

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MERCHANTVILLE, N.J. 08109

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011

JANUARY 15, 2012

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Grace Church

Mission Statement

We at Grace Episcopal Church, are a diverse people, who have come together as children of God, to form a blessed, faithful congregation. Conscious of the world around us, we seek to reach out to a changing community. We are challenged by God to follow his example of love and forgiveness, through our Lord, Jesus Christ. We strive, as caretakers of God’s gifts, to develop and share our resources and programs. With God’s help, we will welcome, minister to and teach all ages, living and worshiping in the love of Christ and his teachings.

Stewardship Statement

We, the Rector, Wardens and Vestry of Grace Church believe that stewardship is the main work of the Church. It encompasses everything that we do with our time, talent and money after we say, “We believe”. While no one in the Episcopal Church will tell you what to give, we commit ourselves to a standard of proportional giving and will strive to honor it. We want our church to grow in numbers and spirituality. Finally, we believe that our giving is ultimately done in the context of Christ’s complete offering of himself upon the cross for our redemption. Our

motivation for giving is therefore first and foremost gratitude.” Praise God from whom all blessings flow” says it well.

Contact Information

7 East Maple Avenue

Merchantville, NJ 08109-5096

www.gracechurchmerchantville.com

e-mail: gracechurchmerchantville@verizon.net

Parish Office (856) 665-4117 - FAX (856) 665-0140

Service Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:00 AM- Sunday School (September to June)

10:30 AM- Holy Eucharist Rite II

Monday - 2:30 PM - Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing in the Chapel

Parish Activities

Altar Guild - First Sunday of the month 12:00 Noon

Family Choir Rehearsal - Wednesday 7-8:30 PM

E.C.W.as announced

Food Pantry - Wednesday 12:00 - 2:00 PM

Men’s Club as announced

Vestry - Second Tuesday 7:00 PM

Youth Group EYC (6th-12th grades) Sunday - 7:00-8:00PM .

Boys Scouts (Troop 118) Monday PM as scheduled

St Clare’s Thrift Shoppe - Friday & Saturday, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

PARISH LEADERSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey M. Kirk, Rector

Robert M. Faussett, Jr., Organist & Choirmaster

Kelly A. Sneddon, Altar Guild Directress

Marilyn Hutchinson, Part-time Parish Secretary

John W. Forrest, Part-time Sexton

Marian R. Daly, Church School Superintendent

Men's Club - Ronnie Smyth

Becky Martin , Brittany & Chris Smyth, Youth Ministry Advisors

Becky Martin & Chris Costa -Co- Directors of Acolytes

Vestry

Gerald Porch Senior Warden

Veronica Smyth, Junior Warden

Marian Daly, Clerk of the Vestry

Serving through 2011: David K. Martin, Sr., Phyllis Mroz, Kelly A. Sneddon

Serving through 2012: Marian Daly, Marilyn B. Hutchinson, David G. Fisher

Serving through 2013: Christopher Gaffney, Suzanne McKenna, Frank Ritter

The Parish Financial Officers

Donald H. Hutchinson, Treasurer

Michele Alfano, Financial Secretary

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Donald H. Hutchinson, Marilyn B. Hutchinson, Marian R. Daly

Camden Convocation Delegates

Kathleen & Donald Witzig, , Suzanne & William McKenna

Rector's Report

This has been an incredibly grace-filled year for me and my family at Grace Church! August 12th Betsey's and my daughter Mollie was married to Jiho Lee in a truly international church gathering of family, friends, and members of Grace Church. Then in November, having satisfied Bishop Councill's requirements for Grace's strengthening issued in October 2009, the Vestry elected me to serve as your Rector. The progress we have made together was symbolized by the fifteen youth and two adult Confirmands whom parents, other sponsors, and I presented to Bishop Councill at his December 4th Visitation. At that service I knelt before the bishop and offered myself to serve Grace Church, and was blessed by the bishop.

This October we had a successful "Reclaiming the Vision" breakfast at which we dedicated the new windows given for Morse Hall and the Thrift Shoppe through a special fund raising effort led by Phyllis Mroz. We discussed the Vestry's challenges for 2012 that we might add additional air conditioning to the church, and air condition Morse Hall and improve its lighting. In our discussion after breakfast, many expressed the need to grow our numbers, and John Gibson agreed to lead a New Member Committee.

