



"For I know the plans I have for you,"
declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you
and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope
and a future."

** Jeremiah 29:11 **

Annual Report

2022

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

Grace Presbyterian Church
Jenkintown, Pennsylvania

Sunday, February 5, 2023* 11:30 am

Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation

Rev. Brian Russo Moderator
Chris Sterman, Clerk of Session

AGENDA

Prayer	Brian Russo
Reading of the Call for the Meeting	Chris Sterman
Report of the Clerk	Chris Sterman
Terms of Call: Pastor Brian Russo	Stew Beltz
Review of the 2022 Budget & Presentation of the 2023 Budget Questions and Comments	Don Pizer
Presentation of the 2023 Benevolence Budget	John Still
Recognition of Retiring Officers	
Election of Officers	
Reports from Session and Deacon Teams and Committees	Brian Russo
Adjournment with singing of the Doxology	

SESSION

Moderator
Clerk

James Reisner/Brian Russo
Chris Sterman

Class of 2023

Danny Hayes
Kurt Heiselmoyer
Josh Jablonski
Mary Rodgers

Class of 2024

Robin Nagele
Christy Pietsch
Nancy Wright
Whitney Zylstra

Class of 2025

Greg Jones
Chris Sterman
Betsy Zimmermann

BOARD OF DEACONS

Moderator:

Jen Eyre

Class of 2023

Steve Alexander
Jen Eyre
Brett Pizer
Renee Rufibach
Chip Rupert

Class of 2024

Claire Alderfer
June Hudson
Bob Steck

Class of 2025

Chris Hoyler
Donna Payne

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

Don Pizer
Doug Geer
Danny Hayes
Chris Sterman

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Brian Russo, Senior Pastor

Joel Bielefeldt, Director of Next Gen Ministries
Valerie Clayton, Music Director
David Downs, Sexton
Kevin Engleman, Organist

Tina Hinks, Financial Secretary
Cindy Kaminski, Director of the Nursery School
Khayyam Khan, Sunday Sexton
Erika Raskay, Sunday Childcare
Stephanie Schindler, Administrative Assistant

Report to the Presbytery

Report to the Presbytery

Active Members on roll, December 31, 2021	465
Gains During 2022	
Certificate of Transfer	2
Reaffirmation of Faith	3
Profession of Faith	5
Reactivated	0
Total Gains	10
Losses during 2022	
Deaths	4
Letter of Transfer	4
By Request	1
Inactivated	
Total Losses	9
Total Active Membership, December 31, 2022	466
Average Attendance:	125
Baptisms:	
Infant/Child	8
Adult	0
Marriages Performed:	0
Registered Church School (Children, Youth, Adults)	
Total Students:	60
Total Teachers:	13
Total Church School Enrollment:	73

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

Year Ending December 31, 2022

	RACIAL ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF GRACE CHURCH						
	<u>Other</u>	<u>Asian</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>Native</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Total</u>
			<u>American</u>				
Congregation	1	4	19	6	0	436	466
Session	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
Deacons	0	0	1	0	0	9	10
Active Officers							
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Total</u>				
Session	5	6	11				
Deacons	4	6	10				

CHILD BAPTISMS DURING 2022

February 13	Lillian Fairman	May 15	Emma Hamsher
May 22	Nicole Nkrumah	November 6	Lucy Lehrer
November 6	Whitney Lehrer	November 6	Asher Zimmermann
December 4	Felicity Hudson	December 4	Vivienne Pizer

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED DURING 2022

Benjamin Eyre	Paul Hutapea
Margaret Leary Remich	Cody Lehrer
Greg Maurer	John Murphy
Ruth Murphy	Nicole Nkrumah
Mattie Schaumburg	Tabitha Sterman

MEMBERS REMOVED DURING 2022

Philip Kuhl	Sandi Kuhl	Jill Still
James Still	Joel Wagoner	

DEATHS OF GRACE CHURCH MEMBERS IN 2022

February 6	William Henry Parker	April 29	Doris Motter
May 28	James Baxter	September 21	Nelson Zetterberg

Church Committee and Team Structure

The Session

Session Committees:

Nominating
Personnel
Property
Stewardship & Administration

Session Teams:

Adult Education
Growth & Outreach
Mission
Next Gen Ministries
(formerly Children's Education & Student Ministry)
Worship

The Board of Deacons

Deacons Teams:

Fellowship
Older Adults
Congregational Care & Membership

Session Team: Adult Education

Team Leader/Elder Liaison: Betsy Zimmermann

Pastoral Support: Jim Reisner

Member: No other members

The decision was made to re-start Adult Ed on Sunday mornings, as the congregation becomes more comfortable with in-person worship and gatherings.

