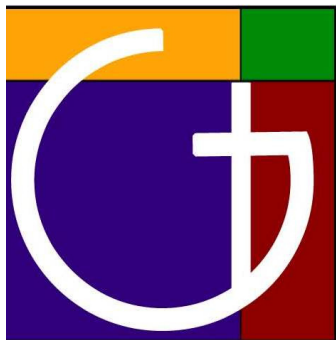


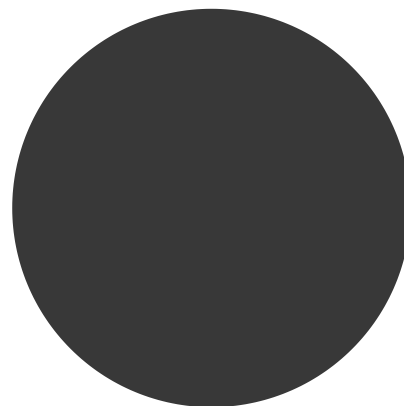
ANNUAL REPORT 2020



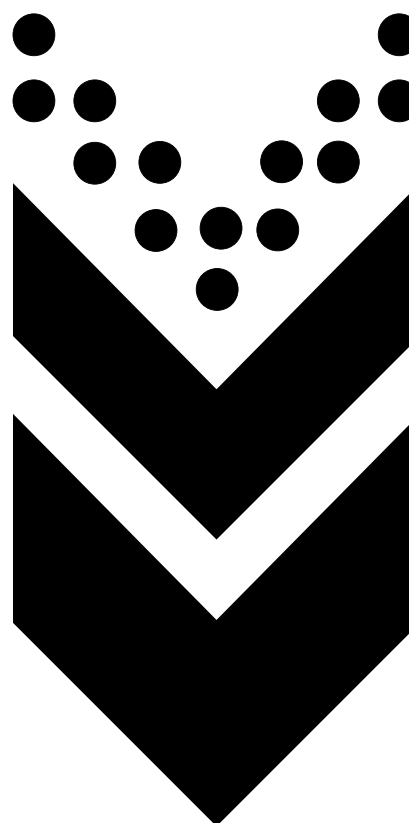
**Grace
Episcopal
Church**

**Presented at the
127th Annual Parish Meeting
January 31, 2021**

Table of *Contents*



<i>3</i>	Opening Prayer
<i>4</i>	Agenda
<i>5</i>	Nominations
<i>6</i>	Voting
<i>7</i>	Vestry
<i>8</i>	Rector's Address
<i>11</i>	Statistics
<i>12</i>	Financials
<i>18</i>	Memorials



Opening Prayer



Almighty and everlasting God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in our annual meeting today for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Meeting Preliminaries

- If you believe you are part of this congregation, then vote and get involved
- Establish quorum present (majority of vestry [5] + 10% of members in good standing)
- Approve meeting secretary
- Approve 2020 annual meeting minutes
- Approve tellers
- Establish eligibility requirement for warden/vestry or convention delegate: confirmed adult member in good standing
- Expectations of vestry: Fr. Bob Wickizer

AGENDA



Grace Episcopal Church, Muskogee, Oklahoma Annual Parish Meeting - January 31, 2021

- Voting Eligibility Established (see p.5)
- Preliminary Items (see p.5)
- Elections (see p.5)
 - Warden
 - New Vestry Members
 - Diocesan Convention Delegates
- 2020 Reports
 - 2020 Year-end Financial Statement (A detailed report can be obtained from the office upon request.)
 - 2021 Budget Overview - Nancy Scott
 - Growing Grace Fund Status
 - Rector's Report: (today's sermon) - The. Rev. Bob Wickizer
 - 2021 Budget (approved by vestry) - Nancy Scott, Fr. Bob Wickizer
- New Business
- Announcements
- Back on track with Diocesan Assessment (saved \$132,000 over 5 years)
- Working on possible solar to cover our power usage
- Commissioning of Vestry
- Commissioning of the People
- Dismissal

NOMINATIONS



Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee consists of those Vestry members completing their final year, the Senior Warden, and the clergy. Together they produced a list of candidates whom they feel will help to continue working toward the mission and vision of Grace. Each of the nominees were given a questionnaire and asked to answer the following questions:

- In what way is Grace Episcopal Church the Body of Christ for you?
- How do you think we should grow the Body of Christ in Muskogee?
- What specific steps should we take?
- What leadership I spiritual gifts (administration, patience, understanding, wisdom, eloquence, love, service to others, compassion, energy, giving, teaching, exhortation, faith, healing, evangelism, hospitality) do you have to help grow the Body of Christ in Muskogee? (see 1 Peter 4:10, 1 Cor 12:4-5, Romans 12:4-6a)
- What else should the parish know about you that will help the parish make an informed election?

