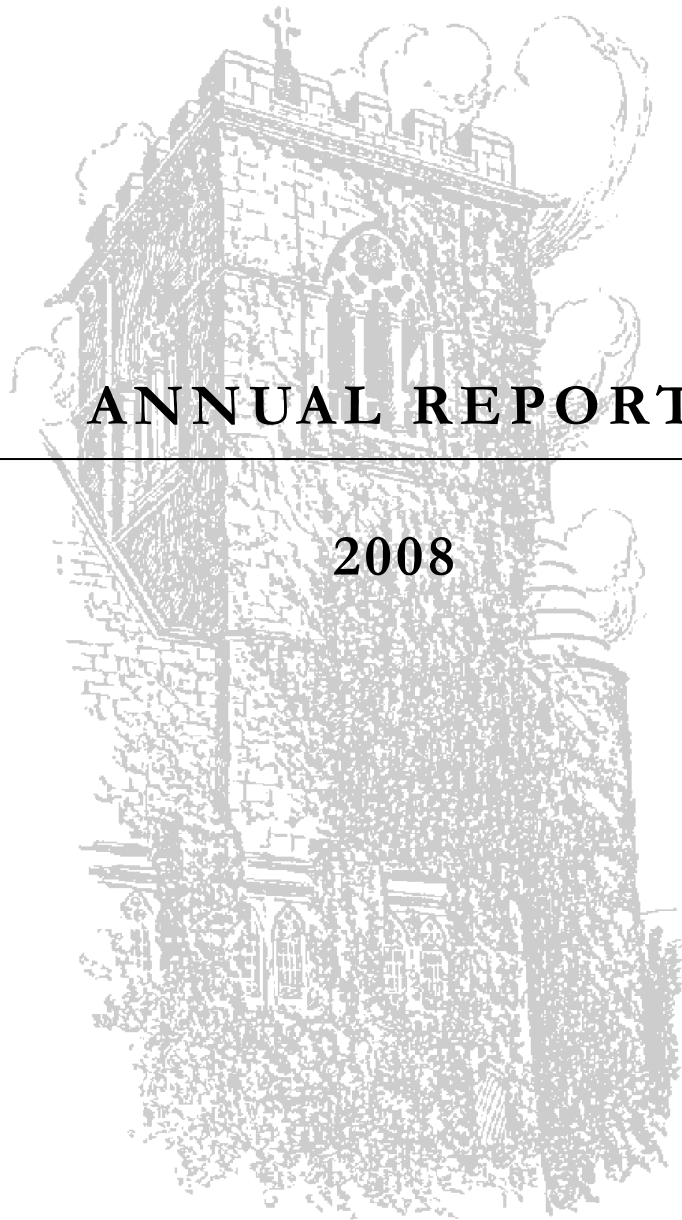


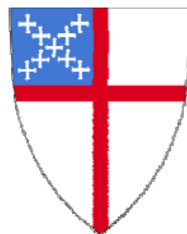
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

600 CLEVELAND AVENUE
PLAINFIELD NJ 07060
www.GracePlainfield.org



ANNUAL REPORT

2008



For the annual meeting: January 25, 2009

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GRACE CHURCH STAFF & OFFICERS

The Reverend Carolyn H. Eklund	Rector
The Reverend Theodore E. Moore	Deacon
Mr. Robert H. Gangewere, Jr.	Organist & Choir Director
Ms. Morgann Cotten	Administrative Secretary
Ms. Alicia Barquero	Custodian
Mr. John Taitt	Treasurer
Mr. David Magee	Assistant Treasurer

Programs

Ms. Jane Wilson, President	Plainfield Community Outreach
Mrs. Mary Jo Buck	Grace's Kitchen Coordinator
Ms. Dana Sharpe	Interim Project Director 21st Century After School Program

Wardens

Mr. Trevor King	2008
Mr. Jason Algeo	2009

Vestry

Mrs. Lorraine McKenzie Esq., Clerk	2008
Mr. Frank Walcott	2008
Ms. Jane Wilson	2008
Mr. Winsley Rudder	2009
Mrs. Denise Simmons	2009
Mr. LeRoy Trotz	2009
Dr. Rudolph Archer	2010
Ms. Barbara Blix	2010
Ms. Carrie Hayes	2010

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RECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2008

CAROLYN EKLUND

On the joyous occasion of the dedication of our handicapped accessible ramp, January 11, 2009, Bishop Romero prayed the following petition: "Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us..." We know that the contributions of over 25 people in and outside of this parish came together to create a way in to worship at Grace, and to tap the healing power of Christ for all people. The accomplishment of the ramp must be one of our most joyous highlights for 2008.

An outward sign of our desire to widen our circles of fellowship, the ramp symbolizes to others how much we desire their presence here. Faithfully living into our mission, there were other ways we widened our fellowship and enriched our lives in 2008:

- We introduced a "Family Friendly" Communion Service combining Grace Chorister singing and Sunday school for children.
- We enriched our Black History Month offerings with jazz, poetry reading, slave narrative dramatic readings, and the singing of the Good News Gospel Choir of Plainfield.
- People from near and far joined us for the Peach Festival and Carillon Concert this summer.
- The Christmas Fellowship gathering expanded the fun and the fund-raising.

We were also called to serve our community in specific ways. We housed our homeless guests, serving with partner parishes. We continued to feed our hungry neighbors in Grace's Kitchen, partnering with volunteers from other Episcopal parishes. We provided educational opportunities for our local school children through a partnership with the State of New Jersey and local Plainfield schools.

When the report about the closing of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center was published in the newspaper, it was a "call to arms" for Grace Church. Members wrote "letters to the editor" and letters to elected officials. We testified at the public hearings. We protested in front of Muhlenberg and the Statehouse in Trenton. We may have lost the case to a tone-deaf governor, his stagnant bureaucracy and a greedy hospital corporation, but Plainfield has been enlightened. This November, over 60 people joined Grace Church in our community service: "Celebration of Justice and Thanksgiving" to give thanks for the hard work of our citizens.

When the prophet Isaiah encouraged the Jewish exiles in Babylon, they had lost hope for generations. Many had lost their religion. The prophet Isaiah wrote, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

I have shared these words with us for years now. And they have been true for us. Not every parish faces the threat of their death. Many deny they are in trouble. Not every parish embraces change in order to expand and enrich our circles of fellowship. We are making a way, a new way in the wilderness, and we are being renewed. As we often say at the conclusion of worship, "Live without fear, for your Creator had made you holy..." This prayer is answered for the people of Grace.

The Vestry created some bold new goals for widening our circle to families in 2008 and renewing our mission. But it wasn't only the Vestry being bold. The parish accepted our new Sunday "Family Friendly" Communion service with grace. The now 7:45 a.m. congregation made almost no complaint when we asked them to attend 15 minutes earlier so that we could try the new 9:00 Family Friendly service.

Robert Gangewere saw the opportunity at the family service to introduce new songs to our children and to make music and singing a permanent fixture of Christian education. I commend Vestry members Carrie Hayes and Jane Wilson for designing the 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. time frame. Lots of families come and I love the sound of children's feet dashing to Knickle Hall for Sunday school.

I want to thank the “Family Friendly” Committee and members of the Worship Commission for successfully planning this new service: Kristen Foley, Ann-Marie Aymer, Victoria David, Robert Gangewere, Rev. Ted Moore, Karen Moore, Kathy Balenson, Lorraine McKenzie, Cynthia Woodall, Colleen Gibney, Noel Taitt, Dave Magee, Jason Algeo.

It was a privilege to serve with such a fine staff and groups of leaders in this parish. Our new staff members are making improvement in our worship life and daily operations with a minimum of hours. Robert Gangewere is sowing seeds of joy in the choir and we are all singing more “robustly”. Morgann Cotton, our administrative secretary was hired in her third trimester of pregnancy and, as a new employee helped us observe Holy Week and Easter with grace. Soon after, she gave birth to Mia, her daughter. Morgann returned to us and is learning how to manage our parish office and volunteers.

Alicia Barquero was hired a year ago to clean the church. She loves to make our building and floors clean. There is another benefit for me. I can practice my Spanish while she practices her English.

A few Saturdays ago I came to Grace to deliver oatmeal cookies to the ramp crew. I discovered several members and our deacon Ted Moore learning and updating their CPR skills on a dummy on the floor in Knickle Hall. Ted is a man of many talents. He helps care for our shut-ins and makes hospital visits. He leads our Health Ministries Commission and even taught with wife Karen, the Adult Forum during Black History Month, a course on Howard Thurman’s book, “Jesus and the Disinherited.”

Dave Magee has an important role as our bookkeeper and Assistant Treasurer, keeping our daily financial records in order. Dave also keeps worship in good order as Minister of Ceremonies, Acolyte Master and Altar Guild Chair. You do so much around here. We are grateful to you, Dave.

