



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

Table of Contents

Clerk of Session Statistical and Financial Secretary Reports.....	2
Treasurer's Report.....	3
Pastor's Report (Rev. Mark Burnham).....	4
Music Director's Report.....	5
Mission & Vision.....	6
Goals & Strategies.....	7
Discipleship Report.....	8
Congregational Life and Men's Club Reports.....	9
Business Report.....	10
Witness & Ministry Report.....	11
Worship & Education Report.....	12
Board of Deacons Report.....	13
Grace Cooperative Preschool Report.....	14
Women of Grace Report.....	15
Legacy Society.....	16

Clerk of Session

Active Membership as of 1/1/2022.....	128
Deaths as of December 31, 2022.....	8
Other Losses as of December 31, 2022.....	2
Gains as of December 31, 2022.....	18
Active Members as of December 31, 2022.....	136
Affiliate Members as of December 31, 2022.....	3
<i>(Timothy Hamilton, Elise Teagle, Mary Munsell)</i>	
Membership as of December 31, 2022	139

We remember and celebrate the resurrection of members of Grace who died in 2022.

Dorothy Wanamaker, Marjie Tweedie, Jane Hinds, Paul Luscher,
Nancy Goelkel, Tung Au, Barbara Livingston, Renate Owen

We were very pleased to welcome new members

Gary Parkhurst, Carol Parkhurst, Bob Binsacca, Lynn Binsacca, Pat Burnham, Nancy Magee,
Jean Savage, Myra Swallow, Mary Lou Thompson, Jerome Williams, Fran Beach, Rex Beach,
Sadako Urabe, Jim Martin, Bill Patten, John Bean, Barbara Bean, Hilde Olds

Submitted by Geri Rentz, Clerk of Session

Financial Secretary Annual Report 2022

Pledge Comparison 2022 to 2023

	# of Pledges	Pledge Amount
Persons with a 2022 pledge:	82	\$ 231,635.00
Persons with a 2023 pledge:	60	\$ 214,620.00
Persons with a 2022 pledge who passed or moved:	5	\$ (21,600.00)
Persons who pledged 2022 but not 2023:	26	\$ (38,595.00)
Person who pledged 2023 but not 2022:	8	\$ 31,650.00
<i>Possible Scenarios for Persons who pledged 2022 but not 2023:</i>		
If 100% of pledges are received	86	\$ 253,215.00
If 50% of pledges are received	73	\$ 233,917.50
If 25% pledges are received	67	\$ 224,268.75

Persons who pledged both 2022 & 2023

	# of Pledges	2022	2023	Net Change
Persons who pledged the same amount:	27	\$ 69,900.00	\$ 69,900.00	\$ -
Persons who increased their pledge:	20	\$ 71,610.00	\$ 88,300.00	\$ 16,690.00
Persons who decreased their pledge:	5	\$ 29,930.00	\$ 24,770.00	\$ (5,160.00)
Totals:	52	\$ 171,440.00	\$ 182,970.00	\$ 11,530.00

Treasurer's Report

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2022

ACTIVITIES RESULTS

Grace Church budgeted \$409,956 for its General Fund in 2022, a decrease of \$33,229 over the preceding year, due mainly to the retirement of the Associate Pastor on Feb 28, 2022. Expenses came in at \$407,599, or \$2,357 under budget due mainly to savings in the Music Director position offset by increased utility costs and a \$10,000 capital reserve established in 2022.

	<u>Church program expenses</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Personnel	\$228,812	56%
Local Program	\$135,368	33%
General Mission	<u>\$ 43,419</u>	<u>11%</u>
Total	\$407,599	100%

Grace Church budgeted \$367,750 for income in 2022, a decrease of \$1,700 over the preceding year, mainly due to reduction of facility income which had not returned following the pandemic shutdown. Income came in at \$418,014 or \$50,264 over budget due to stronger than expected pledge, plate and gifts. In addition, a new facility user started on June 1, and the CARES Act Employee Retention Tax Credit was received. By decision of Session and given the Associate Pastor retirement, only \$4,000 of the previously approved \$25,000 was transferred from Investment Funds to the program for the fifth and final year to support the Associate Pastor position.

