



# ANNUAL MEETING



## GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018

5:30 PM ..... Dinner & Fellowship  
recognition of outgoing vestry

6:30 PM ..... Parish Meeting

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## Opening Hymn 518    *Westminster Abbey*

### The Opening Sentence

*Rector* Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the deed you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven."

*Matthew 5:14-16*

### The Prayers

*Rector* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*Rector and People*

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

R. *And grant us thy salvation.*

V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

R. *And make thy chosen people joyful.*

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. *For only in thee can we live in safety.*

V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;

R. *And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*

V. Let thy way be known upon earth;

R. *Thy saving health among all nations.*

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. *Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. *And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

### **A Collect for the Presence of Christ**

*Rector* Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know thee as thou art revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of thy love. *Amen*

### **For a Church Convention or Meeting**

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel at this annual meeting for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Rector* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*Rector* Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21*

### **Election of New Vestry Members (see page 10 for information about the nominees)**

### **Rector's Comments**

### **Senior Warden's Report**

### **Stewardship/Finance**

**Hymn 594**     *Cwm Rhondda*

**Hymn 541**     *Ora Labora*

### **Introduction of Continuing Vestry and 2018 Officers**

**Closing Hymn 24**     *St. Clement*

### **Blessing & Adjournment**

# RECTOR'S Report

The Annual Meeting of Grace Episcopal Church in its 191<sup>st</sup> year

The Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham



*O God, you manifest in your servants  
the signs of your presence:  
Send forth upon us the Spirit of love,  
that in companionship with one another  
your abounding grace may increase among us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*The Book of Common Prayer  
Evening Prayer, Rite II, 125*

During the past four years we have worked to reorient our leadership and ministry structure through the framework of Ministry Clusters, grounding our common work in prayer and practices of discernment and imagination. Rather than leave the typical or expected program-maintenance structure unexamined, we have recognized both the challenges we face as well as the opportunity we have to become more conscious of the Spirit's guidance on our common life. This year's Annual Report offers a more focused insight into how these Ministry Clusters work—and the rich experiences we are sharing as a spiritual community.

## The ADMINISTRATION Cluster

*How is the Spirit of Christ encouraging us to order our community efficiently, respectfully, and prayerfully? How do we understand good administration as a practice of ministry? The Administration cluster supports the life of the entire parish through the management of finances, stewardship, endowment, campus development, and facility maintenance.*

**Staff coordination:** Reba Page, Parish Administrator; Ansley Forrester, Director, Children of Grace

**Vestry members:** Ben Wagner, Junior Warden/Finance Chair; Pepper Brown; Jean Parks; Bob Willis; Doug McDuff, Treasurer; Louise Forrester, Secretary

**Committees and Ministries:** Finance Committee; Endowment Committee; Stewardship Committee; Campus Vision & Development Committee; Working Group on the Endowment Process (2017); Bicentennial Steering Committee; Stewardship Working Group (2018); Circle of Wardens (2018)



# Key HIGHLIGHTS for 2017:

- Retired debt/ burning mortgage February 28, 2017
- Bicentennial Steering Committee established
  - Campus Enhancement
  - Community Ministry Partnerships
  - Estate and Endowment Planning
  - Building Reserve
- Children of Grace: paint, carpet, weather stripping, flooring
- Donor gift for Chapel step refurbishment
- Donor gift for Bell Tower lighting project
- Gignilliat gift of \$100,000 applied to Building Reserve
- Endowment Policy Working Group
- Three Stained Glass Windows
- Hosting the 2017 Annual Council for the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta
- Continued campus enhancement projects with the Campus Vision & Development Committee



## CHILDREN OF GRACE PRESCHOOL

- Reorganized staff roles; redefined Director and Administrative Assistant roles, Program Director role added; increased tuition for salary increases; focus on technological improvements throughout COG operations including online payment; consolidation of spaces for more efficient coordination

# FOCUS Points for 2018:

- Bicentennial Campaign Work
- Estate and Endowment Expansion
- Short-term Campus Enhancements
- Communication Enhancements—new online platform and integrated database for increased membership communication and participation
- Formation of a new Stewardship Working Group to analyze past wisdom and current context for 2018 Stewardship Campaign
- Formation of a Circle of Wardens with all past Senior and Junior Wardens to look at the past decades of Grace's life and make sure we are aware of the wisdom we have gained.