The Vestry and I just completed our annual Mutual Ministry Review. The purpose was to reflect on our ministry together, and celebrate our accomplishments. We also discern ways in which we can grow and follow God’s path. I want to share with you goals I have been thinking about for our future:

- Strengthen Christian education for children, families and the entire parish. This would include Spanish language outreach, if possible. I want us as a parish to work together to strengthen our faith.
- Develop and consistently offer programs for our youth that involve them in the life of the parish more meaningfully.
- Develop a lay-led system for welcoming and incorporating new members, and expand opportunities for communications with newsletter, mailings, website, phone contact.
- Plan for future financial stability – increased parishioner giving, strengthening partnerships for community use of building, eliminating deficit spending.
- Plan for future building stability and renewal by determining feasibility for capital campaign to finish building restoration phases.

There are some members of our leadership who are retiring and whom I want to thank. Trevor King has been a superb leader as Warden for four years. He worked on building maintenance, led the Finance Commission and headed up the Governors’ Rally. Thank you, Trevor.

Retiring members of the Vestry have served most boldly. I am grateful to them for their leadership. Lorraine McKenzie has been our clerk, seeing to it that minutes are recorded. Lorraine’s passion is in developing our children in their Christian faith. She is the catalyst for our Sunday school and youth gatherings. Thank you, Lorraine.

Jane Wilson wears a good number of leadership hats. She is a strong, energetic President of the Plainfield Community Outreach, Inc. Board, steadily guiding and growing our reach into the community. Her passion is to have an influence on the education of school children in Plainfield and to offer pleasant hospitality to our Grace Kitchen guests. We will miss Jane’s thoughtful, intelligent contributions to our Vestry discussions. Thank you, Jane.

Frank Walcott is retiring as a Vestry member, but will not stop his leadership role. We are grateful to “Mr. Faith” for building a faithful and generous Stewardship Program and Commission at Grace. As many parishes are seeing their parishioner giving decline, our stewardship work has caused a steady increase in giving over the years. I also give thanks to Frank for making sure the details of Sunday worship are in order and for his amazing ideas for fund-raising. He is not only “Mr. Faith”. He is “Mr. Governors’ Rally.” Thank you, Frank.

Our Collect for this Third Sunday After the Epiphany begins, “Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ...” If anyone ever thought God doesn’t hear or answer prayer, come to Grace and see how God is answering this prayer. Many people are answering Christ’s call to serve and to share the good news of Christ’s love with others. May we continue to cast our nets in ever-widening circles of fellowship, drawing all people nearer to Christ.

WARDEN'S REPORTS

TREVOR KING

This country is presently undergoing an administrative change and understandably emotions will be ranging from as negative as apprehension and fear to as positive as hope and excitement.

CHANGE at the right time and in the proper manner can be good for a firmly grounded and established but constantly growing and emerging organization.

The Grace parish underwent some significant changes in staff the last year and initially folks were concerned about the transition. The change in choirmaster and organist has reaped many sweet rewards. The choir has grown in numbers, participation of children in Sunday school is at an all time high, the new 9am family friendly service is well represented and Sunday attendance overall has grown. The administrative secretary continues to improve her skill level and the physical plant is now being thoroughly cleaned and beautified by the new custodian.

Grace Church of Plainfield is a vibrant, energetic and bustling group that continues to grow in numbers and activities even in these unstable and uncertain economic times. In the last year positive reinforcements about every aspect of parish life has been consistently reinforced by the Church leadership.

At the beginning of the year the Vestry set practical goals like establishing prudent methods of attracting and welcoming folks to the parish, identifying and building on the strengths of all the individual commissions thereby maximizing the church's ability to welcome, evangelize, administer, and facilitate pastoral duties.

Mother Carolyn has continued to share her leadership ability in the Plainfield and greater Plainfield area. She is a member of the mayor's appointed Human Relations Commission which advised her Honor about the Muhlenberg Hospital closure. Led by Mother Carolyn herself our parishioners turned out in large numbers to different rallies and meetings in support of the hospital remaining a comprehensive medical center.

The Rector has set goals of personal growth and achievement, the Vestry has committed to more attentive listening and thinking outside of the box. The commissions have made a more concerted effort to practice in-house problem solving and these efforts have filtered down throughout the entire parish and now an emerging clarity of our future direction has manifested itself.

As our mission statement clearly states welcoming and affirmation is our parish's calling and is a very rewarding experience. For many years there have been discussions at Grace of making the church space handicap accessible. The plans and discussions have now evolved into reality thanks to the Grace Church parishioners. From the inception the accessibility committee knew that the construction of the wheelchair friendly ramp would be a formidable task no matter who built it. The decision was made to actually undertake the challenge of erecting the ramp using the skill of the Grace parishioners. This proved to be a Herculean task but was surmounted by the inherently focused and dedicated individuals who day after day and week after week continued to prod along cutting the lumber, driving the screws, hammering the nails while all the time battling the cold and inclement weather.

Plans are now in place due to the concerted efforts of some parishioners who have spearheaded the fundraising effort to have the church's PA system completely replaced with new technology. As a result, sound coverage will be more uniform and microphone feedback will be eliminated.

The very public fight to keep Muhlenberg open helped to connect the community with the church since the parish's involvement was very well represented by parishioners participating in various meetings and rallies.

Plainfield Community Outreach (PCO), a 501 c3 organization that has been in operation at Grace for more than thirteen years and is presently making plans to construct an accessible bathroom directly outside the

Parish Hall. Our 21st Century After School program, an outreach ministry of PCO has recently undergone a change in directorship and has also increased the numbers of the SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM (SES) tutoring program.

Grace commissions and task forces are all working as very cohesive units. The Altar Guild, the Lay Eucharistic ministry and the Stewardship Commission have all increased their memberships. The Evangelism Commission is hard at work inviting guests in and the Finance Commission is continuing to strategize about the church's fiscal future. Christian education has reached a higher level of participation and commitment, and our website continues to be a great source of information.

As we plan for the future, evangelism, outreach and the development of more youth friendly programs will need to be at the forefront of our thoughts. Openness to change, flexible thinking and incorporating varied services and programs into church life will be beneficial. Continuing to plan towards financial stability and eliminating the need to invade the endowment annually will also need to be a prominent focus. Continued communication and partnership with the PCO organization and developing good relationships with building lessees is of prime importance.

During the last four years that I have been the Warden at Grace, I have noticed a significant change in our parish's growth in areas such as welcoming, teaching, evangelizing and affirmation. I have always and continue to be proud of our diversity which allows us to explore varied perspectives in authentic ways and learn from each other's experiences' customs and cultures thus enabling us to become well rounded individuals.

As we embrace change and have faith in our future, as we ponder and seek our discernment, as we decide where the spirit is moving us, let's continue to pool our resources and realize our potential to be used for GOD'S will and to the benefit of our beloved GRACE CHURCH.

JASON ALGEO

In last year's annual report, I used a boxing analogy to describe our year and the challenges we experienced at Grace Church. This year, I think I'll continue with the sports analogy and build off of what I said in the 2007 Annual Report coupled with a full year's experience as Warden.

As we moved through 2008, I came to the conclusion that we were not really in a boxing match. I do not think we are necessarily getting beat up or really having to fight hard to stay on our feet. Our current situation is that we are on a long, arduous road to be financially sound and to have the building in a solid, sound, low maintenance state. So the analogy I would use now is that we are running a marathon.

This marathon started at the beginning of this decade and we are currently about at the 18 mile mark, the part where you hit the proverbial 'Wall'. You're tired, physically achy, mentally fatigued and burning out fast. You are ready to just stop moving and give up. But a good marathoner will push those physical and mental blocks aside, stay determined on the goal and keep moving forward to the finish line and rejoice when we get there.

We will run through the hardships as we stay faithful to ourselves, our church, and our Lord. Our spirits will remain high through the fellowship of our congregation, they (we) are the participants that support and cheer the marathoner along.

So we are here at the 'Wall' and we'll get through it as we continue to support Stewardship, Evangelism, Finance, Administration, and Worship at Grace. We have the drive to get to that 26.2 mile marker and then, we will not have to run so much but just walk for awhile and enjoy the sights.

That will be worth the long journey.

TREASURER'S REPORT

*The Financial Condition of Grace Episcopal Church
for the year ended: 2008*

JOHN R. TAITT

JANUARY 25, 2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the year 2008, Grace remained resilient in the face of the tough economic environment. Our partnership with Plainfield Community Outreach through the government educational 21st Century grant after School Program was augmented with the launch of the Title 1 Supplemental Education Students (SES) program. This partnership has been the main sustenance to our income base with an annual income of approximately \$21,000.

Rental income fell below expectations as some of our tenants did not meet their rental agreements and vacated the premises during the year for various reasons. In addition we did not meet our pledged forecast goal. However, we were able to offset the loss of income by the frugal management of expenses, and the financial and non financial contributions from members on several projects. Our overall average attendance grew by 7%.

Details are further outlined under the "income and expenses" section as to the cause for withdrawing the approved \$30,000 of principal from the General Endowment.

ASSETS

The Church maintains four checking accounts, two certificate of deposits and two endowment brokerage accounts. The checking accounts are an exchange account which is used to temporarily store committed funds, a general account which is used for operating income and expenses, a general endowment, from which the parish currently draws \$2,100 per month based on earnings from the fund, and a restricted fund account, from which money can be withdrawn only for purposes specified by the donors.

