

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



This Annual Report is dedicated to
the members of our congregation who joined
the Church Triumphant during 2018:

Pastor Timothy Robinson

Richard Denton

**SERVING CHRIST, CAMPUS, AND COMMUNITY
SINCE 1923**

Congregational Leadership Directory

Staff

Ministers	All the People of Grace
Interim Pastor	The Rev. Kenneth Gillikin (to 08/19/2018)
Interim Pastor	The Rev. Scottie Burkhalter (08/26 - 12/02/2018)
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Rebecca Lord-Phillips (to 04/08/2018)
Senior Pastor	The Rev. Gregg Hoffman (12/05/2018)
Pastor	The Rev. Rachel Hoffman (12/05/2018)
Director of Music Ministries	Larry Peterson (to 02/04/2018) Irene Pointon, Interim (02/11/2018 - 04/29/2018) Dr. Jeremy Mims (05/06/2018)
Parish Administrator	Linda Rhead
Campus Ministers	April Hershey (to 04/08/2018) The Rev. Rebecca Lord-Phillips (to 04/08/2018) Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz (09/09/2018)
Nursery Attendants	Teresa Ferguson Amy Gamerl (to 05/27/2018) Bobbi Bustetter (06/2018 to 09/2018)

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President	Ronald Cartner
Vice President	John Grogan
Secretary	Chris Cassidy
Treasurer	Jean Winsch
Financial Secretary	Bob Stonebraker

Church Council

Term expires December 31 of:

2019

Brian Beer
Sara Johnson
Nora Sliney
Larry Winsch

2020

Chris Cassidy
Craig Ketner
John Grogan
Karen Warmoth

2021

Bob Corbett
Adele Evans
Floyd Ritchie
Walker Stockley

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FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Baptized Members 450

Average Weekly Attendance 200

Baptism: 4

Laurel Grace Grossoehme 03/11/2018

Sofia Izabelle Lindenbeck 04/22/2018

Liam Patrick Bigger 06/10/2018

Katherine Ariella Bustetter 08/05/2018

Confirmation: 3 **10/28/2018**

Jacob Drennan Bell

Jaden Riley Brown

John Dawson Harbert

Wedding: 0

Funerals: 2

Pastor Tim Robinson 09/08/2018

Richard Denton 12/27/2018

First Communion: 0

Transfer In - Letter: 13

Bustetter, Bobbi, Chris, Kendall, Katherine

Manz, Carolyn and Peter

Runyon, Belenda and Kenneth

Tongen, Rebecca

Wayne, Brenda and John

Hartman, Dawn and Ronald

Transfer In - Affirmation of Faith: 10

Carter, Montez

Carter, Robert, Job, Charles, Kerr

Lindenbeck, Michael, Imke, Sofia

Vasseur, Henri and Luci

Transfer In - Reinstated: 4

Bigger, Donahue, Emily, Austin, Liam

Transfer Out: 22

Anderson, Hal -

Christ Lutheran, Charlotte, NC

Seigler, Chad, Tiffany, Calvin -

Christ Lutheran, Charlotte, NC

Kyzer, Annette -

St. Paul's Episcopal, Fort Mill, SC

Jacob, Bill -

Per member request, withdrawn,
no forwarding address

Peterson, Larry and April -

Immanuel Lutheran, Watertown, WI

Maciag, Clark and Laura -

Stonebridge Church Community, Charlotte, NC

Canniff-Kuhn, Lindsay Senn -

Our Father Lutheran, Greensboro, NC

DeMartino, Tom, Marie, Erin, Charlotte -

Per member request, withdrawn

Karlson, William -

Per member request, withdrawn

Heiser, Paul, Jessica, Tucker, Edith, Josephine -

Per member request, withdrawn

Wood, Jeremy -

Mauldin UMC, Mauldin, SC

Senior Pastor 2018 Annual Report

Grace Family,

Grace to you and peace from our loving Triune God.

As the Senior Pastor, I contribute to each year's report, providing a broad look back at a year of ministry shared together. This year the task is a bit strange, since Pr. Rachel and I have only just arrived. I cannot adequately summarize the ministry I was not here to share, though I surely rejoice in all Grace has done! Instead, I can let you know a bit about what you can expect from me in the year to come.

First, know that I am here to preach, teach, and administer the sacraments. That's what our *Confessions* say the call to ministry is all about, and I am passionate about these things, feeling empowered by the Holy Spirit to do them effectively. Beyond these, however, the rest of my call is partnership with the congregation. I have not arrived with a comprehensive plan to change the way ministry works at Grace. Even if I had such a plan, I would not use it, because a prescriptive plan does not respect the gifts that the Holy Spirit has already given the people of Grace Lutheran Church. Instead, I will be listening and discerning with you, praying to determine exactly what God is empowering us to do together.

Part of listening and discerning involves taking the time to acknowledge and celebrate where we have been. No one would suggest that the past year or two has been easy for this congregation. Staff turnover always leaves a community feeling unsteady and uncertain. And, of course, we grieve when friends and partners in ministry pursue callings elsewhere. Though we are sad to see them go, we remember that God does not abandon any of God's children – those who have left have wonderful opportunities. For the people of Grace, the opportunities are every bit as exciting.

Through the pages of this report, one thing is clear: the people of Grace have an abundance of gifts and put them to use. Sharing in the ministry of the baptized, this congregation has accomplished a great deal for the sake of Jesus Christ. The worship has been meaningful, the learning opportunities have been numerous, and the impact of the outreach has been vast. Grace has continued in faith together through the transitions it has encountered, and from what Pr. Rachel and I can see, the congregation has emerged even stronger. Perhaps the transitions of staff have even allowed us to more clearly identify the aspects of ministry which God is calling us to continue, and those new endeavors which remain unexplored to date.

I pray you will use this year's Annual Report as more than a collection of facts – use this summary as a tool in our collective discernment process. Daily we are called to discern what the Holy Spirit is guiding us to pursue. What follows in these pages is the product of at least one year's worth of discernment. How will the results inform and inspire us as we move into a new year? Knowing that most any component of the congregation welcomes participation, which of the ministry opportunities that follow might God be calling *you* to explore? Whatever we discern, we engage that work with boldness, knowing that, as Luther's prayer goes, God's hand is leading us, lovingly supporting us, in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

In the Peace of Jesus Christ,

Pr. Gregg Hoffman

Pastor 2018 Annual Report

Dear Grace Family,

Though our time together in 2018 was officially only 26 days, starting on December 5th, as I reflect on my journey with you in that calendar year, it is much longer than the 'official' count. And I feel that the longer part of the journey is important to record, as it is part of the story of how God has brought us together for ministry.

My journey with Grace began in July 2018, when Pr. Gregg and I received Grace's Ministry Site Profile paperwork. We were not yet sure if the time was right to begin looking for a new call, though we knew the time was coming, as we were coterminous with our retiring Senior Pastor at Nativity in Arden. Even though we were uncertain, as we read the MSP, we found that the Holy Spirit was speaking to us. Grace had so many of the gifts we were hoping for in a congregation – members involved in ministry, a clear passion for work in the community, a welcoming and open spirit, and more – and we could see that many of our gifts would connect with the needs Grace expressed. Excited about the possibilities God may be inviting us into, we arranged to meet the Call Committee.

During our first meeting with Grace's Call Committee, I felt an openness and a connection. The Call Committee was frank about what challenges Grace was facing, as well as the hopes this congregation has for the future. I was struck by this honesty, which said to me that Grace was ready to move forward with God's plan, trusting in whatever it may be. I was also excited that the Committee was interested in a clergy couple. Pr. Gregg and I knew that we worked well as a team, and that our gifts both complemented each other and may meet the needs of Grace – but it was important for the Call Committee & the congregation of Grace to believe this as well! This openness to both of us as a team spoke to me again that the Spirit was moving.