## CHILDREN OF GRACE PRESCHOOL

- Reorienting the Spring fundraiser to increase participation; increase technological learning capability throughout all classes; development of a school garden; facility improvements including necessary replacement of windows

# The FORMATION Cluster

*How is the Spirit of Christ encouraging us to continue learning about our faith and practice of prayer? How does our practice nurture and encourage us in our daily lives? Formation at Grace focuses on the spiritual development and Christian education of all adults, youth, and children at Grace Church. The term “spiritual formation” refers to the over-arching hope that all members of Grace Church explore the richness of their faith and grow in a greater awareness of God’s presence in their lives. We do this through study, prayer practices, music, worship, and conversations...many ways!*

**Staff coordination:** Cheryl Kelley, Director of Christian Formation

**Vestry members:** Kimberley Boyd; Adam Hazell; Jim Taflinger

**Committees and Ministries:** Children’s Formation Committee; Youth Formation Committee; Adult Formation Committee; Education for Ministry; Daughters of the King; Centering Prayer; The Circle

## Key HIGHLIGHTS for 2017:

### CHILDREN

- Dramatic increase in participation in children and youth with new programming in all areas, Generous funding of a second Godly Play curriculum room in honor of Patrick Kelley—all furnishings in both rooms hand crafted by Hoyt Bonyne, Trunk or Treat, Christmas Pageant, World Peace Village, Sky Zone and Get Air

### YOUTH

- Christmas party, New Beginnings, Angel Tree shopping, Christian Education: Wisdom lecture, Bible study using hermeneutical lenses for interpretation, New youth teachers and leaders

### ADULTS

- Record participation in the Women’s Retreat, Pilgrimage to Israel and Italy, C. S. Lewis Symposium, Martin Smith retreat, Interfaith Dialogue events, Forum on liturgical space with Melissa Hartley, Education for Ministry, Centering Prayer, The Circle



## FOCUS Points for 2018:

- Planning for youth pilgrimage in June 2019
- Pilgrimage plans for May 2019 conference with the World Community for Christian Meditation, Europe TBD
- Hosting a regional Godly Play training June 7 to 9
- Intergenerational and family opportunities expanded
- David Anderson workshop March 3 focusing on opportunities for faith at home during the liturgical seasons
- Collaboration with the Contemplative Exchange work, Sewanee retreat April 29 to May 2 at St. Mary’s Retreat and Conference Center

# The COMPASSION Cluster

*We believe that an aspect of Christian discipleship is to respond compassionately to suffering outside of our congregation – Outreach -- as well as among our own parishioners in the Grace worshipping community – Inreach. Some of the compassionate ministries are on-going and others episodic. We recognize that schedules and commitments affect the level of one's participation from season to season in life. How is the Spirit of Christ encouraging us to embody compassion, the love of Christ, both in our parish community and in the wider Gainesville area—and the broader world?*

**Staff coordination:** The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Park, Associate Rector for Ministries of Compassion

**Vestry members:** Polly Jones; Meredith West; Stan Lewis

**Committees and Ministries:** Pastoral Care Committee (Compassionate In-reach); Outreach Committee; Community of Hope

## Key HIGHLIGHTS for 2017:

- Integrated the Pastoral Care and Outreach Committees into a collaborative group within the Compassion Cluster
- Moving more intentionally toward a model of partnership with individuals in the parish, re-establishing some of the direct contact that may have become distanced over the years
- Continued presence with Lay Eucharistic Visitors in the community
- Enhancement of Community of Hope with new candidates
- Attending Robert Lupton's (author of *Toxic Charity* and *Charity Detox*) address to the United Way
- Parish wide participation to pack meals for Rise Against Hunger
- Active participation with One Hall United Against Poverty effort, in collaboration with the Gainesville/Hall County 2030 Conversation



## FOCUS Points for 2018:

- Detailed analysis of our historical and current support of community ministries, evaluating the effectiveness of “a critical response to a chronic problem.”
- Researching the current status of ministries currently supported and discerning how to effectively target critical needs.