	<u>Church program receipts</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Pledges for 2022	\$255,393	61%
Other income	<u>\$162,621</u>	<u>39%</u>
Total	\$418,014	100%

As a result of income being higher than expenses, the bank balance increased by \$10,415 at year end which was an improvement over the budgeted decrease of \$42,205.

Bank balance on 1/1/21	\$ 44,708
Church program receipts	\$ 418,014
Church program expenses	<u>\$ 407,599</u>
Bank balance on 12/31/21	\$ 55,123

DEDICATED (SPECIAL) ACCOUNTS RESULTS

In addition, Grace Church handled \$276,050 in receipts and \$271,222 in expenses for special accounts and activities during the year. The receipts included Legacy gifts from Renate Owen and Dorothy Wanamaker, EBIC investment income, Guntz fund annual gift, facilities campaign donations, and preschool payroll reimbursement. The expenses included EBIC investments, memorial garden and courtyard improvements, Burnham home equity windows and door copay, and preschool payroll. At the end of year 2022, church bank accounts held \$627,789 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 2022 saw a decrease in the value of the church's investment holdings owing to the year over year weakness in the market. After allowing for EBIC investments of \$111,551, income withdrawals and the \$4,000 mentioned above, the decrease was roughly 14% in asset value. At the end of 2022, the Investment Fund included the True Wealth Advisory Group fund, \$957,700, and the Presbyterian Foundation, \$492,485, a total of \$1,450,185.

As recommended by EBIC, \$37,000 was received from the True Wealth Advisory Group (in addition to the \$4,000 mentioned above), and \$16,182 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

A few years ago a pastor colleague shared a story that was originally devised by a Scotsman named Maurice Nicoll in the 1950s and popularized by the author Jacob Needleman in his book, Lost Christianity: A Journey of Rediscovery. It goes like this:

Once upon a time, in a land not so far away, there was a kingdom of acorns, nestled at the foot of a grand old oak tree. Since the citizens of this kingdom were modern, fully westernized acorns, they went about their life with a purposeful energy.



Also, they were midlife baby-boomer acorns, so they engaged in a lot of self-help courses. There were seminars called “Getting All You Can out of Your Shell” and “Who Would You Be Without Your Nutty Story?” There were woundedness and recovery groups for acorns who had been bruised in their fall from the tree. There were spas for oiling and polishing those shells and various acornopathic therapies to enhance longevity and well-being.

One day in the midst of this kingdom there suddenly appeared a knotty little stranger, apparently dropped out of the blue by a passing bird. He was capless and dirty, making an immediate negative impression on his fellow acorns. And to make things worse, crouched beneath the mighty oak tree, he stammered out a wild tale. Pointing up at the tree, he said, “We ... are ... that!”

Delusional thinking, obviously, the other acorns concluded, but they continued to engage him in conversation: “So tell us, how do we ... become that tree?”

“Well,” said he, pointing downward, “it has something to do with going into the ground ... and cracking open the shell.”

“That’s crazy!” they responded. “Totally morbid! Why then we wouldn’t be acorns anymore.”

At the heart of that story is a truth: An acorn is only a seed; its nature and destiny is to become an oak tree. A church congregation is also akin to a seed—a group of people, gathered by the Holy Spirit and supported by God’s Word, who are “planted” in the soil of a particular community and neighborhood. We are also a community that continues to grow and to spread out roots and to change—not always easy things to do!

The year 2022 brought some major changes to Grace Church. We saw the retirement of our beloved Associate Pastor and Music Director/Organist, the Rev. Dr. Karen Hastings-Flegel, and we welcomed our new Music Director, Jumi Kim. We also welcomed 18 new members (!) and said good-bye to seven members who passed away.

As you read through this Annual Report, please offer up a prayer of gratitude for the staff members, elders, deacons, volunteers, and countless others who made the ministry of Grace Church happen in 2022.

Grace and peace, Mark



Submitted by Rev. Mark Burnham

Music Director's Report—Jumi Kim

GOAL

Our goal is to inspire members and friends to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ through worship. We also seek to encourage them to contribute their time, talent, and treasure as well as extend invitations to others to participate in our community of faith.

