

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

**Grace Presbyterian Church
153 Grove Street
Montclair, New Jersey 07042
(973)744-2565**

**The Reverend Robin Miller Currás
Transitional Pastor**

**The Reverend Margo Walter, M. Div.
Pastoral Associate**

**Donald R. Du Laney, D.M.A.
Director of Music**

**The Reverend Paul A. Leggett, Ph.D.
Pastor Emeritus**

| | |
|---|----|
| Transitional Pastor | 3 |
| The Interim Process | 3 |
| Pastoral Associate | 4 |
| Clerk of Session | 4 |
| Director of Music | 5 |
| Board of Deacons..... | 5 |
| GROW | 6 |
| Children/ Youth/ Family Ministry | 6 |
| Adult Ministry..... | 6 |
| Seasoned with Grace..... | 7 |
| Amazin’ Grace Softball | 7 |
| EXALT | 8 |
| CARE..... | 8 |
| Mercy Ministry | 9 |
| Meals Ministry | 9 |
| Hospitality Team..... | 9 |
| Prayer Ministry | 10 |
| ACT..... | 10 |
| Ministries and Individuals Supported in 2021 | 11 |
| Other Recipients..... | 11 |
| 2022 ACT Budget..... | 11 |
| Family Promise of Essex (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network) | 12 |
| MESH (Montclair Emergency Services for Hope)..... | 12 |
| Operation Christmas Child, a Ministry of Samaritan's Purse | 13 |
| REACH..... | 13 |
| Stewardship and Finance Ministry..... | 13 |
| Property Committee Report | 14 |
| Report on the Manse House — 2021 | 15 |
| Personnel Committee | 15 |
| Communications Team | 16 |
| 2021 Balance Sheet..... | 17 |
| 2021 Profit and Loss | 18 |
| 2022 Budget Recap..... | 19 |

Transitional Pastor

Getting to know the good people of Grace Presbyterian Church over the last six months has been a delight! I am always encouraged to meet folks who are seeking to follow Jesus in their daily lives, and when we share our faith with one another, I am encouraged to keep on keeping on. Thank you!

I am looking forward to the good work we will accomplish together in 2022!

The following was shared in the last issue of *Grace upon Grace*, but it might be good to have as part of the Annual Report for your reference.

The Interim Process

Come the new year, a Discernment/Transition Team will be formed to help Grace Presbyterian do the necessary work to seek its next pastor. This Team will lead the church through some necessary exercises to gather the information necessary to write a Mission Study for the church. A Mission Study looks at the community surrounding the church. Who lives around the church? What are the needs of the community? What are the unmet needs of the community? How might the church be in ministry with them? The Mission Study also looks inward. Who is already a part of Grace Presbyterian Church? What are the gifts of the people? What are the passions? And combining this information, where do the needs of the community and the passions of the congregation intersect? Knowing this, the church can prayerfully discern how God is leading you to be in ministry to the community moving forward. You need to know this in order to find the person with the gifts and talents to help you realize God's vision for Grace Presbyterian Church in the future. Every pastor has different gifts and talents, strengths, and weaknesses. You want to find someone who has passion for the things you feel called to.

Boiling this all down:

- Step 1:** Create a Discernment/Transition Team to lead congregational activities to write a Mission Study.
- Step 2:** Write the Mission Study.
- Step 3:** Have the presbytery approve the Mission Study.
- Step 4:** With the Mission Study approved, the presbytery gives permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).
- Step 5:** The PNC is approved by the congregation in a congregational meeting.
- Step 6:** The first task of the PNC is to write a Ministry Information Form (MIF) which tells potential pastors who you are, how you believe you are called to be in ministry—essentially, the church's resume.
- Step 7:** The MIF needs to be approved by the Session.
- Step 8:** Then it needs to be approved by the presbytery who will then input the MIF into the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) through which potential pastors will be matched with Grace Presbyterian Church.

This all takes time. The church needs to be ready to embrace the ministry of a new pastor, looking forward and not looking back. This is a prayerful time. Trust that God is already preparing the person who will be your pastor in the coming years.

It is my great honor to lead you through this process.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Robin

Pastoral Associate

I sensed last year's theme for Grace Church was Committed Unity, but now realize it is also true for this past year. Despite the fatigue, confusion, and polarization of 2021, our congregation has united around our transitional pastor, Pastor Robin. We are moving into 2022 with a commitment to our God and to one another. Our pews are filling, our hymns are rising, our youth are learning, and we are moving forward into our next season.

Nick Wallwork and I resourced a new Session, who faithfully and prayerfully discerned that Robin should be our interim pastor. We worked with the Reopening Task Force to discern how and when to reopen, then Pentecost saw us reunited in worship physically, with the red banners announcing the Holy Spirit's pouring out.

This year I have preached, served communion (in church and in homes), visited the home bound, and moderated Session way beyond what I ever expected. I offered book discussions on racial justice (*Caste*), on *God and the Gay Christian*, and on a study of the prophets. I led the women's group, both virtually and in-person, in growing spiritually and in developing a deeper fellowship as Christian women. I renovated the pastor's office and worked alongside others to develop a manse renovation plan.

Best of all, I've served alongside Pastor Robin as she has been leading us into our future. I have discerned God's call to step down from my staff position and into my former role as congregant. I have loved being your pastor but am ready to sit in the pew to experience worship and Pastor Robin's preaching, and to support the process leading to our next pastor and our renewed mission. I am ready to spend time more time with Frank, my children, and my grandchildren.