That discussion and first meetings of the committee have prompted me to ask why would someone want to join Grace Church? The answer to the question is closely related to the Episcopal Church's unique identity. I believe what we especially offer to the world is: 1) a sacramental tradition centered around the weekly parish Eucharist, a robust musical heritage, and a pastoral, liturgical, and corporate spirituality; 2) a missional congregation serving our region through our Thrift Shoppe, Food Pantry, Pancake Mixes for St. Paul's and, resuming this year, volunteers to cook the Sunday Project Interaction breakfasts for the hungry, housing an Alcoholics Anonymous Group, and many other missional activities; 3) a Christian theology that is open to divergent views, dialogue, and individual conscience, and which is unafraid of evolution theory and willing to do our part to mitigate global warming; and 4) a Church that is authentically catholic, inclusive of all God's children, both in our region and around the world.

I am particularly proud of the faithfulness and dedication of all our members, the able leadership of our Wardens, Jerry Porch and Ronnie Smyth, and the entire Vestry. Together, we have been able to accomplish some specific things that needed doing, such as: the Property Committee's refurbishment of the 1st-floor apartment in #9 East Maple Avenue, with help from Hiller Plumbing and John Congdon, General Contractor; spreading dirt to fill many low spots in the lawns of #7, #9, and #11 with the help of John Costa and Pastor Steven Lewis; Don Hutchinson's help to me removing the old tower ceiling; Architect Bob O'Reilly's designs of a new tower ceiling and the new handicap bathroom; Advantage Building and Design's fine work on these projects, and Grace Cornforth's loving generosity that made the bathroom possible and freed up Bob Cornforth's memorials to make the driveway entrance doors handicap-accessible.

Our major project this year was the approval of a plan to install solar panels on the flat roof replaced in 2009. We had various fits and starts along the way, but finally contracted with Powell Energy & Solar of Moorestown to install panels that should reduce our church electric bills by about 50% and generate a 5% return on our investment of \$26,500 for ten years with an LLC, Maple Avenue Power Associates.

The Altar Guild made available \$1,500 to purchase needed hymnals, prayer books, and Lift High Every Voice and Sing Hymnals for the pew racks, and another \$1,500 to replace the light fixtures in the Thrift Shoppe. Kelly Sneddon and the guild members deserve our great thanks.

Finally, it was thrilling to baptize ten new Christians at The Great Vigil of Easter, and to begin efforts to assimilate them into our congregation.

Jeffrey M. Kirk

GRACE CHURCH Senior Warden's Report

As that old saying goes, "Time flies when you're having fun." My term as Senior Warden over the last two years has flown by. One of our biggest accomplishments was being able to contact Bishop Councill to show him that we had addressed his concerns at the time he said he was going to appoint a Priest-In-Charge. Bishop Councill gave his permission for the Vestry to elect Father Kirk to be Rector. The Vestry called Father Kirk on November 8th, and he joyfully, but humbly, accepted our call. Father Kirk was instituted as Rector on December 4th when Bishop Councill visited for Confirmation, and offered his hearty approval to both Father Kirk and Grace Church.

It has been an honor to serve with Father Kirk and the Vestry. Much has been accomplished and there is still so much more to be done. New windows in Morse Hall and the Thrift Shop have replaced the original ones, saving us money on fuel bills and cutting down on drafts, especially in the Thrift Shop. After several starts and stops, solar energy is coming to Grace Church. Solar panels will soon be installed on the new roof over the offices and should cut our energy costs significantly.

Through the generosity of Grace Cornforth, we now have a handicapped restroom, drinking fountains, and handicapped-accessible doors by the office. Also, we will soon air condition the front part of the church and Morse Hall, along with energy-efficient lights for Morse Hall.

As usual Father Kirk has been very busy when he is not performing his duties at the church, visiting parishioners in hospitals, shut-ins at their homes, and calling on new comers to Merchantville. He has been painting, replacing electrical outlets, and light fixtures and doing general maintenance around the property.

We must find ways to attract new members to our church. A New Member Committee chaired by John Gibson has been formed and I'm sure, would welcome suggestions on ways to increase our membership.

We also have other needs for time and talent. Some of the needs are: the Thrift Shop, open Fridays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., contact Kathy Witzig; the Food Pantry on Wednesdays from 12-2 p.m. working in teams of three, contact Norma Bush; Ushers for both services on Sundays, contact Marian Daly. If you are experienced in painting, electrical wiring, gardening, or general odd jobs contact Ronnie Smyth or Father Kirk. Any questions on the above can be directed to Father Kirk or any Vestry member. Grace church is alive and well. For the second straight year it appears that we will end the year in the black, not by much, but it has been an improvement.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for their support during our transition to a new Rector and during my term as Senior Warden.

Jerry Porch
Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

We have had a very busy and successful year with our properties!

Along with the major improvements of the handicapped bathroom and the side parking lot entrance doors, our Property Committee worked very hard to get the downstairs of #9 in move-in condition for our own George Smith. We have kept up with needed repairs for all three of our properties and will continue to maintain and improve each property in 2012.