# The PARTICIPATION Cluster

*The Participation cluster focuses on ways to welcome new members to the Community and encourage involvement. How is the Spirit of Christ encouraging us to share our gifts and strengths? When folks explore the community, we welcome them into this space of worship, spiritual growth and prayer. And, for those who have been here for a while (sometimes decades!), we continue to find ways to strengthen our connection to one another. Participation also includes an element of Evangelism, because we realize that we have been given a mandate to share the Gospel in the world, by sharing our gifts and strengths.*

**Staff coordination:** Brenda Morgan, Executive Assistant to the Clergy

**Vestry members:** Jane Bradley; Kimberley Boyd; Adam Hazell; Jean Parks; Polly Jones

**Committees and Ministries:** Participation Committee; Ushers; Greeters; Newcomer Ministry

## Key HIGHLIGHTS for 2017:

- Memorial garden dedication at Alta Vista Cemetery where 1100 African Americans are buried in unmarked graves. Grace Church and other community partners sponsored granite benches for the garden.
- Annual Meeting 2017
- Ecumenical Lenten service and lunch
- Parish Picnic, Parish Vogel Picnic
- Newcomer Receptions
- Patrick Phillips book signing and lecture
- Assisted Friends of Music with reception following Ken Cowan's concert
- Blessing of the Animals
- Diocesan Evensong reception
- Hosted a public reception in the parish hall following the naming of Sidney Oslin Smith, Jr. Federal Building.
- Installed name tag magnetic boards
- Advent Wreath Making



## FOCUS Points for 2018:

- Formation of a new Membership Participation Committee with an initial training on Saturday, February 3 at All Saints' Parish with the Invite, Welcome, Connect framework of Mary Parmer, from the Beecken Center at Sewanee.
- More robust contact with newcomers and visitors, streamlined database procedures
- Enhancements of Time and Talent information from the recent Stewardship Campaign—collaboration with the Stewardship Working Group (exploring a more efficient and dynamic approach to stewardship participation in 2018)



# The LITURGY & CREATIVE EXPRESSION Cluster

*How is the Spirit of Christ encouraging us to explore new ways of celebrating the Incarnation? Within the Anglican tradition, our liturgy is the most creative way we express ourselves. Our time of common prayer grounds us in our daily lives and helps us practice our faith. How can we live into the richness of art, writing, reflection to foster a sense of God's Presence? The Liturgy and Creative Expression cluster seeks ways in which the entire community can share their gifts in worship, art, drama, music, writing, and other opportunities of spiritual imagination.*

**Staff Coordination:** Will Gotmer, Director of Music and Organist

**Vestry members:** Jane Bradley; Jim Taflinger; Stan Lewis

**Committees and Ministries:** Visual Arts Committee; Friends of Music; Liturgy Committee; Altar Guild; Flower Guild; Brass Guild; Vergers; Acolytes; Chalice Bearers; Parish Choir; Choristers; St. Cecilia Choir; Creation Ringers

## Key HIGHLIGHTS for 2017:

- We now have 29 children actively involved in choir, with the St. Cecilia and Choristers integrated into our regular liturgies
- Bell Choir: in March we started a full three octave bell choir at Grace.
- Purchased new chimes for the Bell Choir to use in worship, integrating in children to the bell choir ministry
- Friends of Music: had a very successful 2017 campaign—the most successful and well-received fund drive to date, hosted the world-renowned organist Ken Cowan in partnership with the Atlanta Guild of Organists
- Compline, Evensongs, Organ recitals, Advent Lessons & Carols, Ecumenical services
- Parishioners shared their artistic talents in a successful parish art show
- Icon workshop in the Fall which allowed us to display beautiful iconography during our Diocesan Council
- Partnership with Piedmont College students to help coordinate art exhibits at Grace