To that end, Pastor Jim Reisner started offering Adult Ed on Sunday mornings between the 8:30 and 10:30 services. The focus is on the current Sunday scripture readings.

Small Groups have been reviewed, with the help of Tina Hinks, and all are currently meeting, with the exception of one, which has not met in two years. A sign-up list is available for formation of new small groups, however there has been limited interest. This subject will be tabled until we have the new pastor in place and are able to approach this again.

Anyone with ideas and would like to help the Adult Ed programs, please contact Betsy Zimmermann directly.

Session Team: Growth & Outreach

Team Leader: Bob MacFarland

Session Liaison: Mary Rodgers

Team Members: Dave Alexander, Julie Gouveia, John Still

Staff & Pastoral Support: Pastor Sandy Hull, Joel Bielefeldt, Pastor Jim Reisner

Highlights: This was a year of transition from the pandemic environment to starting back to in person activities and worship. It was also a time of loss, Sandy Hull's leaving and the excitement of Brian Russo's coming. During this year the GO Team's goal was to be sure the church remained a major presence in the Jenkintown area. We supported the creation of the new church website both financially and by working with the Session committee chaired by Leslie Gerhard. The new website was brought online in November. In addition, we sponsored and/or supported activities that would help engage the congregation and attract the community to the church. With God's help we were quite successful in doing so. Here are the major events we either sponsored or supported:

Make A Joyful Noise - Supported the Deacons

Food Truck/Easter Egg Hunt – Sponsored this event which drew over many families and over 100 children

Community BBQ/Pig Roast – Sponsored this summer event which was very well attended by members, visitors and the community

Rally Day Block Party – Supported the Deacons

Jenkintown Arts Festival – Sponsored a booth at the Arts Festival. 100s of people stopped by, got information about Grace and entered the jelly bean counting contest.

Camp Fire Event & Christmas Sing Along – Sponsored this event at Carson Simpson Farms. Everyone (families and friends) enjoyed the evening on a cold, clear, evening.

Session Committee: Next Gen Ministries

Staff: Joel Bielefeldt

Session Liaison: Josh Jablonski, Whitney Zylstra

Next Gen Ministry Team: Joan Heiselmoyer, Melissa Dreisbach, Jennifer Levine

Adult Youth Leaders: Whitney Zylstra, Samantha & Michael Zimmermann, Josh Jablonski

Sunday School Teachers: Dave & Judy Alexander, Aaron & Sarah Sullivan, Ruth Fuelleborn, Alice Turman, Chip & Carol Rupert, Joan Heiselmoyer, Gail MacFarland, Linda Beckman, Austin Bielefeldt, Donna Reardon

The Next Gen Ministry Team provides leadership oversight for all ministry areas that involve children and youth at Grace Presbyterian Church. In previous years, Grace has had two separate teams: one for Children's Education and one for Student Ministry. In the spring of 2022 we decided to merge these two teams together with the hope of forming a more unified ministry for families as their children transition from one area to the next.

We have 13 incredible Sunday School teachers who bring the mission of our church to its youngest members each week. With age appropriate Bible stories, crafts, songs, coloring pages, journaling and games, God's message of his constant love for all of us comes alive. Learning about Jesus is not only words on paper, it's shown by the love and care the team teachers bring to their lesson plans to each child. In 2022 we partnered with the Growth and Outreach team to host an Easter Egg Hunt with hopes of having 50 kids attend the event. We were blown away by the turn out of the event when we had over 200 kids participating. It was a great day for our church and community.

Erika Raskay provides experienced nursery care for babies 3 months through 2 years of age. The nursery is available for families during the 8:30 service, adult education and the 10:30 service as well as during youth group on Wednesday nights for our leaders that have young kids.

The core element of Grace's Student Ministry program is the gathering of our weekly youth group on Wednesday nights, and Amplify on Sunday mornings throughout the traditional school year. Both middle and high school students meet on Wednesday evenings. During the first half hour students will have a time to hang out, play some games, eat some snacks, and spend some time in fellowship.

One of the highlights from 2022 was our summer mission trip at The Philadelphia Project. We had 12 students join us for the week and it will be a week that they remember for the rest of their lives.