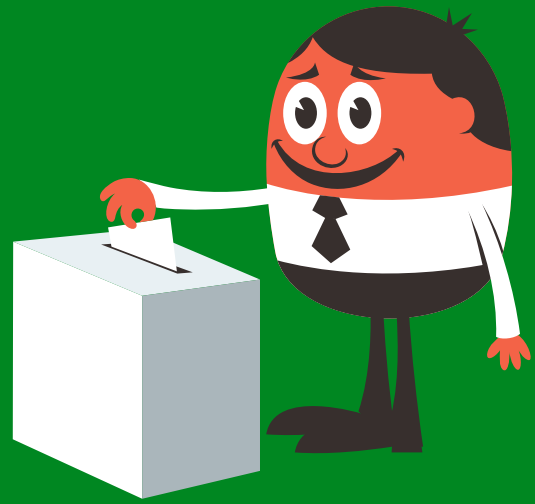
Nominees for Vestry 2021

- Georgie Chapuis
- Perry Jones
- Susan Perry

Nominee for Jr. Warden:

- Pat Wilcox

VOTING



Voting Eligibility

- Adult members in good standing (>16 yrs old)
- Faithful in worship
- Faithful in serving others
- Faithful in giving financially

Election of Jr. Warden

- Sr. Warden will continue one more year with: Tim Holder, M.D.
- Jr. Warden candidate introduction: **Pat Wilcox**
- Nominations from the floor for Jr. Warden
- Voting instructions/ballots & election for Junior Warden

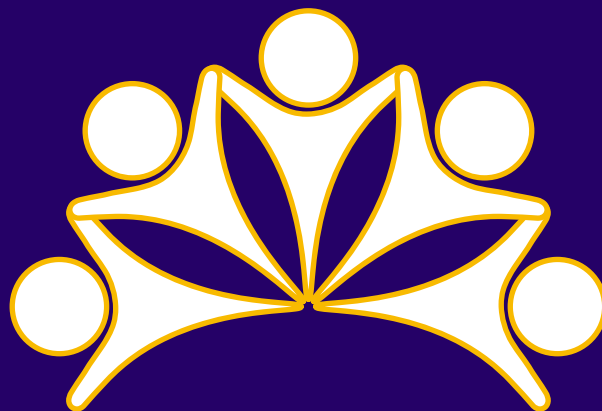
Election of New Vestry Members

- Candidate introduction: **Georgie Chapuis, Peggy Jones, Susan Perry**
- Are there any nominations from the floor?
- Voting instructions, ballots, election.

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates

- Diocesan convention delegate candidate instructions
- Are there any nominations from the floor for 2021 Diocesan?
- Election of convention candidates (Grace is allowed 4 lay delegates. 1 of which is the Senior Warden or designee)

VESTRY



Vestry 2020

Sr. Warden.....	Tim Holder MD
Jr. Warden.....	Pat Wilcox
Treasurer.....	Ched Wetz
Clerk.....	Katherine Coburn
Nominating Committee.....	Cindy Rogers
	Tim Holder
	Pam Lipscomb
	Pat Wilcox
Delegates.....	Kaia Holder
	Pam Lipscomb
	Tim Holder
	Lance Scott
Alternate.....	Thomas Bentley

Class Of 2021

Pam Lipscomb
Cindy Rogers
Pat Wilcox

Class Of 2022

Thomas Bentley
Alex Wilson

Class Of 2023

Tim Holder
Rick Ewing
Katherine Coburn

RECTOR'S ADDRESS



My Dear Fellow Ministers in Christ,

I want to begin this address to you with scripture and a translational adjustment.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the peoples ~~nations~~, baptizing them into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

This is the "Great Commission" and it is the great promise. Jesus begins with the word "Go" just like God commanded Abram to "Go." Abram and his wife, Sarai, journeyed into the unknown at age 75. The questions, then, are posed to us. Will we go? And go where?

