “Giving” together as Pastor encourages us to do. We are very grateful to these faithful stewards!

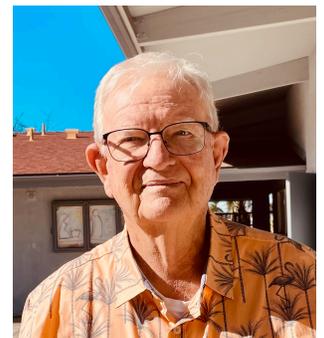
Fellowship Hall Rentals: Christie developed and achieved approval of a contract to allow Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society, PCSS, to use the Fellowship Hall on the 4th Saturday of 10 months during 2025 to provide revenue to the general fund. Christie oversaw the launch and the on-going relationship which has worked out very well. Job well done!

Solar Panels: Ron and Duane continued investigating three different solar power options. Working with Finance we have received approval from Session for the option to own the system. It is the most cost-effective approach. We are targeting implementation in 2026.

Upstairs Deck Renovation: Major repairs completed. Thanks to Duane for overseeing the project.

Tree Trimming: Removal of the leaning star tree and trimming of 14 palms before Easter.

In His Service,
Scott Huston, Elder and Chair of B&G



Fellowship Committee

We had a wonderful and successful year of offering various fellowship events at Grace. This could not be accomplished without the dedication of the Fellowship Committee. Led by Arlene Cratsa, the committee includes Sue Bouchard, Peggy Browneller Paradis, Andrea Fresca, Jayne Parker, Judi Rosol, Judi Salazar, Pat Sexton, and Margo Smalley. What a fun group of women, who work tirelessly in the planning and execution of each event!

Fellowship Hour:

Each Sunday, our committee hosts coffee/tea/punch for Fellowship Hour after worship service. Margo picks up donuts from Krispy Kreme each week, and these treats are displayed for worshippers to eat and take home.

Church-wide Events:

- We began with a **Valentine's Brunch** on Sunday, February 9th, with 90 in attendance. This has become a popular event, as everyone looks forward to having Ed Paradis' famous chilaquiles!
- On April 17th, we brought back the **Maundy Thursday** meal and service, with 70 in attendance. We enjoyed a light meal together before we reflected on the life and sacrifice of our Lord, including communion.
- June 29th was our annual **BBQ** to celebrate our nation's birthday. At least 126 attended, including many of our preschool families. It took a village to put on this event, with Fellowship preparing and serving the food. We were grateful for Maria Haigh's help in supplying the meat, and there was enough food leftover to give to families in need and for our church's Tuesday meals.
- **Carols, Cookies and Christmas Sweaters** was a huge success! It was held on December 7 at 3:00 pm. This event included our preschool families, and we had 78 excited children and adults decorating cookies after a time in the sanctuary singing Christmas songs. A fun time was truly enjoyed by all!

Women's Events:

- The first women's event was held on Saturday, May 17, with **Maria Haigh** as our guest speaker. She spoke on "**An Invitation from our Lord**" and gave a powerful testimony of her life and how she came to the Lord. This was our first bilingual event, as Maria's friend Glenda translated for Spanish-speaking guests. The event ended with Maria's friend Josh singing a beautiful solo, "People Need the Lord." Sixty attended, & approximately 18 did not attend Grace.
- Our second women's event took place on Saturday, September 20, with guest speaker Alice Nolf (a retired Nurse Practitioner). She spoke on "**A Lifetime of Service...Our God Is an Awesome God.**" Sixty ladies heard how Alice's Christian upbringing supported her through her educational journey, profession, and family life. The Nolf Family ended the program with two beautiful songs, which brought tears to many eyes.

Men's Event:

The Fellowship Committee surprised the men who attend the monthly Men's Breakfast program by preparing and serving breakfast on Saturday, October 4th. The men loved and greatly appreciated this fellowship, which will now be an annual event to show our appreciation for their generosity in giving their donations to Fellowship.

Financials:

Expenditures, which included events and supplies for coffee hour: \$2,268.66. Love donations received \$2,185.40; actual funds used out of the general fund was \$83.26.



Community Resources

Taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.
Ps. 34:8

In 2025, we are blessed to continue the outreach ministries that provide hunger relief, and academic support to children.

Since 2013, we have given children a safe place to learn, grow and thrive in their academic endeavors, helping each child build positive relationships and valuable social skills. For the last thirteen years we have tutored over **three hundred children** through the after school program. Former students have even returned to help in the ASP that they once took part in.