Meeting with the Council and then the congregation solidified for me that God was calling us to partnership in ministry with Grace. Once again, I experienced openness about joys and concerns, hopes and challenges, that showed me Grace's desire to be faithful to God's call. I was overjoyed to be offered a call to be one of Grace's pastors, and excited to accept a partnership in ministry here.

Though we shared just 26 official days together in 2018, those days were an affirmation of the entire call process. As I've gotten to know Grace, I have been continually impressed with the level of commitment and involvement from members. It is a testament to Grace's passion and faith that so many ministries have continued throughout the interim period. I have felt so welcomed here, as you all have gone out of your way to greet us and get to know us. If these 26 days are any indication, I am certain that the coming year is going to be one of growing in faith and relationship with one another, and I look forward to the wonderful ministry God is calling us all to do together.

Peace in Christ,

Pr. Rachel

Director of Music 2018 Annual Report

I have been blessed to be a part of the life of Grace Lutheran Church for the past few months. I look forward to many more worship experiences together as we venture forward. I anticipate wonderful things in our congregation and in the music ministry.

This fall, we were able to hire Kaitlyn Curlee as our college intern. She sang each week in the Chancel Choir and assisted with the children's choir. Her primary responsibilities included the planning and facilitation of the children's Christmas musical. We averaged about 8 children on any given week. She will be continuing to lead in this capacity in the new year.

Grace Ringers has had a good fall, having participated in worship on two occasions as well as playing in the annual Christmas festival. The group has space for a couple of ringers but is moving in a nice direction of stability and musical growth.

Both of the choirs at Grace are faithful to sing during most services. I have especially enjoyed the opportunities of combining choirs on several occasions for fifth Sunday services. In addition, the singers worked very hard at learning some wonderful Christmas anthems for the annual festival. It was thrilling to share the evening with several Winthrop singers and local string players. I look forward to continuing this tradition and to facilitating other large musical events.

Now that I have become comfortable at Grace, I am excited about exploring our worship music and how we can continue to grow musically and spiritually. I am always open to new ideas and thoughts about the direction of our music programs.

Dr. Jeremy Mims

WELCM 2018 Annual Report

Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz was hired as Campus Minister in August 2018, at the start of the new school year. We are calling our Tuesday night WELCM meetings, "Gatherings," and students have begun bringing friends, increasing our average attendance to 12-15. We have five first-year students, three to four juniors, and are about to graduate two seniors and two of our graduate students. A few recent alums also come to WELCM, as well as our favorite dog, Bella.

Dr. Cruz has redesigned the WELCM logo and worked with Linda Rhead to create Sunday nametags for our students with this logo.

WELCM has been involved in several events this past year, including tabling events on campus (Convocation and Fall Involvement Fair), Rolling in Rock Hill, and the Lutheran Campus Ministry Region 9 Retreat, where five of our students helped build a Habitat house in Charlotte.

WELCM sent two students, Elizabeth and Kat Coté, to the National Lutheran Student Gathering in Memphis over the Christmas break. We brought a YAGM guest speaker to WELCM this fall, and several of our students are praying about applying.

Taylor Gibby, our Peer Minister (a new position, funded by the Episcopal Diocese) has led fellowship activities including apple picking, pumpkin carving, and Christmas decorating. This semester, she will be stepping up to build more relationships on campus with students and administrators and coordinating more directly with our churches as well.

Dr. Cruz is active in the Winthrop Cooperative Campus Ministries, and recently hosted a meeting of campus ministers at the WELCM House. She spends several hours a week on campus, meeting with students, faculty, and staff. She also makes herself available on Sundays to meet with students whose schedules do not allow them to attend Tuesday night Gatherings.

Taylor and Dr. Cruz are also building relationships with Grace and Our Savior. Dr. Cruz participated in the Christmas concert, and sang an offertory this past fall. We are also building relationships with other regional campus ministers and the synod office, especially Rev. Eric Wolf.

Pastors Gregg and Rachel, as well as Rev. Janey Wilson of Our Savior have joined the WELCM board. Pastor Rachel has stepped into leadership as our Board Chair and is helping to create a clearer structure as we move forward. We are enormously grateful to have this clergy leadership.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz

Council President 2018 Annual Report

2018 Council Members

Ronald Cartner – President; John Grogan – Vice President; Chris Cassidy – Secretary; Sara Johnson; Heather Litzinger; Art Harris; Larry Wunsch; Craig Ketner; Karen Warmoth; Nora Sliney; Walker Stockley; Nick Grossoehme.

Our Grace 2018 Council faced many changes and it was an honor to serve with this group of dedicated members, who took the time to serve on Council. It was difficult year with so many staff changes but with your dedication we prevailed. And thanks to everyone who serves on our committees. Without your service Grace would not have been able to continue to serve our community.

2018 presented many challenges; we began the year starting out getting ready to look for our new pastor then we lost our music director, followed that with losing Pastor Rebecca and then our Interim, Pastor Ken. But even with all the changes Grace remained strong and on course. Yes, attendance and giving was down but we were able to continue to serve our community. Now we have welcomed our new music director Dr. Jeremy Mims and Craig with along Senior Pastor Gregg and Pastor Rachel. I hope everyone is as excited as I am for our future. Under the leadership of Pastor Gregg and Pastor Rachel; 2019 looks like it will be not only a great year but a wonderful future for Grace.

I also would like to encourage all members to look at joining a committee in 2019 or serving on Council in the future. Our committees are not only the backbone of Grace, but they are one of the best ways to meet other members. So please take some time to look at all the different ways you can serve.

And thanks to all Grace members for allowing me to serve as your president for the past two years. I have said many times, “Never say never,” because you never know what the future holds. And while I actually liked serving on Council, I also said “I would never serve as president”. But I must say it was truly an honor and I will always cherish being your president.

God’s peace to all,

Ronald Cartner

SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMISSION

Health Cabinet

Rick Richter, MD

2018 was another year of transition for the Health Cabinet. Gwen McBride began the year with several programs in place for the congregation. After setting up her office, she held weekly office hours for congregants to discuss health issues. She set up an informational session with blood pressure and medicine assessments during to time between services. She did regular hospital rounds and also visited members at home from time to time. She was actively involved with several of the groups and outreach programs such as Seniors at Grace and Newcomers Bible Study. She also had information materials including a bulletin board that she maintained in the fellowship hall.

Due to personal and family reasons, Gwen resigned her position in May. The Health Cabinet decided to wait to pursue a replacement until the church had a permanent pastor. However, the Health Cabinet remained active in our mission to enable health and well-being within the congregation. We continue to submit articles to Grace Notes regarding health issues. We have assisted the church with the purchase of a new Automated External Defibrillator Device (AED) and will perform the necessary periodic checks for the AED. We anticipate hosting a CPR course for the congregation which we have done in the past (Frances Stockley RN, a member, is a certified CPR instructor).

As we transition to the new year, the Health Cabinet is committed to continuing health education for our church and to play a role in the health and well-being of our members.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMISSION

Learning Committee

Tammie Harbert

Committee Members: Tammie Harbert - Chair, Heather Litzinger - Council Representative, Katie Romero, Martha Zook, Luci Vasseur.

The Learning Committee worked on the following ministries at Grace Lutheran: Easter Egg Hunt, Lutheroad, Vacation Bible School, Rally Sunday and Sunday School.

This year the Learning Committee brought back the Easter Egg Hunt! It turned out to be a wonderful success with games and crafts. After the hunt families gathered for a hot dog lunch. We had a wonderful turnout for both the Grace families as well as many participants from the community.

"Shipwrecked" was the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School, and it was an amazing success! We had over 40 participants from both Grace and the community. Many Grace members came together to make this wonderful experience happen. Our Service Project raised enough money to provide clean drinking water for over 20 African children in need.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21), was our Rally Sunday School kickoff. Our Grace kids enjoyed crafts, games, snacks and meeting not only their other class members but also their Sunday School teachers. It was a great turnout and a wonderful way to start the new Sunday School year.