It is time we look straight into the eye of several challenging trends:

1. **Demographics** in Muskogee have been changing for the past century. Our church building was moved during the heyday of Muskogee in 1922. Not only was the building moved, but 38 feet was inserted allowing for six more rows of pews. But the population of Muskogee has not grown since 1960 and the inflation-adjusted per capita income has been declining since the 1950s - accelerating even more in the past decade.
2. **Attendance** and budget in this parish have been following a parallel path to the downward decline of per capita income for decades. If we have accomplished anything in these past eleven years, we have slowed down the decline a bit.
3. **Annual giving** in this parish has fallen precipitously in the past two years largely due to relocations, retirements, and deaths. Our projected budget deficit right now is \$170,000 for 2021. This breathtaking figure depressed me terribly for a while. Now, I am ready to tackle it, and I am inviting you to the party.

RECTOR'S ADDRESS



With help from the diocese, we are applying for the next round of federal stimulus grants. We are confident that we will qualify for \$40,000 or more to help offset that scary number. Other things we can do will bring it down even more, but we are still looking at a six-figure deficit.

Our situation as an Episcopal parish in a community with declining demographics is not unique. Nor is there anything to be ashamed about. This has been going on all over the country since the 1960s. In the past, bishops just closed the churches and sold the buildings. It was never a very creative or mission-oriented approach. But today, I am happy to tell you that things are changing for the better.

We have a new, much younger bishop in our diocese now. I have been impressed by how he is taking an active interest in our parish. This year is the first time in my 22 years as a priest that any bishop or their staff has actually looked at the financial records of a parish for which I was responsible. The FIRST TIME!

For the first time, we have a bishop and diocesan staff that are actively and tangibly concerned about the health and vitality of parishes in the diocese outside of Tulsa and Oklahoma City. I take this as a very encouraging development.

We are also blessed with substantial unrestricted gifts from the estates of recently deceased parishioners and community friends. These gifts alone could sustain us for several years. But this is not a time to be complacent and run down the clock. We should use the gifts we have as insurance and as a gift of precious time – time to plan, time to act, and time to grow again.

I have served as a priest in four major dioceses around the country. I can tell you that I have NEVER seen a bishop close a parish that had a plan, was engaged with the community, and was growing no matter what their balance sheet looked like. I cannot guarantee what our bishop will do but I have seen many of these situations. Our situation is not hopeless. But it is up to you. If you want Grace Church to continue in this town for another century, I have three words for you, DON'T GIVE UP.

RECTOR'S ADDRESS



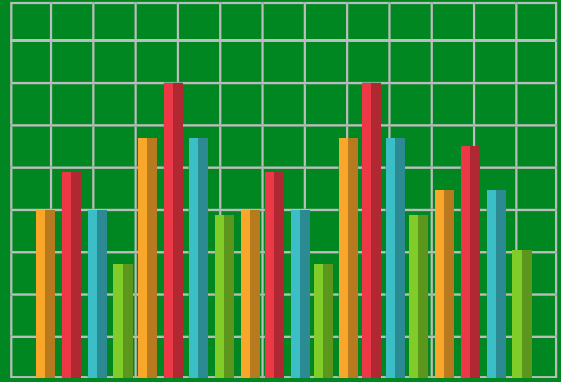
There are some very practical things that the vestry and the congregation need to focus on now more than ever:

1. **Community Engagement** – This is not just outreach like our very successful Meals On Wings program, but also our Very Big Slide event in the summer and our cardboard boat race, and our entries in the chili cookoff. We need to be out there, in the community, visible in a hundred different ways. Sometimes we are helping others and sometimes we are having fun. But we need to be seen and recognized. Waiting for other people to find us is not a mission-oriented strategy. It is an old attitude that has caused decline.
2. **Stewardship** – We have several pledges that are still outstanding (including mine until last week). Please consider what this church means to you and contribute as you can. Talk to your friends about giving. Get involved and serve on the stewardship committee if you feel called in that direction.
3. **Hospitality and newcomer ministry** – We are pretty good on the hospitality side when we are not wearing masks ten feet apart. Newcomers in this town often need special attention. If they are Episcopalian, they are usually comfortable here. But if they come from a Baptist or non-denominational background, visiting our church will seem like flying to the moon for many. We will be restarting both newcomer and hospitality ministries with training, resources and jobs to do.