Session Committee: Nominating

Chair & Session Representative: Nancy Wright

Members: Dave Alexander, Joan Heiselmoyer, Donna Jones, Gail MacFarland and Meghan Zamborski

The nominating committee presented the following slates for the Class of 2025 Elders and Deacons:

Elders Class of 2025

Greg Jones
Chris Sterman
Betsy Zimmermann

Deacons Class of 2025

Chris Hoyler
Donna Payne

As the nominating committee begins the work of calling the Deacon and Elder classes of 2026, we first would like to thank the Elders and Deacons class of 2022, who have completed their terms. They have all been faithful servants to Grace.

The committee will meet soon and begin the process of prayerfully discerning God's will as we call individuals to serve as the Deacons and Elders class of 2026. We will have a full slate to present to the congregation in the spring and ask the members of Grace to pray for our committee and if asked to serve consider this calling carefully.

Session Committee: Personnel

Committee Leader: vacant
Session Liaison: Nancy Wright
Members: Stew Beltz
Staff Liaison: Jim Reisner

The Personnel Committee engaged in a variety of activities to support the staffing and human resource needs of Grace Church throughout 2022. Pastor transition activity throughout 2022 required significant additional work for committee members including leading a series of individual and group meetings intended to keep the staff informed and confident in the future direction. It was particularly important that staffing remains stable during a leadership transition. Additional insight into staff roles led to the creation of the Director of Next Gen Ministry position in April, by combining the Director of Youth Ministry with the leadership of Children's Ministry into one integrated position that leveraged the gifts and skills of the current incumbent. A new part-time office administrator position was created following the voluntary resignation of the former Communication Specialist. The new part-time administrative assistant position was successfully filled in November. In September, a re-evaluation of the Financial Secretary role led to broader office management and leadership responsibilities. In November, an opportunity was arranged for staff to meet the new Pastor Candidate. At year end, staff job descriptions underwent a review and update in preparation of the new Pastor's arrival in January.

Session Committee: Property

Committee Leader: Jeff Hinks
Session Liaison: Kurt Heiselmoyer
Staff Liaison: Jim Reisner, Dave Downs

From Ministry to Mission, the Grace Church Building continues to be a beautiful, reliable, well-known place that is well positioned to serve the needs of the congregation and neighbors for many more years. The commitment to the preservation of the building by members, staff, leadership and those who came before us will provide future generations a place to worship, meet and gather. While other local church buildings have been vacated over the last several years, this building looks forward to growth through renovations and upgrades with a vision toward the future.

Property has been busy this year coordinating with the Capital Projects Team as well as catching up with repairs that have been needed for years. The sidewalk along the side of the manse, concrete steps in front of the manse, concrete steps at the Vista Rd. entrance have been repaired as required by Jenkintown Borough.

The bluestone steps near the "choir entrance" along Vista Rd. have been replaced. New railings have been ordered and are awaiting fabrication and installation. A new railing will be installed at the concrete steps near the playground. New railings have been ordered for the wood steps at the Chancel and are awaiting installation. The Muyskens Hall kitchen has been upgraded in order to be in compliance with local code. An upgraded hood fire suppression system and fire extinguishers are part of that work.

Since the manse was vacated in mid-November, the property committee is in the process of evaluating the amount and type of work required to repair and upgrade the home. A slate roof specialist has repaired several key areas of the slate roof. With the roof repairs complete, more work will be scheduled in early 2023. This will include general cleaning, ceiling and wall repair, painting, new washer and dryer, and more. While the manse is vacant, there will be cost savings due to lower utility usage.

Nearing the end of the pandemic has led to increased building usage which has subsequently increased energy and other utility expenses. Expenses significantly exceeded the estimated budget due to several large repairs. A large section of steam pipe was replaced in the music room. Several old and new pipe leaks have been repaired. Several new valves and pumps have been replaced. However, there are several maintenance issues that will be addressed in the near future that will require significant investment. While the overall condition of the building is very good, it is old and many of the original systems are nearing the end of their use.

The main heating systems are of key concern to the committee and staff. While the air conditioning systems and several heat pump units are newer and energy efficient, the main heating system served by one gas fired and one oil fired boiler are less efficient and in need of an upgrade. Upgrading this system is one of the main objectives of the Capital Projects Campaign.