Thank you, Grace congregation, for allowing me to serve you and for serving me. Thank you for your extravagant gifts (one bottle of great wine down and one to go!!). Thank you for your love and respect. Thank you for allowing me to play my part in continuing our congregation's amazing legacy of faithful discipleship. May God bless you and keep you. I look forward to moving back to my pew in 2022!

In Christ's service,
Margo Walter, Pastoral Associate

Clerk of Session

Meetings of the Session were held on a monthly schedule. The Deacon Board also met monthly after Sunday morning worship services. The Standing Ministries of the Session are **GROW**, **REACH**, **ACT**, **CARE**, and **EXALT**. The **Nominating** and **Personnel** committees continue to be led by one or more Elders along with elected congregational members.

We give thanks for the faithful service of the following **Elders who are completing their term** of service on Session:

Emy Kamihara
Heather Kennedy
Yvonne Luengo

Joyce Moulthrop
Marie Nyland

We give thanks for the faithful service of **Deacons who are completing their term** of service on the Board of Deacons:

Joan Bernard

Angelese Nieves

Stephlyn Buchanan
Jay Mason
Alaine Nesmith

Lenord Smith
Kelly Tobiere

We give thanks for the faithful service of Co-Treasurer Werner Heck, who is concluding a term of service.

With thanksgiving for their lives, in 2021 we recorded the **deaths of:**

Sharon Karlson
Betty Poppinga Nelson
Dorothy Price

Evelyn Ruppell
Joan Szabo

An audit of the 2021 financial records is being arranged. Review and oversight of our insurance coverage has been maintained by the Property Committee. Church staff performance and salary reviews have been completed by the Personnel Committee.

The total number of **Active members** as of December 31, 2021 is **273**

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Walsh, Clerk of Session

Director of Music

2021 was a challenging year for the worship life of Grace. In light of the Session's decision to confine live singing during in-person services to quiet masked participation during hymns, both the choir and vocal soloists have been on leave. Fortunately, we were still able to have live instrumentalists periodically. The service has evolved into a hybrid model that makes use of some recorded music to include vocal pieces that would otherwise not be possible.

On a personal note, I am grateful to be back at the organ. We will continue to include as much live musical participation as the situation permits.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald R. Du Laney, Director of Music

Board of Deacons

This year of COVID was unlike any year that Grace members have had before. After a period of church closure and online church services, we adapted to have church services in-person and to hold them in a manner that would reduce the danger of spread of the dangerous COVID virus. Pews were marked off, with seating in every other pew, and all congregants were required to wear masks.

The Deacons had to adapt by not shaking hands or hugging church members as they entered. Fist and elbow bumps became the norm. We took attendance using computer tablets. Collecting the offering row by row was done only later in the year. Deacons also counted the offering received in the sanctuary this year. Most of the offering was received via mailed-in checks and an online system named Tithe.ly.

But the work of the church and the Deacons continues and thanks to God for this. The Holy Spirit will guide us as we hope and pray to return to what may become close to normal. Our brothers and sisters in Christian fellowship are all very dear to us.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Roe, Deacon President



The GROW ministry team oversees education, activities, and programs for the church's children, and for its adults and families. In-person activities were suspended in 2020 and the first half of 2021, due to COVID. As the church reopened in the second half of 2021, our ministry found that we were starting all over to rebuild any programs. Nick's departure at the beginning of the reopening posed a challenge, as he was director of a majority of the programs under the GROW umbrella.

Children/ Youth/ Family Ministry

In the first quarter of the year, there was an online Lenten Sunday school program that Nick led with the younger children. The GROW team organized Easter baskets that were hand delivered to every Sunday School child at home.

When Nick left a few months later we were blessed with Jody Walsh and her gift of teaching the children. Jody came forward and volunteered to teach and help organize in-person Sunday School for the children. She faithfully has been there on Sundays and has brought a following of some new families who were previous students of hers. We are grateful to Anne Berutti and to Allyson Roe for volunteering their time on Sunday mornings to help with the children and also occasionally teach. We have had some teen helpers along the way as well, which has been a way to get some of the older youth involved in church.

The year ended joyfully, bringing the children back into the church for a tailored message by Pastor Robin, their live performance reciting Psalm 100 using their own coordinated sign language, and a video of the Christmas story told by Pastor Robin, featuring them. Everyone was happy to join in fellowship on the lawn and pet the live nativity animals, while hearing our church choir sing together live for the first time since pre-pandemic days.

The GROW committee is also discussing VBS for the summer and is seeking volunteers who feel called to lead and help organize this effort.

The group has also discussed ways to get the older youth in the church involved.

Adult Ministry

As the church was closed for the first part of 2021, the daily Zoom devotions continued strong, even after Pastor Paul's departure, led by rotating members of the attendees. This online group continues to meet every weekday and is open to all who are interested. Pastor Margo's women's group continued to meet into the fall, and Pastor Robin is now leading the women's group, which meets on Wednesday evenings via Zoom. The Seasoned with Grace group also met for an in-person holiday luncheon.

With Nick's, Paul's, and Margo's departures, we are still keeping some of the groups that they led in mind, for when anyone might be called to lead or help get these back off the ground in the near future: Wednesday Bible studies, 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning discussion group, Men's Ministry, Missions Trips, and a *Wired Word* small group.

We are thankful for Pastor Robin stepping in and joining us as we continue to meet and plan ways to bring the congregation together to grow in Christ. We are also grateful to the members of this committee who have given their time, gifts, and efforts: John Ashbrook, Anne Berrutti, Jackie Denk, and Jody Walsh.