When the church re-opens for in-person worship, we will have an opportunity to invite others to join us. We are looking into bulk mailing lists for the community around us as well as advertising opportunities. We need to kick start our restart. We need to have new, energized ministries up and running as well as a plan. We need to shrug off complacency, helplessness, and despair. We need to replace them with energy, creativity, and resiliency.

When we do that together, the future is bright.

STATISTICS



Number of Celebrations of Holy Communion	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sunday	87	86	92	103	90	86	90	89	91	87	89	92	80
Weekday	54	28	9	24	33	10	9	7	3	17	11	9	22
Private (Hospital, Shut-in)	16	18	2	27	88	51	25	6	34	28	12	20	15
Baptisms	3	0	4	6	1	1	5	3	0	0	3	4	0
Confirmations	0	4	0	0	5	0	0	8	0	0	4	0	0
Received	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Marriages	1	2	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	1	0	0
Member Burials	5	10	7	4	7	6	2	6	3	9	7	7	2
Non-Member Burials	0	0	3	3	0	0	2	1	1	0	3	2	2

Attendance	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Regular Sunday Services	4912	4456	4254	5096	5004	4507	4660	4458	3737	3949	3696	3245	5347
Average Sunday Attendance	94	86	87	98	96	92	91	86	76	79	74	62	105
Easter Services	196	190	198	218	190	240	209	191	175	154	122	139	179
Christmas Services	104	Canceled due to Weather	171	175	135	170	191	182	162	187	178	75	104
Total Other Not Listed	824	1264	54	674	518	1334	732	657	759	378	291	2001	1034
Total Worship Attendance	6036	5710	4764	6261	5847	6251	5392	5574	4833	4358	4287	5522	6664

FINANCIALS



2020 Treasurer's Report and Operating Summary

We missed our goal for budgeted income for 2020 by \$55,679.85; however, we spent \$17,108.31 less than what we budgeted. This gives a net loss of \$38,571.54 from what was budgeted for the 2020 fiscal year. Since the 2020 budget included a deficit of \$87,238, the total loss for 2020 was \$125,809.54. (See figures on the following pages.) Amazingly, had we not received a one-time special contribution of \$100,000 for operating expenses in 2019, the loss in 2020 would have been an improvement of \$4,799.47 over that in 2019 even though the church was closed for in-person services for most of 2020 due to the pandemic.

This loss was carried by bequest and memorial monies that had been given in 2020 and previous years, so we did not exceed our available assets even though we spent over our income for this year.