Session Committee: Stewardship & Administration

Committee Leader:	Don Pizer
Session Liaison:	Dan Hayes
Committee Members:	Doug Geer, Kurt Heiselmoyer, John Still, John Van Buren, Nancy Wright
Staff members:	Jim Reisner and Tina Hinks

The Stewardship and Administration Committee is responsible for:

- Conducting an annual stewardship emphasis period in the fall.
- Overseeing the financial affairs of the Church, as defined by Session.
- Preparing an annual budget for Session approval.
- Prepare longer-term financial forecasts, as requested by Session
- Reviewing building use and fund-raising requests, on behalf of Session, and negotiating contracts with outside groups that rent our facilities.
- Reviewing By-laws and other administrative matters.
- Overseeing and directing endowment activities and endowment funds.
- Overseeing the administration of information technology.

During 2022, the Committee had the following accomplishments:

- Planning for capital renovations to the church building through the Capital Planning Committee have been ongoing since 2019. Momentum for this effort had been rekindled in November 2021 but the momentum was lost again in early 2022 with the announced departure of Sandy Hull. The Committee picked up the ball in conjunction with the Property Committee, prioritized renovation projects, completed a brochure setting forth the proposals, worked with our consultant Horizons Stewardship, and completed a financial feasibility study in late November. Discussions concerning a capital campaign are ongoing.
- Led by John Still on our Committee, a grant was applied for from the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program. Lil Swanson took the lead in operationalizing this effort, supported by the Property Committee and other members of this committee. In November we were informed that Grace has been awarded \$1,547,646 under this program. Work is ongoing to meet the grant requirements to receive the final approval.
- Worked with staff, principally Tina Hinks and Kurt Heiselmoyer as the leader of the effort, to conduct the annual stewardship emphasis period in October-November. Kurt ably led this initiative in a continually challenging environment.
- Provided financial information, as requested, to the Pastor Nominating Committee as they conducted their pastor search.
- Published periodic articles in weekly emails, church bulletins and website on the financial status of the Church.
- Managed the annual operating budget of the Church for 2022.
- Prepared an annual operating budget for 2023 for the Session.
- Managed the investment funds of the Church, principally the Endowment Fund, the Debbie MacFarland Corrigan Fund and other short-term funds. Met with the managers and advisers of the Endowment Fund, New Covenant Trust Company, to review investment allocations and performance.
- Provided oversight of information technology hardware and software.
- Coordinated building use requests and fund-raising requests.

Session Team: Worship

Team Leaders: Wendy Browder & Robin Nagele

Session Liaison: Robin Nagele

Team Members: Wendy Browder, Debbie Butler, Marcia Pizer (Ruth Fuelleborn, Joel Wagoner)

Staff Liaisons: Jim Reisner, Valerie Clayton, Kevin Engleman

The ongoing work of the Worship Team includes overseeing worship, worship supplies, the music program, and the ushers. In addition, the Worship Team has been tasked with focusing on two of the tactical initiatives of the Strategic Plan (largely on hold this year due to COVID and leadership changes): (1) deepening our relationship with Cedar Park Presbyterian Church (and Oxford Presbyterian Church); and (2) work with the young adult group to consider possible changes to worship.

The Worship Team is thankful for the collaborative work of our Pastoral Team, along with Valerie Clayton and Kevin Engleman, to provide meaningful and inclusive worship experiences. We were privileged to benefit from the varied experience and leadership of our pastoral leaders during this transitional year, including Sandy Hull, Jim Reisner, and Joel Bielefeldt, along with several guest pastors. We express particular thanks to Pastor Jim Reisner for leading us through a time of transition.

While gradually moving into the post-COVID era of in-person services with a virtual option, we have continued to be challenged by the uncertain and constantly shifting public health landscape and changing patterns of church attendance. After reviving the 8:30 a.m. Service for the Fall on an experimental basis, we have determined to put that Service on hold and to re-evaluate it in the coming months with our new Pastor, Brian Russo.

We express thanks to the Chancel Choir members and other musical volunteers who have continued to enrich our worship services throughout the year under the leadership and direction of Valerie Clayton. Special thanks go to all of those who made possible our in-person Christmas Eve services -- the 5:00 Family Service, 7:00 Communion Service, 10:00 Candlelight Service, including volunteer help from many individuals supporting the Children's Ministry, and contributions by the Chancel Choir, Cathedral Ringers, Kevin Engleman, Dennis Butler, Wendy Browder, Sue Kuhl, Chris Sterman, and Brass ensemble.