In 2022, we invite members of the Grace congregation to join us in growing our ministry and fellowship. It is our prayer that people will feel called to volunteer to lead, organize, and lend a small amount of their time as we build our future as a church.

In Christ,
Heather Kennedy, Moderator

Seasoned with Grace

This past year of 2021, due to pandemic precautions, Seasoned with Grace, our group of those who consider themselves to be senior citizens, was once again unable to meet in person for our usual Ash Wednesday Soup and Bread Luncheon, the Spring Get-Together, or the Fall Luncheon. However, we were able to have a wonderful time on December 9, 2021, at the home of Lauren Meyer, taking precautions to keep us healthy. We had a delicious lunch and a program featuring two speakers and stories of some carols. It was so good to be able to have a time of fellowship in person again. Our last gathering had been on Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020; we were one of the last groups to meet before the church in-person shutdown began.

Even though we have not met as a group we have been able to keep in touch and encourage each other through this difficult time. We hope this year of 2022 will see a full return to our meeting together, as it is enjoyable and something we look forward to doing.

The Coordinators of Seasoned with Grace,
Elaine Fiveland, Lauren Meyer, Janet Spain

Amazin' Grace Softball

The Amazins' continue to amaze. In this summer of COVID, the Amazins' won the Fellowship Softball League championship in a nighttime championship double-header in Roseland by twice beating the previously unbeaten and defending league champion team, Brothers in Christ. Both games had lead changes several times, but the Amazins' came on strong at the end and won.

Rich Thomas and Dave Beesley co-managed this years' team. Young Jake Thomas was the pitcher and won the most-valuable-player-trophy. Great defensive fielding, good pitching, and clutch hitting were the game difference. It is a thing of beauty to see outfielders chase down fly balls and runners running like gazelles on the base path. Young Jake kept the power hitters off stride in his mixing up fastballs, junk balls, and change-up pitches.

The championship trophy is on display at the rear Narthex in the church building. We wanted to display the trophy on the church communion table, but Session said that this would be theologically inappropriate. So, congrats to all the players. God willing, we will be back on the field this spring.

For the Amazins',
Bob Roe



The EXALT Committee is responsible for the worship services and the music of Grace Presbyterian Church. In order for the service and the music to enrich spiritually the congregation of Grace and viewers from the social platforms, EXALT directs talents, technology, and observations from Grace Church Family. Some of the special points of 2021 were:

- **Worship Service:** In March 2020, the State of New Jersey declared a public health emergency due to COVID 19, and in-person services were banned. By the second quarter of 2021 the COVID 19 cases had gone down. After long discussions and based on the recommendations of the CDC, Session approved in-person worship services. Following the safety protocols, in May we began to have services both at Grace Church and online. We continued having this type of service through the year.
- **Music:** As the COVID 19 pandemic continued we were unable to have our Gospel Music Celebration. Also, the Advent Service of Music, featuring Bach cantatas, was canceled. Dr. Donald Du Laney, our music director, continues to lead our worship services musically both in person and online. He has done an exceptional job leading Grace Church and using volunteers to keep inspiring the spiritual growth of Grace members.
- **Preaching:** Our pastoral staff worked very hard to have a spiritually sound worship service every Sunday. Nick and Margo fulfilled their duties in the absence of Pastor Paul. Nick resigned in July and Margo left her position on staff in December and they are surely missed. In June we were blessed with the arrival of our transitional pastor, Rev. Robin Miller Currás. She has been such a blessing to us, and the church community has responded to her leadership in a positive way.

Respectfully submitted,

EXALT Ministry members: Marie Nyland, Donald Du Laney, Liz Moulthrop, Pastor Robin Miller Currás.



The CARE Ministry oversees four separate ministries: Hospitality, Meals, Mercy, and Prayer. However, in March of this year, when the church was in a lockdown mode, all ministries united in a church-wide telephone outreach to every member in the church directory. Three questions were asked:

- “How are you doing?” (Vaccine yet? Planning or no? Personal or family concerns?)
- “How is Grace doing?” (Willing to attend in-person worship inside/outside? Want home communion pastoral visit, meal?)
- How can I pray for you? (Prayer list concerns? Confidential concern needing prayer over the phone?)

Each CARE team person made numerous calls and any specific concerns were shared with Pastor Margo for follow up. The calls were not simply social calls but a way to help the church family feel connected at a time when we were worshipping virtually and not yet in person. Members were feeling isolated from their Grace family community, and it was important to reconnect them.

Around Easter time, members of the CARE team accompanied Pastor Margo on visits to serve home Communion. Under the coordination of Janet Prevette, the Mercy Ministry continued to independently visit homebound persons or persons in nursing home facilities. Such visits sometimes were restricted by nursing home COVID regulations.

In December CARE team members paired up with another Elder or with Pastor Robin to visit and serve home Communion. The Christmas tradition of having poinsettia plants in the front of the sanctuary in memory of dear ones was revived and each person visited was presented with a poinsettia as a gift.

I am amazed and grateful for all of the members of the CARE Ministry! Thank you for your willingness to be led by the Holy Spirit always and to continue the cycle of blessing!