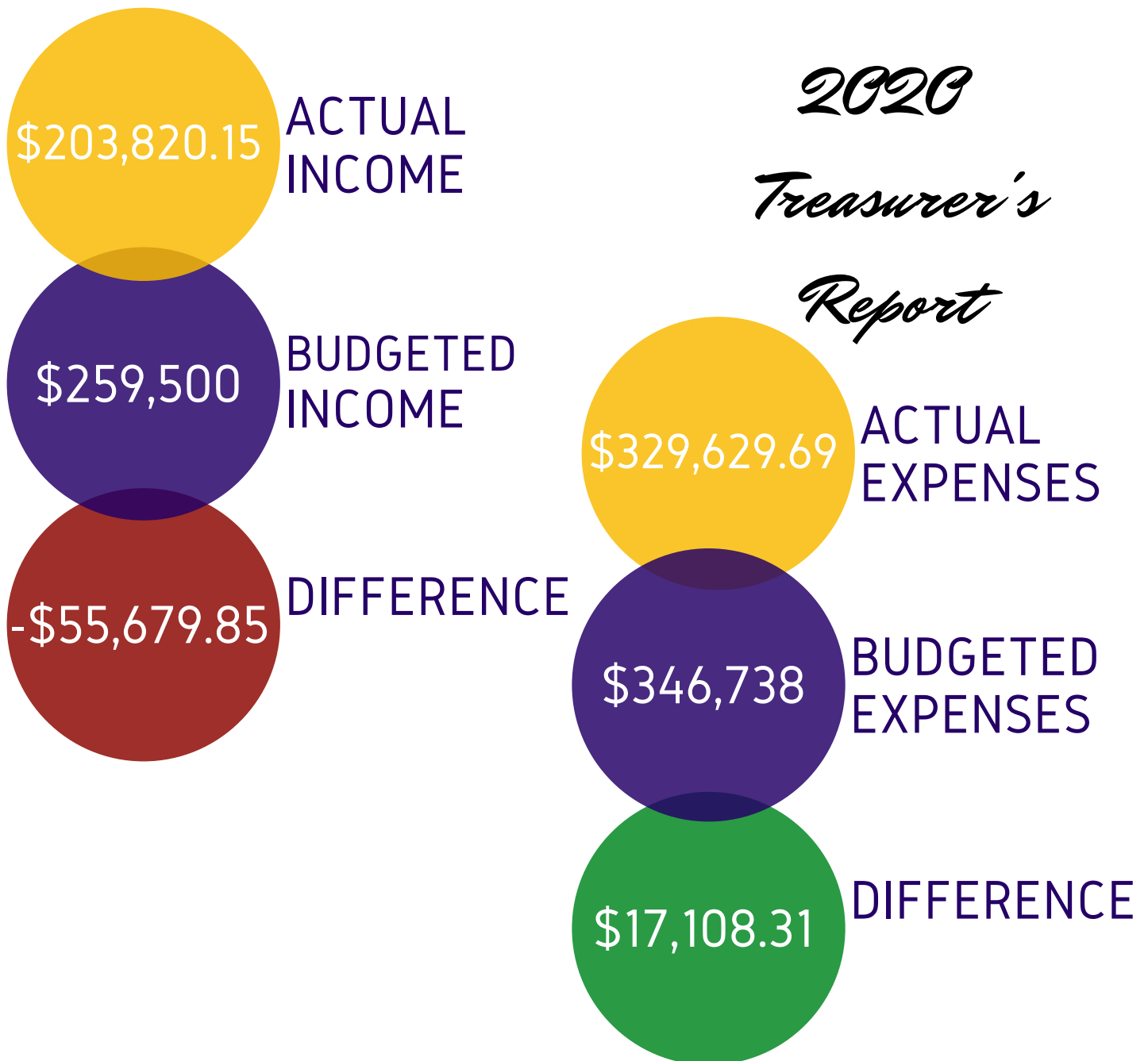
THE FIGURES



2020

Treasurer's