Our Sunday School teachers are as follow: Martha Zook - 2 and 3-year olds; Debbie Reynolds - 4 and 5 year olds; Tammie Harbert - 1st and 2nd grade; Rachel Wasserman - 3rd through 5th grade. Most are using the Spark curriculum and it is well received. All teachers bring their own new and inviting messages into the classrooms and the children thrive.

We have great things on the horizon for 2019 and look forward to serving the Grace up and coming in their faith in Christ.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMISSION

Milestone Ministry

Martha Zook

The Milestone Ministry Committee coordinates activities which identify milestones in the faith journeys of our children and young adults, bless the event during worship, give a gift to commemorate the milestone, and share the event with the congregation as a whole. Our church celebrates these eleven milestones: birth, Baptism, entering Sunday School, starting a new school year, first Communion, receiving a new Bible, attending overnight camp, understanding money management, completing confirmation, earning a driver's license, and graduating from high school.

In 2018, our committee members were Wendy Cole, Patti Saunders, Jill Grossoehme, Rachel Wasserman, Kyra Cordle, Martha Zook and Heather Litzinger. ShirLee Alfors coordinates the quillow project. Here is an overview of our activities in 2018.

- In May, on Youth Sunday, students who had recently received their driver's license were given a keychain and recognized at the beginning of worship.
- At the later worship service, we celebrated the high school graduation of Cameron Tuck and Cooper Waataja. The graduates' families made quillows (quilts that fold into a pillow) and presented them also during Youth Sunday.
- In August, we gave keychains to the students, teachers, and administrators returning for a new school year during the Backpack Blessing.
- On Rally Sunday, we welcomed several children to Sunday School and presented them with a storybook Bible.
- In conjunction with the Stewardship Committee, children from the second grade up attended a class in understanding money management. Thrivent provides piggy banks and workbooks for this Milestone.
- In October, students received a new Bible and participated with their parents in an instructional class on understanding the features of this version.
- In October the Milestone Committee hosted the reception for the confirmation of Jacob Drennan Bell, Jaden Riley Brown and John Dawson Harbert. The confirmands received personalized red ELW worship hymnals to commemorate the occasion.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMISSION

Parish Life Committee

Ginny Miller

Events Organized by Parish Life Committee:

January 29 – Souper Bowl – Grace members brought soup, bread, and dessert for a meal that was served after the second service on Super Bowl Sunday.

February 21 – First Lenten Soup Dinner. Parish Life Committee made soup, provided crackers, and tea. We served 60 to 70 people.

April 1 – Easter Breakfast – served from 9:00 – 11:15 am. Members were asked to bring breakfast casseroles and committee supplied hash browns, orange juice, apple juice, coffee, and fresh fruit.

October 14 – Annual Picnic at Elks Park. Walker and Frances Stockley catered the picnic consisting of brisket, wings, hot dogs, baked beans, chips, and drinks. Parish Life Committee made the arrangements, setup, decorated, and cleanup.

November 18 - Annual Meeting/Luncheon - served turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, etc. (mostly catered by Jackson's in Clover) to approximately 190 people.

April 29, July 29, September 30 – One Service luncheon to follow 10:00 am service. Congregation to bring a dish to share for fellowship and get to know members from the different services. September 30 luncheon was hosted by Stewardship committee with setup and decorating by Parish Life Committee.

Additional Information: Parish Life is on call to provide different, unscheduled events, such as receptions, special events, etc. throughout the year.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMISSION

Worship and Music Committee

Nora Sliney

Committee Members:

Nora Sliney Chair, Linda Horst, Betty Sue Seigler, Wally Seigler, Ruth Wasserman, Dee Westbrook, Karen Warmoth Council Representative, Libby Wallace, Frances Stockley, Debbie Gignac, Dr Jeremy Mims Director of Music, Pastors Ken Gillikin and Scottie Burkhalter as Staff Liaison.

Summary of Routine Activities

- Manage worship services, music materials for all choirs, instrument service.
- Oversee operation of greeters, sacristan, ushers, home communion, Altar Guild, worship assistant scheduling and training, and wedding director.
- Prepare sanctuary and decorate for Easter, Advent and Christmas services.

Summary of New Activities

- Larry Peterson resigned as Director of Music in February and Irene Pointon became the interim music director from February until 4/1/18. Between February and 5/13/18 several supply organists were employed (Kim Kimbro, LaVerne Vinegar and Monty Bennett).
- A search committee for the position of Director of Music was formed. Job descriptions were created and approved by the committee and Council and interviews were performed.
- Dr. Jeremy Mims was hired as the Director of Music and began his duties on May 14, with his first Sunday on May 20, 2018.
- March 7, we hosted 50 students from the Lenoir Rhyne University Choir. Several families of Grace housed the students overnight.
- April 8, a small chamber choir from Newberry College sang and led both worship services. Grace families also housed these students.
- Children's choir moved to Sunday afternoon rehearsals.
- Held Joint Service every 5th Sunday at 10:00 am followed by a covered dish luncheon.
- Revised 2018 Service Schedule to discontinue processional for the 8:30 am service with the exception of Festival Sundays.
- Celebrated Grace's 95th Anniversary by bringing back former pastors to lead worship services: Pastors John Boyd, Glenn Boland and Ray Mohrmann.
- Sponsored a successful "Love One Another" campaign with donations and pledges from Grace members of over \$56,000.
- Processional Cross was repaired by CM Almy.
- December 8, 2018, the Festival Choir performed "His Light in Us".
- December 9, 2018 Children's Christmas play between services.
- In addition to poinsettias during Christmas, members gave memorials to the Disaster Relief Fund of \$1,234.45 which were matched by Thrivent.

OPERATIONS COMMISSION

Extended Ministry Endowment Fund Committee

Doug Gay

Members: Doug Gay (Chair), Justin Anderson, Terri Schavey, Annie-Laurie Wheat, Carla Harrison, Bill Karlson (partial year).

2019 Members: Doug Gay (Chair), Justin Anderson, Carla Harrison, Kendall Anderson, Karen Harris, Greg Austin.

The Endowment Committee awarded three {3} grants in 2018 to qualified organizations and causes. The Committee has the authority to award grants equal to the earned income from its investments during the previous calendar year, up to a maximum of 5% of the previous year's ending balance. In 2018, the Committee had \$2,783.72 available for distribution. The income came entirely from one source – the earnings from its investment with the ELCA Endowment Fund. There will be a total of \$3,261.63 available for grants in 2019.

The Committee awarded \$1,000 to Grace's Public Relations Committee toward its development of an enhanced website to promote the new pastoral leadership and provide information to the public at large. It also awarded \$500 to the Junior Women's Club in support of its Christmas for the underprivileged program and \$500 to Epsilon Sigma Alpha International in support of its efforts with Alzheimer's Memory Care patients and in providing gifts to children with serious illnesses. All awards are made as the result of receiving a grant request from the entity seeking funding. Any person, including congregation members, can make such a request, but the funding must be for a charitable cause.

The Committee initiated steps to bring an Endowment Awareness and Gift-promotion program to Grace with major assistance from resources available through the South Carolina Synod and ELCA. It is hoped that the program can begin around early Spring of 2019.

As of the end of 2018, the Endowment Fund had a balance of \$89,723.21. This is the total derived from cash on hand and amounts invested in the ELCA Endowment fund. There was a total of \$1,080 in gifts received from donors in 2018.

Finance Committee

Terri Schavey

The Committee continued its oversight of Grace receipts, expenditures and financial policies. Our specific accomplishments include arranging for the annual audit of our financial records, making revisions to the Memorial and Honor Gift Policy, setting up online giving and preparing the budget requests for 2019. Committee members serving in 2018 were Dan Bartel, Bob Corbett, Karen Harris, Floyd Ritchie, Wally Seigler, Bill Sliney, Walker Stockley (Council Representative), Bob Stonebraker, Ruth Wasserman, and Jean Winsch.