We deeply appreciate the talents and commitment of Kevin Engleman and Ruth Fuelleborn in leading our two children's choirs. We also thank our dedicated Cathedral Ringers under Kevin Engleman's direction.

We express ongoing appreciation for our video production team headed by Ben Morris with volunteer help from numerous individuals, including Whitney Zylstra and Kirsten Caminiti. We are currently working to expand the video production team so that all services and events are streamed successfully.

The Worship Team welcomed new member Marica Pizer this year as Lead Usher and deeply appreciate her successful effort to organize and stabilize our usher corps. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of departing members, Ruth Fuelleborn and Joel Wagoner, both of whom served faithfully for many years. We are now looking for their replacements, including some younger representatives of the congregation.

We are deeply indebted to our Worship Team members who engage fully in our discussions and work, as well as many volunteers from our congregation who are integral in creating a wonderful worship environment at Grace. These include the Men of Grace, Donna Jones, Debbie Butler and others who organized the hanging of the greens and the Chrismon decorations this year.

We hope and believe that, under the leadership of our new pastor Brian Russo, and with the COVID-19 pandemic largely in the rearview mirror, we will continue to find creative ways to bring meaningful worship experiences to many more people. Please feel free to let any of us know how we can better serve Grace. We feel blessed that we have such dedicated team members, congregants, and staff. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Capital Projects Committee

The task of the Capital Projects Committee was to offer a plan that makes the Grace Church building more accessible, safe & secure, modern and efficient and allow for future ministerial needs. The previous committee of Sandi Kuhl, Wendy Browder, Meredith Croy, Ruth Fuelleborn, Kathleen Geer, and Jeff Hinks performed outstanding work over the last four years during an unprecedented time.

The committee recommended to Session in November 2021 to put the entire project to the congregation for fundraising feasibility. A November meeting with a group of steadfast givers to the Church suggested the plan would need to be revised by the Property Committee to fit a \$1.5 million budget.

The Property Committee--Jeff Hinks and Kurt Heiselmoyer--began working with Lenhardt Rodgers Architecture and cost estimators to re-price and re-prioritize the projects. This effort culminated in a Case Statement reviewed at a town hall meeting with the congregation in September. The statement had a revised price tag of \$2.8 million. The projects include urgent infrastructure needs for HVAC replacement, electrical upgrades, new windows and drainage. Muyskens Hall and adjoining kitchen will be renovated, as will the Palmer Room kitchen. New handicapped access will be added and the elevator will be upgraded. The lower level of the building under the sanctuary will be renovated and a new adult education/ community meeting room will be created from existing classrooms. A new entrance envisioned for Vista Road has been dropped from the plan due to price considerations. A revised Handicapped Entrance will be added in the next phase of architect drawings.

Our fundraising consultant, Horizons Stewardship, has conducted a financial feasibility study and the results are pending. Concurrently, another group of volunteers from the S&A Committee (John Still, Kurt Heiselmoyer, Don Pizer), Lil Swanson and Jeff Hinks completed an application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of the Budget for a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant requesting \$1.5 million. Grace was awarded the grant in November. Efforts are currently underway to complete the grant award requirements and finalize planning for a capital campaign to complete the capital projects.

Funds expended to date are listed in the financial section of the report.

Mission Team

NO REPORT SUBMITTED

The Board of Deacons

Moderator: Jenifer Eyre

Staff Liaison: Sandy Hull, until his departure in May, and Jim Reisner

The Deacons are the heart of Grace Church and maintain daily, weekly, and “big picture” responsibilities in accordance with their call in The Book of Order. The Deacons have continued to maintain spiritual representation, care, and fellowship, while initiating quarterly prayer vigils and inspiring the congregation to use our online directory, “Breeze.”