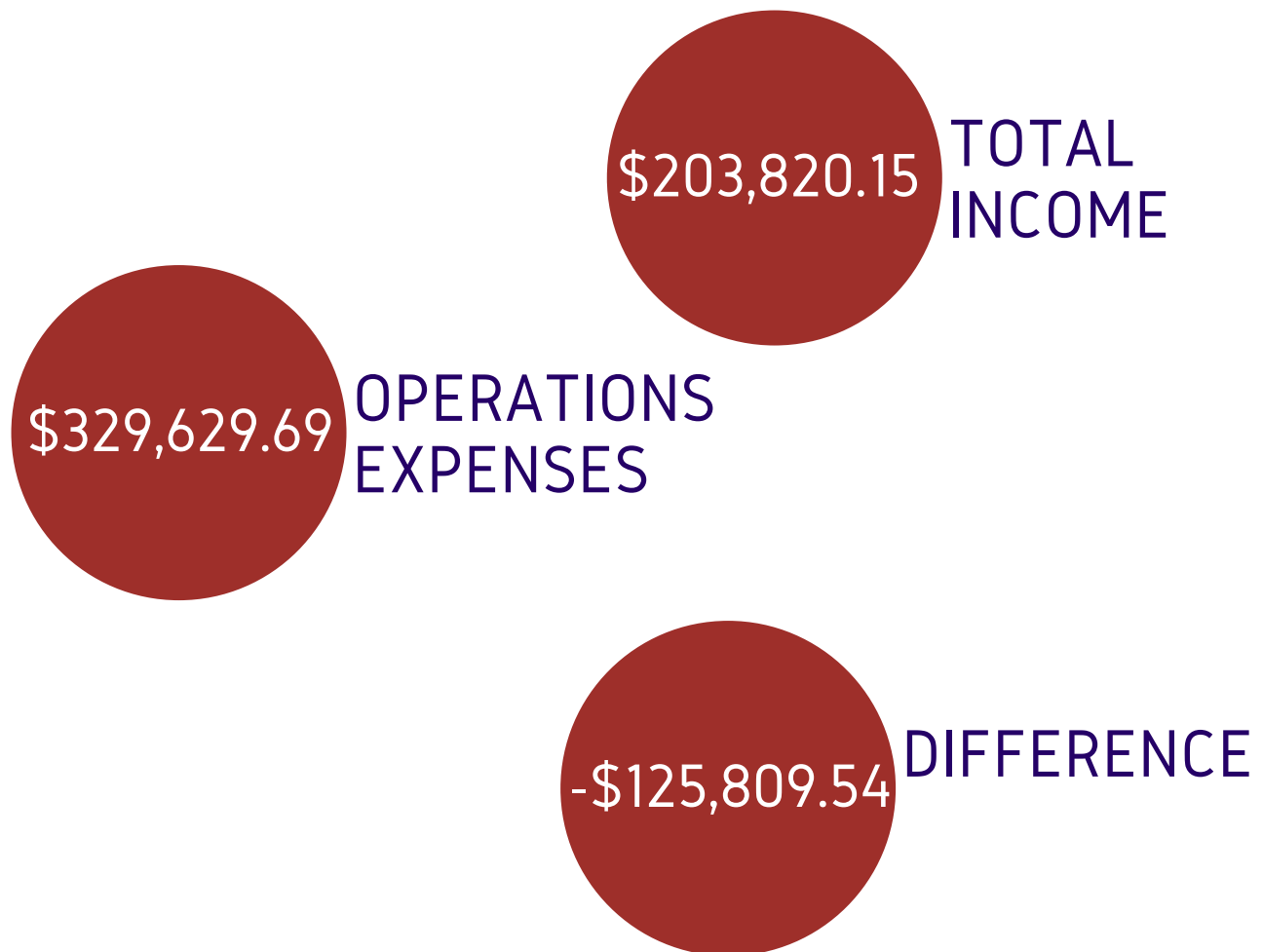
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THE FIGURES