OPERATIONS COMMISSION

Financial Secretary Report

Bob Stonebraker

As Financial Secretary I oversee the collection and deposit of our weekly offerings, enter the data into our computer, record pledges, provide monthly reports and income projections to the Finance Committee, and provide quarterly statements to our members. Contributions received for various funds during 2018 were:

Giving for budgeted items:		Other designated giving:	
Current Fund	\$512,306	Chemo Quilters	\$ 1,021
Loose Cash	4,229	Cremains Garden	500
Initial Offering	107	Endowment	3,418
Building Use	1,712	Flowers	1,806
WELCM Salary reimbursement	6,067	Good Samaritan	3,227
Other	1,042	Memorial Fund	345
		Music Fund	580
<i>Total giving for budget:</i>	<i>\$525,463</i>	National Youth Gathering	13,513
		Place of Grace	6,315
<i>Advancing Christ's Ministry</i>	<i>\$22,302</i>	Property Contingency	825
		Racial Reconciliation	2,333
		Staff Gifts	1,045
		Sunday School	126
		WELCM	3,860
		Other	6,402
		<i>Total giving:</i>	<i>\$593,081</i>

Contributions for Budget by Giving Unit

We had 183 giving units that contributed toward budgeted expenses at some point during the year. The table below lists how contributions to budgeted items break down by giving unit.

Amount Given	# Giving Units	Amount	Cumulative Amount
Over \$13,000	6	\$93,245	\$93,245
\$10,000-\$12,999	8	\$90,302	\$183,547
\$7,000 - \$9,999	10	\$78,088	\$261,635
\$5,000 – 6,999	10	\$58,091	\$319,726
\$3,000 – 4,999	18	\$70,354	\$390,080
\$2,000 – 2,999	17	\$40,127	\$430,207
\$1,000 – 1,999	37	\$51,812	\$482,019
\$500 - 999	22	\$14,962	\$496,981
Under \$500	55	\$8,300	\$505,281
Non-Envelope Contributions		\$20,182	\$525,463
Totals	183	\$525,463	

OPERATIONS COMMISSION

Financial Secretary Report (continued)

Analysis

The bad news is that after six consecutive years of increases, giving for budget fell in 2018. From 2011 to 2017 it rose from \$501,000 to \$584,580. In 2018 it dropped by close to \$60,000. \$30,000 of that can be traced to members that loaded their 2018 gifts into 2017 for tax purposes, but the other \$30,000 is a concern.

The good news is that Grace remains a very engaged and generous congregation, especially when compared to other ELCA congregations. Giving and attendance at Grace are well above average for the South Carolina Synod and for the ELCA as a whole.

Online Giving

We instituted online giving in September 2018. Members now can give single gifts or set up ongoing gifts through Realm or a link on our webpage. We accept gifts through bank transfers or credit cards and several of our members now are doing this.

Although we are happy to provide members with these options, please note that it does involve a small cost to Grace. We must pay our processing agent about 3% for each credit card gift and 1% of each bank transfer (or ACH). Most members also have the ability to use their bank's online options to send regular checks to Grace (either monthly or weekly). These checks do not cost Grace any processing fees.

Tabulators

Each week a team of volunteer tabulators collects, counts, and deposits our offerings in the bank. The tabulators open each envelope, count the money, and record the giving information which subsequently is entered into Grace's computerized financial database. Thanks go to Jan Gilbertson, Carla Harrison, Pat Kirk, Jennifer Landsly, Jack and Bea Lockwood, Larry Wunsch, Martha Hester and Annie-Laurie Wheat.

OPERATIONS COMMISSION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH APPROVED BUDGET 2019

1-8-00-7500 MISC DESIGNATED FLOW THROUGH

Approved 2019

BENEVOLENCE			
Churchwide			
1-5-10-2102	ELCA Mission and Ministry		\$26,084
1-5-10-2104	Conference and Retreat Centers		\$1,768
1-5-10-2105	Lutheran Homes of SC		\$1,768
1-5-10-2106	Lutheridge/Lutherock		\$1,768
1-5-10-2107	Campus Ministry		\$2,756
1-5-10-2108	Newberry College		\$1,768
1-5-10-2109	Southern Seminary		\$1,768
1-5-10-2110	Lutheran Family Services		\$1,768
1-5-10-2111	Synod Programs		\$4,076
1-5-10-2112	Synod Operating Expenses		\$13,727
	Sub-Total Churchwide		\$57,250
Local			
1-5-10-3119	Outreach Grants Requests		\$7,000
	Sub-Total Local		\$7,000
	Sub-Total BENEVOLENCE		\$64,250
MINISTRY			
Worship			
1-5-20-4101	Worship Materials		\$1,600
1-5-20-4102	Music Materials		\$3,000
1-5-20-4103	Children's Music		\$300
1-5-20-4104	Handbell Music		\$600
1-5-20-4105	Supply Organists		\$1,000
1-5-20-4106	Guest Musicians		\$2,900
1-5-20-4107	Instrument Service		\$1,800
1-5-20-4108	Copyright Licenses		\$700
1-5-20-4111	Flowers (In/Out)		\$0
1-5-20-4114	Equipment		\$350
1-5-20-4115	Music Assistant Stipend		\$2,000
	Sub-Total Worship		\$14,250

Learning			
1-5-20-4201	Sunday School		\$2,000
1-5-20-4202	VBS		\$1,500
1-5-20-4203	Special Events		\$150
1-5-20-4204	Confirmation		\$750
1-5-20-4207	Milestone Ministry		\$1,000
1-5-20-4209	Lutheroad		\$2,500
	Sub-Total Learning		\$7,900
Outreach			
1-5-10-3101	Family Promise - partners		\$2,500
1-5-10-3115	Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry		\$150
1-5-20-4302	Bereavement		\$500
1-5-20-4304	Family Promise - ministry		\$920
1-5-20-4305	Hunger Outreach Program		\$6,500
1-5-20-4306	Habitat for Humanity		\$5,000
1-5-20-4307	Cub Scouts		\$250
1-5-20-4308	Boy Scouts		\$250
	Sub-Total Outreach		\$16,070
Parish Life			
1-5-20-4401	Parish Events		\$1,400
1-5-20-4418	Sports Teams		\$300
	Sub-Total Parish Life		\$1,700
New Members			
1-5-20-4413	New Members		\$300
	Sub-Total New Members		\$300
Youth and Family			
1-5-20-4405	Youth Programs		\$3,000
1-5-20-4406	Youth Retreats/Conferences		\$3,500
1-5-20-4407	Mission Trip/ Youth Gathering		\$2,000
1-5-20-4409	GIFT		\$600
1-5-20-4410	Transportation Expenses		\$1,500
1-5-20-4420	NovusWay Scholarship		\$1,000
	Sub-Total Youth and Family		\$11,600
Campus Ministry			
1-5-20-4403	Campus Ministry		\$7,000
	Sub-Total MINISTRY		\$58,820

