

The Grace Vine

November 2005

Rector's Writ

*"Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;
Bring offerings and come into his courts." Ps. 96:8*

Every year we have reminders that winter, the holidays, and a new year are soon to arrive. Christmas catalogues are in the mailbox when it's still 70 degrees outside. Before Halloween, we're often planning for Thanksgiving. The day after Thanksgiving, we hear Christmas carols in every shopping mall. Then we have those "unplanned" things to manage. The furnace isn't working...the tires won't make it through winter...and one new prescription alters our holiday spending plans. Then we get this letter from the Church asking us to make a pledge.

Our pledge for God's work in the Church and the world is a commitment; one based on faith more than finances. It's a response to the ways God has blessed and continues to bless us and those we love. It's a recognition that all we have in this earthly life--family and friends, health, talents, money, possessions, faith--it all comes from God. Our Church needs and relies on the contributions people give in the form of TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE. We couldn't gather to worship; we couldn't keep the doors open; we couldn't share in the many ways people do ministry here and in our community--if people weren't willing to GIVE, SERVE, and PRAY.

As faithful stewards, our aim is to worship and serve God; to support God's church and the ministries we're called to do. It's not how MUCH we give, but the spirit behind what we GIVE and DO. A spirit of scarcity leads us to respond with questions like, "How much SHOULD I give? (on top of all my other demands!) A spirit of grace and gratitude leads to a spirit of abundance. When we recognize how much GOD provides for us, we're led by the Spirit to ask "What shall I give?" And we respond with faith and gratitude.

All we give to the Church reflects a commitment and love for God and others. We enjoy the experience of fellowship. We realize there's something vital and meaningful in belonging with those who worship, serve, and journey through life together. We could look at all the Church needs as yet another demand on our time and energy. Or we can WELCOME opportunities--in worship, fellowship, and service of all sorts. In worship and service, we experience the quiet mystery of God. Many of us love Eucharistic Prayer C, where we're reminded that we come to GOD'S table for solace and strength; pardon and renewal. It's at the Lord's table where we're "fed with spiritual food." It's the most gracious and inviting of tables, and we're all welcomed and fed. When we leave from our time there we're renewed and made strong; so that we might return to our busy worlds with a sense of God's peace and with hearts willing to serve.

May we each prayerfully consider what we'll give for God's work at Grace Church, and may we give with gratitude for all God has given us.

Service and Lay Ministry Schedule

If you cannot serve when scheduled, please find a substitute and call the parish office with that person's name. Thank you for sharing in the liturgical ministry of Grace Church.

Sun. Nov 6—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—All Saints Sunday	
Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon: The Rev. William Snyder Lay Reader: Judy Canan Greeters: Judy & Kay Canan Acolytes: Emily Summy Shepherd: 8:00 Jean Mercer, 10:00 Leslie Thomas Altar Guild: Machisko/Lundgren/Johnson/Hoskins Coffee Hosts: 8:00 George & Katherine Furrer 10:00 Fred & Nancy Lundgren Counters: Kathy Summy & Blake Quay Loyalton: Maynard Evans	8:00 Roberta O'Keefe 1st Reading Ecclesiasticus 44:1-10, 13-14 Bud Minnich Psalm 149 2nd Reading Revelation 7:2-4,9-17 Paige Thomas Gospel Matthew 5:1-12
Sun. Nov 13—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—26 Pentecost	
Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon: The Rev. James Wichman Lay Reader: Carolyn Englert Greeters: Nancy & Jim Ervin Acolytes: Katie Ahrens Shepherd: 8:00 George Furrer, 10:00 Bill Snyder Altar Guild: Machisko/Lundgren/Johnson/Hoskins Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Janice Lallathin 10:00 Kelly & Ron Postlethwaite Counters: Kathy Summy & Blake Quay Loyalton: Judy Canan	8:00 Melissa Strainer 1st Reading Zephaniah 1:7,12-18 Dennis Dier Psalm 90:1-8,12 2nd Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10 Tim Splinter Gospel Matthew 25:14-15,19-29
Sun. Nov 20—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—Thanksgiving Liturgy	
Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon: The Rev. James Wichman Lay Reader: Bette Brooks Greeters: Fred & Nancy Lundgren Acolytes: PC—J. Canan, T—S. Conway, J.Summy Shepherd: 8:00 Roberta O'Keefe, 10:00 Judy Canan Altar Guild: Machisko/Lundgren/Johnson/Hoskins Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Frank & Joan Seman 10:00 Leslie & Page Thomas Counters: Kathy Summy & Blake Quay Loyalton: Bill Snyder	1st Reading Deuteronomy 8:1-3,6-10,17-20 Steve Barna Psalm 65:9-14 2nd Reading James 1:17-18,21-27 Kelly Postlethwaite Gospel Matthew 6:25-33

Pictorial Directory

It's been five years since our last pictorial directory. It's time to "do it again". Pictures will be taken on Tues. and Wed. Nov. 15th & 16th, from 3PM - 8 PM. You can sign up after the 8 & 10AM services. If you don't sign up you will be getting a call from a committee member. Please don't make us work that hard. Don't let this opportunity pass you by. This will be a permanent part of our history and you need to be in it. You are important to us and we need you to take part. You don't have to purchase anything. A free 8x10 picture and directory will be given to you, however, you will be given an opportunity to purchase any pictures you want and it's not too late for Christmas cards. See the insert for more information or call the office. The chairpersons are: Jean Mercer, Kathy Summy, Nancy Lundgren and Marsha Snyder.