The balance in these accounts at December 31, 2008 as compared to 2007 is:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Exchange Checking	\$13,932	\$12,122
General Checking	\$16,191	\$16,622
Endowment Funds Checking		
General	\$6,615	\$6,385
Restricted	\$5,027	\$4,749
Total Endowment Checking	\$11,642	\$11,134
Total Checking Accounts	\$41,765	\$39,878
Certificate of Deposit	\$31,233	\$32,000
Endowment Brokerage		
General	\$348,710	\$474,119
Restricted	\$193,173	\$262,493
Total Endowment Brokerage	\$541,883	\$736,612
Total Financial Position	\$614,881	\$808,490

The Exchange checking account includes \$1,995 from the 2008 Governors' rally; \$1,450 donation to the organ fund; 1,852 to the Rectory maintenance fund and \$1,309 donation to the Ramp Fund. The Certificate of deposits are all invested with PNC Bank and represent \$10,000 from the 2007 Governors' rally @ 2.89% maturing in 1/31/09; \$10,000 from the 2008 Governors' rally @ 3.04% maturing 7/12/09 and \$11,233 representing donations towards an accessibility bathroom @1.21% maturing 3/31/09. The vestry approved these investment strategies.

The endowment brokerage accounts reflect the market value of the portfolios at December 31, 2008. The majority of both portfolios (90%) are invested in the equities and bond markets with the remainder spread over holdings in money market, mutual funds and limited partnerships.

The reduction in the market value of the General Endowment of 26% from 2007 to 2008 reflects the principal withdrawals mentioned in the opening paragraph and the adverse impact of the downturn in the economy. Generally most portfolios lost 30% of their values.

INCOME AND EXPENSES

Attached (Appendix #1) is a summary of 2008 actual income and expenses in comparison with budgeted income and expenses. As shown, the parish ended the year with a net income of \$4,083 inclusive of transfers from the Endowment of \$30,000 (shown in account J1). Without this transfer, the parish ended the year with an overall net loss of \$(25,917) as compared to a budgeted net loss of \$(30,057).

The major contributors to the unfavorable performance were loss of approximately \$4,400 of rental income from the tenants – The Home-first Wednesday afternoon program, A Place Called There and Church in the Hood; loss of pledges due to attrition and unanticipated expenses. Examples of unanticipated expenses were carpet repair - \$1,265 associated with the after school program of PCO; plumbing repairs to the boiler, kitchen and men's bathroom - \$3,445; and repairs to the Knickle Hall roof - \$3,300.

The unfavorable items were marginally offset by savings related to personnel costs from the delayed hiring of a sexton and reduced insurance costs.

AUDIT

To comply with the diocesan requirement of having annual audits performed, an agreement was made with Holy Cross in North Plainfield to conduct mutual audits of each other's financial position. We completed the audit of Holy Cross for the year ended 2007 and they have completed the audit of our accounts for the same period.

The audit report is shown in Appendix #3.

DIOCESAN LOAN

We are current on our loan repayment schedule to the diocese. The principal balance of the loan at December 31st 2008 is \$76,529. Final payment is due July 1, 2013.

2008 GOVERNORS RALLY

The Governors' Rally Campaign was held again in 2008 and collected \$11,195 after expenses. Based on the results of the 2007 and 2008 Governors' rally, payments towards the Diocesan loan are secured through mid February 2010.

If this venture is continued, it is estimated that the repayment of the Diocesan loan could conclude in late 2012.

2009 BUDGET

The budget adopted by the Vestry for 2009 is shown in the left column of Appendix #3. For purposes of comparison, Appendix #3 also shows the actual income and expenditures of the parish for the past four years.

INCOME - The Stewardship Commission have embarked on an ambitious campaign to realize a 7% increase over the 2008 actual. This is shown in category (A1). Final results have not been tabulated and a detailed analysis is included in the report from The Stewardship Committee. The "Facilities Use Income" category (C1) includes space rental income from Upper Room Full Gospel, with a 20% increase in rent, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Plainfield Community Outreach.

EXPENSE - Several items are worth explaining. There is a cost of living increase of 2.8% for the staff. This cost and related benefits are shown in salaries – categories (K1 & K2). Medical benefits have increased by 7% - category (K4). The Church is in need of ongoing repairs and we have included a \$3,000 provision for future maintenance - category (M3). We have included a modest increase for musicians based on Robert Gangewere's recommendation and this is visible in category (P22).

The leadership of the parish and rector are continuing our goal begun in 2007 to increase membership and visibility in the community. This goal includes evangelism of \$2,300 and outreach of \$1,000. These items are included in category (Q5). There is a modest increase of \$1,000 or (6%) in our Diocesan pledge category (R1).

With these challenges our total expenses budgeted for 2009 have decreased by 3.1% in comparison to the 2008 actual results. The net result is that the 2009 budget projects a loss of (\$24,995).

Not reflected in the budget are the projected expenses to be incurred in 2009 for the replacement of the sound system and the accessibility bathroom estimated to cost approximately \$11,000 and \$20,000 respectively. Donations are being received to cover these expenses.

SUMMARY

Based on the 2009 budget presented we are requesting authorization to utilize principal up to \$26,000 from the General endowment to meet this shortfall. This is predicated on the stewardship commission achieving its campaign goal considering the current economic environment. Our ultimate goal for the future is to have a balanced budget, but until then withdrawals will be requested from you as the need arises in order to maintain the parish.

Let's continue our bold step forward in faith.

John R Taitt
Treasurer

STEWARDSHIP

FRANK C. WALCOTT

My dear people of Grace, it has been both satisfying and a distinct pleasure to have been the Convener of the Stewardship Commission for the past four years, also to have worked with a group of faithful and supportive members of the Commission.

What has made it so enjoyable is the response given by the good stewards of Grace Church to proportional giving, which has allowed the Commission to reach the goals set by the Vestry for the past four years.

It is well known that just under half of the Parish budget comes from faithful pledging and giving. The rest comes from non-profit leases and our endowment income and principal. But the Vestry has launched a vigorous campaign to reduce deficit spending, in spite of the economic climate. With trust and faith in God, we will overcome our financial struggle and put Grace Church on a strong financial footing in years to come.

Your pledge is a personal stewardship that proclaims a commitment to:

- Christian Faith
- Financial well-being
- Support of and participation in outreach programs

We pray that you will find it possible to increase your pledge this year, and be reminded that what you give, it's between you and God, and He knows what your fair share should be. Whatever we do, we say, "Thank you" and God's blessing be upon us.

In this coming year 2009, the "torch" has been handed over from me to Robert Wilson, as Convener of the Stewardship Commission. By preliminary reports the stewardship program for 2009 is off to a good start to secure pledges of financial support for the Parish.

Our Treasurer has reported the giving figures in his report. Our new convener will communicate the 2009 figures to the congregation. The members of the Commission in 2008 were:

Frank Walcott	Cheryl Adams	Rudy Archer
Kathy Balenson	Dennis Bazzey	Victoria David
Maureen Johnson	Gloria King	
Winsley Rudder	LeRoy Trotz	

Currently the 2009 Pledge status is as follows:

21	Increased from last year
21	Remained the same
15	New
7	Reduced
<hr/>	
64	Total (thru 1/20)

STEWARDSHIP DATA

Pledge Statistics*

	<u># Pledges</u>	<u>Total</u>
2003	81	\$114,747
2004	68	\$101,472
2005	67	\$111,070
2006	61	\$116,369
2007	66	\$118,835
2008	67	\$132,438
2009	64	\$130,665*

* Pledge data thru 1/20/09

Pledges by Amount

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
\$10 - \$520	30	23	19	14	21	17	17
\$521 - \$1000	8	9	10	8	9	12	8
\$1001 - \$3000	35	29	30	28	26	27	27
\$3001 - \$5000	4	5	5	6	4	4	5
\$5001 - \$6000	4	0	2	2	2	1	1
Greater than \$6000	0	2	2	3	4	6	6
Total	81	68	67	61	66	67	64*

* Pledge data thru 1/20/09

Prior Years Comparison to thru: 1/11/09

	Goal	Change	Pledged	Change	% to Goal
2003	\$122,000		\$114,747		94.1%
2004	\$122,000	0.0%	\$101,472	-11.6%	83.2%
2005	\$109,500	-10.2%	\$111,070	9.5%	101.4%
2006	\$119,000	8.7%	\$121,599	9.5%	102.2%
2007	\$125,000	5.0%	\$118,835	-2.3%	95.1%
2008	\$130,500	4.4%	\$132,438	11.4%	101.5%
2009	\$133,000	1.9%	\$129,885	-6.1%	97.7%

	Pledges	Change	Avg. Pledge	Change
2003	81		\$1,417	
2004	68	-16.0%	\$1,492	5.3%
2005	67	-1.5%	\$1,658	11.1%
2006	61	-9.0%	\$1,993	20.2%
2007	66	8.2%	\$1,801	-9.7%
2008	67	1.5%	\$1,977	9.8%
2009	63	-6.0%	\$2,062	4.3%

GRACE MINISTRIES & OUTREACH

ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE

BARBARA NICHOLS

Believe It!