Respectfully submitted,
Emy Kamihara, CARE Ministry Team Moderator

Mercy Ministry

Each member of the Body of Christ occasionally clings to the Lord Jesus Christ by depending on other members of His body. The Mercy Ministry seeks to lend support, care, and help to those who find themselves in need for a season. The need might come about because of surgery or other hospitalization, because of bereavement, or because of some other momentary disruption. The need might be met by providing a ride to doctor appointments, by preparing and delivering a few meals, or by visiting a shut-in's home or a nursing home. Phone calls and greeting cards also serve as instruments of mercy.

If you have a need, or know of someone who is in need, please make that need known to the Mercy Ministry or the Grace Church office.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Prevette, Coordinator
Ministry participants: Jeanne Albano, Donna Carnevale, Lillian Cook, Emy Kamihara, Carol Munson, Carl Munson, Ingrid Reinfurt, Janet Spain

Meals Ministry

A very active and visible ministry of CARE is the Meals Ministry. The need for meals varies from month to month. This year we were blessed to provide a meal once a week for a church member for eight weeks from January to almost the end of March. Then a church member on hospice required a more intensive schedule of meals, which started towards the end of April. Later on, the member's children continued needing meals until the end of August while clearing out their mother's home. Such a long period of meals would not have been possible without the generosity and love of so many volunteer chefs. In many instances, the chefs themselves have been recipients of meals in the past and now wish to cook meals for others.

With gratitude,
Emy Kamihara, Coordinator

Hospitality Team

Grace Church is grateful for the work of the Hospitality Team in past years. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic our ability to have fellowship gatherings has been severely limited. The major events that we were able to have, an outdoor welcome reception for Pastor Robin Miller Currás, an outdoor farewell for Director of Faith Formation Nick Wallwork, and a Kickoff

Sunday picnic, were organized and hosted by members of the Session. Members of the Session and other volunteers also hosted an outdoor coffee hour for a few weeks in the fall.

By God's grace we hope to be able to resume fellowship activities in the spring of 2022, starting with outdoor coffee hour. Beyond coffee hour, what other fellowship events could we have at Grace?

- A picnic on the grounds is always a crowd pleaser, drawing both congregants and people from the neighborhood. The Kickoff Sunday picnic in September brings us back together after the summer. We also host this picnic as a way of saying "Thank you!" to our neighbors for putting up with parking congestion and one-way traffic on Tuxedo Road every Sunday.
- The Thanksgiving Brunch on the Sunday before Thanksgiving is a celebration of our gratitude for God's faithfulness to us as a congregation and as individuals.
- The Epiphany Brunch lets us end the Christmas season with a look toward the mission fields in our community and around the world.
- A light lunch turns the annual Congregational Meeting into a joyful time of looking back on the past year and looking ahead to the opportunities of the new year.
- A Missions Brunch also gives us an opportunity to focus on the spiritual and material needs we see all around us.

All of these events require advance planning and preparation and work on the day of the event. For the work on the day of the event the Grace community has always pitched in. The planning and preparation, though, need to be done by a small, dedicated group of individuals, and as of January 2022 Grace does not have a functioning Hospitality Team. Would you like to be one of those individuals? Speak with any member of Session, with Pat Walsh, or with Alison Hurlock in the church office. Thank you!

Prayer Ministry

Prior to the pandemic closure, volunteer prayer ministers met with congregants in the Prayer Room after each Sunday worship service to pray for concerns that the congregants shared. Now that Grace Church is meeting in person for worship, the prayer ministry can start up again, and we need volunteers to make this happen. A prayer minister is assigned to the Prayer Room each Sunday after the service. Prayer requests may also be sent to the Church Office (office@gracemontclair.org) to be included in the bulletin. Urgent requests can be emailed or phoned in to the church office, and the church's phone prayer chain will be activated. If you are interested in becoming a prayer minister, please contact Allyson Roe.



Our Mission: The ACT committee came about by combining the Missions and Social Justice committees. We work to evangelize and promote social justice by financially supporting individuals and agencies that teach the Word and support our neighbors, near and far, in providing food, shelter, jobs, medical care, and education.

Finances: Our 2021 budget was \$35,000. Support comes from

- Donations from the congregation
- The Hunger Memorial Fund (up to 10 percent)
- The Missions Fund (up to 5 percent)

Ministries and Individuals Supported in 2021

- **Intervarsity Christian Fellowship:** Joanne Acevedo, Cathy Craig, Janet Balajthy
- **Cru (Athlete in Action):** Michael and Lisa Anderson
- **The Oasis Refugee Center (Austria):** Ken and Michi Meyer
- **Presbyterian Church USA (Madagascar):** Dan and Elizabeth Turk
- **Ethnos 360 (Philippines):** Bob and Judy Ambrosius
- **Child Evangelism Fellowship of North Jersey:** Twyla Pellegrino
- **SIM USA Rift Valley Academy (Kenya):** Daniel and Kimberley Scheel
- **Action International Ministries (Spain):** Mary Olive Woodward
- **Reliant Creative:** Tim Cowley
- **El Guacio Center (Puerto Rico):** Wilmari Vargas

Other Recipients

- We collect a monthly food offering. Although the church building has been open, we continued to collect only cash donations. The proceeds of those donations were distributed to four organizations on a rotating basis:
 - Toni's Kitchen
 - Bloomfield Church on the Green Pantry
 - Human Needs Pantry
 - Mary's Pantry
- In October we participated in Soup for Seniors, collecting canned soup in collaboration with the Montclair Inn
- We also collected donations for Thanksgiving baskets that were distributed by the Montclair Neighborhood Development Corporation.

