



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

2100 Tice Valley Blvd. | Walnut Creek, CA 94595 | www.gracewc.org

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Clerk of Session

Active Membership as of 1/1/2021	139
Deaths as of December 31, 2021	8
Other Losses as of December 31, 2021	8
Gains as of December 31, 2021.....	5
Active Members as of December 31, 2021.....	128
Affiliate Members as of December 31, 2021	3
<i>(Timothy Hamilton, Elise Teagle, Mary Munsell)</i>	
Membership as of December 31, 2021	131

We remember and celebrate the resurrection of members of Grace who died in 2021.

Jan Elliott, Bob Smayda, Joan Wilson, Don Maynard, Loree Buntent,
BJ Boone, Kay Hatch, Betty Maynard

We were very pleased to welcome new members

Carolyn Choy, Youngok Kim, Victoria Lucido, Jim Martin, Mary Kay Zieminski

Submitted by Geri Rentz, Clerk of Session

Financial Secretary Annual Report 2021

Pledge Comparison 2021 to 2022				
	# of Pledges	Pledge Amount		
Persons with a 2021 pledge:	69	\$	226,840.00	
Persons with a 2022 pledge:	75	\$	219,045.00	
Persons with a 2021 pledge who passed or moved:	3	\$	5,600.00	
Persons who pledged 2021 but not 2022:	11	\$	14,220.00	
Person who pledged 2022 but not 2021:	20	\$	22,045.00	
	# of Pledges	2021	2022	Net Change
Persons who pledged both 2021 & 2022				
Persons who pledged the same amount:	26	\$ 69,920.00	\$ 69,920.00	\$ -
Persons who increased their pledge:	24	\$ 87,880.00	\$ 105,120.00	\$ 17,240.00
Persons who decreased their pledge:	5	\$ 49,220.00	\$ 21,960.00	\$ (27,260.00)
Totals:	55	\$ 207,020.00	\$ 197,000.00	\$ (10,020.00)

Treasurer's Report

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2021

Activities Results

Grace Church budgeted \$443,184 for its General Fund in 2021, an increase of \$5,297 over the preceding year, due mainly to a full year of Senior Pastor salary, housing and pension. Expenses came in at \$423,789, or \$19,395 under budget due mainly to the Associate Pastor reduction in hours Oct 1, and lower operating costs as a result of the pandemic shutdown of facilities.

	<u>Church program expenses</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Personnel	\$275,957	65%
Local Program	\$103,317	24%
General Mission	<u>\$ 44,515</u>	<u>11%</u>
Total	\$423,789	100%

Total income for the budget program came to \$369,450, a decrease of \$38,450 over the preceding year, mainly due to reduction of facility income due to pandemic shutdown. Income came in \$48,149 over budget due mainly to CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) forgivable loan. By decision of Session, \$25,000 was transferred from Investment Funds to the program for the fourth of five years to support the Associate Pastor position.

	<u>Church program receipts</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Pledges for 2021	\$247,295	59%
Other income	<u>\$170,304</u>	<u>41%</u>
Total	\$417,599	100%

As a result of income being lower than expenses, the bank balance decreased by \$6,190 at year end which was an improvement over the budgeted decrease of \$73,734 primarily due to the PPP loan forgiveness.

Bank balance on 1/1/21	\$ 50,898
Church program receipts	\$ 417,599
Church program expenses	<u>\$ 423,789</u>
Bank balance on 12/31/21	\$ 44,708

Dedicated (Special) Accounts Results

In addition, Grace Church handled \$111,847 in receipts and \$126,480 in expenses for special accounts and activities during the year. The receipts included EBIC investment income, Guntz fund annual gift, facilities campaign donations, and preschool payroll reimbursement. The expenses included Otojoy Hearing Loop for the sanctuary, Burnham home equity HVAC copay, consulting support for Zoom/Live Stream, preschool payroll, and dry rot, roof and courtyard improvements. At the end of year 2021, church bank accounts held \$622,960 for these designated purposes, apart from the church activities program, of which \$300,000 is an investment in the senior pastor's home as part of an equity share agreement.

Endowment, Bequests and Investment (EBIC) Results

The year 2021 saw an increase in the value of the church's investment holdings owing to the year over year strength in the market. After allowing for income withdrawals and the \$25,000 mentioned above, the increase was roughly 3% in asset value. At the end of 2021, the Investment Fund included the True Wealth Advisory Group fund, \$1,027,599, and the Presbyterian Foundation, \$589,376, a total of \$1,616,975.