## FOCUS Points for 2018:

- Adult Choir: we had a successful year, but would like to see stabilization and continuity. We had a large amount of turnover with several new people joining and some existing members rotating out.
- Visual Arts: continued plans for the 2018 Parish Art Show, with incorporation of sculptural elements this year
- Crucial conversations on the lack of space in the loft. For 2018, we will be exploring stop-gap solutions on Sundays when we have both choristers and the parish choir both helping with worship.
- Continued excitement around our Friends of Music Concert Series. Our 2018-2019 series will be kicked off by renowned organist Alan Morrison on September 8

# Senior Warden's REFLECTION

As I review my past two years as senior warden I do so with a heart full of gratitude. I am thankful that we at Grace are blessed with our exceptional clergy. I am thankful to our amazing staff that goes above and beyond each and every day to better Grace Church. Most of all, I am extremely grateful to all of you, the parishioners of Grace Church, who have given me the opportunity to serve as senior warden.

Over the past two years the parish has worked toward being more mindful and contemplative, and I think that the vestry's work has echoed these efforts. We have worked to break down barriers within the church and to streamline and increase the flow of communication within the parish. The groundwork for this was laid before I started as senior warden when a diligent group of parishioners updated and reworked our parish bylaws. This provided much-needed transparency and clarity into the operations of the parish.

Once I took the role as senior warden Stuart approached me with the idea of transitioning away from our more program maintenance model of having each vestryperson assigned to a cluster and act as the de facto chairperson of that cluster. We moved to the cluster model wherein vestrypersons works in conjunction with staff and parishioners in one or more of the clusters that encompass the different aspects of our parish life. The result has been an increase in communication and awareness both within the vestry and between the vestry and the parish. This has also allowed the church to shift resources to areas where they are most-needed at any given time. Additionally, this has allowed exploration into new ministries and program areas that have further nurtured the lives and souls of our parish. I believe that this has helped invigorate the operations and ministries of Grace Church. Grace Church is more nimble and the vestry can use its talents for the betterment of the parish as a whole without being concerned whether a particular endeavor fits within a single category.

Through the hard work of a number of parishioners we have worked over this past year to revamp and update the Grace's endowment policy. I believe the fruit of this labor will be increased awareness of the endowment fund of Grace Church and additional gifts and pledges to this fund, which in turn will allow for the stability of the financial future of Grace Church.

Another area of wonderful news was that, thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of Grace Church, the church was able to pay off its debt and be debt-free for the first time since before I became a member of Grace. This has allowed us to begin looking toward Grace's Bicentennial with a clean slate. I expect exciting things to come as our Bicentennial approaches and we dig into what the next century holds for Grace.

I am looking forward to sharing the coming years with you. I think Grace will continue to grow both in numbers and vibrancy and will be a place that we will all be proud to call our church home. I encourage each of you to dig deeper into Grace Church and see what wondrous things your church home holds for you.

## JASON VOYLES



# Meet Our VESTRY Nominees



## BARBARA BATOG

Barbara has been baptized, confirmed and married in the Episcopal Church. Obviously the church became a large part of her life including her grandfather being an Episcopal priest whom she is named after. She has been a member of Grace since 2013.

Barbara found her passion to be organized, detail-oriented and creative becoming an administrative secretary in her native Florida. After getting married and moving to Boston she became executive assistant to the chairman & CEO of Marshalls, the off-price retailer. She assisted with their philanthropic support of Cardinal Cushing School & Training Center who provides individuals with autistic disabilities opportunities to discover their community.

After Marshalls was sold, she moved on to the Stride Rite Corporation, the shoe manufacturer, becoming executive assistant to the chairman, president and CEO. While there, she assisted with their philanthropic support of The Genesis Fund who supports clinical care for children born with genetic disorders. After the CEO retired and the company sold, Barbara moved on to become the personal assistant to a private real estate entrepreneur in downtown Boston. She assisted in event planning as well as handled special invites through the White House Social Office.

Barbara and her husband, Alan, who are both retired now have been married since 1979. They moved to Gainesville in May of 2011. Finding a spiritual community to embrace was an important part in their relocation. Grace was a wonderful discovery. They felt welcomed from the beginning and now feel very much a part of the church family. They have both offered their time and talent. Barbara currently serves on the finance committee. While they respect the church tradition, they also appreciate the space and opportunity to learn, grow and change.