A great big thank you goes out to Father Kirk for being so talented in the handyman category along with his regular duties as our Rector. I would also like to thank our small Property Committee who worked so hard to maintain and beautify our beautiful church and our two homes.

We look forward to a great year ahead and hope that more parishioners will join us to work and enjoy our committee.

In the love of Christ,
Ronnie Smyth

ACOLYTES

It was a good year with a total of 17 young people performing the duties of acolytes. My thanks to Elizabeth Brouse, John and Katie Gibson, James and Scott Hobson, Jeffrey and Katelyn Martin, Jacob, Jaelyn and Justin McKay, Sarah Potter, Trey Slater, Zoe Sneddon, Cassandra and Daniel Thiel, and Grace and Mackenzie Wilhelm for their willingness to serve. Several of our group attended the diocesan Acolyte Festival at Trinity Cathedral last February, combining training, fun, and fellowship. New members were teamed with experienced acolytes so that training could be modeled "on the job". As always, the acolytes stayed fluid and adjusted to the priest at the altar. They look forward to expanding their skills in serving at the altar in the year ahead.

Helen Rebecca Martin, Acolyte Mistress

FAMILY CHOIR

Another year has come and gone for the choirs. The Family Choir has 12 members who enjoy singing very much. My goal is still to reach a membership of 20 voices. We still sing music from Worship Today, but also sing other types of music from time to time.

Please feel free to join us for rehearsal on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the choir room downstairs. We also rehearse Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.. The Sunday School choir meets at 9:00 a.m. in the main sanctuary, before class and sings once a month during the 10:30 a.m. service.

Musically Yours,
Bob Faussett, Organist and Choir Master

CHURCH ALTAR GUILD

Meetings of the Grace Church Altar Guild are held the first Sunday of each month, except in January, July, August and September at 12:15 p.m. in St. Martha's Room.

Our work is a "Labor of Love" that is to assist the clergy care for the linens, silver, brass and crystal articles, prepare for all services in the church and chapel, including holiday services and baptisms, care for the vestments of the clergy, order, arrange and place flowers on the altar. Care for, and order, - when necessary - the candles on the altar, and assist in weddings and funerals. We, as the Altar Guild, work in teams. Financial support for the Altar Guild comes from Flower Memorials, Wine & Bread Memorials, St. Clare's Thrift Shoppe sales and wedding fees. Altar flowers, for the most part, are donated.

This year we have purchased new altar rail kneelers with special gratitude and appreciation for the dedication of our long time member, Olga Henderson.

Officers: Directress: ***Kelly Sneddon***,
Secretary: ***Helen Rebecca Martin***,
Treasurer: ***Marian Daly***

Teams:

Active Altar Guild: Team A - *Gladys Reich***, Grace Cornforth, Debbie Fisher, Becky Martin,
Betty Nardello, Pat Bears and Mary Smith,**

Active Altar Guild: Team B - *Barbara McCaully***, Norma Bush, Bette Butler,
Marian Daly, Nancy Powell, and Christine Rivel**

Active Altar Guild: Team C - *June Flynn***, Bernice Delaney, Suzanne McKenna, Phyllis Mroz**

Active Altar Guild: Team D - *Olga Henderson***, Florence Bostdorf,
Sindy Dell, Evelyn Shivers and Kathy Witzig**

*** * We also acknowledge:** Geneva Dougherty, Florence Evans, Joan Falcone, Beatrice Muskett,
Ann Monahan (And Gertrude Sabo who moved to Virginia).

The Following Members Take Care of Special Duties:

Albs: ***Bernice Delaney***

Candles: ***Kelly Sneddon, Sindy Dell***

Fair Linens: ***Kelly Sneddon, Phyllis Mroz***

Flowers/Wine & Wafers: ***Gladys Reich***

Loving Service: ***Betty Nardello***

Small Linens: ***Esther Reilley, June Flynn***

Diocesan Altar Guild Rep.: searching for a volunteer

Thrift Shop: ***Olga Henderson, Kathy Witzig***

Altar Flowers (weekly) and the Wine & bread (monthly) are always welcomed in memory of loved ones for birthdays, anniversaries, "in thanksgiving of . . ." If interested in a memorial do not hesitate to contact Gladys Reich for information (856) 829-4482. The cost is \$35.00. *We are in need of more Altar Guild members for this labor of love - contact Kelly 856-952-3819.*

Respectfully submitted

Kelly Sneddon, Directress

Grace Church Merchantville
Altar Guild Year End Treasurer's Report
December 31, 2011