CHANCEL CHOIR & BELL CHOIR

2022 was a successful year for both Chancel Choir and Bell Choir, achieving substantial improvement in several areas while remaining stable in size. I have been pleased with the choirs' increase in sound quality and level of repertoire. Their improvement was evident in their ability to deliver a successful Christmas Concert that was enriched by professional musicians and well-received by the audience. The response from the congregation to our collective efforts was strong and positive. Engagement, participation, and overall feedback indicate the congregation is pleased with the direction the choirs are heading.

VOLUNTEER & GUEST MUSICIANS

We were successful in proactively tapping into the musical talents of the congregation for both worship services and concerts. We also brought in professional musicians for worship services including pianists, violinists, cellist, flautist, trumpeters, and singers. This enhanced the worship experience for both choir members and congregants as the choirs' musicianship and performance quality steadily improved.

CONCERT SERIES

We restarted a concert series and had four concerts in 2022; *Irish Folk Music Concert* in September, *Duo Concert* in October, *Celeste Piano Trio Concert* in November, and *Christmas Concert* in December. Our audience size steadily grew with each concert and our last concert was enthusiastically received by congregants as well as their friends and family members. The Celeste Piano Trio Concert was especially well-received and praised by local classical music lovers. For our Christmas Concert, the chancel choir had the valuable experience of working with two professional singers that helped us successfully perform four exciting choir pieces. Most importantly, our church was exposed to many new walk-ins and had a full house with well over 100 people in our sanctuary.

THANKS TO

I deeply appreciate our Chancel Choir and Bell Choir members, volunteer musicians, and guest musicians who brought beautiful music to our services and concerts this year. Thank you also to Rev. Mark Burnham, Judy Williams, Linda Neyer, Faye Hutchings, and Sharon Lyons for their full support and love for the music program at Grace.

Respectfully submitted, Jumi Kim, Music Director



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

1. **Create a vision** of ministry and mission which is intentionally interpreted to the members and friends of Grace Church.
2. **Enhance worship** experiences and opportunities to attract, inspire, and further the spiritual growth of people.
3. **Offer and advertise** a variety of adult education opportunities which will nourish our membership and be attractive to non-members.
4. **Upgrade the facilities** to improve our profile and safety; and develop a Capital Improvement Plan.
5. **Implement a marketing plan** to attract visitors and maintain membership.
6. **Provide small groups** and larger celebrations to communicate and advance our values and ministry.
7. **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.
8. **Interpret national and global mission** and work with local organizations to invite greater active participation of our members and friends.
9. **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 church lives through a variety of group experiences.

STREATEGIES AND RESULTS

- Sunday Fellowship Time has become a highlight of Discipleship's mission. We are especially grateful to the volunteers who faithfully provide refreshments each Sunday after worship. This has become a time of visitation and enjoyment of our members, friends and guests of our church community. (We even had to bring out a larger coffee urn to meet the demand!)
- Hospitality was also extended in support of the monthly Concert Series reinstated this year with the excellent support of our music director, Jumi Kim. We appreciate the help of choir members in providing refreshments for this additional time of fellowship following the concerts.
- This year we were able to reinstate our traditional Memorial Day Picnic in the Oak Room and the porch with the help of the Witness and Ministry Department. We served over 80 members and friends. The picnic was followed by a well-received Memorial Day Remembrance program in the sanctuary. The program was created by a committee of church members and friends, assisted by our music director, guest musician Dwight Stone, and members of Boy Scout Troop 302. Thanks to the Deacons greeting and seating guests at both events to keep everyone at ease.
- For Veterans' Day Observance a display of veterans' memorabilia was open in the library for visitation by members after the Sunday service. We thank Judy Williams, church secretary, for heading up this display. It was also enjoyed by attendees at the afternoon concert that day.
- The Book Club continues to meet during most of the year. Members have enjoyed this chance to exchange ideas in the library with the Pastor.
- We held new members exploratory meetings each quarter. A small group of elders and the Pastor met with those with questions or interested in membership. It was exciting to greet 15 new members (so far) this year.
- Membership outreach is enhanced by the continued work of Marsha Stark and Linda Neyer. Their efforts give us weekly attendance information from Sunday Service. There is follow up by Rosalyn Cannelora, office volunteer, with new visitors and/or those who express interest in membership. They are contacted by phone or mail.
- We have held special Sunday Fellowship Time events throughout the year including at Easter, a Harvest Luncheon in October and the annual Christmas Day Breakfast (on Christmas this year!)