Barbara joined the Gainesville Newcomers Club (500+ members) accepting a board position. She was elected to a 3-year term as an officer in the role of vice president, president and currently parliamentarian. She also has served as president of her property owners association (110 lot subdivision). Her volunteer efforts have been with the Girl Scout's 'Women of Distinction' events and at the Community Food Pantry. Barbara and Alan enjoy their rescued Scottish Terrier, Maggie Mae. They also enjoy traveling and the area's many art venues, performance centers and parks.

With gratitude, Barbara thanks you for your consideration and nomination to become a part of the vestry.

## MARY BROOME

Mary was born in Charleston, South Carolina to an Episcopalian pediatric physician father, and a registered nurse Yankee mother who was raised Irish Roman Catholic. Her mother was confirmed in the Episcopal Church for the benefit of her family and came to love the church. Mary was the middle child of 5 children. She was baptized and married in St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Charleston. She treasures Charleston and her memories of growing up there. She is a retired pediatric registered nurse, having devoted more than 40 years to the medical care of children. She takes great pride in looking back at her career and the bonding friendships that resulted.



Mary's early married life was in Atlanta with the blessing of the birth of son Chris. Three wonderful years in Miami were with membership in St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Kendall. Mary was the Sunday school administrator there, as well as treasurer of the women's group.

Back in Atlanta, she attended Cursillo, which deepened her faith. Membership was at St. Martin in the Fields where Mary worked with the EYC. A move to Dacula resulted in membership at St. Matthew's in Snellville. She assisted with the establishment of St. Mary & Martha in Buford, Georgia, active in foyer groups and moving from borrowed premises to the church grounds. A 2002 move to Dahlonega saw Mary as a member of St. Elizabeth's and then inclusion at Grace in 2014.

Mary's spiritual life has deepened working with and taking a commission from Community of Hope International (COHI) through a 3 month course of lay chaplaincy. Current COHI work is with Family Promise, Help Court, DFACS of Hall County, hospital visitation, compassion and outreach. Otherwise, her passions are working on family genealogy, her work with the DAR, and especially the blessings of husband Bob, son Chris, his wife Regina, and two grandsons, Noah and John Thomas.

Mary sees a vision of future life at Grace Church, enhanced by further extending outreach to the greater community as well as furthering relationships within Grace. She believes that the current clergy at Grace is especially suited and gifted for the work they do. She feels a calling to this service, and would be honored to serve on the vestry.

## SHANNON DORSEY

Shannon has been a member of Grace church since spring of 2008. She and husband David officially joined the Episcopal faith upon moving back to Gainesville from Atlanta and starting a family. She was raised in the Catholic church and David in the Methodist church. She holds two bachelor of fine arts degrees in painting and drawing and in interior design.

Shannon has been an active member of the children's formation committee, teaching Sunday school in past years and volunteering with vacation Bible school. She now is involved with the youth program and enjoys spending time with them each Sunday and planning social events. Shannon has been a member of the flower guild for numerous years and enjoys helping to create a beautiful space for our congregation.

She has taught at Children of Grace Preschool in various classrooms. She loves being involved and has appreciated the loving environment the preschool provides for its students.

Shannon and David have four spunky children. Brooks (10), Georgia (7) and Baron (6) graduated from COG and attend Mount Vernon Elementary. Grace (3) is still at the preschool and enjoys all her wonderful teachers.

She has truly enjoyed being a member of Grace Church and is thankful to be welcomed into such a wonderful community. She would be honored to serve on the vestry and become more involved in forming our gracious church.



## CALLIE FLACK

Callie has been a member of Grace since 2015 when she transferred from St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church after ten years. Being reared in different denominations as children, she and Kevin knew when they got married they wanted to attend a church where they were both comfortable. Thus, they decided to visit the Episcopal Church and immediately found a church home. During her time at St. Gabriel's and now at Grace, Callie has been involved in various committees and leadership positions. At St. Gabriel's Callie led a strategic planning



effort, chaired the Good News at Noon outreach, served as a greeter and usher, served on the flower guild, and served on vestry as stewardship chair and senior warden. As stewardship chair, Callie led the annual giving campaign and a capital campaign for building improvements. Since attending Grace, Callie has been eager to get involved and enjoyed leading a group through the discernment process with a parish committee on ministries, chaired an endowment working group committee to review and update endowment policies and procedures, assists in children's chapel, and serves on the finance committee.