Meals of Grace has fed the community for over thirty years. What began as a vision to feed the hungry, continues to thrive today. Each **Tuesday** a delicious meal is prepared and served to anyone seeking a warm meal and friendship, a valuable reminder that all are welcomed to GPC and matter, especially to God. In addition, we are happy to serve 40+ meals each month to Operation Hope (Women's & children's shelter.) In 2025, **480** meals were prepared for the center and **720** meals were prepared and served to the Vista community.

The **Shepherd's Pantry (SP)** began twenty years ago with canned goods to help families in need. Today the Lord continues to bless the pantry with donations from Costco, Sprouts, Stater Bros., Walmart and the North County food bank. In 2025, the **SP** received over **155,000 pounds** of food to distribute to families in need. Many of the food items include produce, eggs, bread and protein (chicken/beef.) The abundance of donations has enabled the **SP** to provide for over **3,840** families in 2025.

We are grateful for **ALL** the awesome volunteers who make this possible. **THANK YOU** for your time, energy and dedication in serving others.

*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.*

Matt. 6:21

Maria Haigh, Community Relations Director



Deacons Report

The Deacons of Grace continue to embody Christ's call to serve with compassion, humility, and love, offering faithful care to both our church family and the broader community. Throughout this past year, the deacons remained committed to nurturing connections, providing tangible support, and serving quietly behind the scenes in ways that strengthen the life of our congregation.

A cornerstone of the deacons' ministry is maintaining meaningful relationships with our members, especially those who are homebound or experiencing seasons of transition, illness, or grief. Through regular phone calls, personal correspondence, and in-person visits, the deacons ensured that no one felt forgotten or alone. This year, our TeleCare team faithfully made more than 550 phone calls, offering prayer, encouragement, and a listening ear. In addition, over 150 cards were sent throughout the year—beyond the Christmas card sent to every household—marking birthdays, milestones, times of loss, and moments when a simple message of care could lift a spirit.

The deacons also made regular visits to members, with special attention given to those who are unable to attend worship in person. These visits are expressions of Christ's presence, reminding members that they remain an essential part of our church family. During Christmas and Easter, deacons delivered plants as visible signs of hope and new life, and throughout the year they brought flowers to brighten homes and hearts.

Another vital aspect of the deacons' ministry is coordinating meal trains for individuals and families in times of need. These efforts reflect our shared commitment to bearing one another's burdens. This past year included several meal trains, notably for a preschool family who joyfully welcomed a new baby in 2025. Through these acts of service, the deacons helped translate prayers into action and love into nourishment.

The deacons also provided financial assistance to individuals and families facing hardship, responding with discretion, compassion, and respect. This support is a reflection of our church's call to generosity, ensuring that those in need receive help in Christ's love.

In moments of remembrance and celebration of life, the deacons serve with particular dedication. During memorial services, they thoughtfully prepare the space, decorate with care, and facilitate catering, creating an atmosphere of hospitality and reverence. Their attention to detail and quiet presence allow families to focus on worship, remembrance, and healing.

Additionally, the deacons faithfully prepare the sacrament of Communion for each service. Working behind the scenes, they ensure that the table is set with care and reverence, supporting this sacred act of worship that unites us as the body of Christ.

Through every phone call, visit, meal, flower, and unseen act of preparation, the Deacons of Grace live out a ministry of faithful service. Their work reflects Christ's love in action and strengthens the spiritual and communal life of our church. We, as a church, are deeply grateful for their dedication, compassion, and steadfast commitment to serving God and God's people.

2025 Deacons: Anna Belle Beaman, Mary Becerra, Dorene Comerford, Pyong Dusang, Karen England, Donna Hubner, Linda Huston, Adriana Nolf, Terry Jeanne Sawyer, Kimberly Sparkman and Denise Stockman.

Submitted by Moderator, Denise Stockman



Grace Preschool

It has been a true privilege to serve as the Director of Grace Presbyterian Church Preschool this past year. I am deeply grateful for the trust placed in me, the support of our church leadership, and the partnership of our families and ministry teams. This year has been one of steady growth, meaningful connection, and visible evidence of God's faithfulness within our preschool community.

Areas of Service and Leadership

In my role as Director, I have had the opportunity to serve in multiple areas of ministry, including preschool administration, family engagement, faith formation, and church collaboration. My responsibilities included student enrollment and retention, daily preschool operations, curriculum oversight, event planning, and strengthening the connection between the preschool and the broader church body. Throughout the year, my prayer has been that every decision and interaction would reflect Christ's love and create a welcoming, Christ-centered environment for our youngest members and their families.