OPERATIONS			
Property			
1-5-30-4501	Utilities		\$35,280
1-5-30-4503	Maintenance		\$7,150
1-5-30-4504	Lawn & Garden		\$4,800
1-5-30-4505	HVAC Maintenance		\$12,000
1-5-30-4507	Vehicle Maintenance/ins/taxes		\$1,500
1-5-30-4508	White House Garden		\$100
1-5-30-4511	Janitorial Service		\$20,500
1-5-30-4512	Property Contingency		\$5,000
1-5-30-4513	Beautification		\$350
1-5-30-4514	Safety Committee		\$100
1-5-30-4515	Floor Maintenance		\$2,000
	Sub-Total Property		\$86,780
Stewardship			
1-5-30-4601	Stewardship Events		\$1,500
	Sub-Total Stewardship		\$1,500
Finance			
1-5-30-4603	Offering Envelopes		\$400
1-5-30-4604	Insurance on Buildings		\$8,400
1-5-30-4605	Bank Expenses		\$150
1-5-30-4608	Direct Deposit		\$0
1-5-30-4609	Background Checks		\$500
	Sub-Total Finance		\$9,450
Administration			
1-5-30-4701	Postage		\$3,200
1-5-30-4702	Office Supplies		\$7,000
1-5-30-4703	Telephone/Internet		\$5,300
1-5-30-4704	Office Equipment Purchase		\$500
1-5-30-4705	Equipment Maintenance		\$100
1-5-30-4706	Copier Lease		\$8,000
1-5-30-4707	Copier Supplies		\$3,000
1-5-30-4708	ACS		\$3,000
1-5-30-4710	Kitchen Supplies		\$600
1-5-30-4711	Nursery Supplies		\$50
1-5-30-4714	Technology		\$2,000
1-5-30-4715	Public Relations		\$4,000
	Sub-Total Administration		\$36,750

Council			
1-5-30-4801	Synod Assembly/Events		\$1,500
1-5-30-4803	Supply Pastors		\$1,400
	Sub-Total Council		\$2,900
	Sub-Total OPERATIONS		\$139,380
STAFF			
Senior Pastor			
1-5-20-4901	Senior Pastor's Salary		\$37,691
1-5-20-4902	Senior Pastor's Housing		\$12,650
1-5-20-4903	Senior Pastor's Business Expense/Phone		\$4,650
1-5-20-4904	Senior Pastor's Pension		\$7,035
1-5-20-4905	Senior Pastor's Health Insurance		\$7,681
1-5-20-4906	Senior Pastor's Continuing Education		\$1,000
1-5-20-4907	Senior Pastor's FICA Allowance		\$8,286
1-5-20-4913	Senior Pastor's Synod Events		\$500
	Sub-Total Senior Pastor		\$79,493
Pastor			
1-5-20-4914	Pastor's Salary		\$37,691
1-5-20-4915	Pastor's Housing		\$12,650
1-5-20-4916	Pastor's FICA Allowance		\$8,286
1-5-20-4917	Pastor's Business Expense/Phone		\$2,650
1-5-20-4918	Pastor's Continuing Education		\$1,000
1-5-20-4920	Pastor's Health Insurance		\$7,681
1-5-20-4921	Pastor's Pension		\$7,035
1-5-20-4924	Pastor's Synod Events		\$500
	Sub-Total Pastor		\$77,493

Lay Staff			
1-5-30-5001	Parish Administrator's Salary		\$33,945
1-5-30-5002	Parish Administrator's Retirement		\$3,395
1-5-30-5003	Parish Administrator's Health Insurance		\$5,000
1-5-30-5004	Parish Administrator's Continuing Education		\$200
1-5-20-5006	Music Director's Salary		\$46,920
1-5-20-5007	Music Director's Retirement		\$4,692
1-5-20-5009	Music Director's Continuing Education		\$840
1-5-20-4116	Music Director's Professional Dues		\$200
1-5-20-5010	Children's Ministry Staff		\$0
1-5-30-5013	Staff Training		\$0
1-5-30-5015	Nursery Attendant - Toddlers		\$3,780
1-5-30-5016	Nursery Attendant - Infants		\$2,900
1-5-30-5018	Workers Comp		\$2,627
1-5-30-5019	FICA Church Match - Lay Staff		\$3,342
	Sub-Total Lay Staff		\$107,841
	Sub-Total STAFF		\$264,827
MORTGAGE			
1-5-30-4607	Mortgage Payments		\$42,300
	Sub-Total MORTGAGE		\$42,300
	TOTAL BUDGET		\$573,625

OPERATIONS COMMISSION

Property Committee

Jim Alfors

Committee Membership:

Richard Lau - Chairperson 1/1/2018-6/3/2018

Jim Alfors - Chairperson 6/3/2018

Ronald Cartner

Jeff Connor

Rick Kirby

Michael Lindenbeck

Jeff Myers

Skeeter Mills

Dan Polito

Floyd Ritchie

Eric Schmidt

Wally Seigler

Walker Stockley

Karlo Waataja

John Wayne

Glenn Wise

Accomplishments for 2018:

1. Install new steel shelving in Room 104 now being used as a storeroom.
2. Assisted the parish nurse with setting up her new office in Room 105.
3. Replaced ceiling tiles in most of the areas where leaks have been fixed.
4. Worked on finding leaks in the roofs.
5. Fixed leaks around vent fans on the flat roof above the men's room by the nursery.
6. Got estimates for replacing the flat roof above the side parking lot entrance to the fellowship hall and replacing the cricket between the Narthex roof and the Fellowship Hall roof.
7. Assisted Council and the Safety Sub-Committee with projects relating to church security, especially new locking system for the outside entrance door.
8. Modified numerous florescent fixtures to remove the old T12 ballasts and rewired the fixtures for LED replacement bulbs.

OPERATIONS COMMISSION

Property Committee (continued)

9. Modified some of the 8' florescent fixtures in the youth room to remove the ballasts and rewired the fixtures for LED replacement bulbs.
10. Purchased a preventive maintenance program for all the AC units at the church.
11. Cleaned and painted 7 of the 8 red entrance doors. Replaced mounting hooks.
12. Installed lock box for the fire department to enable them to gain entrance to the buildings in the event of an emergency.
13. Established a Beautification Committee as a Sub-Committee of Property. Recommended a budget for 2019.
14. Checked fire extinguishers monthly.
15. Painted the Senior Pastor's and Pastor's offices.
16. Started labeling Circuit Breakers in office and old Fellowship Hall closet.
17. Trimmed trees in front of the Fellowship Hall. Removed branches that are touching the roof. Removed the tree between the White House and the house next door. Removed tree limbs that were laying in back of White House.
18. Checked, cleaned and fixed church vacuum cleaners.
19. Cleaned and repaired gutters in front of the Fellowship Hall to keep them from overflowing.
20. Caulked under Fellowship Hall Front door to keep water from entering and dripping down into ceiling tiles.
21. Caulked around ductwork going into the building at the side entrance area where the HVAC units are located to prevent water leaks.
22. Repaired two leaking drains in the Fellowship Hall kitchen.
23. Had Thyssen Krupp perform the required 5-year full load elevator test.

OPERATIONS COMMISSION

Property Committee (continued)

24. Recharged freon in the White House Air conditioner again. Got estimate for replacing the complete HVAC system for replacement in 2019.
25. Replaced outside security lights with new LED lights security lights, saving energy.
26. Replaced non-functional fire alarm panel with a new expandable fire alarm panel. Made drawings for the connection of the existing sensors. Connected the panel to the elevator system to get it working properly for the fire code.
27. Had Interstate Service Solutions, Inc, our cleaning service, strip and wax the Fellowship Hall and the east hallway from the nursery to the back door, including the two bathrooms and the two bathrooms in the commons area.
28. Maintained the Church Van for use by Hunger Outreach.
29. Purchased one new floor mat for the side Fellowship Hall entrance.
30. Installed a GFCI electrical outlet at the countertop / sink area in the Robe Room directly across from the AA Meeting room in order to eliminate using an extension cord.
31. Worked with the Boy Scouts to find projects for service hours and helped with information for the Aiken Avenue entrance drainage Eagle Scout Service Project.
32. Investigated issues with the large oak tree behind the White House.
33. Fixed one of the lights on the ramp in front of the Fellowship Hall. Found a replacement LED bulb, removed the bad ballast and rewired the light to save energy.
34. Had the water heater for the kitchen repaired. Had to replace a bad igniter.