Interestingly, neither Callie or Kevin are originally from Gainesville. Callie grew up in Stone Mountain and Lilburn, and Kevin is from Metter, and they landed in Gainesville after graduating from the University of Georgia. Heeding advice from a friend that you should bloom where you are planted, Callie has made efforts through the years to bloom in this community she now calls home and enjoys using her talents to serve the community. In addition to volunteer service at church, Callie has volunteered for various nonprofits including Junior League, where she is a past president, Boys & Girls Clubs of Lanier, United Way of Hall County and the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce. In her professional life, Callie is a creative strategist at Forum Communications where she works closely with clients to build and manage creative marketing strategies that deliver results and turn ideas into reality.

She and Kevin are the proud parents of twin five-year-old boys, Patrick and Harrison, who insist on sitting on the front row of church each Sunday. They believe deciding to attend Grace three years ago was one of the best decisions they have ever made as it has enriched their lives in more ways than they can express, so Callie is honored to be considered for vestry and would consider it a privilege to give back to the church that has already given her so much.

## CHARLES KELLEY

Charles has been a lifelong member of Grace. He was baptized here in 1976 and except for his time in college and law school has been a member ever since. He has previously served two terms on the vestry, including being the junior warden, as scoutmaster of Grace Church's Boy Scout troop, a member of the bylaw revision committee, as one of the Grace Church's representatives on the board of Centerpoint, as a lay eucharistic minister, and as a lector. Charles and Cheryl have raised three children at Grace: Patrick, Christopher, and Andrew. Over the years Grace has proven to be a strong community of faith that supports its members and the wider community in good times and hard times. Charles would like the opportunity to help the church continue in developing and strengthening that community.

Charles has practiced law in Gainesville for twenty-five years, focusing his practice on financial issues and insolvency, estate planning and probate, and business disputes. In his spare time he enjoys reading, developing bonsai, hiking, and fly fishing.



## PATRICK O'ROUKE

Patrick O'Rourke has attended Grace since 2012, following a move to Hall County, and officially joined in 2013. He is originally from Sugar Hill, GA and was raised at Level Creek Methodist Church in Suwanee. He and his wife, Tate, were married at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Athens, and they have twin boys (age 3), Wright and Benson. He serves as an usher and has been active with Grace's Family Promise program since joining the church. Patrick is a fisheries biologist with Georgia Power and has a BSFR from the University of Georgia and a MS from the University of Florida. He is honored to be nominated to serve this congregation on the vestry.



## SCARLET PENDARVIS

Scarlet grew up in Nashville, TN and graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville with a bachelors of science in nursing and married husband, Derek, at St. John's Cathedral in 1998. Members of Grace since 2001, their three children, Connor (16), Caroline (14), and Millie (8) were all born in Gainesville, baptized at Grace and attended Children of Grace Pre-school. Each of them participates in the church in their own way, as an acolyte, in the children's choir, or helping with the sound/recording of the service.

They love to travel and Scarlet enjoys planning "adventures" rather than vacations (because, well, traveling with children isn't exactly a vacation). The family has embraced opportunities in north Georgia for exploring the great outdoors, enjoying hiking in the

mountains and living on the lake, as well as the rich cultural offerings provided by The Arts Council, Gainesville Theatre Alliance, the Northeast Georgia History Center, Brenau University, and Quinlan.

Scarlet has served Grace in many ways over the last 16 years, including various committees at COG, Sunday school leader, children and youth formation committees, search committee, bicentennial committee, vacation Bible school leader, delegate to diocesan Annual Council, and most recently, the liturgy planning committee and as a vergers with induction into the Vergers Guild. For years she and Derek have attended and thoroughly enjoyed the Seeker's Sunday school class.

Some of her favorite church activities include the women's retreat, women's outings, foyers, Trunk-or-Treat and other special events that the church presents.

