

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - DURHAM, NC

Voters' Assembly - May 5, 2024

Our Mission

We Welcome Everyone to Walk the Way of GRACE: to GROW with Jesus, REJOICE in God, ANSWER with hope, CARE for the neighbor, and EMBRACE community.

Our Vision

GOD HAS A PLAN

FOR OUR LIVES, and so we teach how to walk in the path of Jesus Christ;

FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, and so we work to build healthy, strong communities;

FOR OUR CITY, and so we share life with our neighbors in Walltown, Trinity Park, Duke, and the Triangle; and

FOR OUR WORLD, and so we go with Good News.

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer - Pastor Brooks
2. Reading and Approval of Proxies¹
3. Presentation of New Voters²
4. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting: November 19, 2023
5. Pastor's Comments
6. Statistical Reports (October 2023 -April 2024)
7. Ministry Reports
8. Election of Officers
9. Recommendation to Voters from Grace Advisory Board: "Motion made by Joe Milke for GAB's recommendation for the DCO (Director of Christian Outreach) position to be put forward to the Voters at the next Voters' Assembly on May 5."
10. Announcements, Other Business, Open Discussion
11. Adjournment
12. Closing Prayer - ALL

Dear Lord God,

We thank you for the opportunity to gather together today. Be with us as we leave this meeting. Help us walk with confidence and lead us with your truth as we move forward, praise you, and live our lives in this world. Accept our gratitude and allow us to depart from this place with a full mind and soul as we go to various destinations. All these things we pray through your mighty Son, in Jesus' name.

¹ Proxy voting must be submitted via special form to the Church Office 72 hours prior to the Voters' Assembly and cite extenuating circumstances, (Bylaw 4,9}

² Voting membership is to be renewed annually through a commitment to grow as a disciple, participate in a ministry, and give financially (Bylaw 1.3}

LINKS TO PROXY FORM AND VOTER COMMITMENT CARD ARE LOCATED ON THE HOMEPAGE OF OUR WEBSITE

WWW.GRACEDURHAM.ORG

COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Minutes of Voters' Meeting - November 19, 2023

Meeting called to order 12:27pm by Chris Wethman.

Opening Prayer- Pastor Brooks. After opening prayer, Chris Wethman requested that Pastor's Comments be moved to the Funding for Ministry for 2024.

Reading and Approval of Proxies

Luciano Suarez and Barb Bergdolt proxies given to Walt Crosmer (reason - work). **Motion made** (Gary Stuhlmeier) to accept proxies and **seconded** (Kathy Peterson).

Discussion - none

Motion approved

Presentation of New Voters

Jamie Craven and Barb Silvernail. **Motion made** (Donna Gesell) and **seconded** (Scott Gesell) to accept new voters.

Discussion - none

Motion approved

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting (May 21, 2023)

Motion made (Donna Gesell) to accept the minutes and **seconded** (Kathy Peterson)

Discussion - none

Motion approved

Statistical Report (November 15, 2022 - October 29, 2023)

Motion made to accept Statistical Report (Joe Milko) and **seconded** (Kathy Peterson).

Discussion - none

Motion approved

Ministry Reports

No changes to Pastor's Annual Report, Congregation President's Report, Discipleship Board, Resource Board, and Servant Board.

Questions/Discussion - none

Reports approved as submitted

Pastors Comments

- What is God calling us to be, become for his glory. Let's go and then find the resources to do it.
- Celebrate the accomplishments we have made from the Go & Make Campaign this year (Duke Lutheran Center, Grace room) and the lighting and sound system that is to be completed soon.
- In 2024 Grace should be a place where Life Thrives:

Our Mission:

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Grow with Jesus, Rejoice in God, Answer with Hope, Care for the Neighbor, and Embrace Community

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Minutes of Voters' Meeting - November 19, 2023

- o Bring Grace House Back on-line (upstairs apartment for families of those who have a family member at Duke; downstairs for Early Head Start and at-risk families). We need to share our gifts and talents with those in need.
- o Pray about a ministry with a Florida partner for a maternity home in Durham
- o Strengthen our walk ("We welcome Everyone to Walk the Way of Grace) and focus on all ages that have needs to thrive (i.e.: end of life decisions, financial learning for young adults)
- o Commitment Card - this is a promise between you and God
- o 1 item from the Go & Make Campaign was to set aside seed money for a Director of Congregational Ministries/Outreach. Pastor encouraged us to pray and answer, what do we as a congregation want.