Ministry Partnerships and Church Collaboration

One of the greatest blessings of this year has been the opportunity to work alongside various ministries within Grace Presbyterian Church. I partnered closely with **Christian Education** to host a Thanksgiving meal for all preschool families. This event allowed families to gather in gratitude, share a meal together, and experience the warmth of our church community.

We also worked with the **Fellowship Committee** to invite preschool families to participate in the church's *Carols and Cookies* event. This was a particularly meaningful milestone, as our preschoolers were able to perform for the church family for the very first time. Watching our students confidently share songs of joy and faith was a reminder of the importance of including children fully in the life of the church.

In addition, I helped coordinate and host **ten family chapel services**, welcoming families into the sanctuary to worship alongside their children. These chapels provided a gentle and accessible entry point for families to experience worship together and helped strengthen the connection between home, school, and church.

Preschool Events and Community Building

This year, we were grateful to host several events that strengthened relationships and fostered a sense of belonging among our preschool families. We held a **Handel's Ice Cream fundraiser**, which not only supported the preschool but also offered a joyful opportunity for fellowship. We also hosted our **second annual Trunk or Treat**, with 100% participation from preschool families—a wonderful example of community engagement and shared celebration.

Within the preschool, we intentionally celebrated and honored families through special events, including **Mothers Day**, where caregivers were welcomed for bagels and painting, and **Fathers Day**, which included donuts and collaborative art projects. These moments allowed families to feel seen, valued, and included in their child's learning environment.

Faith Formation and Spiritual Growth

Our preschool continues to grow not only in numbers, but in Christ's love. One of the most meaningful experiences this year was our students' participation in **Vacation Bible Camp**. For many children, this was their first experience attending church outside of preschool chapel. Each student received a Bible—often their first—and it has been incredibly encouraging to hear children continue to talk about reading Bible stories at home with their families.

These moments affirm the importance of early faith formation and remind us that even the smallest seeds of faith can have lasting impact.

Enrollment Growth and Milestones

At the beginning of 2025, our preschool had **three enrolled students**. By the end of the year, enrollment had grown to **seventeen students**, a testament to God's provision and the collective efforts of our church community. We celebrated the graduation of **three students to kindergarten**, and we are excited to welcome **three new students** at the start of 2026.

This growth reflects not only increased enrollment, but growing trust from families who are seeking a nurturing, Christ-centered environment for their children.

Closing Reflection

I remain humbled by the opportunity to serve in this ministry and am continually thankful for the support, encouragement, and prayers of the Grace Presbyterian Church community. It is my hope that our preschool continues to be a place where children are known, loved, and introduced to the grace of Jesus Christ, and where families feel welcomed into the life of the church.

All glory and gratitude belong to God, who continues to guide and sustain this ministry. I look forward to what He has in store for the year ahead.

With thanks for
God's continued
guidance,

Frankie Zavala
Director, Grace
Presbyterian
Church Preschool



Church Operations

2025 was a quick but good year. The Lord continues to provide and has blessed GPC with amazing members, staff, volunteers and the opportunity to share the good news of the Gospel in everything we do. I continued in my role, of working with the Personnel Committee, the Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Finance Committee, managing the office and all office related needs, and helping with the Administration side of the Preschool.

In conjunction with the Personnel Committee we were able to update our Employee Handbook, handle all Human Resources needs, hire new Preschool staff and implement a Retirement Savings Plan for our staff starting in 2026. Working with the Personnel Committee is a blessing and they do an amazing job of managing all things Human Resource related.

I continue to work with the Buildings and Grounds committee to maintain our campus and keep it safe and secure. I continue to coordinate the use of our facility by outside groups with the Buildings and Grounds Committee. As facility needs come up, I work with the committee to get things fixed and resolved as quickly and as financially responsible as possible. Again, it is a pleasure to serve with the volunteers on the B & G committee.

The Lord surely provides and in 2025 it was very evident in the church finances. I was able to work with our knowledgeable and dedicated Finance Committee, along with our Finance Specialist, Albina, to provide accurate accounting reports and handle all accounting functions for the Church. Thankfully, we received the rest of our Employee Retention Credits, that we applied for almost 3 years ago, and we ended 2025 in the black. I look forward to a balanced budget in 2026 and what the Lord is going to continue to do at Grace. I appreciate the passion and care that the Finance Committee has for Grace and assuring that we are the best stewards we can be with all the funds the Lord blesses us with.