It has been a difficult and challenging year. Financially, ACT fell short of our budget goals. We are so grateful, though, for your generosity. Truly this is a church that takes seriously Christ's command to love our neighbor and to spread His Word.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Vaughn, Moderator

Members: The members of the ACT team are Julie Daidone, Ruth Liang, Kem Mackey, Len Smith, Melanie Vaughn, Patricia Warren

2022 ACT Budget

| Organization | Missionary | # People Supported | Amount |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Intervarsity Christian Fellowship | Joanne Acevedo | 1 | \$2,000 |
| Intervarsity Christian Fellowship | Janet Luhrs Balajthy | 1 | \$1,500 |
| Intervarsity Christian Fellowship | Cathy Craig | 1 | \$2,000 |
| CRU Athletes in Action | Michael and Lisa Anderson | 2 | \$4,000 |
| Child Evangelism Fellowship | Twyla Pellegrino | 1 | \$2,000 |
| Action International Ministries | Mary Woodward | 1 | \$2,000 |
| Oasis | Ken and Michi Meyer | 1 | \$2,500 |
| Rift Valley Academy | Dan and Kim Scheel | 2 | \$1,000 |
| PC(USA) Mission in Madagascar | Dan and Elizabeth Turk | 2 | \$4,000 |
| Family Promise | | | \$800 |
| MESH | | | \$800 |
| Total | | | \$22,600 |

Family Promise of Essex (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network)

Grace Church has been a member of the Family Promise network in Essex County, formerly known as Interfaith Hospitality Network, for many years. Throughout those years Grace members and friends have hosted families who were experiencing temporary homelessness. Families would stay for a week at a time, a couple of times a year, in various rooms in the church building, including the Fellowship Hall. The pandemic brought a pause to our hosting. Family Promise has now transitioned from the rotational shelter model toward a model that places families in single-family apartments or homes. Their need now is for congregations to provide meals and groceries for families. The ACT team plans to assess our congregation's ability to participate in this way.

MESH (Montclair Emergency Services for Hope)

It is with heartfelt thanks to the Session of Grace church, along with much thought and planning that this past Spring, that we were once again able to open the doors to our Fellowship Hall and serve our guests seated at tables and chairs. The Guests' reactions to coming back to Grace Church was a heartwarming experience, which we humbly embraced. It's also a joy to share that one of our guests has recently been coming to our Sunday Morning service fairly regularly.

We continue to follow a set protocol with our guests. Those who have proof of vaccination are invited to sit at the tables and be served their meal. Those who are not vaccinated are able to come into the church to sit and wait while their take-out meal is made ready for them. Regardless of vaccination status, everyone must be wearing a mask at all times, unless eating. We have a supply of masks if a guest is in need of one.

Our number of guests is not as large as prior to the Pandemic, but we do have regular guests that come on a weekly basis, and it is always good to see them. We continue to work with our partner Churches: Christ Church, Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair, and the Glen Ridge Girls Club, who prepare our meals and deliver them to us to serve. These groups cover four Saturdays a month. When there is a fifth Saturday, we depend on Grace to help us by preparing a meal for us to serve. One person doesn't need to do the whole meal, as it can be divided between whoever volunteers. Please contact any one of the MESH family for any questions or meal suggestions.

The team continues to follow safety protocols by masking, hand washing, use of gloves, and disinfecting, as well as all being vaccinated and boosted. Cleanliness and sanitizing continue, with the bathroom being cleaned after each use and the end of the evening. All chairs and tables are cleaned after the guests have gone home. Attendance and temperature checks are also monitored every Saturday.

With the current rise in COVID cases, we are not accepting any extra help with serving. The group volunteers just drop off the food for us. It is only our MESH team that is working together. We are able to distance safely as we prepare to serve and then serve our guests. We have been together for the entire Pandemic and are very cautious to be safe.

We are very thankful for the Blessing that Grace Church affords us, being able to serve together, side by side, as Family for this community Ministry. Thank you all for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted from Your MESH Team: Irene Rottenberg, Jean & George Blomn, Kem Mackey, Len Smith, Joan Bernard and Joan DeJong.

Operation Christmas Child, a Ministry of Samaritan's Purse

For many ministries 2021 was a difficult year, not being able to fully present a project to the congregation in person. However, this past Christmas season people in the Grace congregation donated twenty-four physical shoe boxes and several online boxes filled with gifts for children. Children in over one hundred countries heard the message of God's love for them ("The Greatest Gift") through local ministry partners. These children also experienced that expression of love from a stranger who took the time and effort to pack an age-specific box with God-chosen items that He knew they needed, and that you supplied. The reports coming to Operation Christmas Child are amazing, telling of how a child received something in their box that nobody would have guessed was what they needed, but God knew, and He provided. After receiving the gospel presentation and the gift, the child is invited to join "The Greatest Journey," a twelve-week Sunday School-style program, and many have become believers, making lifelong commitments.

I invite you to join the OCC family and get started on finding things to put in your 2022 shoe box: school supplies (many children must bring their own supplies), hygiene items they need, a "WOW" item to surprise them and to love, some fun toys/tools for the boys and "bling" for the girls, an item of clothing, and much more. We'll help you with plenty of suggestions and your boxes will be full!

This year my boxes went to The Dominican Republic and to Mali, and you will be able to track your box with a \$9 per box online donation. Boxes given online most often go to hard-to-reach areas where items must be specifically chosen for that culture. You will experience the joy of giving through your own missionary experience, I promise!!

