



The MESSENGER

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Year in Review 2022-23

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah: Behold, I send my messenger!

MARK 1:2

After a lengthy break, we are excited to send you *The Messenger: Year in Review* edition. In addition to our weekly emails, updated website, and robust presence on social media, we are happy to have another way of sharing news with the people of Grace!

God has been so generous and faithful to us this year, and these pages testify to the many ways God fills our lives with Amazing Grace!

Do you have pictures or news to share? Send to Communications Director Susie Harris sharris@gracemadison.org



Bishop's Visitation on Sunday, June 25

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE



The Grace operating results for the 1st six months of 2023 approximate the budgeted net loss, with a shortfall in Revenues substantially offset by favorable changes in operating expenses. The favorable operating expenses are primarily due to timing of expenses and are expected to be offset during the second half of the year. The primary reason for the revenue shortfall is in receipt of Pledge payments. Grace parishioners have an excellent history of meeting their pledge,

General Fund	6 Months Ended June, 2023		
	Actual	Budget	Increase (Decrease) Net Income
Total Revenues	\$ 433,030	\$ 450,238	\$ (17,208)
Total Expenses	\$ 447,827	\$ 459,028	\$ 11,201
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (14,797)	\$ (8,790)	\$ (6,007)

although the timing is somewhat inconsistent. As we go into the summer months when pledge receipts are usually lower than average, please consider the status of your 2023 pledge and make a pledge payment. It is very helpful to managing Grace's cash flow if pledge payments are up to date.

Parishioner Pledge Statements will be distributed in mid-July for your reference. If you do not receive your statement at your preferred email or physical address, please feel free to reach out to Grace's bookkeeper Osh Khublall, okhublall@gracemadison.org for follow-up.



COMMUNITY LIFE

"A merry heart is good medicine!"

PROVERBS 17:22

Pancakes and chili (but not at the same time!) A trip to Germany for Oktoberfest and a visit from St. Nicholas. 'Tween hang outs and gatherings for women and men. We love being together and know how to have fun!



W O R S H I P

*“Every day will I bless you, and praise
your name forever and ever.”* PSALM 145:2

Our common life is anchored by worship. Every Sunday we gather to become more fully the people God has called us to be. But prayer is not limited to Sunday mornings.

Throughout the year we have opportunities to pray with one another—the Daily Office on Zoom, Pizza Compline & Communion for Kids and their Families, festive celebrations for St. Nicholas and St. Francis, Stations of the Cross in Lent, and, the centerpiece of our year, the Paschal Triduum!

A special thanks to the many people—acolytes, ushers, worship leaders, musicians, intercessors, lectors—who lead worship so faithfully, and to Geoff Brooks, our Senior Verger, who (seemingly effortlessly) keeps everything going smoothly.



Choir Adventure 2024

Grace Church Choirs have been accepted for a week in residence at Wells Cathedral in England. The trip includes singing daily Evensong and Sunday Eucharist. There are wonderful excursions planned every morning, and a full day in Bristol.

If you are interested in joining our tour as a groupie, there may be room!
Contact amatlack@gracemadison.org

Combined Evensong

Sunday, Sept. 30, 5PM, St. Paul's, Chatham

All Saints' Day Evensong

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023 7PM

Advent Evensong

Saturday, Dec. 17, 2023, 5PM

Epiphany Evensong

Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024 5PM

Eastertide Evensong

Saturday, April 13, 2024 5PM

Baptism



Welcomed into the Body of Christ through Holy Baptism this year.

Amos Sutherland Alaya, Christopher Ryan Best, Sophia Cararchio, Carmelo James Evans, Nathaniel Kosoy, Sydney Rose Kosoy, William Carter McGuinn, Maya Lauren Muldoon, George Andrew Robinson, Charlotte Mae Thomas, and Cornelia June Tsang.

UPCOMING BAPTISMAL DATES

All Saints' Day: November 5
Baptism of our Lord: January 7
Great Vigil of Easter: March 30
Day of Pentecost: May 19

Confirmation



Affirmed their baptism with the laying on of hands.

April 25 at Calvary Summit:
Gregory Paradis and
Julia Campanella.



May 9 at St. Paul's Chatham.

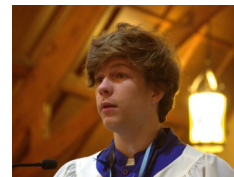
Front: Caroline Harter, Lily Tabish, Alexander Tonzola, Caroline Gilbert
Middle: Samantha Nielsen, Meghan Harter, Katie Finlay
Back: Audrey Bendelius, Kate Partridge, Chelsea McKeever, Freddie Ehrbar, Frank Nunn, Wil McBride

Guest Preachers

In the month of June, we heard the word of God preached through other voices, ending the month with a joyful visitation from our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Carlye Hughes!



Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart



*Senior Sermons: Luke Deane, Charlie Love
Ian McSorley, Elisabeth Wielandy*



Mr. Anthony Briggs with the staff of Cross Roads.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

"Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works."

Jesus loves the little children— and so do we! Under Miss Kathryn's loving care, our Children's Ministries blossomed.

We are thankful for Bill Meyer who assisted Miss Kathryn with Sunday School this year by leading music each week. And we are grateful for Mike Cullen who made birdhouses in his woodshop for each child to receive and decorate on Easter Sunday, to celebrate the resurrection!



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Ministry is alive and well at Grace! Throughout the year, the youth of our parish gather with Fr. Asa for fun and faith formation. Lots of food is eaten and shenanigans erupt. Among other adventures, our youth celebrated Halloween in style, marked Holy Week with prayer and fellowship until midnight, and ate many tacos.