Funding the Ministry for 2024

Donna Gesell thanked the congregation for their generosity. All that we have been doing (Grace House, Duke Lutheran Center, sound system and lighting) have all been made possible by the generous donations - no loans have been needed.

Questions:

- Miscellaneous Administration Expense - why are the numbers all over the place?
This category is used as a miscellaneous fund where expenses don't fit into a certain bucket. Income from various sources are placed here to cover expenses as well.
- Is there a sabbatical fund for Pastor as he comes up on his 5 years at Grace?
Yes, \$5000 is deposited each year for this.

Motion made (Gary Stuhlmiller) to approve the Ministry Spending Plan (budget) for 2024 and **seconded** Joe Milka). Motion approved.

Discussion - none

Motion approved

Announcements, Other Business, Open Discussion

Chris Wethman clarified the Director of Congregational Ministries/Outreach job would be to equip us to do our job, not for them to take over our jobs within the church.

Adjournment

Motion made (Joe Milka) to adjourn the meeting and **seconded** (Kathy Peterson).

Discussion - none

Motion approved

Closing Prayer - Chris Wethman

Respectfully submitted,
Dede Crosmer, Secretary

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Grace Lutheran Church - Durham, NC. - Statistical Report						
2	For the Period from September 10, 2023 through October 29, 2023						
3							
4	Baptized	Confirmed					
5	255	226	Membership per September 10, 2023 Report				
6							
7		-	Adult/Jr. Confirmation				
8	-						
9	0	0	Transfer In				
10	-						
11	0	0	Affirmation of Faith				
12							
13							
14	0	0	Transfer Out				
15							
16			Removed*				
17	-1	-1	Erick Scott, letter sent 09-18-23				
18	-4	-4	William, Julie, Zoe, Gabe Knaack, letter sent 09-18-23				
19	-1	-1	Lynn Runich, letter sent 09-18-23				
20	-3	-1	Kristin, Karson, Kasandra Rosado, letter sent 09-18-23				
21							
22			<i>No reponse or letters returned</i>				
23			<i>* Letter sent 9/18/23 as per By-laws 1.4.2.1.2</i>				
24							
25							
26							
27							
28							
29							
30			Deaths				
31	-1	-1	Frances Gerken - 09-30-23				
32							
33	245	218	Total Current Membership				

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Grace Lutheran Church - Durham, NC. - Statistical Report						
2	For the Period from October 29, 2023 through January 11, 2024						
3							
4	Baptized	Confirmed					
5	245	218	Membership per October 29, 2023 Report				
6							
7		-	Adult/Jr. Confirmation				
8	-						
9	0	0	Transfer In				
10	-						
11	0	0	Affirmation of Faith				
12							
13							
14	0	0	Transfer Out				
15							
16			Removed*				
17	3	2	Sheryl, Lydia, Alexander Mika, letter sent 11-15-23				
18	1	1	Jakob Norberg, letter sent 11-15-23				
19	1	1	Emily Ray, letter sent 11-15-23				
20	2	2	Priscilla and Liz Scherer, letter sent 11-15-23				
21	1	1	Anarudh Natarajan - no mailing address, sent email				
22							
23			No reponse or letters returned				
24			*Letter sent 11/15/23 as per By-laws 1.4.2.1.2				
25							
26							
27			Deaths				
28	1	1	Mary Masterson, 11-24-23				
29	1	1	Frances Ochart, deceased but unable to find obituary				
30							
31	235	209	Total Current Membership				