Mark your 2022 calendar now for November 14–20 Collection Week. Begin here: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/frequently-asked-questions/>

Your Local Project Leader,
Elaine Fiveland



Stewardship and Finance Ministry

The REACH committee functions in the background so that our whole Grace community can worship, fellowship, and serve.

Property keeps our old but lovely, but very old, buildings and landscaping functioning and in good repair. They outsource where needed but do the work themselves when they are able. They give of their time and skills almost daily.

The Session approved the renovation of the manse and the process of deciding on the work that needs to be done and soliciting bids for that work has already begun.

Finance and Stewardship are responsible for keeping our finances in good and proper order. This includes reconciling income and expenditures, planning for future financial needs, keeping track of investments, seeing to our staff's salaries and benefits, and organizing fundraising when needed. As the church Deacons are now receiving offerings during worship again, Finance is actively looking for individual to count the offering after each service.

Please be aware that the REACH committee members are knowledgeable, capable, and highly committed to the mission of Grace Church and to you, its members. I have felt privileged to work with them.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Luengo, Moderator

2021 Ministry members: Steve Heberd, Werner Heck, Joyce Moulthrop, Deacon

Representative: Bob Roe

Treasurers: Werner Heck, Bob Roe

Property Committee Report

After taking stock of overdue repairs during our 2020 shutdown, a major repair that was started in December 2020 was completed in March 2021: replacing rusty, leaking pipes under the cement floor in the Fellowship Hall. It was a resounding success because the newly installed pipes did not leak nor have leaks developed anywhere else in the heating system since then.

Even without steam pipe leaks, water intrusion continued to be a problem. In September the rainstorm Ida flooded the lower basement floors with three inches of water. Over several days, volunteers with wet-dry vacs and mops in hand removed the water. The actual drying out of the basement, using dehumidifiers and fans, took several months, however. By the end of the year the basement had dried out but loose floor tiles and damaged wood molding near the floor remained. Unfortunately, this type of flooding from extreme rain falling on saturated ground cannot be fully prevented, because the hydrostatic pressure forces the water through the basement walls and floors.

Replacement of the steam pipes and addressing basement flooding were the largest projects during the year. Other projects included:

- Cleaning out unneeded items throughout the church. After a contractor cleaned out an initial batch of unwieldy stuff in June, it took two conscientious volunteers another four months of carting bulky waste out to the curb twice per month to be hauled away by Montclair Township trucks. Although it took some time, this was the lowest cost disposal option.
- Removing a fallen tree by the manse garage.
- Removing overgrown bushes on either side of the Narthex entrance on Grove Street.
- Removing overgrown vines clinging to the sanctuary walls.
- Constructing a custom window well cover next to church office to minimize water leaks to basement. Two off-the-shelf window well covers were also installed in the back alley.
- Repairing a faulty heating zone valve that prevented steam from reaching the Education Wing.

Kudos for Property Committee Members and Other Volunteers

Bob Roe took the lead on exterior projects with Yvonne Luengo and Emily Rishel doing the hands-on work of removing vines and trimming bushes and branches. Heather and Dustin Kennedy generously donated cleaning supplies and equipment for cleaning up flooded basement spaces in addition to mopping and wet-vacuuming.

Jim Smith, a retired power plant boiler engineer and *not* a church member, saved the church \$5,500 by repairing the faulty heating zone valve gratis. He continues to help the Property Moderator troubleshoot heating system problems and suggest improvements.

Much of the annual maintenance of the property is constant, continual, and mundane, but for alerting me to the unpredictable and the immediate problems, invaluable thanks go to Alison Hurlock, Kurt Saunders, and Donald Du Laney.

Respectfully submitted,
Werner Heck, Moderator

Committee Members: Bob Roe, Emily Rishel, Yvonne Luengo, Donald Du Laney

Report on the Manse House — 2021

The Manse house next to the church has been vacant since March 2021 following the retirement of Pastor Leggett. The question of what to do with this property and the future of the Grace Church congregation are intertwined.

After much discussion and consideration, the Session determined that it is in the best interest of the future of the Grace Church congregation to keep ownership of the Manse. Plans are underway to do extensive improvements to bring the Manse up to date. It is hoped (but by no means certain) that a fully renovated Manse will be an attraction that the new Pastor of Grace will want to occupy. Renovations may cost over \$150,000. One piece of good news is that the PC(USA) has a low-interest loan program that we may be able to use to pay for renovations, and that will keep the monthly loan payments within the expected budget ability of the church.

A decorator/architect will be hired to do a detailed plan. Foreseeable renovation plans may include upgrading of the kitchen and doing an open floor plan, which modern home-owners prefer. A first-floor lavatory may be installed. The heating system may be upgraded. New windows will be installed. A washer/dryer may be installed on the second floor. The electric and plumbing system will be upgraded. The basement will be upgraded and any structural weaknesses will be repaired. The word “may” is used in this report since the plans are still very much a work in progress. Thanks to those who have already contributed to the planning process. And to the whole congregation, your thoughts, prayers, and skills are welcome on this major church project.

For the REACH Committee
Bob Roe

Personnel Committee

We are grateful for our staff and their ongoing contributions to the life and ministry of Grace Presbyterian Church. In this second straight unusual year, the challenges the staff had to navigate were many. The Church building reopened in 2021 after the long COVID closure, but the transition was, and continues to be, tentative. The vagaries of the virus still drive Church life to a large extent.

The staff has come back physically into their workspaces. The transition to the new reality is all but clear. The staff manages an evolving situation and figures out ways to continue programs, services, and functions. This continues to not be easy. Our staff rose to the challenge and adapted to planning and implementing Sunday services both virtually and for in-person worship. Pastoral care continued to be provided, the office was kept running and the building was kept in good repair.