Balance as of December 31, 2010 **\$14,208.14**

Income

Altar Guild dues	\$65.00	
Altar rail donations	\$1,200.00	
Christmas Memorial 2010 & 2011	\$1,531.00	
Easter Memorials	\$1,206.00	
Flower arrangement donation	\$60.00	
Funeral donation	\$150.00	
Hymnal donation	\$500.45	
Luncheon payments	\$476.00	
Sunday Memorials	\$1,338.00	
Thrift Shop donations	\$1,410.00	
Thrift Shop exchange	\$200.00	
Wedding donations	\$325.00	
Interest	\$12.33	+\$8,473.78

Disbursements

Abbotts Church Goods	\$506.70	
Ace Hardware	\$15.00	
A.C. Moore	\$53.39	
Albright-Altar Rail Cleaning	\$1,200.00	
Altar Candles	\$26.45	
Canals	\$169.92	
Church Publishing	\$1,500.45	
CM Almay	\$93.20	
Corporal Repairs	\$15.00	
Cross Veils	\$54.87	
CVS	\$14.97	
Deposit slips, ledger	\$56.91	
J & O Fabrics	\$49.80	
Pennsauken Country Club Altar Guild Luncheon	\$956.00	
Produce Junction	\$60.00	
Shop Rite	\$4.81	
Staff Christmas Gifts	\$225.00	
Thrift Shop Exchange	\$200.00	
Thrift Shop renovations	\$1,441.90	
Trio Silversmith	\$190.00	
Wal-Mart	\$17.12	
Wirth Florist \$	\$2,852.20	+ \$9,703.69

Balance as of December 31, 2011 **+\$12,978.23**

Submitted in the Love Christ

Marian Daly Altar Guild Treasurer

St. Clare Thrift Shoppe

The rooms that comprise St. Clare's Thrift Shoppe are located in the undercroft of the church. It is open to the public every Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m..

The dedicated Tuesday volunteers price, sort, arrange and ready the Shoppe for the customers. June Flynn and Geri Lafty work many extra hours initially sorting the donations for more efficient shopping conditions. Church members and a few carefully chosen volunteers staff the shop during the public hours. *THANK YOU TO ALL THE WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE THE SHOPPE POSSIBLE!!* Bargains, new clothing and household items, surprises, and friendships bring customers back. The shop has a dedicated following of shoppers who sometimes shop on both days of the weekend to find just the right treasure for their needs. Because some customers are dealers who re-sell their purchases, I try to research items that seem to be "vintage, retro" or more valuable. Continued research, experience, and talking with the customers have helped me to better determine fair prices for the varied merchandise. Shoppers will find clothing for people of all ages, accessories, household items, books, and "odd" objects that appeal to the artists and handymen/women who peruse our bins. Some merchandise is housed in dedicated rooms of the Boutique, China Closet, Craft/small furniture, and Book Nook.

As pleased as we are with the **2011 income of \$24, 782**, the volunteers are rewarded by friendship and caring relationships that have resulted from working together. Both the volunteers and customers appreciate Fr. Kirk's presence and many hours of work to improve the shop. With George Smith living next door, the shop has an excellent "watchdog" when it is closed.

St. Clare's has grown over the years, but it still is in need of more assistance to sort, price, or sell---*won't you consider sharing your talents to assist the Shoppe in whatever area you would like?* I am thrilled to have acquired 3 new volunteers this year, but with our aging group, new volunteers are always needed. Please call Kathy Witzig at 856-546-8128 or email klene1946@yahoo.com for information.

Kathy Witzig

Thrift Shoppe-- "The Book Nook"

The Book Nook continues to attract new customers who, in turn, become new contributors. To help customers make selections, books are on the shelf filed by subject, fiction or non fiction, then filed by subject- mystery, romance, biography, religion, classics, sports, arts and also large print.

We also sell videos, CDs DVDs and cassettes.

Bi-monthly, we feature books pertaining to one subject. Health, Home and Garden, Travel, History, Back to School, Arts and Crafts . . ., etc.

Storage is a big problem. Consequently, we do not accept encyclopedias, old text books, outdated National Geographic and Reader's Digest condensed books.

" Thanks to all our customers and contributors" for their continued support !!!
Remember "Be sure to LOOK for a book in the Nook!!!"

Bookkeepers, Yvonne Wharton and Helene Kerns

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN - ECW

The Grace Church ECW has been virtually inactive during the lengthy restructuring of parish activities under our new, dedicated and highly qualified Rector. We can now move ahead as active women of Grace Church.

All women in the parish are automatically ECW members and it is hoped that all will actively participate in 2012 and beyond. The church bulletin will announce the meeting times which should be noted on everyone's daily "calendar". The greater the participation of our members, the better the meetings and special events will satisfy the spiritual and social needs of our members.