Sun. Nov 27—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—1 Advent

Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon: - Lay Reader: Maynard Evans Greeters: Sandee West & Betty Russell Acolytes: Paige Thomas Shepherd: 8:00 Jean Mercer, 10:00 Leslie Thomas Altar Guild: Machisko/Lundgren/Johnson/Hoskins Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Mike & Shirley Johnson 10:00 John & Mary Jean McDonald Counters: Kathy Summy & Blake Quay Loyalton: Jim Wichman	8:00 Melissa Strainer 1st Reading Isaiah 64:1-9a Blake Quay Psalm 80:1-7 2nd Reading 1Corinthians 1:1-9 John Machisko Gospel Mark 13:24-37
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Sun. Dec 4—8:00am & 10:00am Holy Eucharist—2 Advent

Officiant: The Rev. Carol Evans Deacon: The Rev. Bill Snyder Lay Reader: Judy Canan Greeters: Betty Capriola & Bud Minnich Acolytes: Emily Summy Shepherd: 8:00 George Furrer 10:00—Bill Snyder Altar Guild: Lundgren/Shriver/Ervin Coffee Hosts: 8:00 Lauren Strainer 10:00 Nancy & Jim Ervin Counters: Tim Splinter & Kathy Summy Loyalton: Maynard Evans	8:00 Roberta O'Keefe 1st Reading Isaiah 40:1-11 Carolyn Englert Psalm 85:7-13 2nd Reading 2 Peter 3:8-15a, 18 Bud Minnich Gospel Mark 1:1-8
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United Thank Offering – Episcopal Church USA

The mission of the UTO is to expand the circle of thankful people... We encourage daily prayers, offerings and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings... Originated in 1889 for the Board of Missions, it has grown into the present UTO and a ministry of the whole church.

Funds gathered from all across the US are awarded as grants the following year. not only in the US but across the world. Diocesan offerings in 2004 totaled \$2,378,317.27. In 2005, grants have been made in the amount of \$2,710,247.22.

Angola, Africa was awarded \$45,000 for agricultural development including a tractor...The largest grant, to the Church of Brazil to purchase land for reforestation to achieve financial stability, was \$85,000....\$40,000 went to a California mission to purchase a 26 passenger bus to help a growing Hispanic congregation...Even as little as \$2000 to a parish in Lexington, Kentucky to install a fenced playground for a safe place for children to play in a poor neighborhood.

The coins we add to our blue boxes in thankfulness join the coins of others to do much good across the face of the earth! Please remember this on November 6th!

Gladys Parsons, UTO Chair

Did You Know?...

The blessing of the animals went well, with about 25 people that brought their pets for their blessings. Afterwards treats were served to the delight of the furry and non-furry participants...

The adult Bible study was well received this fall and we hope to continue it after the first of the year...

We had only four participants for the Crop Walk this year --- we can do better than that!!...

Many thanks to the "fun"draising committee for hosting the Sarah Conventry jewelry party on October 22nd. The total profits were \$380.00 that will be going to the deficit. In the month of November this committee is planning a Fall Festival with a craft show and bake sale, there will also be tours of our church and facilities. If you can help in any way, please let **Addriane Conway** know what you would like to do...

Congratulations to **Bette Brooks** who has successfully defended her dissertation. She will be graduating in December with her PHD. Bette said it only took 13 years -- but a lot has happened in that time...

It was good to have **Beverly Brooks** home from school for a week and at our Sunday service, next week **Amanda Brooks** will be home from school in Arkansas...

It was nice to meet our KSU student and choir member **Gordon Thompson's parents, Steve and Laura**, who were here for parents weekend all the way from New Jersey, to worship with us...

Thanks to **Nancy Ervin** and her hospitality committee who serviced the "Thank You" dinner after the services on October 23rd. We had a nice turn out and **The Rev. Carol and Maynard** were recipients of several gifts, including a new prayer book with hymnal that Carol desperately needed, (there is just so much Scott tape you can put in the Prayer Book) plus tickets to the Carrousel Dinner Theater, a \$100.00 Master Card and a Bed & Bath gift certificate. Many thanks to **Kay Canan** who collected all the contributions and made the purchases for Carol and Maynard. Kay made a call to

Cindy Hoskins to ask if she would like to contribute. She thought Cindy sounded a bit strange and excited, but what Kay didn't know is that Carol was sitting there having dinner with Cindy and her brother. Yikes - that's some timing!!...