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Grace Lutheran Church - Durham, NC. - Statistical Report						
2	For the Period from January 11, 2024 through February 18, 2024						
3							
4	Baptized	Confirmed					
5	235	209	Membership per January 11, 2024 Report				
6							
7		-	Adult/Jr. Confirmation				
8	-						
9	0	0	Transfer In				
10	-						
11	0	0	Affirmation of Faith				
12							
13	1	0	Baptism - Franklin Nickolas Robinson				
14							
15	-4	-2	Transfer Out - Gwen Buhr, Greg Taylor,				
16			Anna and William Taylor to Advent LCMS, Chapel Hill, NC				
17							
18			Removed*				
19	-1	-1	Shaun Boehringer, letter sent 1/30/24				
20	-1	-1	Ellen Fisher, letter sent 1/30/24, returned 2/8/24 (undeliverable)				
21	-2	-2	Aaron and Adam Fricke, letter sent 1/30/24				
22	-1	0	Zoe Gabrielson, letter sent 1/30/24				
23	-1	-1	Amy Graichen, letter sent 1/30/24				
24	-1	-1	Shirley Jahn, letter sent 1/30/24				
25	-1	-1	Holly Potthoff, letter sent 1/30/24				
26	-1	-1	Marc Reibold, letter sent 1/30/24				
27	-1	-1	Jeanette Smith, letter sent 1/30/24				
28	-1	-1	Karl Portner, letter sent 1/30/24				
29	-3	-2	Jeff, Renee and Elizabeth Gilman, letter sent 1/30/24				
30	-2	-2	Alexandra and Christina Comer, no letters sent, spoke w/ mother Nicki				
31			<i>No reponse or letters returned</i>				
32			<i>* Letter sent 1/30/24 as per By-laws 1.4.2.1.2</i>				
33							
34			Deaths				
35	-1	-1	Irene Fraver 01-22-24				
36	-1	-1	Dave Schomberg 02-02-24				
37							
38							
39	214	191	Total Current Membership				

Pastor's annual report

Bishop William Temple of England once said, "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members." As your pastor, I got to see again and again in 2023 what power, joy and blessing flowed forth when Grace lived by those words!

Among the many changes, chances and achievements of the past year, the following stand out:

- ❖ We had a change in our music leadership - we bid farewell to Chase Benefiel and welcomed Erin Hodge.
- ❖ We saw continued growth in our mission "welcoming everyone to walk the way of GRACE." Our Boards and PALS groups made real progress in moving toward helping our members grow in discipleship, serve as ministers, and share the resources God richly provides.
- ❖ We renewed our partnership with Duke Lutherans and welcomed our District President Bill Harmon in celebration of the Campus Ministry Center.

For my part, I have continued to teach, preach, and celebrate the sacraments in deep joy, for I am glad and grateful to be serving with such a wonderful gathering of God's People. Every Sunday I look forward to being in worship with you, my brothers and sisters. I delight in sharing ministry with you, as **we pray together, study the Scriptures together, give generously** of time, talent, and treasure to one another, **and confess & forgive** one another freely and fully.

Personally, 2023 was a busy year:

- ❖ I taught our Discover the Call: Welcome to the Way of Grace for new members in both January and May; during the year I also taught classes on prayer, mission and ministry, and the catechism. I also led a weekly study on the Sunday lessons each Monday during the lunch hour.
- ❖ Our Lenten Theme was "Practice Resurrection;" I preached on and taught using the themes of Eugene Peterson's book of the same name to ponder what it means to grow to spiritual maturity.
- ❖ In July, we welcomed Pastor Gustavo and Ruth Maita along with their children for a fun evening of hearing about their missionary work and renewing hopes to send a mission team to Puerto Rico in the future.

- ❖ Also in July, I was honored to represent the Southeast District at the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's 68th annual National Convention in Milwaukee, WI.
- ❖ As noted, we welcomed DP Harmon for our rededication and celebration of ministry with Duke Lutherans. Our relationship with DL has also provided an opportunity to interact with the new Duke House of Lutheran Studies that is being established.
- ❖ In the fall we began a four-month period of *Celebrating the Lord!* We Celebrated Life in September; in October we Celebrated the Catechism; November was set aside to Celebrate Gifts; and in December we Celebrated the Church, using our Advent observances to explore the Truths of the Church: by God's grace and power, the Church is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.
- ❖ My continuing education time was spent at two conferences: in September I attended an academic conference titled "Doxology and Doctrine: How the Creeds Form Us Liturgically and Catechistically" and in October I attended a conference sponsored by Touchstone Magazine entitled "The Crisis of Authority."

Looking back on 2023 makes me realize that we are almost to the halfway mark of 2024, and I am glad for what God has accomplished through us so far, and look forward to the remainder of the year, where we continue to move out into the world to benefit those who need the blessing, joy and power of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you as your Pastor.

~Pr. Dave Brooks

May 5, 2024

Report from Congregation President: Chris Wethman

For the past four plus years, I have had the honor and privilege of serving as your Congregation President. This, then is my final report. It's appropriate then to share some thoughts with you about the future, the present, and the past.