The Office continues to run smoothly with the help of our extraordinary volunteer, Sue Bouchard. Sue is a pleasure to work with and has been a tremendous asset to me in keeping all office needs met.

Wow, has the Preschool grown this year! Under the direction of Mr. Frankie, the Preschool is serving many families, not only for the education of their children but also with the love of Jesus. We have an AMAZING preschool staff in place, and I am so thankful for all they pour into Grace and the kids every day! It has been awesome working with Frankie in the Administration of the Preschool, and I can't wait to see it continue to grow.

I can't believe I am starting my 13th year here at Grace and I feel blessed to get to serve with our amazing Staff and Volunteers, and be a part of such a loving, caring, and joyous Church.

Gratefully submitted by Christie Elliott, Director of Church Operations





GRANDPARENTS@PRAYER ANNUAL REPORT – 2025



This ministry is directed especially toward grandparents (whether you are grand, great grand or adopted grand). Grandparents@Prayer provides monthly guidance through the church's newsletter. It contains "hot topics" to help us grandparents obey God's command to spread his Word by teaching one another. We focus on our grandchildren because they are the future. It also contains a prayer focused on the included story, a suggestion for action for carrying out the theme of the article and a light-hearted quote to help us smile on the task at hand. Pat Whisler emails out a monthly prayer to a group of 35 grandparents so we together can lift our praises and concerns to our Lord. The prayer contains submitted praises and concerns, some of which are about specific grandchildren on our mind. If you want to be included in this group and are not, please let Pat know at russ2pat@gmail.com. On September 7, a day nationally known as Grandparents Day, Grace church recognized Grandparents Day of Prayer. In 2025 Pat, her granddaughter Lily Pippel and puppet Gramma Grace conducted the early part of the worship service. The focus was on being grateful even though we age. That age is truly a gift from God. The Children's message was along the same idea: to be happy, no matter our age. It is the purpose of Grandparents@Prayer to intentionally leave a spiritual legacy for those who come after us to follow Christ's teachings. We praise our Lord for our grandchildren and ask him to guide us as we fulfill this purpose.



Lily, Gramma Grace and Pat on Grandparents Day of Prayer

Missions Committee

2025 committee members included Glenna Spindelman, Heather Russel, Tom O'Malley, Annie Kumar, and for part of the year, Steven Sailors. Maria Haigh is the Church staff member at our meetings.

The Mission Committee oversees the missional outreach of our church, the funds that support our community and mission outreaches both, nearby, as well as world-wide. This year, our church family has seen God's faithfulness in countless ways as we have sought to love our neighbors and participate in Christ's mission. Week after week, ordinary members stepped forward to serve, pray, give, and through these simple acts of obedience, doors have opened for relationships, healing, and gospel hope.

Following is a glimpse of how God has been at work through our community outreach and missions efforts during this past year:

Our community outreach ministry has focused on being a consistent, compassionate presence in our neighborhood, and expressing Christ's love through tangible service. Through weekly food distributions, hot meals, and practical assistance, we have been able to walk alongside individuals and families facing financial strain, loneliness, and uncertainty. Behind every bag of groceries, every hot meal given was a conversation, a prayer, or a simple word of encouragement that reminded people they are seen and loved.

As a testament to your hearts as servants of Jesus Christ, many of you directly support what we are blessed to do here in the neighborhood, through the **Shepherd's Pantry** and **Meals of Grace**. The giving of your time and your talents makes a difference.

The **Tuesday & Friday food distributions** could not happen without those of you who pick up the food from the donation sites, safely store and organize it, then literally place it in the hands of those families and individuals. The hours of preparing and serving our Tuesday **Meals of Grace**, so that the needy members of our community can have a hot meal.

The children of the neighboring Foothill Oak Elementary School, experience the heart of our Savior through the time you so generously pour into them with our **After School Program**. The children in our community were once again touched by your gifts through the **Christmas Angel Tree** and **Back-Pack drive**.

Our own Missions Committee member, Tom O'Malley, maintains and fixes our **church van** that is used for food and children pick-ups.

One of the greatest blessings has been watching relationships deepen over time. Neighbors who first came just to receive help are now known by name, sharing their stories, and returning not only for support but for friendship. Some have begun attending Sunday services; others have asked for prayer during difficult seasons. Several women have joined the Thursday morning Bible study that Maria conducts. These moments, often quiet and unseen, testify that the Lord is gently at work drawing hearts to Himself through the steady presence of His people. Thank you, **Maria Haigh**, for directing all these vital outreach programs.