As recommended by EBIC, \$37,000 was received from the True Wealth Advisory Group (in addition to the \$25,000 mentioned above), and \$29,340 from New Covenant Funds of the Presbyterian Foundation, for various church purposes.

Debt

There is no outstanding indebtedness.

Submitted by Linda Neyer



Pastor's Report—Mark R. Burnham

Annual reports in most churches are notorious for being dry and even boring. I can't guarantee that I will avoid those pitfalls, but I will try! Instead of a litany of statistics or a list of programs, I will share a brief 'mediation.'



The year 2021 marked the 20th anniversary of the release of movie director Peter Jackson's *The Lord of the Rings*. The first of the three-part story—*The Fellowship of the Ring*—premiered in December 2001. For those who have not seen the movies, they are a retelling of the British author J.R.R. Tolkien's the best-selling trilogy *The Lord of the Rings*.

The challenge for the filmmaker was transferring such a huge, sprawling tale into one that was both faithful to the original story and coherent to those who are seeing it for the first time. As a longtime fan of Tolkien, I was skeptical of the movie. In effect, a whole world had to be recreated in order for it to be believable.

In many ways, I think the work of the church is even more challenging. You see, we too are given the task of retelling an old story in a way that is both faithful to the original message and compelling and coherent in sharing that story with newcomers. The story of faith we tell must hold together the delicate balance between being both authentic and creative.

My hope is that we here at Grace will continue to work at the challenge of telling the story of Jesus both authentically and creatively. The telling and re-telling of the good news is the basis for all that we do: in Sunday worship, in our fellowship and small groups, in our education and mission programs, and in our caring for one another.

In 2021 we faced perhaps the most unique and challenging circumstances in the life of this congregation as the COVID-19 pandemic prevented us from meeting in person as the year began. However, I was inspired that you rose to the occasion as our worship attendance (in-person and online) remained strong and our pledge giving increased. Thank you for remaining steadfast and faithful in your support of Grace Church.

At the end of a movie there is a long list of credits, naming all of the people involved in the making of the film. Again, we see a parallel in the church. We often see only those who are up in front and 'on stage.' The real work, though, is done by the faithful behind the scenes. For all those who are too numerous to name here, I am eternally grateful.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the life and ministry of our founding pastor, the Rev. Bob Williams, who died on January 19, 2021. One way to honor Bob's ministry is to continue the good work he did to overcome challenges and to move into God's future with hope. My prayer is that we can, together, be worthy of that task.

Thank you, friends, for being a part of the adventure of faith we all share here at Grace. May God's blessings and the Spirit's discerning wisdom be with us in the coming year.



Grace and peace, Mark

Pastor's Report—Karen Hastings-Flegel

2021 was filled with meaningful ministry, even though it was a strange year at Grace Presbyterian and worldwide due to Covid. Pastoral care unfolded mostly by phone. Home Communion was seldom able to be done. Yet, people stayed in touch. Deacons were extra helpful. I led several memorial services and interments of ashes. Our marvelous Mini-Choir continued to record hymns for worship. On May 23, worshippers returned to the Sanctuary for a livestreamed Pentecost service. Not long after, the Bell Choir, then the Chancel Choir, resumed rehearsals. Hurray! It was such a joy to work with them and with the Mini-Choir. I also enjoyed leading the Presbyterian Women's Bible studies, especially the more recent one, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me," which is about the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. I helped with PW's Advent Program. Congratulations to Rosalyn Cannelora and Linda Neyer, who received Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership award.

The Earth Care Team had some interesting projects, including land acknowledgments in certain services, a field trip to the Saklan Indian site near the Rossmoor entrance, and erecting "Abraham's Tent" outside the Sanctuary, a sign of interfaith hospitality for our church's observance of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Readers' Theatre presented a Christmas play based closely on scripture, Mark Main's "The Nativity."

We had Hymn Sings in worship on Sept. 5 and Dec. 26. In late August, I preached a sermon on the Lord's Prayer and organized an 18-hour Prayer Vigil with a group prayer service outside near the peace pole during one of the hours. (It might have been a mistake to put liturgical decorations on the voting box, though.)

Personally, it was a painful year for me, with family health problems and the deaths of my brother and one of my brothers-in-law. Late in the fall, I developed a health problem of my own, which is leading me to retire in February 2022. I will miss you terribly! Thank you for six and a half wonderful years among you.