This year, we went as a group to see "Joseph" at Sight and Sound in Lancaster, PA. We held an informal "come one, come all" ECW meeting in May to explore a variety of ideas for monthly noontime meetings and program themes. We met in June for a Salad Supper and Papercraft Christmas Star Ornament session. We held several Bake and Take Sales after Sunday Services. We participated in the Boscov "Friends Helping Friends Day" in October. As a result of our efforts, we are happy to be able to make a year-end contribution of \$3,000. to the Vestry. Here's looking forward to an exceptional 2012.

Grace Cornforth, Treasurer and Social Coordinator

MEN'S CLUB

This year the Men's Club sponsored, the Italian Dinner, a Ham Dinner; three breakfasts as well, and the snack bar at the Fall Fair. We also continued our sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop #118.

While the club was not as active in 2011 as in past years, it is our intention to sponsor some dinners in 2012. With that in mind we will be meeting in the near future to discuss our plans for the new year. On the horizon we see the possibility of a Fish Fry, perhaps an Italian Dinner and perhaps one other dinner to be determined for the Fall; as well as a few breakfasts. Additionally, we foresee our continued sponsorship of the Snack Bar at the Fall Fair.

As always, we wish to thank all those people who have helped in the various activities that we sponsor. Their cooking and organizational skills make our dinners and breakfasts successful and are, as always, most appreciated. Furthermore, special thanks go out to the members and leaders of Boy Scout Troop #118 for their help in serving at the dinners.

At year end 2011 the account balance was \$1839.00

David Weikert, Men's Club Secretary/ Treasurer

Stewardship Committee Report

In reflecting on Stewardship at Grace Church, we are extremely fortunate to have individuals who so willingly and generously share their time, talent and treasure. Because of you and the organizations you serve, while acknowledging that there is still much to be accomplished, we have been able to move in a positive direction. Over the past year, through your support and generous gifts we have been able to accomplish the following:

- Reduce the cost of operations. For example, we are entering into an agreement with Powell Solar and Energy of Moorestown to purchase solar panels that will provide approximately 60% of our electrical usage (and annual loan repayments to Grace Church for this project will be at an interest rate of 5.0% per year for ten years);
- Maximize the use of our expansive facility by entering into licensing agreements with Christ Apostolic Temple and individuals who are renting areas in both 9 and 11 E. Maple Avenue;
- Increase our giving to the Diocese of New Jersey;
- Improve our facility with a beautiful unisex, handicap-accessible bathroom;
- Replace and widen our aging entrance doors to make them handicap-accessible;
- Replace the windows in Morse Hall and the Thrift Shoppe;
- Purchase additional prayer books and hymnals to fill all pews in the church;
- Expand our outreach through our alliance with the Food Bank of South Jersey.

The 2012 Stewardship Campaign focused on ***Reclaiming the Vision of Grace Church: honoring the past, embracing the present, and anticipating God's future.***

In early October the Vestry approved a Stewardship Statement that was included in a mailing to the congregation along with challenges we need to address in 2012. A presentation related to the campaign was made at a parish breakfast on October 23 and at both services on October 30. Pledge cards included in the mailing were to be returned November 6, All Saints Sunday, which was designated *Every Member Commitment Sunday*. Here is a comparison of our intended giving in recent years:

Year	Number of Intended Commitments	\$ of Intended Commitments	Average Intended Commitment	Total Change in \$ from Prior Year	Percent Change in Total \$ from Prior Year
2010	64	\$86,658	\$1,354	-	-
2011	71	90,953	1,281	\$4,295	+ 4.7%
2012	69	103,750	1,504	12,797	+ 14.0%

On behalf of the Wardens and Vestry, we are extremely grateful for the results of this fall's campaign! Thank you all. We are excited by the prospect that 2012 will again be a successful new year, one in which we continue to grow in love and service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Stewardship Challenges for 2012 are, with recently-revised cost estimates:

- Adding air conditioning in the front of the church. Estimated cost: \$15,000.
- Re-lighting Morse Hall to brighten the hall to accommodate its many uses. Estimated cost: \$2000.
- Air conditioning to Morse Hall. Estimated cost: \$15,000.

In addition to these challenges we know we will need to continue to address unpredictable but necessary repairs to our aging facility. For example, in 2011, replacement of the Tower ceiling and roof repairs and renovations to 9 E. Maple Avenue were necessary to make it rentable and required the use of capital reserve funds.

We also acknowledge that we are minimally staffed and realistically underfunded to care for our facilities. Although we have increased our giving to the diocese, we are still below our Fair Share Asking.

As we all struggle with the realities of economic factors beyond our control, we ask members to consider the inclusion of Grace Church in their discussions of wills and other instruments of planned giving such as trusts, annuities, and setting aside funds to endow our annual pledges.