THANKS TO

We had a full year, but it would not have been so successful without the support of many. The office staff and volunteers are critical to our outreach to both members and guests. We are forever grateful to Judy Williams for the extra time and her amazing talents in helping "pull things together". We include the quiet work of those who help clean-up after Fellowship event, and again, to all members who step forward to greet our visitors and make them welcome; visitors comment on your friendliness all the time.

ELDERS RESPONSIBLE

Sharon Lyons, Roz Cannelora

Submitted by Sharon Lyons



Congregational Life—Outreach

GOAL

To introduce and attract potential new members to Grace Presbyterian Church by planning and executing activities and events.

STREATEGIES AND RESULTS

- 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



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.

Business

GOAL

Manage the finances and maintain the property of Grace Presbyterian Church through 2022.

PROPERTY

- Many of the projects below were funded by gifts and bequests from members of Grace church.
- Memorial Garden
- New plants for Garden
- Refurbished benches and kiosk
- Removed old stone walkway and replaced it with concrete walks

OAK ROOM

- New refrigerator in the kitchen
- Repaired dishwasher
- Repaired grand piano
- Cleaner out storage closets
- Installed new shed for storage adjacent to the room
- Upgraded WIFI access
- Replaced part of concrete curb with a concrete “ramp” to improved room and memorial garden access for wheel chairs, walkers and deliveries

FIRESIDE ROOM

- New water heater installed
- Paint and repair back hall area damaged by water
- Cleaned out storage

COURTYARD

- As part of Richard Carll’s Garden project: refurbished existing benches
- Purchased and installed two new low-maintenance benches
- Purchased and installed large Tree of Life sculpture
- Moved fountain
- New plants are planned for Spring

CAMPUS

- New signs for buildings on campus to be installed by early 2023
- Trees trimmed and other repairs made as necessary
- Micro-Home project still under review

FINANCES

- Under the leadership of Reta Wilcox, initiated Stewardship Campaign for 2023 which is in progress. Theme: Generous Living

ELDERS RESPONSIBLE

Dave Fellner, chair, Reta Wilcox, Marlene Hall. Special thanks to team members: Sara Allen, Bill Keeley and Geri Rentz



Submitted by Dave Fellner

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 (Now Hope Solutions)
 - Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County
 - Westminster Woods (Camperships)
 - San Francisco SafeHouse
 - SF Theological Seminary
 - Pastoral Salary Supplement

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 the Food Bank Contra Costa and Solano Counties. 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 Food Bank Contra Costa and Solano Counties since inflation has stretched food budgets. We sent \$771 to the Sidney Page Foundation for backpacks/school supplies for kids. Finally, we spent \$1699 for cans of tuna for the Let's Feed the Kids program

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 and Meg Keeley

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

- In-person worship was held all year, with masking optional after January and February. Worship on Zoom continues and livestream is available on YouTube. Attendance continued to be steady on Zoom and gradually increased in-person. The Covid pandemic continued to limit some events.
- Worship was celebrated Sundays at 10:00 am, with Communion the first Sunday of each month.
- The Boy Scouts participated in our Souperbowl Sunday collection.
- Ash Wednesday service was held in the Sanctuary.
- A Picnic lunch and Memorial Day Program with music and readings was held on May 30.
- Richard Carll, long-time member and Treasurer, was remembered on August 21 with music by Karen Hastings-Flagel, a lunch and dedication of Richard's garden.
- Pastor Mark Burnham initiated a switch from the Common Lectionary to the Narrative Lectionary as the texts for worship, beginning in September.
- Veteran's Day was recognized on Nov. 6 with a display in the Library, organized by Judy Williams.
- The order of the service has been changed so that there is a prelude as attendees enter the sanctuary. The candles are lit during the prelude. This is followed by the pastor's greeting and announcement. Then there is a brief choral introit, followed by the Call to Worship.
- A Candlelight Vigil service was held in the Memorial Garden on Dec. 14.
- Christmas Eve was celebrated with a service at 4:00 pm, including special music. A service was also held on Christmas morning at 10 am.
- At the request of the Deacons, the multi-candle candelabras were replaced with two large candles on the communion table, which use an oil cartridge that lasts for 30 hours. The candleabras are stored and can be used on request.
- At the request of the pastor, Session voted to limit the use of the communion table to the service of communion only.