With many blessings, Karen Hastings-Flegel

Heartfelt thanks to the choirs and other musicians . . .

Chancel Choir & Mini-Choir: Sara Allen, Susan Blair, Liz Bradner, Rosalyn Cannelora, Linda Hohenfeldt, Bill Keeley, Meg Keeley, Kris Ludwigsen, Carol Parker, Gail Peterson, Judy Williams, Nora Wu.

Handbell Choir: Sara Allen, Susan Blair, Julie Kim, Insun Lee, Wendy Neale, Dan Owens, Gail Peterson, Maryanne Sanchez, Jan Zimmerman.

Vocal & Instrumental Soloists: Maggie Chan, Timothy Hamilton, Bill Keeley, Meg Keeley, Julie Kim, Julia Linde, Nora Wu, Kate Ye, Mary Kay Zieminski.

Mission & Vision

MISSION STATEMENT (2007)

*Guided by the Holy Spirit, with open minds and hearts,
we celebrate and share the love of Jesus Christ,
and are instruments of God's grace, justice, and peace.*

WELCOME STATEMENT (2011)

*We welcome and celebrate all who worship with us—
the young and the old, the rich and the poor,
the gay and the straight, the strong and the weak,
the meek and the brave—
and though we are different one from another,
we are united in loving and praising God
and in loving each other.*

VISION STATEMENT (2007)

TOGETHER WE:

- Deepen our faith in Jesus Christ through worship, study, fellowship, and mission.
- Exemplify and offer the good news of Jesus to our neighbors.
- Offer hospitality, nurture, and empowerment.
- Provide a comprehensive ministry with/by seniors, which respects and addresses the various stages and issues of growing older in Christ.
- Welcome younger adults, teenagers, and children in a ministry that enlivens their Christian Discipleship.
- Are in close collaboration with other faith and secular organizations to address social needs within our local community and throughout the world.
- Pursue excellence in all that we do as we glorify God through faithful stewardship seen in sharing our time, talents, and treasures.

CORE VALUES (2008)

1. Growing and Sharing the Faith
2. Outreach to the Community and Beyond
3. Developing an Extended Family

OUR ASPIRATION (2008)

Grace Church makes a significant positive impact on the lives of its members and friends, and on the life of its community.

Grace Church is a thriving congregation, showing a growing membership, increasing community recognition, and financial stability.

Goals & Strategies

The overall goal of our ministry, established by our Session, is “to effectively share the love of Jesus Christ and invite others into deepening discipleship and active participation in the life of our community of faith.” Each Department, and the Board of Deacons, has specific goals and strategies to fulfill this overall goal.

Goals

INSPIRES members and friends to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ through worship and study.

Worship & Education

(Passionate Worship/Intentional Faith Development)

ENCOURAGES members and friends to contribute time, talent, and treasure, as well as to articulate the love of God and extend invitations to others to participate in our community of faith.

Discipleship *(Extravagant Generosity/Radical Hospitality)*

SEEKS, welcomes, and integrates visitors and members, and enhances their lives through a variety of group experiences.

Discipleship *(Radical Hospitality)*

RESPONDS to social justice issues locally, nationally and globally with compassion and support.

Witness & Ministry
(Risk-taking Mission & Service)

MANAGES its finances and property with integrity to attract and benefit members, friends, donors, and community partners.

Business *(Extravagant Generosity)*

MINISTERS to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any who may be in distress.

Deacons
(Deliberate Congregational Care)

COMMUNICATES with the congregation and the community to encourage dialogue and enhancement of our ministry. **Session**
(5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations)

Strategies

- Create a vision** of ministry and mission which is intentionally interpreted to the members and friends of Grace Church.
- Enhance worship** experiences and opportunities to attract, inspire, and further the spiritual growth of people.
- Offer and advertise** a variety of adult education opportunities which will nourish our membership and be attractive to non-members.
- Upgrade the facilities** to improve our profile and safety; and develop a Capital Improvement Plan.
- Implement a marketing plan** to attract visitors and maintain membership.
- Provide small groups** and larger celebrations to communicate and advance our values and ministry.
- Practice faithful stewardship** with property and finances and provide innovative stewardship appeals with an integrated calendar to support our annual budget, mission support, and facility upgrades.
- Interpret national and global mission** and work with local organizations to invite greater active participation of our members and friends.
- Enhance recognition of members** to acknowledge faithful volunteerism and invite other contributions.