Matthew 25:35 *"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home."*

Local Vista Partners:

As a church we continue to support the **Life Spring Transitional Housing Program**, serving transition-age youth and young adults, who have experienced foster care, to provide the support they need to become self-reliant. We continue our long-term partnership with **Operation Hope-North County**, providing funds and a full meal the first Tuesday each month.

Partnering with local and national Presbytery:

The outpouring of your gifts to **Special Offerings**, such as Great Hour of Sharing, Peace and Global Witness, Pentecost and Christmas Joy, has helped to support Presbyterian Church outreaches both worldwide and here at home. Additionally, a budgeted amount from Missions finances goes to support shared Presbyterian missions.

Partnering in global missions:

Beyond our local neighborhood, our church has continued to stand with missionary partners and ministries serving around the world. Worldwide, we support **Ross and Mary Hunter** of Pioneers, in Ecuador, and the **Widows Welfare Association of India**, in Manipur, India, led by Rev. Dr. Ruth Singson. Through regular financial support, prayer, and personal communication, we have sought to encourage those who are sharing the gospel, in diverse contexts. Our missionaries have shared updates of God at work: individuals coming to faith, leaders being trained, and communities receiving tangible help in times of crisis. While we may not see these fields with our own eyes, we have the privilege of standing alongside our partners as co-laborers, trusting that the seeds being sown will bear fruit in God's time.

Matthew 28:19-20 *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

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Missions Committee continued

Congregational engagement:

A significant joy this year has been watching our own congregation grow in awareness and participation in outreach and missions. Outreach and missions have not simply been programs of the church, but avenues through which God is shaping us into a people who reflect His heart for the lost, the broken, and the marginalized. Short testimonies shared through **Minutes for Mission**, every second Sunday of the month and through special mission-focused gatherings, such as **Missions Sunday**, in conjunction with Worldwide Communion Sunday, in October 2025 has helped keep the needs of our community and the nations before our eyes and on our hearts.

Hebrews 10:24 *“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.”*

Gratitude:

As the end of 2025, there is deep gratitude to our Lord, who has guided and sustained every effort, and to every person who has prayed, given, and served. Thank you for showing up, for loving persistently, and for trusting God to work even when results are not immediately visible. We were so blessed in 2025 with the generous outpouring of time and money by members of our Grace family as well as financial and volunteer support from the Village Church, Rancho Santa Fe. We are also grateful for the thousands of pounds of food donations this year from Costco, Walmart, Sprouts, Stater Bros, and Feeding San Diego.

Next Steps:

Looking ahead, we sense an invitation to continue deepening what has already begun: to strengthen relationships with our neighbors, to provide better care for our missionary partners, to equip more members for service, and to listen carefully to where God is leading us next. We are so glad Tom Krasovic will be rejoining our committee. His input and interest in our pursuit of being involved in a new missions project, a Prison ministry, is invaluable. We eagerly welcome new members and volunteers, to help us reach out to the community and organizations that, we, as a congregation, support. With humility and hope, we entrust the coming year to the Lord, asking that He would use our church to be a light in this community and to the nations, for His glory and the good of all people He loves.

Matthew 25:40: *“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*

— Annie Kumar, Chair, Glenna Spindelman, Heather Russell, Tom O'Malley, Maria Haigh.



Connections Committee

The Connections Committee at GPC was established in 2024. The mission is to focus on welcoming members, integrating newcomers and linking people to ministries and community service offered. We want to ensure everyone feels a part of the church family and committed to God and each other. This can happen through small groups and events sponsored by the church.

Members and guests are greeted each Sunday before Church service begins. We take this opportunity to welcome everyone, make sure they have a Bulletin, name tag, and a list of ways we meet throughout the week. This includes, but not limited to, Bible Studies, Food Pantry distribution and serving a hot meal on Tuesdays.



During the year, we have greatly improved our signage directing guests to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. They signs are a great way to welcome people on Campus.

In November, we held a Christmas Advent Craft Fair and we had over a hundred adults and children participate. Crafters and Bakers were very generous with their time and money, which resulted in a very successful and enjoyable time in fellowship. This event was able to raise almost \$2,000 which was deposited to the General Fund of Grace Presbyterian Church.

Submitted by Elder, Sue Bouchard