I pray that Pastor Brooks' comments given at the November 2023 Voters' Meeting will serve as a roadmap for our future. In a nutshell:

- What is God calling us to be for His glory? Go and find resources to do it.
- Celebrate what God has accomplished through us as a result of the Go & Make campaign.
- In 2024 and beyond Grace becomes a place where Life thrives:
 - o Bring Grace House back online for ministry to those in need.
 - o Pray about a ministry with a Florida partner for maternity home in Durham.
 - o Strengthen our Walking the Way of Grace by focusing on thriving at all stages of life.
 - o Emphasize Commitment Card - it's a promise between you and God
 - o Pray about calling a Director of Christian Outreach

On **May 18th**, Rev. Dr. Travis Guse, the Southeastern District's Director of Wellness & Coaching, will be at Grace and meet with key leaders to help isolate and clarify our vision of the future. If we are to make a noticeable difference, then it is important - if not imperative - to focus everything we have on the specific kind of dramatic good God gives us to do.

At this point in time, it is good to stop and appreciate "what is" by focusing on our blessings:

- We are reaching outside our walls to the surrounding community. This is through continued involvement with Walltown Food Ministries and the Farmers' Market initiative organized by the PALS Racial Reconciliation Group.
- Etched in my mind are images of this year's Easter Egg Hunt and the children and parents that gathered in the playground. Embracing, encouraging, and equipping these families that God has placed in our midst is vital.
- The students who come to the Campus Ministry Center (Duke Lutherans) are a mission field right in our building. This is a unique cross-generational ministry that provides opportunities for older adults and young adults to work together for the good of others.

I firmly believe that past events, processes, planning, structures, etc. serve as positive learning experiences. These experiences should not cause one to be disillusioned, discouraged, detached, disconnected, disheartened or disengaged from using their gifts to make a positive impact for God's Kingdom. Yes, we all become weary at times. It is hard work to be a member of God's family.

As for me, I will continue to participate in the ministry at Grace in ways that best utilize my gifts and talents. At the same time, I am exploring serving opportunities within the Southeastern District. I am one of the founding members of the District's Coaching Network and recently earned my Certified Christian Leadership Coach certificate from Coach Approach Ministries.

I leave you with Galatians 6:9 (The Message): *So, let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up or quit."*

May 5, 2024

Report from Discipleship-Servant Board Facilitator: Bev Hudgins

After the resignation of Geoff Heintzelman from the Servant Board, in response to the recommendation of Pastor Brooks, the Grace Advisory Board temporarily combined the Discipleship and Servant Boards. Current members of this board are Bev Hudgins, Kristen Poppe, Laura Michael, Sigi Benkert, Dwight Knoll, Frank Oruwari. Ex officio members are Pastor Brooks and Chris Wethman.

While prayerfully reviewing the mission/vision of Grace and a review of the PALS handbook, and in response to commitment cards, the team decided to focus on equipping members for a healthy prayer life. The first step was to design a prayer survey which is in its final draft. A plan for implementing the survey with PALS groups will be developed at the next meeting (April 13).

Additionally, the team discussed a method for collecting information from those participating at the Farmer's Market about what their dreams are for the community surrounding Grace and how we might be a part of that. It was decided to hand out an invitation card with a QR code, asking those interested in talking more about future possibilities for engagement to scan it and we will arrange a follow up. Based on the response, we will set up this meeting probably at an off site location.

The team is recommending using Sunday mornings after worship starting in June, for classes/study on prayer.

May 5, 2024

Report from Resource Board, Donna Gesell

Since this time last year, we, as a congregation, have been very busy working toward upgrading our building and our ministries. It has been so wonderful having so many volunteers working together while having fun and getting to know each other better. Some of the times we have had large groups of volunteers together are the renovation and painting of the Grace Room, the Duke Lutheran Center, the cleanup of the Grace House, and the Farmers' Market.

Projects:

- Duke Lutheran Center is complete.
- D Grace Room is complete.
- Sanctuary:
 - o Sound system and lighting just have a few tweaks and will be complete.
 - o Alter upgrade is finished but for the kneeling pads that are on order.
- Grace House:
 - o Internal upgrades are complete. The outside porches and ramp will be worked on this summer. (Difficulty finding the same boards.)
- D Window awnings for the dining room windows will be replaced this summer.

What's next?