OPERATIONS COMMISSION

Property Committee (continued)

Planned Activities for 2019:

1. Replace the flat roof above the side parking lot entrance to the Fellowship Hall and replace the cricket between the narthex roof and the Fellowship Hall roof fixing both leaks in these areas.
2. Replace old furnace and AC units in the White House.
3. Continue to monitor and try to resolve the youth room water flooding issues.
4. Get an estimate to replace the old HVAC system in the youth room.
5. Continue to modify and install new LED lighting to rewire all the old florescent T12 fixtures and install new LED replacement lights in the old office and Fellowship Hall areas.
6. Assist with the Spring Cleanup activities.
7. Develop electrical drawings for expanding the fire protection system throughout the facility.
8. Investigate the wall area at the base of the stairs down off the side parking lot entrance to the basement. Find out if this area is still leaking before we repair it again.
9. Address mechanical, electrical, and cosmetic issues as they occur throughout the year.
10. Replace remaining ceiling tiles stained by water leaks that have been fixed.
11. Address the issues with the large oak tree behind the White House.
12. Fix the 3-way switch in the Pastor's office so it works properly.

OPERATIONS COMMISSION

Property Committee (continued)

Safety Team

Floyd Ritchie

Access control project is complete and operational.

Progress has moved forward concerning tightening up of securing our church during services, committee meetings, community gatherings and various uses. Doors being locked during these times makes Grace a more secure place to worship and conduct the business of the church.

Fire doors throughout Grace are being closed when building is not in use.

Obsolete Fire Panel has been replaced, elevator alarms are operational and the lift has been repaired. The fire panel we have now can be added to and more safety items can be added as funds allow.

A Safety Manual has been put together, and while no means complete has been submitted to Council. This is in the process of being added to, to meet the needs of Grace.

Doorstops have been placed in all lower level rooms and steps are being taken to put a short training session together for those who use these rooms.

A Concealed Weapon Permit document has been made available in the office for any properly trained persons, with a valid CWP to get permission of the Pastor to carry. This was designed to meet State CWP and insurance guidelines.

Safety notes will be added to the weekly Bulletin and Grace notes from time to time. We thank the Property Committee for handling all the items pertaining to our Property.

OPERATIONS COMMISSION

Stewardship Committee

Cindy Rowan

The 2018 was a year of change for the stewardship emphasis at Grace. This resulted in some new approaches by the committee for both the Financial Stewardship Campaign and the Time & Talent Campaign.

As the Stewardship Committee began plans for the 2019 Financial Stewardship Campaign, the committee reflected on past practices and put forth a proposal to the Congregation Council for approval. This proposal was designed to enrich a shared understanding of stewardship, to embrace the concept of a mission spending plan (vs. a “budget”) that is made possible by grateful giving, and to grow together in commitment of treasure, time, and talent. The Council both encouraged and supported this direction.

To accomplish this, the Stewardship Committee worked closely with other committees to focus on the theme of **“Grateful Giving Drives our Mission.”** We worked to develop initiatives to refresh our efforts to be the faithful stewards that God has called us to be through focusing on how God’s work is done through ministries at Grace that our stewardship supports, and exploring how we can grow in giving out of gratitude for all God has given us.

We moved the timeframe for our financial stewardship campaign from the season of Lent in late winter to the fall. This was designed to offer more time for stewardship education and mission dialogue throughout the year. Additionally, we moved the pledging cycle to a calendar year (January-December vs. April to March) Again, this year, our Council, cabinet, leadership team, and staff were asked to respond to their financial giving invitations first, and then we kicked off our Financial Stewardship Campaign with the congregation in early September. On September 30, we came together as one family to worship and share a celebration meal. At that time, we shared that Bob Stonebraker had received 81 pledges; representing \$321,832. He indicated, at that time, that actual pledge numbers were down about 20 from the previous year and \$60,000 from the last campaign.

The committee also worked to introduce electronic giving, pledging on Realm, and incorporated a “noisy offering” as part of a children’s stewardship emphasis during the children’s sermons on 5th Sundays.

Grace’s Time and Talent Program received a renewed focus to engage members to identify their spiritual gifts, increase member participation in the time and talent surveys, increased participation in involvement, and for getting members plugged into the various areas of ministry that they desired.

Since the financial stewardship campaign was moved to September, the committee felt that it would be best to begin the Time and Talent campaign in January. Plans were developed to involve Time and Talent survey education on the Realm, as well as incorporating a focus on spiritual gifts and sharing time and talent messages in the newsletter and via sermons.

OPERATIONS COMMISSION

Stewardship Committee (continued)

As we looked to 2019, the committee planned to continue to work with the Pastors to explore more biblically-based stewardship education, an integrated program of stewardship as part of on-going faith formation for all ages, and continued commitment to the growth of time, talent, and treasure by all members. Stewardship of God's Creation was to be explored as well.

Special thanks to the committee members who shared their talents and gave a lot of their time to this vital ministry: David Hardendorf, Sara Johnson (Council Liaison), Craig Ketner, Wally Seigler, Frances Stockley, and our Pastors for their spiritual guidance.

Call Committee

Don Horst

The call committee activities lasted almost one year, from our appointment at the annual meeting in November 2017 until the council approved our recommendation to call the clergy couple, Pastor Gregg and Pastor Rachel Hoffman in October 2018.

In between there were meetings, analysis of Grace's ministries, mission, wants and needs, and visits and interviews with a number of candidates supplied by Bishop Yoos. Although at times it seemed to us that we were not making much progress, we were patient and trusted the call process and the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Over time it became clear to each of us that the way events were unfolding we were witnessing the Holy Spirit's presence in the process. We concluded that our new pastoral leadership should be Pastors Gregg and Rachel. They expressed to us that they too felt the Holy Spirit's call to Grace. The call committee thanks the congregation for their prayers and support during the process.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Horst, Chairman, Katie Romero, secretary, Megan Grogan, Justin Anderson, Adele Evans and Wally Seigler

Mutual Ministry Committees

Karen Warmoth

Due to interim pastoral staffing at this time, mutual ministry was suspended.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Outreach Committee

Bob Wasserman

Committee Members:

Bob Wasserman, Committee Chairperson; Larry Wunsch, Council Representative; Doug Gay; Earl Gatlin; Sig Huitt; and Pastor Ken, Staff Liaison.

Summary of Activities - Outreach Ministry

- **Church Building Use by Community Groups**

In addition to providing space for the operations of York County Free Clinic and Adult Enrichment Centers at Place of Grace, 410 Oakland Avenue, Grace as part of our outreach efforts makes our building available to community groups for meeting space on a regular basis or one-time use.

Following are organizations meeting at Grace in 2018: Adult Enrichment Centers, Alcoholics Anonymous Primary Purpose Group, Boy Scout Troop 540, Boy Scout Staff Development, Catawba Area Coalition for the Homeless, Centering Prayer, Cub Scout Troop 540, Family Promise of York County, Girl Scout Leaders, Junior Women's Club of Rock Hill, Lutheran Services of the Carolinas, Newcomers of York County, Olde English Painters Guild, Rock Hill Music Club, Via De Christo Reunion Groups, Winthrop University, York County Free Clinic, York County Quilt Guild, York County Board of Elections and York County Women's Club.

- **Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School**

As part of Grace's community outreach, volunteers from the church provided an end-of-school meal to the faculty and staff at Ebenezer Avenue Elementary School located about three blocks from Grace.