A special salute to Meredith McKeever who represented Grace Church and the Diocese of Newark as a delegate at EYE23. The Episcopal Youth Event is a Triennial Gathering of Episcopal Youth from around the world.



OUTREACH

*“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”* HEBREWS 13:16

Peanut butter, underwear, diapers, food...even chocolate bunnies!
Thank you to the many people whose generosity makes it possible for us to give to our neighbors.
Watch for more opportunities to be agents of grace in the coming program year!



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

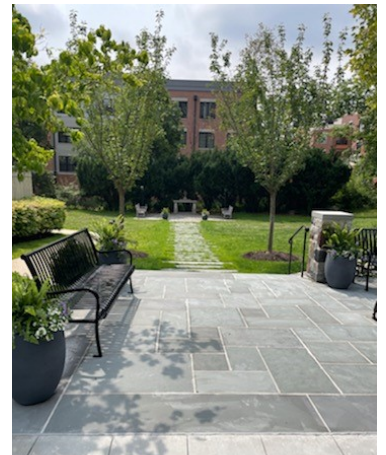


*“The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.”*

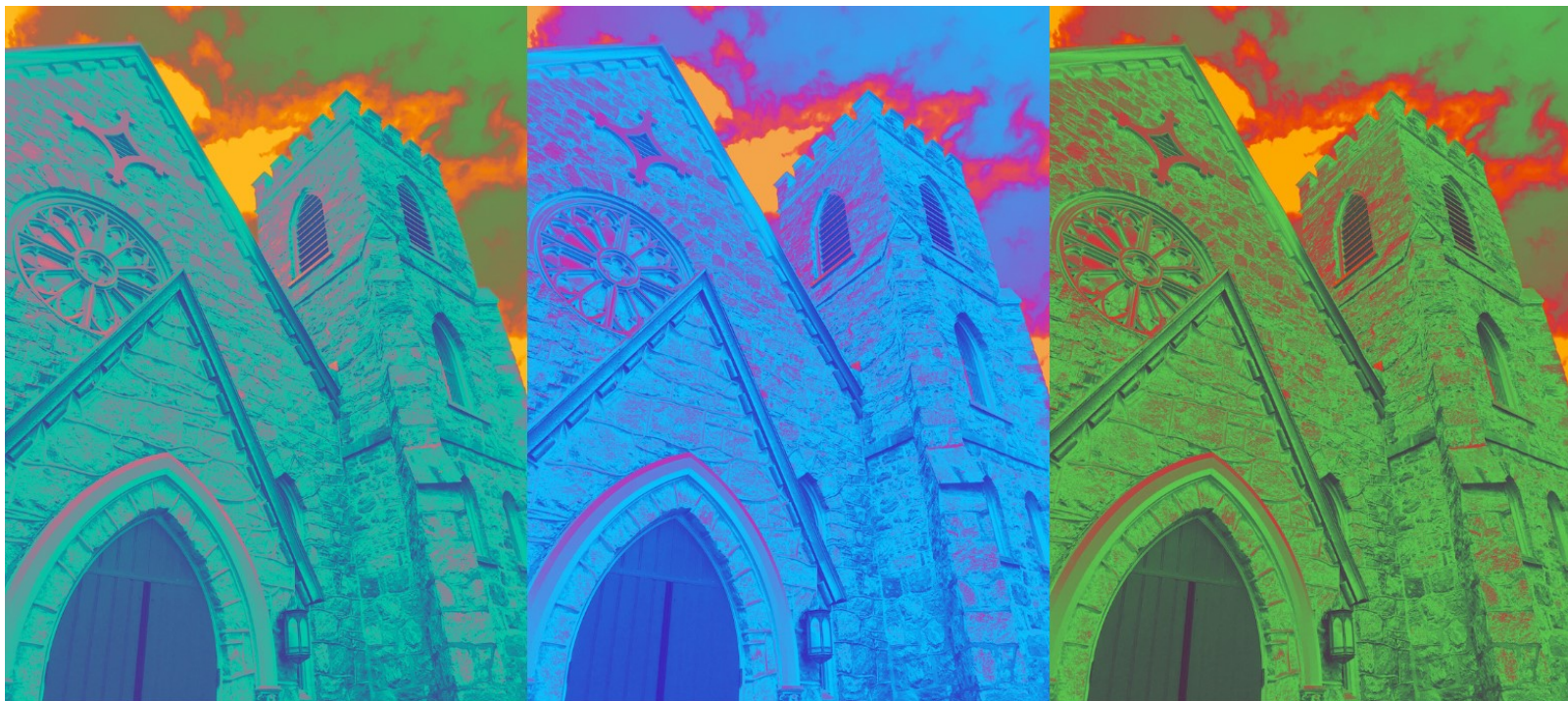
WISDOM 3:1

Our outdoor chapel was blessed by the hard work and faithfulness of Luke Deane, who renovated that sacred space as his Eagle Scout project.

Prior to her death, Ginny Karl gave a generous gift to make much needed improvements to our Memorial Garden. Others joined in funding this important project and the work was completed prior to Ginny’s interment. The garden is peaceful and welcoming, and is an inviting place for prayer and reflection. Come and visit!



Grace Church
4 Madison Avenue
Madison, NJ 07940



[www.facebook.com/
GraceMadisonNJ](https://www.facebook.com/GraceMadisonNJ)



Follow us on Insta
[@GraceMadisonNJ](https://www.instagram.com/GraceMadisonNJ)



Watch services &
videos on **YouTube**:
[GraceMadisonNJ](https://www.youtube.com/GraceMadisonNJ)