Deacon Sub-committees:

FELLOWSHIP <i>(coffee hour and other opportunities for fellowship)</i>	OLDER ADULTS <i>(Grace Place & 50-year members)</i>	CONGREGATIONAL CARE <i>(visitation & transportation)</i>
Steve Alexander, Carla Lopinto Khoury*, Donna Payne, Steve Spindler*	Claire Alderfer, Dee McClain*, Laurel Peregrino*, Renee Rufibach	June Hudson, Brett Pizer, Chip Rupert, Bob Steck*, Chris Hoyler

*= no longer active deacons in September 2022

2022 INITIATIVES:

- Reached out systematically to church members through prayer, calls, texts, emails and notes focusing on 15+ family units each month.
- Instituted and promoted quarterly prayer vigils in the Chapel with a growing prayer book.
- Created and produced five commercials for “Breeze,” our online directory, with Breezeman and the Breezegirls with a focus on getting all members of the congregation to put their photo in Breeze, hence, using the online tool, and ultimately, printing a pictorial directory.
- Educated deacons about visitation skills and challenged every deacon to visit folks from the congregation.
- Facilitated Grace Place, a weekly meal and socialization opportunity for seniors.
- Worked with other committees to execute Rally Day, coffee hour, lilies & poinsettias for worship.

Ministries of Grace Church

Grace Nursery School

Director: Cynthia Kaminski

Pre-Kindergarten: Shawna Ralston, Maureen Keyser

Four Year Old's: Gretchen Van Buren, Denise Bottinger, Annie Dwyer

Three Year Old's: Kate McGuire, Jen Zalewski

Play Group/Two Year Old's: Anne Campbell, Jenny Kimball, Lynn Buss

Extended Day: Shawna Ralston, Annie Dwyer, Maureen Keyser, Cynthia Kaminski, Denise Bottinger, Jen Zalewski

Grace Nursery School began in 1954 and today we continue to offer a pre-school experience with an emphasis on learning in a play-based, academic, exploratory and caring atmosphere. The state-licensed school serves children from Grace Church and the community and is important to the church's total outreach program. Forty-eight children are enrolled in the school.

Grace Nursery School opened in September 2022 with a full staff and full enrollment. We opened this school year with a "mask optional" policy for COVID-19. Grace Nursery School has followed all recommendations from the CDC, Department of Education and the Montgomery County Health Department with all procedures, exposures and cases pertaining to COVID-19 protocol.

The nursery school is currently registering for the 2023-2024 school year and the projection is a full enrollment for the fall of 2023.

Cynthia Kaminski remains the director of the Nursery School for the sixth year, after becoming director in 2017. In addition, Kate McGuire and Jennifer Zalewski were hired as two new teachers in the three-year-old classroom. Grace Nursery School also hired two support staff, Annie Dwyer, and Brooke Strassle to work in the fours and Pre-K classes. The Nursery School continues to offer the early drop off program in the mornings from 8:30am-9:15am and continues to offer an extended day program until 2:30pm. Grace Nursery School is offering Pizza Wednesdays.

The Nursery School continues to provide many additional activities for the students each year. These include, Kohler Farms Hayride, Briar Bush, Yoga, Sign Language, Quiver Farms Eggs Hatching project, a visit from the SPCA for animal safety. We also receive CPR/ First Aid Training.

Upon reopening, the nursery school will follow ALL guidance suggested and required by the Department of Health, CDC, and Department of Education to function and operate in a safe environment.

Five mornings a week, our big, bright rooms are filled with children playing and learning, led by a staff of outstanding teachers who enjoy teaching the children and learning with them. Grace Nursery School is dedicated to making every child's school experience one they will remember and reflect on as they grow.

The Grace Nursery School continues to enroll students and is financially sound.

Grace Scouting Groups

Cub Scout Pack 210 Executive Officer: Joel Bielefeldt

Cub Scout Pack 210 Chartered Organization Representative: Andrew Barnett

STAFF REPORTS

TRANSITIONAL PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor James L. Reisner

As I reflect on my seven and one-half months at Grace Presbyterian Church, I am reminded of Captain Spaulding, Groucho Marx's character in the movie Animal Crackers, who sings:

*Hello, I must be going.
I cannot stay.
I came to say I must be going.
I'm glad I came, but just the same,
I must be going.*

"Hello, I must be going." I feel that I have just gotten here and now it is time for me to go.

This has been a gratifying and fulfilling ministry for me at Grace. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with you, and I am grateful for the support I have received here. Grace is blessed with a talented, loyal, and dedicated staff who have stepped up during this transitional time to keep things running and moving forward. Thanks, also, to the leadership of the Session and its committees over the past year as they have guided the church through uncertain waters.

Transitions are also challenging and tricky times in a church's life. Some churches become passive during transition times and wait for new leadership before taking on larger tasks. You have not done that. You have taken on a capital campaign that will transform the physical plant at Grace to become a mission outpost fit for the challenges that will come in the years ahead.