- **Family Promise**

For the last 20 years, every quarter Grace has hosted families for one week, Sunday to Sunday, as part of York County's Family Promise program which Grace helped initiate with thirteen other churches of various denominations. During the week Grace provides an evening meal, fellowship and overnight accommodations. Ten families totaling 40 individuals were served during 2018. Each quarter over 50 volunteers from Grace and the church's campus ministry (WELCM), youth ministry (GYM) and Boy Scout Troop 540 help out with this effort. In addition, Grace members assist the program at its transitional housing sites and its day center in downtown Rock Hill. Family Promise is a 30-year-old national organization with over 200 affiliates like York County's program in 42 states. Sig Huitt from Grace completed his term on the Family Promise national board in 2018. Dates for 2019: February 24 - March 3; May 19 - May 26; August 11 - August 18; November 3 - November 10.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Outreach Committee (continued)

- **Giving Tree and Angel Tree at Christmas & Easter Baskets of Blessing**

The Angel Tree provides gifts for 75 children from the Marketplace Apartment Complex in Rock Hill. The Giving Tree provides for gifts for 75 people that are fed meals by the Council on Aging program “Meals on Wheels”. Easter baskets are distributed to 75 recipients of the Meals on Wheels Program coordinated by the York County Council on Aging in Rock Hill.

- **Greeters**

We greet people following both worship services extending an open invitation to visitors to worship. Do not have a listing of the volunteers that assist with greeting at Grace.

- **Hunger Outreach Program**

Grace continues to participate in Hunger Outreach Program (HOP), which is an offshoot of Rev. Ronald King’s Feed the Hungry project. HOP has been in existence for about 20 years, and Grace has been involved since the beginning. The number of congregations actively involved on a monthly basis has dropped to six. There are a couple of other congregations that assist with the Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve meals. Grace delivers approximately 240 meals on the first Thursday and Friday of each month from September through May. Grace prepared and served in excess of 4,300 meals in 2018 and has served more than 97,000 meals over the years. Many members volunteered time to procure food items, cook, pack meals and clean-up, and deliver the food, but it appears that the number of members involved has been declining the last few years. Members of Grace have donated food and money to HOP over and above the amount expended as a line item in the church budget. Grace was involved in the HOP-sponsored collection of back to school supplies, which were distributed by Flint Hill Baptist Church just before school started. HOP sponsored a National Night Out picnic and a Christmas Eve program, both of which were held at Flint Hill Baptist Church. Grace provided food for 35 and several members of the committee and the church attended the event. For the Christmas Eve program Grace donated food to feed 35, including two cooked turkeys, and delivered 50 meals to those who were unable to attend.

- **Pilgrim’s Inn**

Grace assists the Pilgrim’s Inn Food Closet during the entire year by collecting canned goods. In August, a “Back to School” appeal is held to provide Pilgrim’s Inn with needed school supplies.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Outreach Committee (continued)

- **Service Agencies Support**

Grace Lutheran Church strived to help the greater Rock Hill community in many ways while being good stewards of our members' combined funds and volunteer time. In 2018 Grace Lutheran made grants to the following agencies:

\$1,000 Adult Enrichment Centers; Kim Keel, Executive Director (p) 803-327-7448; website: <https://www.adultenrichmentcenters.org>

\$1,000 Pilgrims' Inn; Lisa Barrett, President (p) 803-327-4227; website: <https://pilgrimsinn.org>

\$1,000 Pathways Community Centers; Kristen Davis Rhyne, Secretary, (p) 803-366-8880; website: <https://www.pathwaysyc.org>

\$1,000 The Saluda Counseling Services Center, Inc.; Mary Hoppman, Interim Director, (p) 803-981-2834; website: <https://www.thesaludacenter.org>

\$1,000 Children's Attention Home; Emily Parrish, Executive Director, (p) 803-328-8871; website: <https://attentionhome.org>

\$1,000 York County Free Clinic; Kathy Grier, Executive Director, (p) 803-366-6337; website: info@yorkcountyfreeclinic.org

\$1,000 Life Builders ESL Ministries; William Ragan, Executive Director (p) 803-579-1511; website: <https://lifebuildersfreeenglishclasses.com>

- **York County Habitat for Humanity**

Grace participated in a Habitat build in 2018. Grace contributed \$4,000 towards the construction costs and a few volunteers performed construction tasks one Saturday in Rock Hill. Our participation dropped off significantly in 2018.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Outreach Committee (continued)

- **Outreach Goals for 2019**

1. Reestablish a working relationship with Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen.
2. Establish coordinator positions of Christmas Parade, The Angel Tree, The Giving Tree, The Baskets of Blessings. You will not need to attend the Outreach monthly meetings. Instead, you will do only the responsibilities that are listed for these events. If you want to do them with a few of your friends, it's fine because you as coordinator have the flexibility. You just need to keep Bob Wasserman, Chair of this committee aware of your progress. His mobile number is 803-415-4449, or you can send him an email message to bwasserman7@comporium.net.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Outreach Committee (continued)

Bereavement Ministry

Pat Kirk

Ministry Membership:

ShirLee Alfors	Carolyn Manz	Dewain Thiessen
Kathy Anderson	Peter Manz	Libby Wallace
Adele Evans	Debbie Reynolds	Karen Warmoth
Judy Hall	Donna Richter	Bob Wasserman
Sig Huitt	Betty Sue Seigler	Mary Wicker
Pat Kirk, Chair	Nora Sliney	Donna Wylie
Kay Lynes		

Summary of Activities in 2018

Reorganization of the Bereavement Ministry as follows:

- Adoption of a Mission Statement:
The Bereavement Ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, inspired by the love of Jesus Christ, is called to a ministry of consolation to those who have suffered the loss of one whom they love.
- Recruited and organized two rotating care teams.
- Compiled a list of those willing to prepare food.
- Developed of a year-long plan to care for grieving families, including: an immediate sympathy card and/or email response, a memorial reception or luncheon, a keepsake box (containing items to comfort the family, a letter of sympathy from Grace, the book "Good Grief," a list of support groups, printed messages (every three months) to help in dealing with the stages of grief, a container of paper products, a chest of ice, follow-up contacts at first, third, sixth, ninth and twelfth month intervals. Delivery of a Poinsettia at Christmas and a Lily at Easter.
- Restructured the reception/lunch buffet procedures with set menus.
- Held 3 Bereavement Ministry quarterly lunch/meetings (April, July, November)
- Published a brochure.
- Produced individual procedure notebooks for team members, kitchen and pastor.
- Held two receptions – Pastor Tim Robinson (September 7) and Richard Denton (December 27)
- Sent emails and cards to members who lost a parent or sibling.
- Prepared a meal for Jeremy Mims and Craig Allen upon the loss of Craig's mother.
- Cards were signed by team members to all those who lost a loved one in 2017.
- Drink Containers (purchased with funds from an anonymous start-up gift) were presented to Grace.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Outreach Committee (continued)

Bereavement Ministry (continued)

Planned Activities for 2019

- Provide a reception/lunch following all memorial services.
- Follow-up contacts with the family throughout the year.
- Continue to meet quarterly and to recruit members.
- Begin sending birthday remembrance cards to the family of the deceased.
(Cards to be printed and provided as a gift from Ray & Debbie Reynolds.)
- Continue to update and improve all aspects of the ministry.
- Explore the possibility of sponsoring an “End of Life” seminar and compiling a comprehensive booklet to be distributed to the congregation.
- Explore the possibility of forming an adjunct ministry to support the pastor’s ministry to the sick and homebound – sending cards and writing notes of hope and love and providing keepsake boxes of comfort to be delivered during pastoral visits.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Outreach Committee (continued)

New Member Committee

Kathy Schwandt

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE:

Kathy Schwandt, Chairperson
Debra Gignac, Donna Wylie
Nora Sliney, Council representative

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES IN 2018

Interim Pastor, Ken Gillikin, followed up on all persons who signed the Tear & Share, then created a running list of information gathered. This was shared with me for further follow up where needed.

Pastor Scottie did not indicate that he had visited with any members who may have signed the Tear & Share. I have not been actively following up since then.

We have continued welcoming visitors with the personal touch of delivering mugs and church information. Photos of the new members and their bios continue to be posted on the bulletin boards, by Donna Wylie.