MUSIC

Associate Pastor/Music Director, Karen Hastings-Flagel, retired in February. Jumi Kim, a new church attendee, volunteered to assume the duties of Music Director, and has been working to develop the vocal and handbell choirs. She requested funds that would have been used for her salary, along with some designated donations for music, be used to pay vocal and instrumental soloists, as well as section leaders. Jumi initiated monthly concerts. Donations have been received which have partly offset the expenses. Concerts were: October – Solos by Jumi Kim and piano by Hyunji Park, November – Celeste Trio, December – Christmas Concert, with soloists, choir and handbells.

EDUCATION

- Adult Education/Bible Study is offered on Wednesdays by Zoom. In-person meetings were restored in November.

THANKS TO

Fran Whipple, for recruiting liturgists. Susan Blair and others, for providing liturgical art. Susan Blair, Roz Cannelora, Mary Munsell, Judy Williams, and Fran Whipple, for running the flower ministry which provides the arrangements for the sanctuary. Jan Zimmerman for recruiting ushers, greeters, and communion servers. Sara Allen for recruiting candle-lighters. Carolyn Choy and Wendy Watkins for managing the sound system for services, with Don Lyons filling in. Lynn Lyons for running Zoom and the livestream recording with Sara Allen helping.

ELDERS RESPONSIBLE

Jan Zimmerman and Sara Allen

Submitted by Jan Zimmerman



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

- Continue caring ministry to support and encourage the congregation.
- Fulfill other responsibilities; oversee Deacons funds and mission-giving.
- Emphasis placed on the Deacons' Parish Contact Program

RESULTS

- The Parish Contact Program continued with each deacon making regular phone calls and writing notes to the congregation. New members and faithful non-members were added to the member calling lists. Each deacon had a list of 12-13 households 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 and candles were filled. Home Communion did not take place pending training.
- Memorial receptions 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 monthly \$100 in food cards 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; Elise Teagel, Co-Moderator; Connie Bills, Secretary
- Communion Preparation: Kathy Anderson, Connie Bills, Mary Munsell, Sally Day
- Food Barrel Ministry: Mary Munsell
- Memorial Gifts Recognition and Caring Note Ministry: Jane Burkland,
- Chancel Candle Care: Barbara Odell
- Memorial Service Receptions Coordinator: Elise Teagle
- Nominating Committee Representative: Barbara Odell

THANKS TO

The Deacons who have fulfilled their three year terms:
Jane Burkland, Barbara Odell, Marsha Stark, Elise Teagle

Submitted by Sally Day



Grace Cooperative Preschool

In January 2022, Grace Cooperative Preschool (GCP) started the year with a short stint of distance learning as a result of a Covid-19 spike in the area, and among staff families. We enjoyed a return to in-person preschool on the 15th and resumed our regular schedule.

We hosted an enrollment Open House in February for prospective students and families. In response to California's changes in eligibility for Transitional Kindergarten to phase in the inclusion of four year olds, we offered a new program. Our 3's and 4's classes would combine and we would offer 2-5 days each week, and our 2 year old class would be offered 2-4 days each week. This was an attractive point to offer when touring families.

On Sunday, May 1, 2022, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Grace Cooperative Preschool! The 50th celebration was also our fundraiser for the year. It was also an opportunity to recognize both Marlene Hall (Preschool Director 1991-2021) and Charie Reid (Preschool Director 1971-1991) for their dedication to Grace Preschool. Church members Bethallyn Black and Lori and Steve Camenson graciously selected and planted plants for a pollinator garden in the courtyard outside of the classrooms in celebration of Marlene and Charie, with a plaque acknowledging their service to Grace Preschool.