Believe it: When Tom and I first came to Grace Church in 1976, plans for a handicapped accessible ramp had just been abandoned because the parish was unable to raise enough money to build it. That was when there were over 300 hundred families in this church!

Believe it: I have in my possession the plans and estimates to build a handicapped accessible ramp from July 1993. The ramp was to go to the side entrance (half way down) on Cleveland Ave. and would have cost about \$4000.00. Again, not enough money could be raised to build this ramp.

To help address the desire to make our space accessible, the vestry purchased a removable metal ramp many years ago and more recently, the PCO purchased a stair climber, a mechanical device to which a wheelchair could be attached and then it would automatically climb or descend the stairs. Unfortunately, neither got much use.

Believe it: As has been said, the third time is the charm. Due to the inspiration and persistence of Frank Walcott, Grace Church now has a ramp! Sometime in the year 2006, Frank noticed that the temporary Washington Mutual Bank, near his home in Somerset, had a nice wooden ramp. He proceeded to find out what was to be done with it when the permanent bank building was finished and then tracked down the people who had the power to donate it to Grace.

During this time, the Vestry established an Accessibility Task Force as a subcommittee of the Administration Commission to coordinate this and other projects to make the Grace Church complex handicapped accessible and to raise the funds for these projects.

On a warm, drizzly Saturday, January 13, 2007, a team of men, with a little help from me, took apart the ramp and made several trips to Grace to deliver the pieces to the garden. By April the men began to remove nails and bolts and sort the wood for re-use as we developed plans, got permission from the local and state Historical Societies, and the building and zoning permits. Then, on October 13, 2008, the work commenced with the excavation and pouring of the concrete pad.

It has been over a year now that a dedicated group of men and women, under the leadership of Robert Wilson and the professional expertise of John Eklund, have been reconstructing the ramp. They have worked through the steamy summer heat and the freezing rain and snow of winter. We are thankful to all of them and the financial gifts from parishioners and the Diocesan Commission on Ministry with the Disabled who have made all this possible.

Believe it: IT'S DONE! (or almost)

During the last year, the Task Force has progressed slowly towards installing a ramp to the Cleveland Ave. door and put a handicapped accessible restroom and adjacent janitor's closet in the west end of the Narthex.

Thanks to the efforts of Frank Walcott to secure a donation from the Stop & Shop Corporation, we will be recycling the ramp from a temporary office of Washington Mutual Bank in Somerset. With the help of

volunteers, the ramp will be taken apart in sections and moved to the church. We anticipate this happening in January, once the bank moves into its new building. With new footings and additional lumber, we will have a way for our wheelchair bound friends and guests to get into church. Since this is a wooden ramp, it is intended to be temporary. As part of our city permit process, we will also be developing plans for a more permanent structure.

The Task Force appreciates the donations already given or pledged and the grant monies received from the Diocesan Commission on Ministry with the Disabled. This amounts to \$13,000 towards and estimated cost of \$40,000 - \$50,000 for these projects.

On Sunday January 11, Bishop Sylvestre Romero joins the Grace Church faithful to dedicate the ramp with holy water, incense and prayers. Over 25 volunteers created the ramp and were presented with photos of the side aisle stained glass windows that “preside” over the ramp.



ACOLYTES

DAVE MAGEE

Our acolytes faithfully assist as crucifer and torch bearers each week for our main service. They also assist at special services (Evensong and Lessons and Carols). During High Holy Days we add a thurifer and boat bearer. Our current acolytes are Edward Kosso, Moley Kosso, Celeste Simmons, Michael Simmons, Stephen Hart, Alyssa Archer, Darian Andrew, Nii Mills, Jason Williams, Alexis Andrew, Briana Hinds. Our Boat Bearer is Ian Simmons. Each year we participate in the Acolyte Festival held at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. That is a high point of our year.

We thank God for all these fine young people.

ALTAR GUILD

DAVE MAGEE

The Altar Guild faithfully maintains the Communion vessels, Fair linens, and all the other elements used for sacred worship here at Grace Church. We also maintain the votive stand and are responsible for the altar area. Currently Mary Testori arranges all the altar flowers each week. She also orders the flowers for Easter and Christmas services. Thank you Mary. Eunice Trotz has taken on the responsibility for maintaining the linens used for worship. Thank you Eunice. Both ladies do these duties in addition to their regular altar guild responsibilities.

The members of the Altar Guild are Carol Tait, Lynnette Tait, Cheryl Adams, Joyce Bazzey, Eunice Trotz, Florence Roberts, Barbara Nichols. Mary Testori, Gail MacQuaide, Paula Hinds, and yours truly Dave Magee as coordinator.

We wish to thank all the members of the parish who help the altar guild decorate for Easter and Christmas. Your help is much appreciated.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

MARY TESTORI

It is our practice to begin Black History Month in January with a Celebration of Martin Luther King Day. In 2008 John Coltrane's "A Love Supreme" was performed by Radam Schwartz on keyboard and Kevin Jackson on saxophone. The New Jersey Young Orators read citations by Dr. King. Colin Baptiste read Dr. King's Nobel Prize acceptance speech. We are proud to announce that Grace Church made a \$500 founding member contribution to the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc. in celebration of Black History Month. The plaque hangs in the parish house hallway.

One Friday evening in February a new format was created in Knickle Hall for an intimate coffee house setting in which music, poetry and prose readings written by African Americans were performed. Members of the congregation and community took part by reading their chosen selections. An artist and author attended and offered their works for sale.

Episcopalians celebrated the Feast of Absalom Jones on February 13 when Rev. Andy Moore preached and Rev. Canon Leroy Lyons from St. Mark's celebrated the Holy Eucharist. Mother Carolyn organized two Sunday services of slave narratives performed by young parishioners and Young Orators with special African American spirituals that the congregation sang.

The highlight was the gala banquet that offered a "standing room only" crowd with foods prepared by parishioners from the African Diaspora. The Good News Community Choir of Plainfield directed by Mark Miller directed a number of Grace members and people from the community who make up the choir. The Honorable Wendell E. Daniels gave the keynote speech.

BUILDING & GROUNDS (ADMINISTRATION) COMMISSION

JASON ALGEO

I said last year that, 2007 was a busy year and that trend continued in 2008. There is always something to be done to the Buildings and Grounds of Grace Church.

We started off the year with some boiler and heating issue that we worked through until early spring. The boilers are cleaned, maintained and working well as we enter and move through winter 2008-2009.

Other items that the Commission spear-headed in 2008:

- Installed a new roof on Knickle Hall and repaired the soffits and gutters on both sides on the church structure.
- We hired a full time custodian; Alicia Barquero to clean the building 5 times a week and her attention and dedication have shown positives results.
- Repairs were made to the PCO classrooms. New floor tiles and sheet rock were installed during autumn.
- The Nave was reorganized as the 2 front pews on the pulpit and lector side (4 in total) were removed to update the worship space for our new 9am Family Friendly service.
- We received a high-level inspection and estimate for repair and preservation of the stained glass windows throughout Grace Church.
- We replaced all the bulbs in the church with high energy, low watt halogen bulbs. Now we can save on energy costs and be 'green' at the same time.
- We replaced the spotlights that shine on the reredos windows (the stained glass window behind the altar).

Some other big items occurred during 2008 which will be noted in the Men's Guild report and the Accessibility report, but I'll just say that we really 'ramped' things up in 2008, and we will continue to tackle the items on the repair list and manage the welfare of our dear building, with persistence and God's help.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CAROLYN EKLUND

"Ask your children to consider how they learned about Jesus." Gretchen Wolff Prichard prompts parents and adults to think. Every Sunday, our children have access to the different editions of "The Sunday Paper" that teaches the Sunday gospel. During the "Family friendly" Communion service, the children participate in activities that help them learn the lesson.

Who teaches our children about Jesus? Lots of people! Our clergy, our lay leaders, Sunday school teachers. But most of the teaching rests with the adults in the child's household. This fall, we offered parents a handbook, "Raising Your Child in the Faith: From Preschoolers to Teens." The handbook helps parents and adults prepare to become more active in the spiritual life of our children at home as our parish made a radical change in our Sunday worship and Christian education to help families connect with Christ at church.

Our children love coming to the new "family friendly" Communion service at 9:00 a.m. They sit on the "God is Love" rug, sing hymns around Mr. G's piano and set the Communion Table that John Eklund built. Our children are inviting their friends and even brought their animals for the St. Francis' Day we celebrated outdoors. Our children discovered that all children who were present for the Christmas Eve service had a role in the "impromptu" pageant. Thanks to adults David Lawson-Beck and Denise Simmons who provided ample costumes and props, everyone had a costume.

Following the 9:00 a.m. service, Robert Gangewere, (Mr. G.) calls the children into the parish hall for 15 minutes of choir practice followed by Christian Education led by our dedicated and capable teachers. For the first time this year, we enjoyed the administrative skills of a Sunday school superintendent, Victoria David. The Adult Forum is now offered at 9:30 a.m. so that parents can attend class while children attend their class.