- Grace House.** Early Head start is again using two of the downstairs rooms for mothers with children meetings. They have purchased all new equipment. The upstairs apartment is again in use for families of patients at Duke long-term.
- D We now need to determine what other ministries can be served with the use of the living room and foyer so that furniture can be purchased.

What do you think needs attention? Should we do any upgrades to the playground now that it has been cleaned up? Should the parking lot be paved?

Grace Lutheran Church
Chart of Account Balances
 Mar 01, 2024 through Mar 31, 2024

Account (*=Inactive)	Balance as of 2024-03-01	Balance as of 2024-03-31	Debits	Credits	Change+/-	Change%
Assets	\$ 369,893.27	\$ 362,961.15	\$ 44,583.24	\$ 51,515.36	\$ (6,932.12)	-1.87%
First Horizon Checking (4916)	\$ 298,146.91	\$ 285,900.14	\$ 34,544.39	\$ 46,791.16	\$ (12,246.77)	-4.11%
Unrestricted (First Horizon Checking)	\$ 54,359.60	\$ 49,161.47	\$ 18,201.27	\$ 23,399.40	\$ (5,198.13)	-9.56%
Benevolence	\$ 3,300.67	\$ 1,999.85	\$ -	\$ 1,300.82	\$ (1,300.82)	-39.41%
Embrace Grace Donations	\$ 1,679.72	\$ 1,679.72	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Farmer's Market	\$ -	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ -	\$ 4,200.00	0.00%
Go and Make	\$ 151,494.83	\$ 146,725.31	\$ 9,392.98	\$ 14,162.50	\$ (4,769.52)	-3.15%
Grace House	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
MALIM Grant GO & Make	\$ 4,305.08	\$ 4,305.08	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Maita Puerto Rico Mission	\$ 180.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 30.00	\$ -	\$ 30.00	16.67%
Mitchell Endowment Fund	\$ 60,060.32	\$ 54,358.02	\$ -	\$ 5,702.30	\$ (5,702.30)	-9.49%
Pastor Sabbatical Fund	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Saints of Grace	\$ 1,505.00	\$ 1,755.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	16.61%
Shepherd's Tent	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00	38.10%
Touched By Grace	\$ 4,561.69	\$ 4,561.69	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Walltown Food Bank	\$ 200.00	\$ 44.00	\$ 2,070.14	\$ 2,226.14	\$ (156.00)	-78.00%
LCEF Stewardship (2245)	\$ 29,062.30	\$ 34,370.67	\$ 10,032.57	\$ 4,724.20	\$ 5,308.37	18.27%
Unrestricted (LCEF Stewardship)	\$ 26,431.42	\$ 32,733.65	\$ 9,000.29	\$ 2,698.06	\$ 6,302.23	23.84%
LCEF Embrace Grace Donation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
LCEF Go & Make	\$ 370.02	\$ 570.02	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	54.05%
LCEF Shepherd's Tent	\$ 717.00	\$ 1,067.00	\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ 350.00	48.81%
LCEF Walltown Food Bank	\$ 1,543.86	\$ -	\$ 482.28	\$ 2,026.14	\$ (1,543.86)	-100.00%
LCEF Saints of Grace (2022)	\$ 12,684.06	\$ 12,690.34	\$ 6.28	\$ -	\$ 6.28	0.05%
Saints of Grace Investment CD (991073909,	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Property	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
Liabilities	\$ 6,503.01	\$ 5,372.78	\$ 3,590.83	\$ 2,460.60	\$ (1,130.23)	-17.38%
Grace House Mortgage	\$ 5,290.91	\$ 4,260.69	\$ 1,030.22	\$ -	\$ (1,030.22)	-19.47%
Payroll Withholdings	\$ 1,212.10	\$ 1,112.09	\$ 2,560.61	\$ 2,460.60	\$ (100.01)	-8.25%