The event had arts and crafts for children, La Rocca food truck and Hawaiian Ice available, a photo "booth", and children's art work on display. Teacher Meg Fiset coordinated large displays of school photographs spanning the 50 years. Teacher Lavenia Black was on hand to play piano and lead the group of current students, alumni, and friends in singing a few preschool favorites.

The 50th fundraising drive was a huge success. Early on, we received an anonymous matching gift of \$5,000 from a supporter of the preschool. Donations from church parishioners, current school families, and alumni totaled \$25,511!

Grace Preschool was fortunate to receive a bequest, donations and active participation in other fundraising during the year totaling over \$9,000.

Last, we received an Employee Retention Credit through the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act of \$15,924. Due to all of the above, we ended the year with a positive cash flow of \$48,354.

Preschool Treasurer, Linda Neyer, continues to be an asset to us. We are so appreciative of her skills and her willingness to help our preschool succeed.

We are grateful to see an increase in enrollment this year. We currently have 12 two-year-olds enrolled, and 16 students in the 3's/4's class. We hope to retain 18 families for next school year, which will give us a nice base to start with.

2022 closed with Santa's (church member Dave Fellner) visit. Families gave to the Contra Costa Food Bank, gathered dental supplies to benefit Monument Crisis Center, and presented our staff with a generous donation to The Contra Costa Food Bank in our honor.

We continue to be 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.

Submitted by Joy Martin,
Director Grace Cooperative Preschool



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. Recruitment is done by personal invitation. 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. Church membership is not required to join the Circle.

CIRCLES

The Circles continued to meet as one large group throughout 2022. The combined Circles have been renamed "Hannah" Circle and this is a permanent change. Bible study has become a prominent focus of the meetings with Geri Rentz leading studies and Charie Reid substituting as needed. Faye Hutchings handles communication and admin tasks for the group.

NEEDLERS

The knitting and crocheting craft group continued their projects, mostly in their individual homes. Now a smaller group of five women, they continue to make scarves for our troops and in 2022 they mailed 166 scarves and nine hats to Operation Gratitude. Grace Needlers were awarded third place in a contest called *Clear Your Stash Challenge*. Marsha Stark is the leader of the Needlers and the liaison for Operation Gratitude.

RESULTS

After the challenges of the pandemic, the Presbyterian Women have opted to host their meetings with in-person attendance in the Library and Zoom is provided as an option for those who cannot attend in-person.

A successful Advent "Fellowship Tea" was hosted by the Circles on Sunday, Dec. 11. Faye Hutchings was in charge of recruiting members to bake cookies and bring other goodies. Mini quiches were served along with the sweets. The event was enjoyed by many congregants who attended church that day. The PW Honorary Lifetime Membership Award was presented to Marlene Hall and El Nungesser, two long-time church members and contributors.

THANKS TO

The Coordinating Team: Geri Rentz, Jan Zimmerman and Faye Hutchings. Charie Reid for substitute teaching and to volunteers who decorated, shopped, baked, pitched in to set -up and clean-up to make the Advent Program and Fellowship Tea a success. Thanks to Marsha Stark for leading the Needlers.

Submitted by Geri Rentz



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	Carl & Betty Fisher	Renate Owen
Earl & Judy Bardin	Jeff & Fran Foster	H. Marshall Pitney
Frances Baugh	Florence & Archie Furr	William Sargent
Dorothy & Thornton Beall	Dorothy Gans	Charles & Marjorie Schlegel
Hazel Bearss	Janyce Gerber	Dorothy Stacey
Carol Bergesen	Charles & Irene Guntz	Gordon Studebaker
Dulcie Blume	Katherine (Kay) Hatch	Jean Surdyk
Max & Gene Brewen	Johnson Family Fund	Bea Tillotson
Joyce Call	Eleana Lass	Heidi Wagner
Richard Carll	Paul Martina	Dorothy Wanamaker
Charles Smith & Marion Cramer	Harvey McCammon	Victoria Young
Dorothy Crawford	Jackie McConnell	Charie Reid
Emil Danielson	Mabel Milhan	
Warren Eukel	Ginnie Millson	

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.

Elizabeth (Betty) Adams, Anonymous, Joan Larsen, Don & Sharon Lyons,
Maryanne Sanchez, Reta Wilcox, Betsy Williams