In the community she has been active in Junior League of Hall County, chair of Marketplace, supporter and volunteer at Family Promise as well as on various boards including INK Children's Museum, Our Neighbor, Inc. and others.

Professionally Scarlet is a registered nurse and currently enjoys working in several areas of nursing including the operating room, home health, and most recently, teaching as a clinical nurse instructor at University of North Georgia.

She is honored to be nominated for vestry and looks forward to the opportunity to serve her Grace Church family in this new capacity. Scarlet is inspired by the words of Bishop Curry to consider the topic of ministry/mission with regards to movement, something he has termed "The Jesus Movement". He has charged us to see Christianity primarily as a movement, one that expresses itself not just in an institution, within the walls of our church on Sundays, but as something that should always be on the move. He asks us to follow Jesus into "loving, liberating, life-giving relationship with God and each other", and that is exactly what Scarlet sees our church family doing and striving for each day.

## DOUG SMITH

Doug is a professional engineer and works for Jackson EMC. He is currently serving on the outreach committee, campus vision and development committee and the Camp Mikell Board of Governors. Doug also volunteers with several local nonprofit organizations.

He grew up in Gainesville and has been a member of Grace since baptism. Doug is married to Kaela Smith and they have three adult children, Adrienne, Emerson and Farran. Doug attended Young Harris College and earned an engineering degree from Southern Tech and a masters of business administration from Brenau University. Doug enjoys hiking, Lake Lanier and studying local, regional and American history in his spare time.



# FINANCE Committee Report

**2017 Members:** Barbara Batog; Craig Carpenter; Callie Flack; Weymon Forrester; Hank Goble; George Henderson; Bill Kantola; Larry Lykins; Doug McDuff, Grace Church treasurer; Pete Miller; Warren Stribling; Mike Whitmire

From the treasurer's report, you can see that the Grace Church Operating Fund finished 2017 with a balanced budget in addition to transferring \$16,678 to the Building Reserve Fund for much needed capital improvements. Special thanks go to Reba Page and all the staff for keeping expenses well below budget in 2017 and for their continued careful stewardship of Grace Church financial resources

Projected revenue from contributions for 2018 is \$1,045,881, which is the sum of \$960,121 in pledges and \$85,760 in projected plate offerings. The vestry approved a balanced budget for 2018, with total expenses matching projected revenue. It is difficult to expand programs and grow ministries when revenue is essentially flat from one year to another. Please prayerfully consider this during our 2018 Stewardship campaign. The parish administrator, treasurer, and finance committee were able to develop the 2018 operating budget because of great confidence in the church staff's continued dedication to bring expenses in on budget.

## 2018 PROJECTED REVENUE

Pledges	960,121
Projected Plate Offering	85,760
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,045,881</b>

The 2018 operating budget does not have any amount approved for transfer to the Building Reserve Fund. However, because of the generosity of the Gignilliat family, approximately \$100,000 was added to the Building Reserve Fund in 2017.

Please note that our auditors suggested that funds from designated accounts no longer be considered in the operating budget. Two commonly-known designated funds are Friends of Music (FOM) and the Flower Donation Fund. These funds will directly support their associated ministries in 2018, but, since the money will not be passed through the operating budget, all entries associated with these funds are zero in the 2018 budget. In the designated funds section of the Annual Report you will see that the FOM and Flower Donation funds finished 2017 with balances of \$21,420 and \$7,860, respectively.

## Key HIGHLIGHTS for 2017:

Your finance committee has worked diligently through the year on a number of projects in addition to the operating budget. Some high-impact items are listed here:

- In August it became apparent that the church's main computer file server was rapidly nearing the end of its lifespan. The committee conducted a prompt but thorough evaluation of competitive bids for server upgrade and got the funding recommendation to vestry quickly. The project was completed before the occurrence of a total server failure, which would have shut down the church office.
- It was determined that to increase office efficiency the church needed to find an auditing firm that was familiar with our existing computerized accounting system. Committee members worked closely with the parish administrator to review proposals from many firms and select a new auditor. The 2016 audit went smoothly.