Grace Lutheran Church
Income & Expense
 Mar 01, 2024 through Mar 31, 2024

Account	Budgets		Actuals		% of Budget	Remaining
	March 2024	March 2024	March 2024	March 2024		
Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,578.76	\$ (37,578.76)	0.00%	\$ (37,578.76)
Plate	-	-	130.25	130.25	0.00%	(130.25)
Envelopes	-	-	24,589.44	24,589.44	0.00%	(24,589.44)
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	1,279.50	1,279.50	0.00%	(1,279.50)
Interest Income	-	-	85.31	85.31	0.00%	(85.31)
Restricted Income	-	-	11,149.26	11,149.26	0.00%	(11,149.26)
Go and Make Income	-	-	9,592.98	9,592.98	0.00%	(9,592.98)
Benevolence Income	-	-	-	-	0.00%	-
Embrace Grace Income	-	-	-	-	0.00%	-
MALIM Grant Income	-	-	-	-	0.00%	-
Maita Puerto Rice Income	-	-	30.00	30.00	0.00%	(30.00)
Mitchell Endowment Income	-	-	-	-	0.00%	-
Pastor Sabbatical Fund Income	-	-	-	-	0.00%	-
Saints of Grace Income	-	-	250.00	250.00	0.00%	(250.00)
Shepherd's Tent Income	-	-	750.00	750.00	0.00%	(750.00)
Touched By Grace Income	-	-	-	-	0.00%	-
Grace House Income	-	-	-	-	0.00%	-
Walltown Food Bank Income	-	-	526.28	526.28	0.00%	(526.28)
LWML	-	-	-	-	0.00%	-
Altar Guild	-	-	-	-	0.00%	-
Flowers	-	-	345.00	345.00	0.00%	(345.00)

Expense	\$	-	\$	43,380.65	0.00%	\$	(43,380.65)
Operating Expenses	\$	-	\$	23,749.73	0.00%	\$	(23,749.73)
Administration Expense	\$	-	\$	839.69	0.00%	\$	(839.69)
Staff Expense	\$	-	\$	18,963.70	0.00%	\$	(18,963.10)
Utilities	\$	-	\$	2,461.44	0.00%	\$	(2,461.44)
Maintenance Expense	\$	-	\$	1,484.90	0.00%	\$	(1,484.90)
Restricted Expense	\$	-	\$	19,401.76	0.00%	\$	(19,401.76)
Go and Make Expense	\$	-	\$	14,162.50	0.00%	\$	(14,162.50)
MALIM Grant Expense	\$	-	\$	-	0.00%	\$	-
Benevolence	\$	-	\$	1,300.82	0.00%	\$	(1,300.82)
Embrace Grace Expense	\$	-	\$	-	0.00%	\$	-
Maita Puerto Rico Expense	\$	-	\$	210.00	0.00%	\$	(210.00)
Mitchell Endowment Expense	\$	-	\$	1,502.30	0.00%	\$	(1,502.30)
Pastor Sabbatical Expense	\$	-	\$	-	0.00%	\$	-
Saints of Grace Expense	\$	-	\$	-	0.00%	\$	-
Grace House Expense	\$	-	\$	-	0.00%	\$	-
Shepherd's Tent Expense	\$	-	\$	-	0.00%	\$	-
Touched By Grace Expense	\$	-	\$	-	0.00%	\$	-
Walltown Food Bank Expense	\$	-	\$	2,226.14	0.00%	\$	(2,226.14)
Missions Expense	\$	-	\$	229.16	0.00%	\$	(229.16)
Grow With Jesus	\$	-	\$	62.89	0.00%	\$	(62.89)
Rejoice in God	\$	-	\$	166.27	0.00%	\$	(166.27)
Answer With Hope	\$	-	\$	-	0.00%	\$	-
Care For Neighbors	\$	-	\$	-	0.00%	\$	-
Embrace Community	\$	-	\$	-	0.00/4	\$	-
Income less Expense	\$	-	\$	(5,801.89)	0.00%	\$	5,801.89

"Get to Know Your Candidates - 2024"

Grace Lutheran Church~ Durham, NC

The following are candidates for the offices of: Congregational President, Congregational Vice President and Congregational Representative. Please read to learn their stories.