2020 Operating Summary

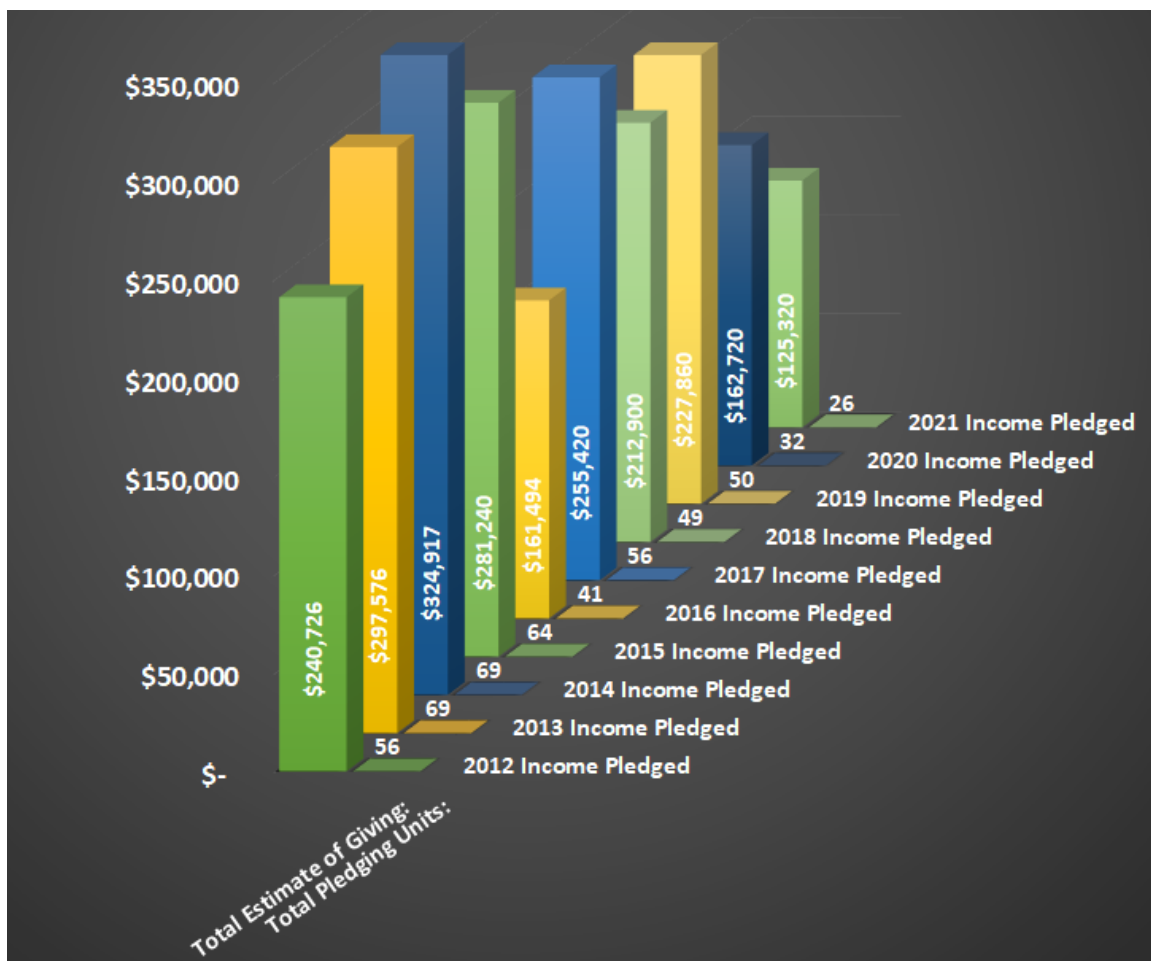


FINANCIALS



Pledging Summary

The 2020 annual giving campaign (for 2021 estimates of giving) ended in a total of \$125,320 pledged towards the 2021 operating budget with 26 cards being returned. This is down considerably from the previous years.



FINANCIALS



2021 Budget

The 2021 budget is based on projected expenses of \$332,494 and a projected income of \$162,295 received from the following sources:

- Pledge contributions
- Non-pledge contributions
- General plate offering contributions
- Altar flower & communion dedication contributions
- Facility rentals
- Outreach contributions
- Interest income
- Holiday contributions