On more than one occasion from the pulpit, I have quoted words from William Carey. I believe Grace Presbyterian Church has been faithful to his charge, and these are words I leave with you as the Reverend Brian Russo assumes the pastorate in January: **"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."**

After a little bit of a break, I'll be ready for another transitional position within Philadelphia Presbytery. I'll be living just ten miles down the road. From there I expect to hear great things about Grace Presbyterian Church in the years ahead.

I leave you with this blessing:

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

-- Romans 15:13

NEXT GEN MINISTRIES

JOEL BIELEFELDT, DIRECTOR

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

I find myself going back to these words from Paul not only for myself but also for all of the adult volunteers that I have the privilege to be serving alongside. In 2022 the number of people that I serve alongside grew because in April my role transitioned from Director of Student Ministries to Director of Next Gen Ministries. Shortly after my role transitioned I formed a new team entitled The Next Gen Ministry Team. This team provides leadership oversight for all ministry areas that involve children and youth at Grace. In the past, Grace has had two separate teams: one for Children's Education and one for Student Ministry. I decided to merge these two teams together with the hope of forming a more unified ministry for families as their children transition from one area to the next.

I give thanks to God for the ways that he uses Grace and people here at this church to remind me of this love and faithfulness. It is my hope and prayer that Christ's love will overflow from my heart and the hearts of all of us at Grace. Here are some ways that I have sensed His overflowing love.

I saw His love through the lives of our middle school and high school students when they gave up a week of their summer to be in service to our neighbors in Philadelphia when they served on our summer mission trip.

I witnessed His love when our playground and parking lot were full of kids, families, and Grace volunteers for our first Easter Egg Hunt and Food Truck event.

I heard His love on Sunday mornings when the students and leaders engaged in Bible study and our younger kids laughed and learned about Christ's love in Sunday School each week.

I felt His love every time I would stop by the nursery on a Sunday morning and one of the children would ask me to read them a book.

When I take the time to focus on God and his love for us it makes it a little bit easier to see how great His faithfulness is. He has blessed me with being a part of this staff team here at Grace and surrounded by incredible volunteers who love God and love serving others. I am excited to see God's faithfulness continue to unfold in the life of our church here at Grace.

MUSIC MINISTRY

VALERIE CLAYTON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

KEVIN ENGLEMAN, ORGANIST, ASSOCIATE CHOIR DIRECTOR

The music ministry continues to support and lead the congregation in lifting their voices and hearts in a unified choir of praise and adoration to God. The mission of the music ministry is to create inspired music and glorify God, and in doing so lead the congregation to a place of worship.

Although the year started with a suspension of choral activity due to the outbreak of the omicron variant of Covid, we resumed singing and playing in February, while socially distancing ourselves.

Members of the Cherub Choir, under the leadership of Ruth Fuelleborn, and the Chapel Choir, under the leadership of Kevin Engleman, are learning, at an early age, to serve and lead worship through song. Both choirs sing once a month as well as at the five o'clock Christmas Eve Service. The children's choirs joined together with the adult choir on Palm Sunday to lead in worship in a combined choir anthem.

The Chancel Choir continues to grow spiritually, and musically as we return from Covid. There is such a sweet spirit in the choir. Although some members have not returned, we have new members joining us. In the spring a new singer joined the choir. Since September, two more people have joined the choir. The dedicated choir members of the Chancel Choir continue to lead in worship with hymns, anthems, and introits each Sunday, as well as special music for Christmas, and in the spring. This year we worshipped with a setting of the mass titled Missa Festiva by John Leavitt. On the fourth Sunday of Advent the Chancel Choir and Fairmount Strings presented movements from The Magnificat by Taylor Scott Davis.

The Cathedral Ringers lead the congregation in worship one Sunday a month. The membership of the bell choir has stabilized, and the ringers are able to play more challenging music.

The congregation of Grace is blessed to have many instrumentalists in the congregation who willingly give of their talents to the music ministry. Among them are Melissa Dreisbach, flute, Dana Ergenbright and Belinda Hull, cello, Bethany Lipa, violin, Russ Starke, guitar, and Lisa Starke, vocals, and Ben Eyre, saxophone.

Our organist Kevin Engleman continues to inspire the congregation to sing with his thoughtful and musical playing of hymns, anthems, choral and instrumental accompaniments, preludes and postludes at the organ and piano at both of our Sunday services. He lends his support to every aspect of the worship service.