A highlight of the Adult Forum last February was a study of Howard Thurman's book, "Jesus and the Disinherited" led by Karen and Ted Moore during Black History Month. A highlight of Christian education for our children this fall was creating the banner for the "Governors' Rally" and planting bulbs in discarded, plastic water bottles.

What started out last year as a Vestry goal to offer more accessible worship to families has become a joyful and fun learning experience for children and adults. We expect that the changes in worship and Christian education will grow in popularity and connect more souls with Christ's love.

GRACE HEALTH MINISTRIES

REVEREND THEODORE E. MOORE, DEACON

Health Ministries Objectives for 2008:

The continuation of Health Ministry programs in 2008 has been largely guided by responses to a second survey which was conducted in late 2007. Preliminary objectives based on responses to the survey included:

- A resumption of the Fellowship dinners with health related topics pertinent to the congregation
- Assistance with transportation to and from medical appointments.
- The establishment of a healing ministry through prayer and visitations.
- CPR certified instruction classes and periodic refresher training.

2008 Program Achievements

On May 17th eleven (11) parishioners completed the American Heart Cardiopulmonary resuscitation.(CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) programs which includes CPR training for adults and children plus instruction in the use of a defibrillator in case of adult cardiac arrest. Certificates were awarded to all attendees.

On November 1st four (4) additional parishioners completed the American Heart AED program which includes CPR training for adults and children plus defibrillator instructions. We have trained a total of fifteen (15) parishioners in CPR and AED in 2008.

On November 1st three (3) previously trained parishioners completed refresher training in CPR and AED. Guidelines suggest refresher training approximately once every six (6) months.

In June and November we delivered four first aid kits to the wardens for placement in strategic points throughout the building.

Health Ministries Program Objectives for 2009

- Continuation of the CPR/AED training plus refresher courses every six months.
- Acquisition of a defibrillator with instructions provided for ushers and vestry persons.

Health Fair 2009:

It has been suggested that the 2009 Grace Yard sale be expanded into a street fair, which will include health screening for diabetes and hypertension plus additional health information. We will be working with the Grace yard sales committee to achieve this goal.

Continuation of the assistance program to provide transportation to and from medical appointments.

Health Ministries Committee Members:

Cheryl Adams	Victoria David
Rudy Archer	Teddy Edwards
Joyce Bazzey	Karen Moore
Ken Blenheim	Eunice Trotz

Respectively submitted,
Rev. Theodore Moore, Deacon, Chair Health Ministries Committee

GRACE CHURCH SHELTER PROGRAM

Homefirst Interfaith Housing & Family Services

MARY TESTORI & EUNICE TROTZ
Co-Coordiators of the Grace Church Shelter Program

The Gift of hospitality is so rewarding when many people give it. One of the rewards is spending time at the church to socialize with our guests while they are here. Eunice and I are both so grateful for all the volunteers that helped when our guest visited us during the year. In 2008 Homefirst started a new process which was implemented in the fall. This is why our guest did not stay with us in October. Guest will stay two full weeks at a host church or place of Worship, and come again for one week. This will give our guest a sense of stability for a short period of time.

Now let's paint the picture that we will see in 2009!! Our guest will arrive February 8th and leave February 22nd, 2009, and then visit us again June 7th to June 14th, 2009. With the economy as it is, more people could lose their jobs and become homeless. Sadly, Eunice and I think in February, our available 14 cots will be utilized. We anticipate a full house. So in January when our sign up sheets are in the hallway, please consider helping by sleeping over one night, cooking and or serving a meal, donating a roll of quarters so our guest can do their laundry twice while they are here. In James 2:21-24, he refers to Abraham being considered righteous, *"You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone."*

FINANCE COMMISSION

TREVOR KING

The Grace Church Finance Commission which is comprised of John Taitt, Treasurer, Dave Magee, Assistant Treasurer, Mary Testori, Tim Mann, Robert Wilson, Brian Hinds, and Co-chairs Sam Boghdan and Trevor King, continued to meet in 2008 on a monthly basis to examine Grace's finances and strategize about the financial future of the Church. Grace is very fortunate to have John and Dave working closely with the Investment Advisory Committee to diligently monitor the Church's finances.

This Commission is charged with developing financial goals and procedures for the vestry's approval. The members have demonstrated their commitment to analyzing investment and spending reports in the hope of maximizing the potential of the Church's finances. The commission has responded with great enthusiasm to

the challenge of planning and guiding our parish to financial stability sometime in the near future. The immediate challenge is finding a way to reduce expenses and increase income in order to stop annually invading the church's endowment fund which helps to supplement the church's operating budget.

The Commission is always exploring methods of increasing income growth via possible fundraisers. The communication between this Commission and the Vestry is excellent which tends to make the brainstorming of ideas and defining of procedures simple ways of maximizing the potential of our dedicated parishioners. Bringing these ideas to fruition has always proved quite beneficial to our parish.

In 2009, the group will again sponsor a steel band concert coupled with gospel singing and musical renditions by a few of Grace's talented musicians. This program will be performed at the Church and should act as a complimentary fundraiser to our annual Governors' rally. Good publicity in Plainfield, the surrounding areas and strong overall parishioner participation should make this performance another resounding success.

Joining our individual talents in the name of Jesus Christ and working towards our church's future fiscal stability can be very rewarding.

MEN'S GUILD

LEROY TROTZ

The past year was quite eventful, as the men undertook a variety of projects in and around the church.

Initially a large number of projects were identified. Those projects that were easily manageable were done by the Men's Guild, while the more complex projects were taken on by the Vestry.

Among the projects attempted/completed were

- Cutting trees and bush that were too close to the church
- Cleaning around the church
- Tiling the hallway floor, and the entrance to the basement rooms
- Construction of the ramp
- Fixing the fire door in the main hallway
- Projects, done by a senior member too numerous to mention

The Men's Guild was quite happy to be able to contribute to the success of the Christmas Fellowship Evening, in cash as well as in service.

What's in the future? Our to-do list seems endless. However, we shall attempt to spend more time keeping the grounds tidy.

The ramp is very near completion, and I must declare that we are extremely proud of the dedication of the men and women whose expertise and sacrifice made this possible.

We would also like to thank the Women of Grace for the hot meals when they were really needed.

MUSIC AT GRACE

ROBERT H. GANGEWERE, JR.
Organist and Choirmaster

Grace Choristers

During the year, the Grace Choristers program has undergone a transformation. Through the month of June, the Choristers rehearsed after Eucharist each Sunday and presented an anthem on the 4th Sunday of each Month for our Youth and Family Eucharistic celebration.

In September, we began our Family Friendly Communion service, and the Choristers rehearsals were scheduled between that service and the beginning of Sunday school. This new Service of Worship and format for Christian education have provided great opportunities for the musical education of our children. We continue to sing anthems on the 4th Sunday of the month at the 10:30 Eucharist. Music, however, has become an integral part of the children's Christian education experience. We are learning a body of hymnody suitable for worship with young children. We are learning responses, both spoken and sung (the Sanctus and the Great Amen, for example). We are learning how to chant, an essential skill for full participation in traditional Anglican worship.

The high point of the year for me was when the Choristers chanted the psalm on Christmas Eve. As you will often hear me say, I cannot stress enough how strongly I feel about the importance of regular participation by our children in worship. I urge all parents to prayerfully consider having their children join us for Family Friendly Communion, Grace Choristers and Sunday school, a unique opportunity for exposure to meaningful and accessible worship that will last into adulthood.

Grace Church Choir

The Grace Church Choir is a group of talented and dedicated individuals with whom it is a pleasure to share a ministry through music. Our membership includes Linda Kolar, Holly Algeo, Ann-Marie Aymer, Selma Cato, Denise Simmons, Theresa Clarke, Maureen Johnson, Maryadele O'Neil, Cheryl Adams, Christine Satoli, Gloria King, Jane della Peruti, Conrad Maynard, Kenneth Blenman, Leroy Trotz, Dr. Rudy Archer, and Teddy Edwards. We welcomed Teddy's father, Christian, into choir during his extended visit from Sierra Leone, and we look forward to his return during his next visit.

The Choir provided excellent musical leadership and contributions for our Holy Week, Easter and Christmas liturgies. In June, the Grace Choir offered the congregation Evensong with guest trumpeter, combined with a short organ recital. At the end of June, the choir, along with spouses and family, gathered at my home for a social gathering before taking our much-anticipated summer break. We had a great time, and the food was fantastic! After hiatus last year, the Grace Choir again offered Lessons and Carols for Advent on the First Sunday of Advent. Their musical efforts were particularly stirring, and provided a magical start to the Season of Preparation and Readiness. All who enjoy singing and fellowship are welcome to join us! A well-balanced choir is composed of all kinds of voices at all levels of ability. Come sing with us!

Instruments

Much needed repair of many mechanical malfunctions in the organ were completed this past year, and I am pleased to report that all issues have been resolved. Some additional repair of pipes and tuning are yet required, but these problems are not critical like the others, and will be addressed later in the future.

