



# The Messenger

## January 2024

### ***Rector's Message***

Happy New Year!

Perhaps it is a mechanism for coping with stress, but it seems like every year around the Church's busiest times – Christmas, Holy Week, Easter – I develop an amnesia that allows me to believe the frenzied pace that surrounds these festive observances will be followed by a period of calm. I suppose, relatively speaking, this is true after the special services have passed and we return to our regular schedule. But, peering ahead on my calendar, there is still plenty to look forward to in the coming weeks, with two items I would like to draw your attention to now.

First, on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, we have our next formation gathering after the service. We have had a few such gatherings under this new Second Sunday format, and I have found them enjoyable thus far. I only hope they are as enjoyable for those who attend as they are for me. I did ask if anyone has specific topics that they want to discuss or learn more about to please write them down on the small whiteboard just inside the Room of Requirement (former youth room) where we meet. Lo, someone snuck in and wrote down two great topics, which I am looking forward to:

We will start with *forgiveness*, not only because it was listed first, but also because it is a very appropriate subject for consideration just a month before we begin the Lenten season (Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>) and our reflection on sin, penitence, and the forgiveness of our sins through Jesus Christ.

Forgiveness was the theme of the Preaching Excellence Program the year I attended in 2017. Our keynote presenter at the conference that year was Dr. Everett Worthington, Jr., a psychologist who specializes in the study of forgiveness and reconciliation, so I came home with some good resources to support our conversation, which could necessitate two sessions, depending on the depth of our exploration of our capacity for forgiveness *and* God's.

Also in January is our parish Annual Meeting – January 28<sup>th</sup> to be exact – where you, the parishioners of Grace Church, view the finalized budget, select your lay leaders, and set goals for 2024. So, I will now make my annual appeal for new Vestry members. Our senior warden, Katie Shore, and Marissa Routson will be rotating off, leaving two vacancies. I have a verbal commitment for one, so we would perhaps only need one more “communicant in good standing,” as the Canons specify, to step up and be on the Vestry. The meetings are every third Sunday of the month after the service, and they last approximately 90 minutes.

Vestry often gets a bad rap based on past rectors or experiences concerning contentious issues in the church. In my time as your rector, the mood of the meetings has been pleasant, there has been little to no discord on issues, and I try my very best to keep meetings flowing while informative. I will attribute part of this to the fact that my own goals as your rector are pretty simple: keep Grace Church open, spiritually nourishing, and engaged in the community; maintain the structural integrity and functionality our 137-year-old building; and make space for creative and edifying ways to achieve all of the above...oh, and all while trying to stay within budget. If you are interested in sharing your talents towards these goals, please let me know.

I look forward to what the next year has in store for Grace Church, and as always, I look forward to being in worship and fellowship with you.

Blessings,  
Fr. Brian

## Server Schedule

### January 7th

**Chalicerist:** Chuck Breo  
**Lector:** Phyllis Bergagna  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Dick Hepner & Jon Watson

### January 14th

**Chalicerist:** Carol Francis  
**Lector:** Candy Colby  
**Acolytes:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Chad Enright & Jeff Francis

### January 21st

**Chalicerist:** Chuck Terpening  
**Lector:** Martha Furst  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Dick Hepner & Jon Watson

### January 28th

**Chalicerist:** Chuck Breo  
**Lector:** John Gush  
**Acolyte:** Lucy Prall  
**Ushers:** Chad Enright & Jeff Francis

If you are unable to serve on the dates assigned, please make sure you get someone to replace you and notify the church office.

## ***Bits and Pieces***

***Christian Formation Class*** - January 14th after the 9:00am service.

***People of Grace Breakfast*** - January 20th, 8:00am at 9 East Coffee Shop. All are welcome to attend.

***Annual Meeting - January 28th*** All reports for the meeting need to be turned into the office no later than January 18th either electronically (gracechurch@aeroinc.net) or printed in a format ready to be copied for the annual report.

***Telephone Directory for 2024*** We will be publishing a new directory for 2024. Please let the office know of any changes (phone number, address, family changes, etc.) by January 25th.

***Weekly Altar Flowers for 2024*** Sign up sheet is now posted in the narthex. The cost of altar flowers is \$33.00. Sometime during the month you are signed up for weekly flowers turn in a check for \$33.00 (made out to Grace Episcopal Church). You can put this in the offering plate, turn in to the office or mail to the church. Just indicate on the check that it is for altar flowers.

**Thank you** to my Grace Church family for the generous Christmas check. Connie O.

***Deadline*** for the February Messenger will be January 23rd

## Treasurer's Report

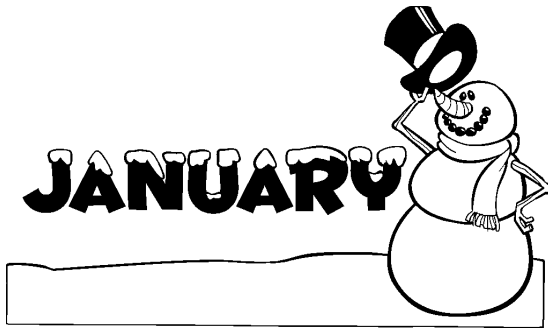
Below is an analysis comparing the actual results for the 11 months of this year to the annual budget.

	11 months actual results	2023 Annual Budget	Difference
<b>Total Revenue</b>	197,478	219,832	90%
Expenses:			
Personnel Costs	127,727	138,922	92%
Building & Grounds	51,107	50,767	101%
Other Expenses	24,894	30,550	81%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	203,728	220,239	93%
Gain (Loss)	(6,250)	(407)	

If you have not fully paid your 2023 pledge and are unsure of the unpaid balance, call Connie at the church and she will answer your questions.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Duane Price, Treasurer  
815-233-0006  
daprice68@yahoo.com



## ***Birthdays***

6th Larry Miller  
14th Judy Connors  
17th Drew Rogers  
27th Scott Larson  
28th Chad Enright

28th Claudia Smith  
Nelda Worthington  
29th Chuck Breo  
Stephen Lafferty

## ***Anniversaries***

16th Bob Crawford & Nancy Smith  
25th Jim & Gwynne French

If your birthday and/or anniversary does not appear on our monthly list or if there is an error please inform the church office via e-mail ([gracechurch@aeroinc.net](mailto:gracechurch@aeroinc.net)) or call 815-232-4422.

- Better by far you should forget and smile, than that you should remember and be sad.

—Christine Rosetti

- Music has the power to shape a culture.

—Aristotle

- God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

—Anonymous

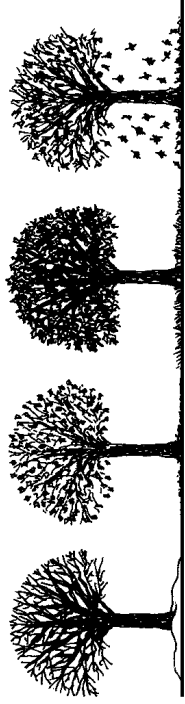
- I've learned that love is a great investment. No matter whom you give it to, it returns great dividends.

—Anonymous

### Prayer from Book Of Common Prayer

“This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus.” Amen.

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**As We Start the New Year**

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January Newsletter