Pastoral Associate Margo Walter, and Director of Faith Formation Nick Wallwork did an excellent job leading worship and ministering to the Church family during much of the year. The staff was augmented in June 2021 by the addition of Transitional Pastor Robin Miller Currás. Pastor Robin capably took the lead in worship, ministering to the Church family as well as

providing staff leadership. Director of Music Donald Du Laney, with the help of many volunteers, was able to provide beautiful music for our services. It was a highlight of the year to have live music playing in the Church again. Office manager Alison Hurlock managed the office functions while continuing duties related to finances. Sexton Kurt Saunders continued to service the building well and to ensure that needed repairs were undertaken and organized.

This year also brought about changes in personnel. Both Nick Wallwork (in June 2021) and Margo Walter (in December 2021) resigned from their positions at Grace. We are grateful for their teaching, spiritual guidance, and pastoral care during their years of service to Grace. Nick and Margo really carried an incredible load during the past years and will be greatly missed! We wish them both the best and God's blessing in their future endeavors.

Although change is unsettling, we look forward to seeing how God will guide and bless us in the coming year and direct us into the next chapter of our Church ministry.

It has been a pleasure to work with the members of the Personnel Committee. Thank you for your hard work and for sharing your time and insights this past year.

Respectively submitted,

Steven Berutti, Moderator

The Personnel Committee: Denarra Simmons (Deacon representative), Joyce Moulthrop, Werner Heck, Emily Rishel and Mike Gallina.

Communications Team

Communications works to keep us informed by keeping our website up to date and preparing our quarterly newsletter, *Grace Upon Grace*. In 2021, an initiative was begun to improve the streaming and audio/visual capabilities at the church with a fundraising campaign. With input and help from Pastor Robin, a decision was made to hire Somerset Media Group. Our internet has already been improved and, beginning January of 2022, our cameras and sound equipment will be upgraded. It will allow for better streaming of our worship services, better audio in the sanctuary, and use of both television screens.

Respectfully submitted,

The Communications Team: Liz Moulthrop, Emily Rishel, Gwen Blackman, Danielle Campisi, Liz Rice and Pat Walsh

2021 Balance Sheet

| | | | | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|--|--|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| ASSETS | | | | | |
| Current Assets | | | | | |
| Checking/Savings | | | | | |
| | | 1000 · TD Bank Operating | \$ 42,662.65 | \$ 68,833.69 | |
| | | 1010 · TD Bank Savings | 522.91 | 522.91 | |
| | | 1025 · Tithely | 3,982.03 | 7,248.85 | |
| | | 1030 · Petty Cash | 300.00 | 300.00 | |
| | | Total Checking/Savings | 47,467.59 | 76,905.45 | |
| Other Current Assets | | | | | |
| | | 10100 · Prepaid expenses | | | |
| | | Total Other Current Assets | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| | | Total Current Assets | 47,467.59 | 76,905.45 | |
| 10500 · Fidelity Brokerage Account | | | | | |
| | | 10510 · Fidelity Mutual funds | 154,437.31 | 141,309.54 | |
| | | 10520 · Fidelity Core Account | 178,838.59 | 129,505.03 | |
| | | Investments | 333,275.90 | 270,814.57 | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | | | \$ 380,743.49 | \$ 347,720.02 |
| LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | | | | | |
| Liabilities | | | | | |
| | | Credit card and other payables | \$ 272.96 | \$ 14,552.88 | |
| Restricted Funds: | | | | | |
| | | 2510 · Missions Fund | 29,930.64 | 33,256.27 | |
| | | 2530 · Website | 557.60 | 557.60 | |
| | | 2540 · F&H Hunger Fund | 83,283.15 | 96,243.50 | |
| | | 2550 · Food Offering | 400.22 | 214.00 | |
| | | 2560 · Memorial Garden | 896.50 | 696.50 | |
| | | 2570 · Camp Scholarships | 1,795.60 | 1,795.60 | |
| | | 2580 · Samson Education Fund | | 6,113.72 | |
| | | Tech Upgrade | 14,061.11 | 5,000.00 | |
| | | 2730.Manse Renovations | 30,232.45 | | |
| | | 2720 · Other Designated Funds | 489.13 | 549.13 | |
| | | Total 2500 · Restricted Funds | 161,646.40 | 144,426.32 | |
| | | Total Liabilities | 161,919.36 | 158,979.20 | |
| Net Assets | | | | | |
| | | 3100 · Board Designated Funds | | | |
| | | 3110 · Legacy Fund | 127,545.89 | 127,545.89 | |
| | | 3115.Property Reserve | 50,000.00 | - | |
| | | Total 3100 · Board Designated Funds | 177,545.89 | 127,545.89 | |
| | | Operating Fund | 41,278.04 | 61,193.09 | |
| | | Total Net Assets | 218,824.13 | 188,738.98 | |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | | | | \$ 380,743.49 | \$ 347,720.02 |