We recognize that Stewardship is really everything we do after we say, "I believe." It includes our treasure, our time, and our talents. We are certainly blessed at Grace Church to have so many generous and talented individuals who are willing to share their gifts with the church they love so well. A priority for 2012 is to encourage more involvement in Stewardship on the part of those who remain members of Grace Church in name only, and to bring in new members who will become active in the life of Grace Church.

Suzanne McKenna and Dave Martin
Co-Chairpersons

St. Paul's Breakfast Program: Project Interaction

For some years Grace Church parishioners have been donating pancake mix to serve the homeless at St. Paul's, Camden's Project Interaction breakfasts. In 2011 we organized a team to cook the pancakes on the first Sunday of each month, and we also began collecting toiletries, coats, clothes, and candy. Our church is the only source of donations for the pancake mix for the first Sunday and we feed approximately one hundred people. Please continue to support this outreach program in whatever way possible. Thanks to the following: Alfano Family, Brouse Family, Costa Family, Daly Family, Franz Family, Hesser Family, McKay Family, McCrory family, McMahan Family, Mroz Family, Rhoads Family, Slater Family, Ali Family, Smyth Family, Sneddon Family, Volkert Family and anyone else that has helped in some way.

Denise Brouse
Coordinator

Sunday School Report 2011

Sunday school began on September 18, 2011. Our enrollment is 19 children. We are using "Living the Good News" by Morehouse Publishing.

As an outreach to Christian Education we again offered Vacation Bible School to the surrounding community. VBS provides our church an opportunity to reach children in the community and show God's amazing Love for them! We as a church community have the chance to plant the mustard seed in a child's heart through VBS. The theme this past year was PandaMania-Where God is wild about you! VBS was during the hottest week of the summer so unfortunately the last night was cancelled due to severe heat! However the children who attended had a wild time learning about God's Love for them!

Trish Bachich, Suzanne Delfino and Becky Martin led the children through the annual Christmas pageant on December 18th. It was adapted for Grace Church from one used at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Rochester, NY by Fr. Kirk. The children performed beautifully! The pageant was enjoyed by all.

This will be my last report for the Sunday school. Suzanne Delfino will be taking the reins beginning with VBS this summer. I look forward seeing the program grow and increase through her leadership. Please take a moment to reflect on what you might be able to do to help make our Sunday school grow. Every person in the congregation promises at a baptism to support the children in their life in Christ. It is my sincere belief that one of the most important lessons we teach our children is that God loves them unceasingly! Grace Church's Sunday school program can use the gifts of all persons in our parish. The future of the not only our church school but the Church itself depends on everyone! Please reach out to Suzanne to let her know what you can do to help!

Marian Daly

Sunday School Superintendent

Sunday school Faculty: Pre-K - 5th Grade- Trish Bachich and Suzanne Delfino,
6th – H.S. -Becky Martin

United Thank Offering and Mitten Tree Report

The United Thank Offering (U.T.O.) of the Episcopal Church was begun many years ago as ministry of the Episcopal Church Women. Since, then the offering has been expanded to include all offerings of thanksgiving from every member of the Church. Funds collected are presented each April in parishes and assembled in May at a service at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. Offerings are used both in the United States, the other fifteen nations comprising the Episcopal Church, and throughout the world. As an example, some years ago, a van was purchased for St. Andrew's Church in Camden with the aid of the U.T.O. This year Grace Church raised \$407 for the U.T.O. Mite boxes are on the tables in the rear of the church.

The Mitten Tree is an Advent activity in which mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats are collected for the needy. This year we were blessed by a huge outpouring of love that was distributed to the Anna Sample Shelter for Women and Children in Camden and the New Visions Center in Camden. In response to a request from St. Paul's, Camden, we this year also collected warm socks for the needy who attend Project Interaction Breakfasts on Sunday mornings.

This year marked the retirement of our U.T.O. and Mitten Tree Coordinator of many years, Dolores Clark. We thank her for her diligence in helping to bring the needs of the community and world to Grace Church.

If anyone would like to assume these responsibilities this coming year, I would be grateful.

Jeffrey M. Kirk

Youth Ministry Report

In the early weeks of 2011, Becky Martin and I were advisors to a youth group of only three members. Because of the small turnouts, we discontinued our meetings.

Happily, when Denise Brouse, Chris and Brittany Smyth, and others began serving Project Interaction Breakfasts for the hungry at St. Paul's, Camden this spring, several of our young people joined them. This September, Becky and I convened Confirmation Classes for fifteen young people on Sunday nights from 7-8 p.m. These classes were, I hope, both fun and informative.

In December, following Confirmation on December 4th, we had two meetings of a new youth group. One was for fun and planning for 2012, and the other was for Christmas caroling to four of Grace's older members. Everyone had a wonderful time, and those visited were enormously pleased.

We are hoping to keep the momentum going this January. I want to thank Becky Martin, the young people, and their parents. These young people are not only our future church, they are integral members of the parish right now.