Perhaps the most important development of 2017 was initiated by a project-specific group. In early 2017, the rector formed a Working Group comprised of select members of the finance committee, the endowment committee, and the vestry. The Working Group was charged with clearly explaining the constraints governing our existing endowment funds and creating one policy to cover the administration of existing endowment funds and the creation and administration of new endowment funds. After a considerable amount of hard work, the Working Group presented a draft version of the Endowment Policy to the Vestry. Members of the vestry invested much time and effort into finalizing the draft policy. The vestry approved the new Endowment Policy in January 2018. The entire document is available to all parishioners. Some very important points include:

- There is now clear verbiage describing acceptable uses of monies generated as investment income from the existing Van Geisen and Wilheit funds.
- The creation of the Grace Ministries Endowment Fund, which has a primary focus on outreach and can only be used for capital expenditures if the parish is in a “dire situation”.
- The creation of the Grace Capital Improvements Fund, which has a primary focus on capital expenditures necessary for Grace church to pursue its mission.

The creation of a standardized process governing application for endowment funding.

Finally, please review the designated funds section of the Annual Report. Important year-end balances include:

- Prepaid 2018, 2019, 2020 Pledges = \$131,700.
- Building Reserve = \$118,972.
- Van Giesen and Wilheit Endowment total = \$806,109



# Statement 2017 & Budget 2018

Proposed 2018 Budget Summary	2017 Budget	2017 Actual	2018 Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Pledges	944,224.00	934,781.75	960,121.00
Plate Offerings	95,000.00	70,274.89	85,760.00
Other Unrestricted Contributions		1,650.00	
Prior Year Pledges	2,675.00	2,510.00	2,500.00
Transfer to Outreach			
Transfer To Capital Funds	(20,000.00)	(16,678.00)	
Building Use Income	27,500.00	26,695.00	27,500.00
GWAG Income	15,000.00	13,793.50	13,500.00
Program Revenue			
Misc. Income		730.36	
Transfer from Friends of Music	21,000.00	14,015.00	
Transfer from Flower Fund	5,000.00		
Transfer from COG	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,093,399.00</b>	<b>1,050,772.50</b>	<b>1,092,381.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Diocesan Support	96,950.00	96,950.00	101,900.00
Seminarian Support	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
Outreach	60,000.00	60,000.00	67,000.00
Salaries and Benefits	569,283.26	564,345.62	579,551.00
Building and Grounds	184,200.00	166,133.99	182,800.00
Administration	62,299.00	61,801.82	66,200.00
Programs and Committees	56,850.00	53,763.03	60,400.00
Music and Worship	56,600.00	46,264.04	32,530.00
Interest		514.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,087,182.26</b>	<b>1,050,772.50</b>	<b>1,092,381.00</b>

# Statement of Funds at 12.31.17

## GENERAL FUNDS

Prepaid 2018 Pledges	110,700.00
Prepaid 2019/2020 pledges	21,000.00
Doug Smith Outreach Fund	23,965.45
Benevolence Fund	100,000.00
Rector Discretionary Fund	6,712.19
Flower Donation Fund	7,860.18
Friends of Music	21,420.50
Other designated funds	34,451.76
Reserve/Unrestricted Funds	117,560.01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>443,670.09</b>

## CAPITAL FUNDS

Building Reserve	118,972.23
Building Reserve-donor designated	22,240.91
Building Fund	5,375.00
Columbarium Fund	39,249.18
Memorial Fund	38,940.13
Nave Windows	7,878.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>232,655.45</b>

## ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Van Giesen Endowment	393,949.47
Wilheit Endowment	412,159.61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>806,109.08</b>

## CHILDREN OF GRACE PRESCHOOL

Designated Funds	32,505.89
Reserve/Unrestricted Funds	120,091.14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>152,597.03</b>



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## STAY INFORMED

### online

[gracechurchgainesville.org](http://gracechurchgainesville.org)

[gracechurchgainesville.org/blog](http://gracechurchgainesville.org/blog)

[facebook.com/gecgainesville](https://facebook.com/gecgainesville)

[twitter.com/gecgainesville](https://twitter.com/gecgainesville)

### at church

bulletin boards

information station

worship bulletin

### join our email list

[gracechurchgainesville.org/email](http://gracechurchgainesville.org/email)



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