In a special note, I would like to thank the following members of our church family for offering their musical talents as instrumentalists for special celebrations: Christ the King Sunday, Cynthia Woodall, trumpet; 4th Sunday of Advent, Denise Simmons, flute; Christmas Eve Family Service, Mother Carolyn, harp, and Ian Simmons, piano; Solemn Christmas Eucharist, Jason Williams and Cynthia Woodall, trumpets, and Denise Simmons, flute; and Jeff Spelman, carillonneur, for his very special contribution to our worship every Sunday.

I hope that involvement by instrumentalists from within our congregation will increase in the future. Anyone who would like to offer up his or her instrumental talents in our Worship of God should please speak with Robert.

PASTORAL CARE COMMISSION

GLORIA KING

During 2008 the Pastoral Care Commission continued to work with the Rector to provide spiritual care and pastoral support to members of our Grace family who are sick as well as delivering Sunday flowers from the altar. The Commission members and others in our congregation also respond to requests from members who are in need of transportation in order to attend church service from time to time. This can be done by either contacting a member directly or by calling the church secretary.

The year 2008 saw the passing of a number of our parishioners. Our Grace family and its commission members were there to mourn the loss of our dearly beloved and to offer comfort to relatives. Commission members also reached out to the immediate family as we prayed for them and with them.

The Christmas season is a joyous occasion for most of us but when you are ill it is not always so joyous and that is why it is so important that those who are sick be visited by as many people as possible and so the Commission usually double its efforts at this time of the year in spending as much quality time as possible with those who are shut-in, especially for those who live alone. Commission members who are unable to visit usually reach out by telephone.

The Commission is hoping that during the coming year more members of our congregation will give consideration in becoming a part of this Commission and this can be done by contacting the Rector, the Deacon or any Commission member. As members of our Grace family, let us remember the old adage, "one hand washes the other while both hands wash the face".

On behalf of the Commission, we wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INC.

Supporting the Ministries of Grace Church

JANE WILSON, PRESIDENT

Plainfield Community Outreach had a challenging and eventful year. The board has increased in size to nine members. Joining the board in January were Gail MacQuaide, representing Grace Church, and Hilary Thomas, representing St. John on the Mountain. Carrie Hayes, formerly the financial secretary, joined the board after Kathy Balenson assumed the duties of financial secretary. In September Deborah Vietze, representing the community, joined the board.

During the year the board held two half day retreats for strategic planning. These sessions were facilitated by the Rev. Henrietta Lavengood. The first was general in nature, considering the strengths and weaknesses of all divisions of the corporation: Grace's Kitchen, Girlchoir and the Education Division. The second considered only the education division and focused on getting the finances under better control. At this meeting the board established an executive committee consisting of President Jane Wilson, Vice President, the Rev. Carolyn Eklund, and Treasurer, Gail MacQuaide. The executive committee was charged with the task of supervising the director of the education division and insuring that the program had a realistic and balanced budget.

The education division's primary source of funding is a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant from the New Jersey Department of Education, which supports after school programs at three area schools. A new source of revenue is the Title I Supplemental Education Services tutoring program, which currently serves about 20 students in the Plainfield district. Nelly Sorensen, the curriculum director, has worked tirelessly to get the program running and is proud to report that it is the first SES program to be operating in the district for this academic year. This program has the potential to generate the fund needed to repay Grace's Kitchen for the start-up costs that were necessary to qualify for the 21st Century grant and then to supplement the program to serve more of Plainfield's students. A new partnership with Family and Community Together (FACTNJ), a nonprofit based in Mountainside, seems likely to support new programs in 2009. Nelly Sorensen and Shawntai Thaxton, activity specialist and camp director, are in charge of this new endeavor.

There was a major change in management of the education division. Pamela Bye-Erts, the director of the division, resigned abruptly in November. Dana Sharpe, formerly a program manager in the 21st Century program is now the Interim Project Director. She has been diligent in maintaining good relations with all our program vendors and school principals and will take over the reporting responsibilities of the project director. The executive committee had a meeting with the Department of Education to learn about effective program management. Thanks to excellent teamwork the program is progressing well.

Another personnel change occurred during the year. Kathy Balenson, the financial secretary, returned to full time work and resigned her PCO duties except for acknowledging donations. Jane Wilson has taken over the banking and payroll responsibilities of the position.

Grace's Kitchen continues to serve a hot lunch the last five days of each month. Demand for this service is increasing in these hard economic times. Mary Jo Buck and her staff, Joseph Guinee, Patricia Ethridge and Sam Watson, provide these meals with the help of volunteers from several area churches. Volunteers are always needed. If you are able to help out please contact the church office. During 2008 the annual Feinstein Challenge fundraiser netted over \$20,000 to support the meal program, and we look forward to another successful appeal in March. Most of the food for the program comes from the Community Food Bank in Hillside. Food banks all over the state have been experiencing shortages, and as a result Grace's Kitchen will have greater food costs as it uses other vendors.

To improve the services of Grace's Kitchen the Board hired an architect, Robert Algarin, to draw plans for improved storage capacity, an accessible restroom and a janitor's closet. The vestry has approved phase one of the project, and the Board will seek grant funding. An important goal is to remove the food stored on the

stage so that the stage can be used for theatrical productions. M. Power Performing Arts, Inc., one of the program vendors for the 21st Century program is interested in using the space for productions.

The third component of PCO, the Plainfield Girlchoir, is trying to get re-established under the leadership of Robert Gangewere. Anyone who knows of potential choristers or who would be willing to help with recruiting can contact the church office.

The officers of the PCO Board of Directors are Jane Wilson, President, the Rev. Carolyn Eklund Vice President, John Smith, Secretary, and Gail MacQuaide, Treasurer. The board members are Geoffrey Dunham, Hilary Thomas, Carrie Hayes, Leroy Trotz and Deborah Vietze.

WOMEN OF GRACE

DENISE SIMMONS

After a short hiatus, the Women of Grace met to reassess and restructure. We began by surveying as many women as we could to find out what their thoughts were and what they might like to see happen with the Women of Grace. After a discussion and review of the results of the survey, we decided to spend time with each other for the purposes of fellowship and fun. To that end we met at the rectory in the fall to make sundaes and reacquaint with and/or get to know each other.

In October we went apple picking at Giamarese Farms. We learned some interesting facts about apples and generally had a great time. Afterwards we were invited to the home of Kristen Foley and Ann-Marie Aymer for apple cider and other apple goodies. We were very grateful for their generosity and for the opportunity to continue to spend time together.

We look forward to planning more opportunities to continue growing together as Women of Grace.

Denise Simmons
Kiva Brophy
Janet Gonzalez
Kathy Balenson

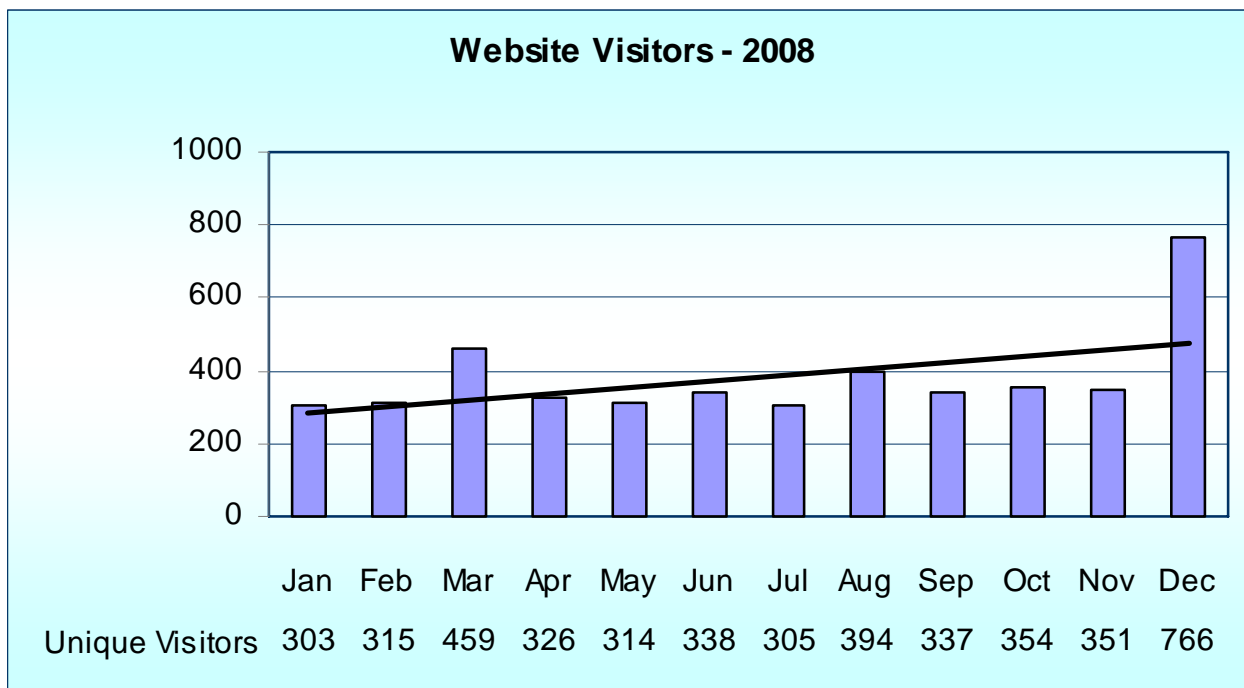
WEBSITE VISITORS 2008

Many people find us through the Web. Jeff Spelman, Grace's Webmaster updates the web at least once a week. Thank you, Jeff.