Jeffrey M. Kirk

Food Pantry Report

Lord, when was it that: We saw you hungry and gave you food? We saw you thirsty and gave you something to drink? We saw you a stranger and welcomed you? We saw you sick and took care of you? We saw you in prison and visited you? Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' —**Matthew 25: 37-40 (NRSV)**

Hunger indeed has many causes ... and given the multitude of challenges throughout the past year, those causes appeared to grow with each passing day. Many people ask us ... *Who are the people that are served?* The answer, in turn, is quite simple ... our neighbors.

- Of the people that we distribute food to, 99% live in Pennsauken or Merchantville. The only exceptions being those whom we provide food to as a one-time service.
- As well, 100% of those individuals fall below the federal poverty line.
- Of them, almost 60% have children under the age of 18 living with them.
- And when asked ... roughly 50% reported a constant struggle on deciding between going hungry or paying utilities, rent, or medical care.

With all of the challenges that were faced this year, we are proud to report that The Food Pantry was again able to deliver on the promises that we made to our community. With constant aid of our fellow parishioners, diligent volunteers, various fund raising efforts, and our partners at the Food Bank of South Jersey – the pantry was able to provide food for more than 2,750 individuals this year (a more than 35% increase over 2010). In addition, we continued the long-standing tradition of providing a true Thanksgiving dinner to over 75 families this year.

While we can report success – the work of this ministry is always progressing. In the year to come, one of our goals is not only to await the hungry at our doorsteps – but also build upon and expand access to the vital service we provide.

On behalf of all whom we endeavor to help, we most sincerely thank each and every person in this parish who aided us with their generous donations, precious time, and heartfelt prayers. We are invigorated for the year ahead ... and know that faith, continued hard work, and a steadfast resolve will again see us through for the year to come.

Yours in Christ, Norma Bush & Christopher Gaffney

December, 2011

FUNDRAISER REPORT

Thank you for all the support and donations to each of these necessary and “fun” Functions.

Our second NIGHT at the ADELPHIA.....

was held on Monday night, August 22, 2011 from 7pm to 9pm. This included substantial hors d’oeuvres and open bar. A total of 59 parishioners and their friends had a great time getting to know one another while remembering the blessings we are given each day by our church, our parish, and our family.

The proceeds of \$1,362.00 went to the repair of the Tower Roof. A wonderful fundraiser to look forward to each year.

Profit \$1,362.00

PARISH HOUSE WINDOW FUND:

On January 30, 2011, we began our Fundraiser for the Parish Window replacement of the old, steel casement windows in Morse Hall and the Thrift Shop below. These old windows were cracked, rusted, and leaked significant heat, and in hot weather, difficult to open. Therefore, in an effort to reduce expenses and conserve energy, we offered window or sash memorials in the amount of \$500.00 each window, and \$250.00 for each sash to replace the old windows. Of course, donations of any amount were kindly accepted.

The twenty-nine (29) windows were replaced by February, 2011, at a total cost of \$15,000.00. Our goal of this amount was quickly reached by dedicated parishioners and their families on June 11, 2011. *

Many thanks to all who participated in this essential improvement of a very special part of our church building.

Donations for Windows.....\$15,000.00

* A copy of window and sash locations for memorials is on the following page.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Mroz