Discipleship

GOAL

Encourage members and friends to contribute time, talent and treasure – and to articulate God’s love in our community of faith, to seek, welcome and integrate visitors and members by enhancing their lives through a variety of group experiences.

STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

(Note: COVID protocols precluded a variety of opportunities to seek our goals, exacerbated by those attending Sunday services on Zoom.)

- Sunday Fellowship Time was reinstated in May with serving done outside in the patio area. The weather was cooperative until late September, when we moved in to the Fireside Room. Volunteers provided weekly refreshments and we included caffeinated coffee with our refreshments – this was well received! Visitors regularly joined us and expressed sincere pleasure in having this service provided.
- We developed a specific plan for adding new members to Grace which was approved by Session. Accordingly, we organized meetings with those interested in exploring membership with elders to answer inquiries. Five new members were welcomed into the Grace community in 2021.
- Thanks to Marsha Stark, we received weekly reports on Sunday services, both in person and on line numbers, members and non-members. As a result, with the cooperation of office volunteers, we contacted visitors either by phone or mail to further welcome them to and inform them about Grace.
- A Book Club organized by members came into being in late July, meeting monthly in the library after services.
- A member-created Christmas brunch was held on Christmas day in the Fireside Rm.

THANKS TO

As always, to support from the office staff and office volunteers. We are grateful for the knowledge Judy imparts to us to keep things going. To those who quietly step in to clean up after fellowship time – you are angels who appear when needed. To all the members who step forward to greet our visitors and make them welcome, visitors comment on it all the time.



ELDERS RESPONSIBLE

Lynn Lyons, Sharon Lyons

Submitted by Sharon Lyons

Congregational Life—Outreach

Outreach events were put on hold due to the continuation of risks from Covid 19 and subsequent variants of the pandemic which began in March of 2020 and continues to the present, January of 2022.

The group researched having speakers, but these ideas have been put on hold.

Events such as the Animal Blessing (October) and Advent Program (December) were held, but not advertised to the public.



ELDERS RESPONSIBLE

Pat Devine-Cummings, Kathie Paul

Submitted by Pat Devine-Cummings

Business

GOAL

Manage the finances and maintain the property of Grace Church in good order through 2021 during the return to in-person church services and meetings on campus as the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions continue.

PROPERTY

- Improved irrigation system in Memorial Garden and continue to plan improvements to kiosk, benches, and landscape for 2022, installed one of two new Memorial Garden signs.
- Replaced and painted dry rot area of exterior siding of Narthex walls in courtyard area, installed new roofing on courtyard entrance to offices and on Oak Room entrance and ramp, refurbished & painted the courtyard benches and the cross on top of the Sanctuary, plus repaired front church sign, Oak Room deck door and Church front door.
- Boy scouts replaced dirt in courtyard next to Preschool and laid river rocks to landscape area next to library.
- Sanctuary heater blower motor replaced and added hepa filters & ion generators to air handling systems in all buildings.
- Conserved water by repairing sprinkler system leaks and monitoring water irrigation usage.
- Installed hearing loop system in Sanctuary to improve audio for hearing impaired.
- Removed dying Redwoods & pine trees from west end of campus and trimmed trees & shrubs in main courtyard, ordered Tree of Life sculpture for courtyard wall.
- Continued to update building usage agreements per Contra Costa County & CA State requirements for congregation & other groups to safely use church facilities.
- Investigating Micro Homes Project for Firm Foundation to build and Hope Solutions to manage six micro homes for homeless individuals at the back of the main parking lot, looking to get Walnut Creek city approval in 2022.
- Purchased two new computers for treasurer & main office; plus purchased 20 new armchairs for Oak Room & Fireside Room with donations from two church members.

FINANCES

- Forgiveness application was approved in 2021 for 2020 CARE PPP Loan of \$50,062.
- Received CARE PPP loan of \$60,136 in 2021. Forgiveness application approved in 2021.
- Under the leadership of Reta Wilcox, initiated Stewardship Campaign for 2022 with new theme 'Where the Spirit Moves Us' dividing donations & finances into three main ministries: Inspiration through Worship & Learning, Caring, and Reaching Out.