Position: President	Name: Bev Hudgins
Tell us about yourself and your family. Where you grew up? Went to school?	
<p>I grew up in a small town in Northeast PA (the Pocono Mountains). Being 7 years older than my only sibling, my brother, and having no other children my age within walking distance, I learned to be very independent and able to entertain myself. My dad was second generation in a painting business. Early on, my mom worked as a waitress and later on was a stay-at-home mom. As a family we worked hard together and played hard together, instilling in me a strong work ethic, as well as a love for the outdoors. We played a lot of badminton, volleyball, spent weekends at the lake on our boat and skied in the winter. From an early age I was a geek, loving school and generally having my nose in a book. Because it was the church in our village, I attended what was then an LCA church. The geek in me took my catechism very seriously and to this day I am grateful for the spiritual foundation it laid for my life in the faith. When I graduated from high school, I attended freshman year at Muhlenberg college in Allentown, PA. All I ever wanted to be was a mom and only went to college because it was my parents' dream. Because I thought I was in love with and couldn't stand to be so far from my high school sweetheart who was at Duke, I had to devise a plan to transfer to a school closer to him. Duke had a nursing program and Muhlenberg didn't, so I decided to become a nurse and was accepted to Duke nursing school.</p>	
What do you do for a living? If retired, what was your occupation?	
<p>I have worked as a nurse in a hospital my entire career, mostly at the bedside for adult patients in a variety of settings. I also taught nursing at a community college for 11 years. Despite retiring three times from nursing, I continue to work 2 shifts a week in a procedural unit at Duke Regional. This is the best job I have ever had, and I have no plans to stop anytime soon, the good Lord willing.</p>	
Have you served in other church positions here or at another church? Other volunteer positions held?	
<p>I have served as organist/choir director, treasurer and have had leadership roles in various church committees.</p>	
What three wishes do you have to enhance the health and vitality of Grace Lutheran Church?	
<p>I would like Grace to make a difference in our surrounding community. I would like Grace members to grow in discipleship (walking the way of Grace). I would like Grace members grow in witnessing the love of Jesus in their vocations (family, neighborhood, work).</p>	

Position: Vice President	Name: Barbara Silvernail
Tell us about yourself and your family. Where you grew up? Went to school?	

I grew up in East Boston, MA with my parents and 2 brothers: 1 older, 1 younger. I come from a family of meager means; my dad was a taxi driver and my mom stayed at home to care for us. Our dad died when I was 12 and my mom had to figure out how to make ends meet. One of the best gifts I had in life was when I turned 14 and applied for a job through an organization that helped inner city children. I was hired as a file clerk at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, a short distance from East Boston Highschool. That is where my interest in healthcare began. I got to see how these amazing nurses and doctors helped patients and their families. I kept gaining more and more responsibilities at the center. By the time high school was coming to an end, the nurses I was working with convinced me to go to school to become a nurse! I hadn't received that type of encouragement from my parents; our cultural norms did not value education. Instead, "getting a job and working hard" was the focus. So, I did work hard, applied for grants, and put myself through college and graduated from U MA Boston with a Bachelor of Science, Nursing (BSN).

What do you do for a living? If retired, what was your occupation?

My first nursing job was at Mass General Hospital. I immediately fell in love with my career choice! I quickly became interested in critical care - challenging, fast paced, lifesaving, I wanted to immerse myself in this important work. What I was doing was essential and making a difference for so many. Eventually, I became a Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) having earned my master's degree. In this role I enjoyed mentoring, training, and coaching other healthcare providers. My CNS role brought about an opportunity for me in the medical device industry and eventually the pharmaceutical industry as a Medical Science Liaison (MSL). Throughout my career, I have achieved significant milestones, including earning a PhD and progressing to the roles of Associate Director and then Director, leading Medical Science Liaison (MSL) teams. Within the pharmaceutical industry, my focus lies in scientific engagement with healthcare providers to educate and support them in making informed treatment decisions for their patients.

Have you served in other church positions here or at another church? Other volunteer positions held?

No. Before becoming a member at Grace in May 2023, I have done volunteer work with the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC (FBCENC). I more recently volunteered at Walltown and became a Duke Lutheran Ambassador.

What three wishes do you have to enhance the health and vitality of Grace Lutheran Church?

Service and Community Outreach - Continue and improve participating in service projects to demonstrate Christ's love and meet the needs of those in the community.
 Youth and Family Ministries - Activities tailored to children, youth, and families to support their spiritual growth, provide mentorship, and create a sense of belonging within the church. Leadership Development - Equip and empower emerging leaders within the church through training, mentorship, and opportunities for leadership roles to ensure the continued growth and vitality of the congregation.

Congregational Representative

Name: Judy Barnes

Tell us about yourself and your family. Where you grew up? Went to school?

I was the second child of Stanley and Vivian Valley and grew up in northern Iowa -go Hawkeyes. Moved due to Dad's job in the newspaper business. Southern TX, then Southern IL. Then to Durham, NC.

What do you do for a living? If retired, what was your occupation?