You are invited to browse and find out more about us!

www.graceplainfield.org

Pay us a visit! Tell a friend!



WORSHIP COMMISSION

CAROLYN EKLUND

We offer three Sunday services at Grace. The earliest service is now at 7:45 a.m. Even though the time is earlier, the attendance has not faltered. In 2008, we changed more than service times. We added a prayer service in Spanish offered at noon on Wednesdays. Now, you can pray at Grace four different days of the week. One of those days, you can pray in Spanish.

Sundays: 7:45 a.m.; 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist.

Tuesdays: 7:30 p.m. Evening Prayer.

Wednesdays: 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist and healing, Noonday prayer in Spanish.

Thursdays: 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer.

You can see that on two days of the week it is possible to attend a service before work. Make plans to join us and bring a friend!

APPENDIX 1 - FINANCIAL RESULTS 2008

Grace Episcopal Church
Financial Results for the year ended 12/31/2008

	Year-To-Date		Variance
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>B/(W) vs</u>
			<u>Budget</u>
A1 Pledges Budgeted	123,859	130,500	(6,641)
A99 Unmet Pledges	-	(2,000)	2,000
A11 Fuel	3,125	3,600	(475)
A2 Regular Givers	18,448	15,000	3,448
A3 General Plate Offering	4,983	3,000	1,983
A4 Christmas Collection	3,852	2,500	1,352
A5 Easter Collection	2,235	1,500	735
A6 Other Holy Day Offering	1,943	1,000	943
A8 Other Offerings	3,268	250	3,018
A9 Prior Year	515	250	265
<hr/>			
A. Member Giving	162,228	155,600	6,628
B1 Fundraisers	5,308	3,500	1,808
B2 Collected towards Diocesan Loan	18,302	18,302	-
<hr/>			
B. Fundraising	23,610	21,802	1,808
C1 Facilities Use Inc.	35,310	38,695	(3,385)
C2 Other Reimbursement	726	1,500	(774)
<hr/>			
C. Reimbursement	36,036	40,195	(4,159)
D1 Investment Income	24,000	24,000	-
D2 Pond/Lapsley Trust	6,486	6,000	486
D3 Waring Trust	6,055	2,000	4,055
D5 Garden Fund	4,014	3,600	414
D6 Rectory Maintenance	1,907	1,800	107
<hr/>			
D. Trust Giving	42,462	37,400	5,062
F1. Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-
J1. Transfers from Endowment	30,000	-	30,000
<hr/>			
Total Income	294,336	254,997	39,339
<hr/>			

<u>EXPENSES</u>	Year-To-Date		Variance
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	B/(W) vs <u>Budget</u>
*K1 Salaries	96,447	102,538	6,091
*K2 Payroll Tax & FICA	3,029	2,750	(279)
K3 Pensions	15,676	16,838	1,162
K4 Health, Dental, Life Insurance	14,573	14,574	1
K5 Auto Reimbursement	1,853	2,000	147
K6 Educational Expenses	1,500	1,500	-
K7 Supply Priests	1,150	875	(275)
*K8 Housing Equity	2,166	2,166	-
K9. Workmen's Comp/Bonding	1,006	1,200	194
K. Employment	137,401	144,441	7,040
L1 Office Supplies	3,819	4,000	181
L2 Maint/Equip Contracts	3,199	2,700	(499)
L3 Postage	2,033	2,000	(33)
L4 Miscellaneous Office Expenses	1,336	780	(556)
L5 Office Equipment	480	-	(480)
L. Office	10,868	9,480	(1,388)
M1 Utilities Church & Parish House	36,920	35,000	(1,920)
M2 Supplies Church & Parish House	1,817	3,500	1,683
M3 Maintenance Church & Parish House	16,561	10,000	(6,561)
M4 Special Church & Parish House	142	-	(142)
M5 Premises Cleaning	9,666	6,240	(3,426)
M. Church and Parish Hall	65,107	54,740	(10,367)
N1 Utilities Rectory	8,645	8,400	(245)
N3 Maintenance Rectory	1,908	1,000	(908)
N. Rectory	10,553	9,400	(1,153)
O1 Insurance Building & Liability	12,786	15,391	2,605
O3 Hospitality	-	250	250
O4 Special Operating	625	750	125
O5 Security	1,480	1,500	20
O. Other Operating	14,891	17,891	3,000
P1 Music Supplies	332	200	(132)
P2 Music Maintenance	1,175	600	(575)
P22 Musicians	4,520	3,200	(1,320)
P3 Miscellaneous Liturgic	1,239	1,500	261
P4 Altar Supplies	674	600	(74)
P. Liturgy	7,940	6,100	(1,840)
Q1 Sunday Childcare	60	-	(60)
Q2 Church School	1,182	750	(432)

<u>EXPENSES</u>	Year-To-Date		Variance
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	B/(W) vs <u>Budget</u>
Q3 Adult Education	691	800	109
Q4 Youth	480	300	(180)
Q5 Parish Development & Outreach	5,212	5,300	88
Q6 Convocation	729	1,000	271
Q8 Clergy Discretionary Fund	600	500	(100)
Q. Program	8,955	8,650	(305)
R1 Diocesan Assessment	16,000	16,000	-
R2 Diocesan Loan Payments	18,302	18,302	-
R. Diocesan	34,302	34,302	-
Flowers	50	50	-
Treasurer's adjustment	187	-	(187)
Total Expenses	290,253	285,054	(5,199)
Net Income (Loss)	4,083	(30,057)	34,140

APPENDIX 2 - BUDGET & ACTUALS 2005-2008

Grace Episcopal Church
2009 Budget and Comparative Actuals for the years: 2005 thru 2008

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2009</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2008</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>2007</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>2006</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>2005</u> <u>Actuals</u>
A1 Pledges Budgeted	133,000	130,500	122,000	121,200	109,500
A99 (Unmet) Excess Pledges	-	(6,641)	(2,639)	(714)	(2,034)
Actual Pledges Received	133,000	123,859	119,361	120,486	107,466
A11 Fuel	3,000	3,125	4,690	3,980	1,172
A2 Regular Givers	18,000	18,448	20,951	18,768	18,564
A3 General Plate Offering	4,500	4,983	4,890	3,934	3,499
A4 Christmas Collection	2,500	3,852	2,677	2,780	2,485
A5 Easter Collection	2,000	2,235	1,748	1,570	1,850
A6 Other Holy Day Offering	1,000	1,943	1,738	1,725	1,586
A8 Other Offerings	250	3,268	493	290	2,115
A9 Prior Year	250	515	295	265	821
A. Member Giving	164,500	162,228	156,843	153,798	139,558
B1 Fundraisers	5,000	5,308	4,112	2,873	2,062
B2 Collected towards Diocesan Loan	18,302	18,302	18,302	18,302	18,302
B. Fundraising	23,302	23,610	22,414	21,175	20,364
C1 Facilities Use Inc.	32,400	35,310	27,045	34,770	40,570
C2 Other Reimbursement	1,500	726	5,792	6,537	12,369
C. Reimbursement	33,900	36,036	32,837	41,307	52,939
D1 Investment Income	21,600	24,000	26,400	26,400	26,400
D2 Pond/Lapsley Trust	6,000	6,486	5,978	5,824	5,858
D3 Waring Trust	2,800	6,055	3,820	2,276	2,135
D5 Garden Fund	4,152	4,014	3,600	3,600	3,600
D6 Rectory Maintenance	-	1,907	1,840	1,772	1,680
D. Trust Giving	34,552	42,462	41,638	39,872	39,673
F1 Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	256,254	264,336	253,732	256,152	252,534