ELDERS RESPONSIBLE

Bill Keeley (Chair), Dave Fellner, Reta Wilcox



Submitted by Bill Keeley

Witness & Ministry

GOAL

Provide information regarding social justice issues and opportunities to respond.

STRATEGIES

This year the Witness and Ministry Team sought to support social justice and offer opportunities for congregational members to individually respond. These included distribution of budgeted mission funds, leading special offerings and participating in the Tiny Homes project.

RESULTS

Among those receiving support were

- The budgeted mission funds were distributed to:
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Trinity Center of Walnut Creek
 - Pilgrims of Ibillin
 - Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition
 - Contra Costa Interfaith Housing
 - Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County
 - Rossmoor Interfaith Council
 - Westminster Woods (Camperships)
 - San Francisco SafeHouse
 - SF Theological Seminary
 - Pastoral Salary Supplement
 - At the Crossroads

There were three Special Offerings. The One Great Hour of Sharing went to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People program. The summer Peace Offering went 75% to the Presbytery and national church and 25% to Jewish Family and Community Services locally to help with assistance to Afgan refugee assistance. The Christmas Joy Offering was sent to the Presbytery for assistance to church workers and Presbyterian colleges.

In addition we had a Giving Tree for members to donate money to the Contra Costa Food Bank since inflation has stretched food budgets. A contract was let for pickup of donated furniture. Finally, we applied for and received a \$500 grant from the Presbytery for the Feed the Kids program.

Finally, we participated in planning and promoting the Tiny Homes project. This will provide location of six small homes for homeless people on Grace Church property. Several public meetings were held. Concerns about the impact on the neighborhood were addressed.

ELDERS RESPONSIBLE

Liz Bradner, Freddie Delamain,
Marlene Hall, Bob Flegel (member at large)



Submitted by Liz Bradner

Worship & Education

GOAL

To inspire members and friends of the congregation at Grace Church to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ through worship and study of the word of God.

WORSHIP

From January, worship services were only filmed live and distributed on the web by means of Zoom, YouTube and our church website. Additionally sermons could be replayed from this website. There was no in-person worship as a result of the Covid pandemic until May 23, 2021. Regular in-person worship starting from May 23, 2021 until year end, ran in parallel with continued electronic means, Zoom, and YouTube. Attendance continued to be robust on Zoom and in-person. Elders and staff continued to spend time helping the congregation gain access. For the first half of the year the Covid pandemic severely limited accustomed events. During the second half of the year various attempts to reorganize team activities resulted in widely varying success.

Some highlights:

- Worship was celebrated each Sunday at 10:00 am, with Communion the First Sunday of each month.
- The Grace Readers' Theater of Grace presented one liturgical drama in 2021
- Scout Sunday. The Scouts participated in our Souperbowl Sunday collection.
- Ash Wednesday service was held in the Sanctuary. A Maundy Thursday Service was held this year in spite of the pandemic. Palm Sunday and Easter Service were held remotely by Zoom and also in-person.
- All Saints Day was celebrated in November.
- Pledge Sunday to start off our tithing season was held in November .
- Pastors Karen and Mark held a "Blue Christmas" worship service.
- Christmas Eve was celebrated with one service at 4:00 pm with special music.

EDUCATION

- Adult Education/Bible Study was offered on Wednesdays both in-person and by Zoom all year.

THANKS TO

Fran Whipple, who recruited Sunday liturgists. Susan Blair, Carol Parker and others, who provided liturgical art. Carol Parker, who acted as the Scout Troop 302 Liaison. Susan Blair, Roz Cannelora, Mary Munsell, Carol Parker, and Fran Whipple, who operated the flower ministry which provides the arrangements and decorations for the sanctuary. Pastor Karen Hastings-Flegel, with great flexibility, week by week through pandemic and in person attendance, created, rehearsed and performed inspirational choir music as limited by the people available each week. The chancel choir, bell choir, soloists and musicians who rehearsed and performed throughout the year. The actors who took part in the Readers' Theatre.

ELDERS RESPONSIBLE

Roger Schultz, Gessica Johnston and Jan Zimmerman



Submitted by Roger Schultz

Board of Deacons

GOAL

To minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any who may be in distress. Deacons shall be responsible for other duties as may be assigned to them by Session.

STRATEGIES

- Continued caring ministry to support and encourage the congregation.
- Fulfilled other responsibilities; oversaw Deacons funds and mission-giving.
- Emphasis was placed this year on the Deacons' Parish Contact Program to support the congregation during the pandemic.