We:

- lost three (3) members on the New Member committee but retained all Muggers.
- the committee has had one face-to-face meeting this year and emails with information were sent, when necessary.
- joined with Stewardship and Finance committees to provide a Lenten meal in March.
- planned and held one (1) new member reception on April 29th.

GOALS FOR 2019

- Still looking for another member to become chair of the committee.
- Working to improve communication with other committees.
- Looking for new participants who will share their vision to make Grace a warm and friendly place in which to share God's love and caring concern.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Place of Grace

Sig Huitt

Financial Summary

	1 st Q	2 nd Q	3 rd Q	4 th Q	Total
Income from rent	14,429	15,810	12,780	15,384	58,403
Gifts from Grace	1,690	1,180	1,060	2,240	6,140
Total Income	16,119	16,990	13,840	17,624	64,543
Mortgage	5,496	5,496	5,496	5,496	21,984
Operating Expense	4,319	6,122	6,591	4,338	21,370
Improvements			24,287 (1)		24,287
Leasing Expenses			1,718		1,718
Water Damage			1,521		1,521
Total Expenses	9,815	11,618	39,613	9,834	70,880

Bank checking account balance 12-31-18 was \$17,320.85

3.875% mortgage with ELCA Mission Investment Fund 12-11-18 balance was \$295,266

(1) Includes painting, new flooring, ADA kitchen, project management fee for renovated space for Adult Enrichment Centers; also, new awnings, re-stripping of parking lot, handicapped signage, fencing around AC units.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Place of Grace (continued)

Update on 410 Oakland Avenue

-Grace Lutheran Church purchased the building at 410 Oakland Avenue, adjacent to the church, at the end of 2012. The building, with 6,214 square feet of space, is being called Place of Grace. The building, after extensive renovations, open for use in the summer of 2013.

-Place of Grace is being financed and operated on a revenue neutral basis by leasing space to established community non-profit organizations with missions complementing Grace's outreach to Rock Hill and York County.

-Tenants during 2018 included York County Free Clinic, Chrysalis Autism Center, York County Adult Enrichment Centers, The Arc of South Carolina and Palmetto Council of Boy Scouts of America.

-Chrysalis completed its five-year lease in June 2018 and because of the growth had to move elsewhere to have more space to serve its patients.

-At midyear 2018 month-to-month leases by The Arc and Boy Scouts were terminated to allow for York County Adult Enrichment Centers to expand. As of June 2018, Place of Grace has three-year leases with the Free Clinic and Adult Enrichment for all of the space in the building.

-Place of Grace during 2018 operated under supervision of the Congregational Council by a committee chaired by Sig Huitt. Other committee members were Greg Austin, Ronald Cartner, Floyd Ritchie, Rick Richter and Glenn Wise. At the beginning of 2019 Greg Austin replaced Sig Huitt as chair and Dr. Bob Goodbar and Erika Bell replaced Sig Huitt and Rick Richter on the committee.

-Financing for the building is through the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Purchase price was \$220,000. Grace and the Free Clinic invested in excess of \$225,000 on initial improvements to the building. Current principal balance on the loan is \$295,266.

-SperryVanNess Commercial Real Estate of Rock Hill manages the property for Grace. They are responsible for collecting rent, handling maintenance and paying expenses. Place of Grace is responsible for paying the MIF mortgage.

-As of December 31, 2018, Place of Grace had \$17,321 in its checking account with South State Bank. Dollars above rent, minus expenses, are being accrued to cover future capital expenses. At yearend, Bob Wasserman reviewed financial records of the committee.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Public Relations Committee

Donna Richter

Members: Sig Huitt, Amy Cassidy **Chairperson:** Acting Chair Donna Richter **Council Liaison:** Craig Ketner

The goal of the Public Relations Committee is to promote communications, external and internal, about the activities and life of Grace Lutheran Church. In 2018, the Public Relations Committee:

1. Familiarized its members with the function and usage of the Realm and discussed how it would be utilized in the church and specifically for committees.
2. Discussed in detail the need for a new website for Grace to serve, primarily, as a “front door” information source for potential visitors. Our former member Marie DeMartino collected pricing from various website designers. We reviewed various church websites for ideas, layout, and content as a starting point for our website. We met with Eric Haskins of Charlotte Media Group, who has a side business creating church websites, and he made a proposal to Grace for designing a new website. After reviewing our options, the committee agreed to go forward with Eric Haskins for our new website.
3. Budget request was made, and approved, for funds in 2019 to pay for the design of the website, the hosting of the website, photographs for the website and a limited number of hours for a content writer. Work on the new website will begin in 2019.
4. Photographs are being taken of the church and church activities for use on our website.
5. Members of the congregation were asked to notify the church office and/or Donna Richter by December 31, 2018, if they did not want their photograph used on either the website or in our social media. Any member is still able to contact the church office if they do not want their photograph used by the church on the website or on social media.
6. The PR Committee maintains Grace’s Facebook page. Members of other committees and members of the church are encouraged to provide information and photos to Donna Richter to post on Grace’s Facebook page.
7. The Committee made a grant proposal to the Endowment committee to help Grace share with the community the call of our new pastors. A “welcome” banner will be displayed at the front of the church in 2019 and a welcome advertisement will also be placed in our local newspapers. The balance of the grant funds will be used to expand the plans for our new website to incorporate some of the ideas and feature input from our new pastors.

The Public Relations Committee welcomes new members!

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

Race and Reconciliation

Heather Litzinger

Race & Reconciliation is a subgroup of the Outreach Committee. This group has two goals: to create opportunities to build relationships across racial and religious groups and to raise awareness about issues of prejudice and privilege. In February, we hosted "Blessed Assurance," a one-person play about race relations performed by James Flynn. We invited the audience to join us for continued dialog about topics related to race. We had two community meetings in March for discussion and discerning what our group should do. Our planning committee initially consisted Larry Wunsch, Sig Huitt, Heather Litzinger, Earl Gatlin, Margaret Gillikin, and Bill Karlson. In May, we diversified the planning committee with the addition of four African-American women: Cynthia Roddey, Sandra Oborokumo, Linda Kennedy, and Cleopatra Allen. With the new committee in place, our goal was to hold monthly meetings on a variety of topics in locations within the African-American community. In May, Dr. Margaret Gillikin led a discussion of the legacy of slavery for the descendants of slaves and slave owners at the Rock Hill Housing and Neighborhood Services building. In June, Dr. Nate Frederick led a discussion of Juneteenth at the Sanctuary of Life Outreach Center. In July, Dr. Cynthia Roddey led a discussion of food, culture, and hunger at the Boyd Hill Recreation Center. In August, Linda Kennedy facilitated a panel discussion at Emmett Scott High School with teachers who experienced the closing of Rock Hill's black high school. In November, Dr. Ty Miller led a discussion of mass incarceration and the book, "The New Jim Crow," at Bannon Hall. In December, Cleopatra Allen facilitated a panel discussion with current high school teachers and students about race relations in today's high schools.

Seniors@ Grace

Annie - Laurie Wheat

Seniors@Grace had a very fun year with a variety of adventures and programs. The group gathers once a month (typically on the 4th Thursday of the month) with attendance fluctuating between 25-35 people, unless the Carolina Copy Cats are coming and then the group soars to 45-50 people. This year we had excellent guest speakers that included Judy Huitt, Pete Hildebrandt, Jeremy Mims, Winthrop faculty members Margaret Gillikin and Wanda Ebright, and Pastor Scottie. We took road trips to the Waataja's lake house and tried international cuisine at the Jasmine Grill and Fuji Japan. The Carolina Copy Cats performed in February. Our annual Christmas Jubilee party with Santa raised money for the Hope House/Project Hope that was started in 1975 with the vision of a few congregations who wanted to help their neighbors in need. Project HOPE is a crisis assistance ministry that serves thousands in Rock Hill. We had a very good year of fellowship, good food and mind-expanding programs.