I am retired (twice) as an RN (BSN) from UNC Chapel Hill (go Tar Heels). My career started out in IL as a LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse). Worked in 2 Catholic hospitals in IL. When I came to NC I worked at Duke as an LPN while attending UNC Chapel Hill to get my BSN. After obtaining that, I've worked in SICU, Dialysis, at UNC hospitals, Worked for Durham county at the Health Dept. as a Home Health nurse and School Health nurse. Then at Carol Woods Retirement center and returned to UNC hospitals to work in Employee Health. Which is where I was working when I retired.

Have you served in other church positions here or at another church? Other volunteer positions held?

I have served in Altar Guild and when Anne Redick retired, Jean Norby and I co-chaired Altar Guild. When Jean died, I took over. Served there for a number of years. I have to say that it is a wonderful group of people to work with!!! Also served on Fellowship committee at Grace. Now as Congregational Lay representative.

What three wishes do you have to enhance the health and vitality of Grace Lutheran Church?

Would like to see the kitchen at Grace House used as a sort of "Home Economics Center" for single mothers, young families just starting out, etc. Some ideas would be budgeting the household, sharing food shopping with couples to make their dollars stretch. Basic sewing skills, like clothes repair, hemming, etc.

Would also like to see some sort of transport to and from our parking lot to the church for those with limited ambulation issues, breathing problems, stamina issues, or anyone else that may need an extra hand to get inside God's house to worship Him.



DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Position: Regular full time
Reports To: Pastor

Position Summary: The Director of Christian Outreach (DCO) oversees the church's efforts to implement a key part of its mission of "Welcoming Everyone to Walk the Way of GRACE." This person is responsible for shepherding the congregation's local, national, and international outreach opportunities through shared strategic planning, training/education and promotion. This person serves as a public liaison with community groups and related ministries. This person also helps plan and facilitate the congregation's sharing of Good News to those without a saving faith in Jesus.

Specific Duties:

- Stimulate awareness of, interest in, and excitement about outreach ministry.
- Research, survey, and assess the community to determine what outreach ministries are most needed.
- Facilitate creative strategies to bring the message of Jesus to the unchurched in the community, invite them to know Jesus and guide them into the fellowship of the church.
- Help other Christians become more comfortable and effective in sharing Jesus with others.
- Serve as the spokesperson of the unchurched to the congregation, informing church members of the needs of the community and urging appropriate actions of service and witness.
- Educate congregational leaders and members so that they recognize the evangelism potential in their varied ministries.
- Oversee and develop Outreach associated classes (Care for the Neighbor-Embrace Community) and experiential opportunities for Grace attendees to learn and practice biblical principles of evangelism and service.
- Provide any necessary training and equipment for Grace staff and non-paid ministry partners (volunteers) to ensure broad understanding and buy-in of direction, milestones, in goals of local outreach vision and strategy.
- Articulate clear process for the development of new ministry ideas by Grace attendees, empowers and equips visionaries to launch out, assuring appropriate deployment.
- Assist ministry partners (volunteers) to discover, develop and utilize their spiritual gifts.
- Increase congregational awareness, understanding, and involvement and outreach and evangelism through effective communication.

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- Serve as a resource for, and assists with planning as requested, for small group outreach opportunities and teaching in order to help develop a priority and passion for outreach among congregational groups.
- Provide leadership and direction to outreach events and assures follow up and coordination with appropriate ministries.

Other Duties:

- Supervises Grace's efforts to link serving opportunities in the community and in the church with Grace attendees.
- Supervises Grace's efforts to be a collaborating and engaged church with local area ministries and churches ensuring the highest standards of partnership.
- Develops, submits and monitors an annual plan and budget for outreach and ensures sufficient resources are available to achieve ministry goals.
- Be visible and available during weekend services as needed.
- Attends weekly staff meetings and other agreed upon meetings and conferences.
- Plans and coordinates all mission trips.
- Coordinates response to spontaneous or urgent needs that arise, such as large-scale disaster response efforts.
- Provides training to those who desire to help others journey toward a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Performs other duties as may be assigned or required.

Qualifications:

- Possess influence, verbal communication skills and cultural awareness.
- Proven ability to work with and maintain positive, loyal relationships with those inside and outside the church.
- Forward thinking, analytical, and problem-solving skills.
- Well-developed interpersonal skills biblical conflict management.
- Excellent management and leadership skills.
- Experience in social media skills is a plus.