RESULTS

- The Parish Contact Program continued with each deacon making regular phone calls and writing notes to the congregation. Engaged non-members were added to the member calling lists this year because of the shutdown of in-person contact. Each deacon had a list of 13 to 18 individuals for whom they were responsible. The program was very rewarding according to overwhelming positive responses from recipients of the calls and notes.
- Communion elements were prepared, candles were filled. Home Communion did not take place during the pandemic.
- Memorial receptions were mostly held by Zoom this year. The few that were in-person were supported by the deacons with their work at receptions.
- Memorial gifts have been acknowledged with hand-written cards.
- Note cards were sent to shut-ins, those hospitalized, or in need.
- The needs of the Food Bank were kept before the congregation during the pandemic, as well as \$100 in food cards were made available monthly to Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition for the Fourth Week Food Program.
- Local Mission funds were disbursed to C.C. Food Bank, CCIC food cards, and other food banks in our community.
- Non-perishable food was collected in the Food Barrel Ministry.

DEACONS RESPONSIBLE

- Sally Day, Moderator, Barbara Odell, Co-Moderator
- Communion Preparation: Carol Parker, Faye Hutchings, Kathy Anderson, Mary Munsell, Sally Day
- Food Barrel Ministry: Mary Munsell
- Memorial Gifts Recognition and Caring Note Ministry: Jane Burkland,
- Hymn Board: Gail Peterson
- Chancel Candle Care: Gail Peterson
- Memorial Service Receptions: Jane Burkland, Carol Parker, Faye Hutchings
- Nominating Committee Representative: Carol Parker

THANKS TO

The Deacons who have fulfilled their three year terms:
Faye Hutchings, Carol Parker, Gail Peterson, Maryanne Sanchez.



Submitted by Sally Day

Grace Cooperative Preschool

In January 2021, Grace Cooperative Preschool (GCP) had been closed for in person learning since March 2020. Our enrollment had fallen but we had a core group of students enrolled in our distance learning program. As school children returned to hybrid learning in March 2021, we planned for our preschoolers to return to school safely. During our preparation, we discovered our toilet was leaking. We replaced it with a child sized version, graciously paid for by (GCP) and installed by Mike Martin (Joy's husband). Our MWF (four and five year old class) returned to campus mid-March. The T/Th class (combined two and three year olds) returned the beginning of April. Teachers were vaccinated in the spring as were the parent co-ops. The Preschool Board voted to require parent co-ops to be vaccinated in order to participate in the classroom. Our school year concluded in May with a drive-up goodbye on the sport court. Over the summer we gained "The Graceway", a race track on our hillside built as an Eagle Scout project by alumnus Decker O'Steen.

On June 15, Marlene Hall let us know she would be retiring effective June 30, 2021. Marlene served the school for 30 years. Joy Martin was approved as Director by the (GCP) Board on June 29, 2021. Joy joined Grace as a teacher in 2010. There are plans to recognize Marlene at the 50th Anniversary celebration on Sunday, May 1, 2022.

Preschool Treasurer, Linda Neyer, continues to be an asset to us. The Paycheck Protection Program loans totaling \$14,400 were forgiven, and we received a pandemic stipend of \$4,000 from the Department of Social Services. The Church Business Department gave us a 30% discount on our rent. We are currently at 70% enrollment to our "break even" number.

Our preschool had two fundraisers, pie sales raising \$1310, and See's candy raising \$886. We attended the Lamorinda Moms Preschool Fair in November and will host an Open House for prospective students in February. We hope that our enrollment will rebound next year.

An additional challenge we face is the passing of California's Universal Transitional Kindergarten for four year olds. In 2022, elementary schools will extend the eligibility of TK in stages until 2024 when all four year olds would be allowed to attend a *free* five day program at their elementary school. Grace Preschool may still have families who choose to keep their four year old in preschool, but we are preparing for a change in our program out of necessity. We try to be flexible when thinking how to best serve children and maintain a viable program.

In August, we were surprised with the news of a Micro Home project potentially to be built in the Grace parking lot. Pastor Mark Burnham attended our August Board meeting and explained the project idea, heard concerns and answered questions. Joy Martin also met with Deanne Pearn from Hope Solutions to learn more about the project.