RAFFLE DONATIONS AND WINNERS, FALL FAIR 2011
GRACE CHURCH HAWAIIAN FALL FESTIVAL

BASKET NO. **WINNER & PHONE #**

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Clipjoint Gift Card with products_____ | Rose Reed |
| 2. Elephant/Toy story dolls_____ | Sindy Dell |
| 3. Pewter Handbag/Aunt Charlotte's candy_ | Gladys Reich |
| 4. Towel/candy/soap/gel_____ | Barb McCaully |
| 5. Nutcracker/music box/cards_____ | Brouse |
| 6. Puzzle Tower_____ | Ronnie Smyth |
| 7. Coffee Maker/Crock pot_____ | Ruth Ann |
| 8. Four place settings dinnerware_____ | Florence Bostdorf |
| 9. Blue Monkey GC/cheese dish/towels/dish__ | Becky Martin |
| 10. Snacks Galore_____ | Shirley H. |
| 11. Sweet Pea Bath products_____ | Elizabeth Brouse |
| 12. Robe and loofa brushes_____ | Elizabeth Brouse |
| 13. "6 Pack"Beer Basket _____ | Becky Martin |
| 14. Mikosa glassware/gloves/Teddy bear_____ | Deb Collins |
| 15. Large stuffed ST. Barnard dog_____ | Elizabeth Brouse |
| 16. Ceramic tree/Maritsa's GC/table runner__ | Kathy Witzig |
| 17. Victorian Wreath_____ | Sindy Dell |
| 18. Black Handbag/scarf_____ | Bob Faussett |
| 19. Basket-Chick-fil-a_____ | Elizabeth Brouse |
| 20. Lg. white bear & white ceramic tree_____ | Grace Cornforth |
| 21. Pink Santa/decorations_____ | Brouse |
| 22. Meadowbrook Deli GC/Santa workshop____ | B. Delaney |
| 23. Wine basket & snacks_____ | Bob Faussett |
| 24. Book Basket_____ | Linda |
| 25. Aunt Charlotte's GC & candy_____ | Shirley H. |
| 26. Black & pink purse/scarf/Chanel #5_____ | Florence Bostdorf |
| 27. Penn Queen Diner GC \$20.00_____ | E. Montana |
| 28. Snowman & scent basket_____ | Brouse |
| 29. Wirth Florists \$25.00 GC_____ | Brouse |
| 30. Scarf set/bear/perfume_____ | Sue Link |
| 31. Shoprite GC \$25.00_____ | Trish Bachich |
| 32. Christmas trivet/dish/table cover_____ | Bob Faussett |
| 33. Crock pot/mugs/frame/_____ | Gladys Reich |
| 34. McFarland's GC \$25.00_____ | Trish Bachich |
| 35. White wreath_____ | Kelly Sneddon |
| 36. No basket assigned | |
| 37. Panera Bread GC \$25.00_____ | Shirley H. |
| 38. Maganni GC \$50.00_____ | Grace Cornforth |
| 39. Christmas Basket_____ | Sue Link |
| 40. | |

LARGE RAFFLES

- A. Flyers Tickets....Value \$310.00____Bob Faussett_____
- B. Golf Green fees for foursome
Pennsauken Country Club._____ Lou Cavaliere
- C. Santa (Danbury Mint Collectible)_____Brouse

- D. \$100.00 Wegman's Gift Card _____ Jerry Porch
E. Pinsetter Bowling 2 hr. Party _____ Kathy Witzig
For up to 10 guests _____

LOTTERY TREE _____ Phyllis Mroz

SILENT AUCTION _____ No Bidders

50-50's _____

ANNUAL FALL FAIR: Held 11-12-11, brought families, friends and many persons to our hall for fun and food. As many have asked, the list of tables follow, with the amount sold by each. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION, HELP AND TIME each and every year!

TABLE AMOUNTS FROM FALL FAIR 11-12-11
HAWAIIAN FALL FESTIVAL

1. Corbi's Pizza Fundraiser.....	\$604.00	
2. Patrons.....	436.00	
3. Raffle #1 (Sam & Esther).....	548.00	
4. Raffle #2 (Suzanne).....	245.00	
5. Raffle #3 (Jean Dolly).....	205.00	
6. Popcorn & Pretzels.....	52.25	
7. Jewelry.....	828.30	
8. Sunday School.....	91.75	
9. Toy Shop.....	90.00	
10. 50/50.....	227.00	
11. Bakery.....	376.40	
12. Almost New.....	213.25	
13. Deli.....	426.25	
14. Books.....	119.00	
15. Grace's Christmas Tables.....	485.00	
16. Vintage Crochet & Handcrafts.....	213.25	
17. Snack Bar.....	23.50	
Total End of Day		\$5,183.95
Added after DAY OF		\$263.05

Total Fall Fair as of 11/25/11.....\$5,447.00

Wonderful!!! Thank you, each and every one.

We thank the patrons who participated to support the Fair.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Delaney Family | Marilyn & Don Hutchinson |
| Dick & Mary Smith | Eckert Family |
| Geneva Dougherty | Flynn Family |
| Mroz Family | Christine & Jim Rivel |
| Malunis Family | John Forrest |
| Bette Butler | Mary Orlando |
| Delfino Family | Gladys & Bill Reich |
| Cavaliere Family | Daly Family |

-2-

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Betty Nardello | Ivan Herr |
| Muskett Family | Bob Faussett |
| Grace Cornforth | McKenna Family |

Please patronize the businesses that have so generously donated to our HAWAIIAN FALL FESTIVAL.....

WIRTH FLORISTS
AUNT CHARLOTTE'S CANDY
MC FARLAND'S MARKET
BLUE MONKEY
PENN QUEEN DINER
SHOP RITE
WEGMAN'S
CLIP JOINT
SIX PACK BEER-PHILA.

MARITSA'S
PENNSAUKEN C.C.
MERCHANTVILLE DINER
HARRIS BOUQUET
WA WA (HADDONFIELD RD.)
PINSETTER'S BOWLING
CHICK-FIL-A
MEADOWBROOK DELI

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Mroz, Fall Chairman