2021 Profit and Loss

| | Jan to Dec | | YTD | Over/Under |
|--|------------|----------|----------|------------|
| | 2021 | 2020 | Budget | Budget |
| Operating income: | | | | |
| Contributions | 420,678 | 423,140 | 425,000 | (4,322) |
| Church rental | 2,650 | 2,000 | - | 2,650 |
| Other income | 28 | 596 | 500 | (472) |
| Interest & div | 7,674 | 9,727 | 3,200 | 4,474 |
| Bequests | | 25,000 | | - |
| | 431,031 | 460,463 | 428,700 | 2,331 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Grow | 1,241 | 4,519 | 6,900 | (5,659) |
| Reach | | | | |
| Compensation | 286,033 | 350,331 | 349,692 | (63,659) |
| Property | 101,117 | 76,965 | 66,100 | 35,017 |
| Communications | 1,259 | 3,201 | 3,200 | (1,941) |
| Other Reach | 22,308 | 13,107 | 26,950 | (4,642) |
| | 410,716 | 443,604 | 445,942 | (35,226) |
| Care | 144 | 413 | 1,000 | (856) |
| Exault | 4,323 | 5,979 | 12,450 | (8,127) |
| | 416,425 | 454,515 | 466,292 | (49,867) |
| Transfer from (to) Hunger Fund | 10,000 | | | 10,000 |
| Operating income (deficit) | 24,606 | 5,947 | (37,592) | 62,198 |
| ACT | | | | |
| Contributions | 21,396 | 27,288 | 25,000 | (3,604) |
| Expenses | 28,803 | 34,081 | 35,000 | (6,197) |
| From restricted funds | 7,407 | 6,960 | 10,000 | (2,593) |
| ACT income (deficit) | (0) | 168 | - | (0) |
| Overall income (deficit) | 24,606 | 6,115 | (37,592) | 62,198 |
| | | | (47,592) | |
| Fund balance beginning of year | 61,195 | 3,477 | | |
| Trans board designated funds | (50,000) | (25,000) | | |
| PPP lloan expended | | 70,942 | | |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on inverstmets | 5,477 | 5,661 | | |
| Fund balance end of period | 41,278 | 61,193 | | |
| Income (deficit) without major repairs | 43,625 | 21,305 | | |
| Property | | | | |
| Repairs | 42,588 | 28,758 | 8,500 | 34,088 |
| Snow & Lawn | 10,465 | 6,649 | 10,000 | 465 |
| Supplies | 1,727 | 929 | 2,000 | (273) |
| Heating | 8,424 | 6,968 | 8,000 | 424 |
| Elec | 3,195 | 4,159 | 4,500 | (1,305) |
| Water & Sewer | 3,041 | 2,722 | 2,800 | 241 |
| Manse utilities | 2,721 | | 3,000 | (279) |
| Service Contract fees | 4,249 | 3,264 | 3,300 | 949 |
| Insurance | 24,708 | 23,516 | 24,000 | 708 |
| | 101,117 | 76,965 | 66,100 | 35,017 |

2022 Budget Recap

| | 2022 Budget | 2021 | 2021 Budget | Budget Diffr |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Income: | | | | |
| Contributions | | | | |
| Operating | 426,500 | 420,678 | 425,000 | 1,500 |
| Missions | 21,000 | 21,396 | 25,000 | (4,000) |
| Bequests | - | - | - | - |
| total | 447,500 | 442,074 | 450,000 | (2,500) |
| Other Income | 11,200 | 10,352 | 3,700 | 7,500 |
| Total Income | 458,700 | 452,426 | 453,700 | 5,000 |
| Expenses: | | | | |
| GROW | 6,650 | 1,241 | 7,500 | (850) |
| REACH | 415,950 | 410,716 | 445,942 | (29,992) |
| CARE | 500 | 144 | 1,000 | (500) |
| EXALT | 21,400 | 4,322 | 12,450 | 8,950 |
| Operating Exp | 444,500 | 416,424 | 466,892 | (22,392) |
| ACT | 22,600 | 28,803 | 35,000 | (12,400) |
| total expense | 467,100 | 445,227 | 501,892 | (34,792) |
| Net Income (Loss) before transfers | (8,400) | 7,199 | (48,192) | |
| Transfers from: | | | | |
| Restricted funds - tech upgrade | | 10,000 | | |
| Restriced funds - missions | 1,600 | 7,407 | 10,000 | |
| Total transfers | 1,600 | 17,407 | 10,000 | |
| Income (loss) after Transfers | (6,800) | 24,606 | (38,192) | |
| Operating Fund Balance | | | | |
| Beginning of year | 41,278 | 61,195 | 61,027 | |
| Unrealized gain on investments | | 5,477 | | |
| To property reserves | | (50,000) | | |
| End of year | 34,478 | 41,278 | 22,835 | |
| Legacy Fund | 127,546 | 127,546 | 127,546 | |
| Property reserve | 28,080 | 50,000 | | |
| Total Unrestricted | 190,104 | 218,824 | 150,381 | |
| | Legacy Fnd | Missions Fund | F & H Hunger | Property Reserve |
| Balance - beginning | 127,546 | 33,256 | 96,244 | - |
| Contributions | | | | |
| Spent | | | | 50,000 |
| Transferred | | (3,326) | (12,960) | |
| Balance 12/31/20 | 127,546 | 29,930 | 83,283 | 50,000 |
| Amount that can be transferred | | 10% per yr | \$15,000 per yr | |
| REACH | | | | |
| Compensation | 312,600 | 286,033 | 349,692 | (37,092) |
| Stewardship Expenses | 19,250 | 16,273 | 17,850 | 1,400 |
| Property | 72,600 | 101,117 | 66,100 | 6,500 |
| Communications | 3,200 | 1,259 | 3,200 | - |
| Administration | 8,300 | 6,035 | 9,100 | (800) |
| | 415,950 | 410,716 | 445,942 | (29,992) |