In September we welcomed students back to school. Teacher Sarah Lee-Jaine shepherds our two year olds. Teachers Meg Fiset and Joy Martin collaborate in the three year old program, and Joy Martin readies our fours and fives for their transition to Kindergarten. Lavenia Black re-joined us in October for the return of our Music Program, a favorite activity. Families were excited for the return of special events. Pumpkin Day where families to get to know each other while decorating pumpkins, and a modified Family Feast Day were held.

2021 closed with Santa's (church member Dave Fellner) visit. Families gave to the Contra Costa Food Bank, gathered school supplies to benefit St. Mary's Preschool in Oakland, and honored our staff with a donation to Heifer International.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic is not behind us, we are grateful for our ability to come to school safely, to watch our preschoolers learn and grow, and for our school families to form a caring community. We appreciate the support of Office Manager Judy Williams and the warm relationship we have with Grace Presbyterian Church.

Women of Grace

GOAL

To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, offer fellowship, education, and to be leaders assuring that women have opportunities to grow and mature in their faith.

STRATEGIES

The PW strives to increase membership among women of the church. At their monthly meetings, they seek to educate participants through Bible Study and create a nurturing and inclusive atmosphere by encouraging fellowship among the members. All church women are invited.

Recognition of the PW and recruitment of members is done by personal invitation and outreach events. In usual times, the group hosts a luncheon with a speaker to deliver a relevant presentation that is of particular interest to women. This event was not held in 2021. The annual Advent Program/Tea is a gift to the community where we celebrate the season and invite church and community members to this free event to introduce them to Grace Church and to the Presbyterian Women.

CIRCLES

Esther and Susanna Circles met together in early in 2021 by means of Zoom. Later, the meetings were hybrid, with some in-person and some on Zoom. Lavenia Black and Karen Hastings-Flegel led the study leadership and other leadership was provided by Geri Rentz with assistance from Faye Hutchings. The Circles continue to meet as one large group.

Needlers, a knitting and crocheting craft group, continued their projects in their individual homes and later in the year they were back on campus. Now a group of eight women, they continue to make scarves for our troops and in 2021 they mailed 290 scarves to Operation Gratitude. Marsha Stark is the leader of the Needlers and the liaison for Operation Gratitude.

RESULTS

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Presbyterian Women managed to host successful Zoom and hybrid meetings which enabled the group to make business decisions, determine their direction for 2022, continue with their Bible study, and connect with each other socially.

In the spring, Mary Ann Littig was awarded the annual Lifetime Membership Award for 2020.

In December, a modified Advent Tea, which was called the Advent Program, was held for Grace members and friends in the Sanctuary with a reception in the Fireside Room. Due to the pandemic, the event was not advertised to the public as usual. The Madrigal Singers performed, Rosalyn Cannelora and Linda Neyer were awarded the Annual Lifetime Membership Award for 2021.

THANKS TO

The Coordinating Team: Geri Rentz and Faye Hutchings. Lavenia Black for study leadership and Pastor Karen Hastings-Flegel for her teaching and support. Thanks to Marsha Stark for leading the Needlers.



Submitted by Geri Rentz

Men's Club

GOAL

To provide a venue for camaraderie, education and discussion for the men of Grace Church.

STRATEGIES/RESULTS

The Men's Club of Grace met on the second Friday of each month including regular meetings during the pandemic by means of Zoom. The Club welcomes men of Grace and guests to join this support group that deals with fellowship and matters of faith and service. A different interactive topic is provided each month as a basis for debate and discussion. The group has been meeting for many years under the stalwart leadership of Pastor Emeritus, Bob Williams, and now is led by Rev. Mark Burnham.



Legacy Society

Grace Presbyterian Church expresses grateful thanks to past, present and future donors of major gifts, bequests and endowments. Their thoughtful contemplation of our church's future needs, and their generous commitment to extend their faith, influence and support beyond their lifetimes is sincerely appreciated.

PAST DONORS

June Allen	Emil Danielson	Jackie McConnell
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This list includes major gifts, bequests and planned gifts already established.

FUTURE DONORS and LIFE GIFT CONTRIBUTORS

This list includes those who have notified the church of their future intentions.

Anonymous, Joan Larsen, Don & Sharon Lyons,
Maryanne Sanchez, Reta Wilcox, Betsy Williams

The 2021 Annual Report is
dedicated to the memory of founding pastor,

Rev. Robert Williams

August 14, 1923 - January 19, 2021

Grace Presbyterian Church was
founded on November 30, 1958