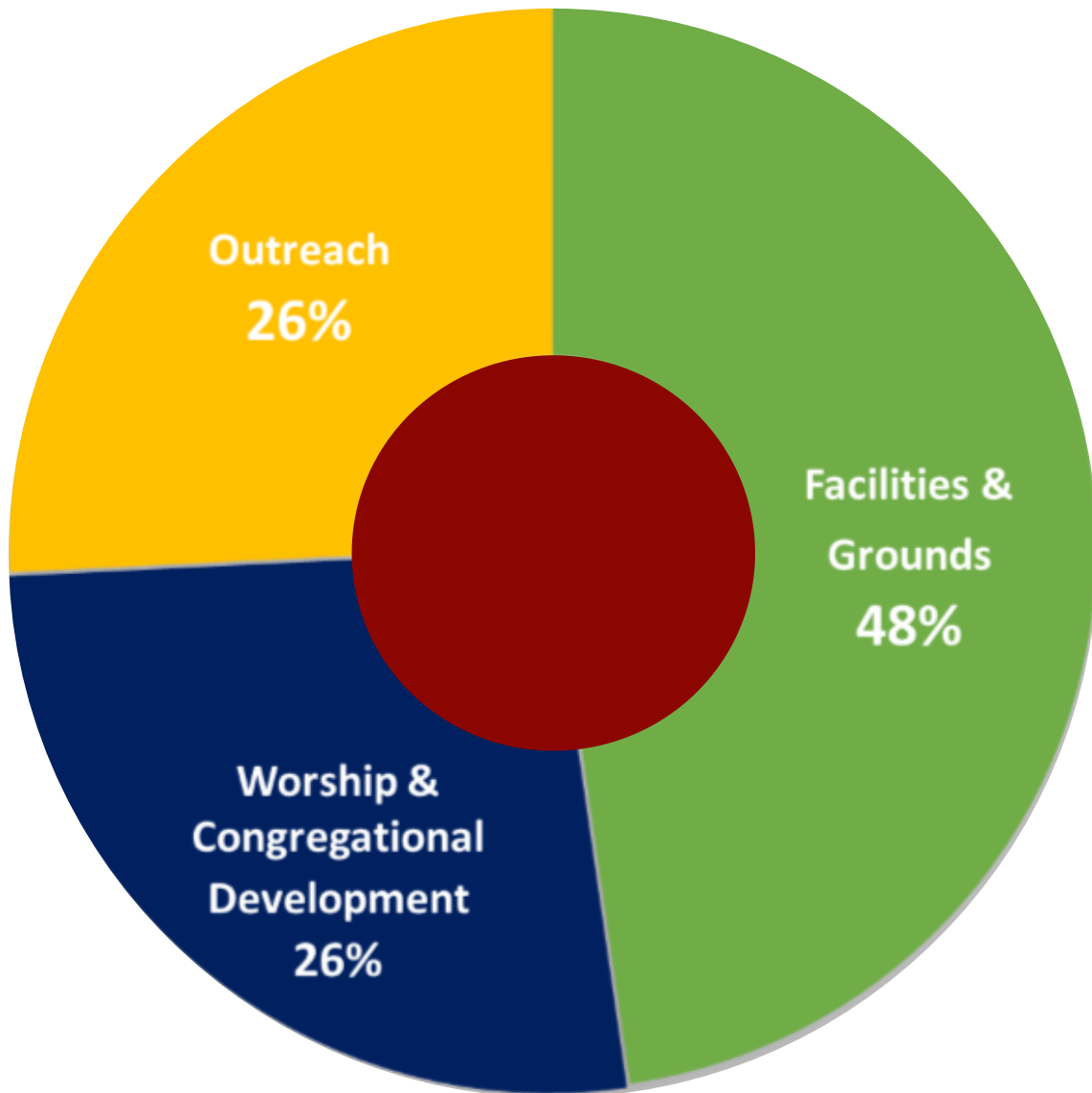
Please note that the total projected expenses are greater than the total projected income. Although the total expenses budgeted are lower than 2020 by \$14,244, the budget committee determined that the expenses were unable to be scaled back to the extent that they would be within the confines of the expected income. This conclusion was made after much research into the income/expense trends (actual and budgeted) for the past ten years at Grace.

The budget line items have been categorized and placed into four main groups: Facilities and Grounds, Worship and Congregational Development, Outreach, and Administration. The chart below illustrates how the income is distributed across these categories. Because Administration overlaps all the other areas of operation, we have distributed 1/3 of the administrative total to each of the other three categories so that we might present a more accurate picture of the distribution of funds. To see a detailed budget, please contact the Grace office.

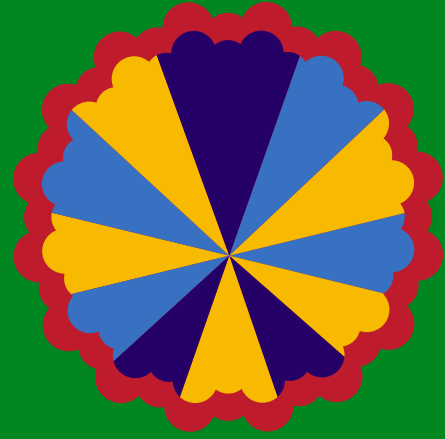
THE FIGURES



2021 Operating Budget Distribution



MEMORIALS



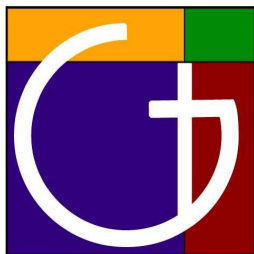
This annual report is dedicated to the memory of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have gone before us in 2020.

Mary Barnard

Kathryn Burke

Tom Alford

Ellen Mansfield Hough



Grace Episcopal

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