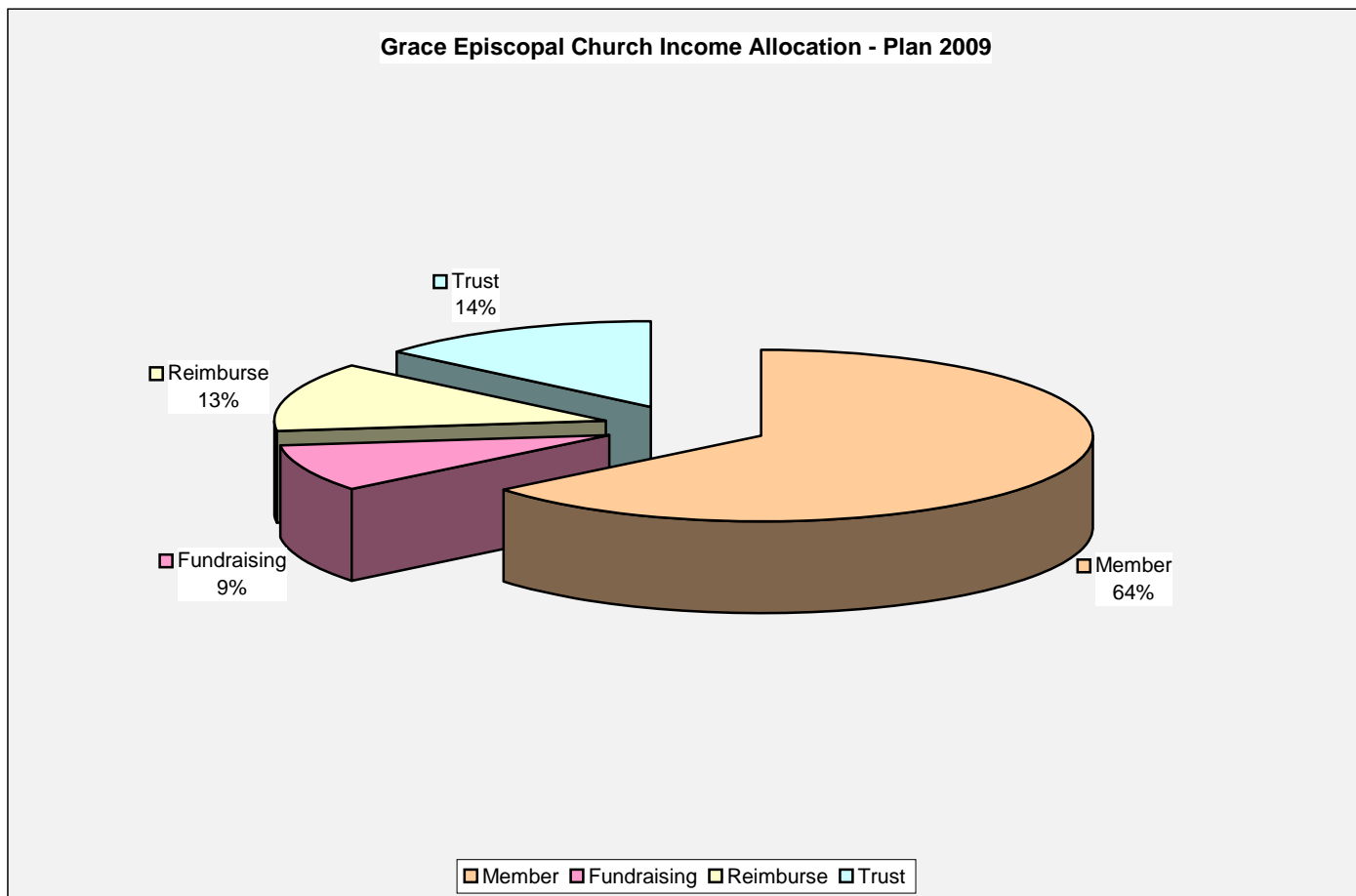
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>2009</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2008</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>2007</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>2006</u> <u>Actuals</u>	<u>2005</u> <u>Actuals</u>
*K1 Salaries	99,768	96,447	90,414	108,921	100,978
*K2 Payroll Tax & FICA	3,692	3,029	2,707	4,394	4,011
K3 Pensions	18,075	15,676	18,276	18,915	15,767
K4 Health, Dental, Life Insurance	15,636	14,573	13,208	12,773	21,861
K5 Auto Reimbursement	2,000	1,853	2,480	2,114	2,070
K6 Educational Expenses	1,500	1,500	860	1,295	1,473
K7 Supply Priests	1,200	1,150	2,575	1,380	1,785
*K8 Housing Equity	2,260	2,166	2,420	2,314	2,242
K9. Workmen's Comp/Bonding	1,200	1,006	1,118	1,098	1,075
K. Employment	145,328	137,401	134,058	153,204	151,262
L1 Office Supplies	4,000	3,819	3,124	4,015	4,346
L2 Maint/Equip Contracts	3,000	3,199	3,127	3,331	2,647
L3 Postage	2,000	2,034	2,165	1,987	2,134
L4 Miscellaneous Office Expenses	780	1,336	797	748	1,242
L5 Office Equipment	-	480	753	-	-
L. Office	9,780	10,868	9,966	10,081	10,369
M1 Utilities Church & Parish House	35,000	36,921	35,005	34,735	38,364
M2 Supplies Church & Parish House	3,000	1,817	1,829	3,480	3,475
M3 Maint Church & Parish House	11,000	16,561	38,626	16,116	9,828
M4 Special Church & Parish House	-	142	460	-	60
M5 Premises Cleaning	-	9,666	22,400	-	100
M. Church and Parish Hall	49,000	65,107	98,320	54,331	51,827
N1 Utilities Rectory	8,400	8,645	8,422	7,845	7,328
N3 Maintenance Rectory	-	1,908	1,840	1,772	2,471
N. Rectory	8,400	10,553	10,262	9,617	9,799
O1 Insurance Building & Liability	14,199	12,786	19,149	17,885	16,489
O3 Hospitality	250	-	-	188	221
O4 Special Operating	750	625	512	948	1,200
O5 Security	1,500	1,480	1,103	1,678	3,575
O. Other Operating	16,699	14,891	20,764	20,699	21,485
P1 Music Supplies	250	332	132	257	392
P2 Music Maintenance	1,000	1,175	375	5,110	400
P22 Musicians	5,200	4,520	7,775	7,220	6,735
P3 Miscellaneous Liturgic	1,500	1,239	727	940	436
P4 Altar Supplies	600	674	684	791	289
P. Liturgy	8,550	7,940	9,693	14,318	8,252
Q1 Sunday Childcare	-	60	-	-	-

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Actuals</u>
Q1 Sunday Childcare	-	60	-	-	-
Q2 Church School	850	1,182	1,430	556	322
Q3 Adult Education	750	691	550	1,312	684
Q4 Youth	500	480	166	354	209
Q5 Parish Development & Outreach	4,800	5,212	8,733	1,482	1,533
Q6 Convocation	750	729	749	873	808
Q7 Special	-	-	-	-	2,000
Q8,Q9 Clergy/Deacon Discretionary Fund	500	600	150	273	-
Q. Program	8,150	8,955	11,778	4,850	5,556
R1 Diocesan Assessment	17,000	16,000	14,000	12,000	10,000
R2 Diocesan Loan Payments	18,302	18,302	18,302	18,302	18,302
R. Diocesan	35,302	34,302	32,302	30,302	28,302
Flowers	-	-	50	50	50
All other Accounts	-	237	67	691	517
Total Expenses	281,209	290,253	327,260	298,143	287,419
Net Income (Loss) before Transfers from the Endowment	(24,955)	(25,917)	(73,528)	(41,991)	(34,885)
J1 Transfers from the Endowment	-	30,000	74,500	45,000	30,000
Net Income (Loss) after Transfers from the Endowment	(24,955)	4,083	972	3,009	(4,885)
Gross Salaries	105,720	101,642	95,541	115,629	107,231

APPENDIX 3 - AUDIT REPORT 2007

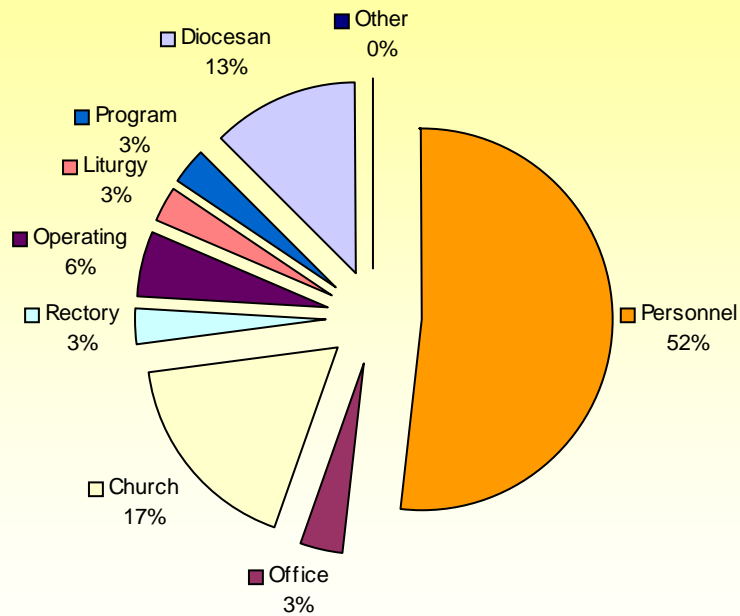
Hard copy of Annual Report 2009 contains copy of Audit Report 2007. Please contact Parish Office if you would like a hard copy.

APPENDIX 4 - 2009 INCOME ALLOCATION CHART



APPENDIX 5 - 2009 EXPENSE ALLOCATION CHART

Grace Episcopal Church Expense Allocation - Plan 2009



Personnel Office Church Rector Operating Liturgy Program Diocesan Other

APPENDIX 6 - AVERAGE ATTENDANCE CHART