Stephanie and Brandon Higgins have moved to Wisconsin. They will be missed here at Grace Church, but we wish them to very best...

Nancy & Fred Lundgren went to Texas for the granddaughter's first birthday. Of course the pictures she brought back were wonderful. **Little Jeannie** has her cousins **Paige and Taylor** beautiful blue eyes...

The choir welcomes **Chris Freund** who has joined us, just in time for Evensong and Christmas. Thanks be to God!! Since alto **Nancy Ervin** left the choir (after 25+ years), she's been replaced by two alto's, **Cathy Mansor and Chris Freund**. Cathy returned to the choir after she graduated with her Master's Degree in Humanities...

Paige Thomas looked really cute with her hair in an up-do from her homecoming dance. She was a surprisingly alert acolyte the day after the dance. She said she had a great time...

Roger and Judy Watkins have gone to the Florida for the winter and our thoughts and prayers are with both of you...

The E.C.W. wants to thank **Nydah Ellet** for sharing with us her trip to Scotland. Nydah has lots of pictures and stories to share and it was wonderful to hear how excited she was about this experience...

Several women have decided they want to start a "sewing" group every Tuesday from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room. If anyone wants to come and join us with any project your interested in working on. It could be a quilt you never finished, some cross stitch project that's been sitting in the closet, or knitting project you haven't finished or even began, or any other project you want to work on. There will people here who will help you if your "stuck" or just want to get together and socialize. Hope to see you there!!

PIPINGS

From Mary Ann Switz

Once again, I invite you to attend a service of Choral Evensong on the last Sunday of this church year, November 20, 2005, at 4:00 PM.

At the time of the Reformation, the name *Evensong* was carried over into the Book of Common Prayer (B.C.P.) formally to designate what later came to be called Evening Prayer. In the B.C.P. of 1549, Evening Prayer is described as "An ordre for Evensong throughout the yere", while in the B.C.P. of 1552 and later, it was described as "An ordre for Evening Prayer throughout the yere." In the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer that we use, the service is listed as "Daily Evening Prayer: Rite One" (page 61), and "Daily Evening Prayer: Rite Two" (page 115). It is one of the secrets of the success of Evensong that its "script", as it were, is light enough in weight to allow embellishments without a sense of disproportion. Likewise, it is short enough in duration for elaborate musical settings not to make it too lengthy.

Much of the service of Evensong is sung by the Choir alone. You worship chiefly by listening, meditating, praying, and letting the music and words take your minds and souls into God's presence. You will be joining people from all over the world, sharing in an ancient tradition of worship.

Please plan on joining us at Grace Church for this service of Choral Evensong, followed by Tea served in the Parish Hall! I look forward to seeing you there.

Baptisms

2nd Sally Dier
Paige Thomas
Colin Thomas
Sherri Lynn Bell
Chelcey Marie Bell
6th JD Novak
Eleanor Blank
13th Martha Baker
14th Emily Ervin
Kelly Ervin
17th Dani Dier
19th June Marks
21st Frank Seman

Congratulations!

and many happy returns...

Birthdays

1st Amy Neely
2nd Jennifer Golec
Melissa Strainer
3rd Julie Canan
8th Mechele Novak
10th Sandee West
13th Ron Postlethwaite
14th Jim Wichman
18th Judy Watkins
24th Eddie Stewart
25th Cory Conway

Anniversaries

3rd John & Mary Jean McDonald
23rd Steve & Marsha Barna
Dick & Louise Thacker
25th Dutch & Goldie Shriver
27th Jim & Sandee West

Things You Always Wanted to Know About Your Church But Were Afraid to Ask... “The Budget”

By
Tim Splinter

This is the article nobody wants to write and nobody really WANTS to read. Talking about money, especially a deficit, is never something we want to do, all the more so at a Church. We as a parish have carried on worshipping together, enjoying each other's fellowship, and doing the Lord's work without undue worry or focus on money. And, while we do not wish to dwell on it, there is still a need to be diligent stewards and that means being well informed.

At October's meeting, the Vestry decided a detailed update to the entire parish about the budget was probably overdue. We wish to show the status of the church's annual budget thus far, explain what has been done to pay the bills, and give an overview of the church's larger budget picture.

As was foreseeable and has been mentioned at various times around the parish, the Vestry has been wrestling with the persistent issue of the church's budget deficit. We as a parish have helped to make ends meet with extra giving and extra effort and creativity. Still, the Vestry has had to take actions to finish the task that are beyond our normal procedures from years past.

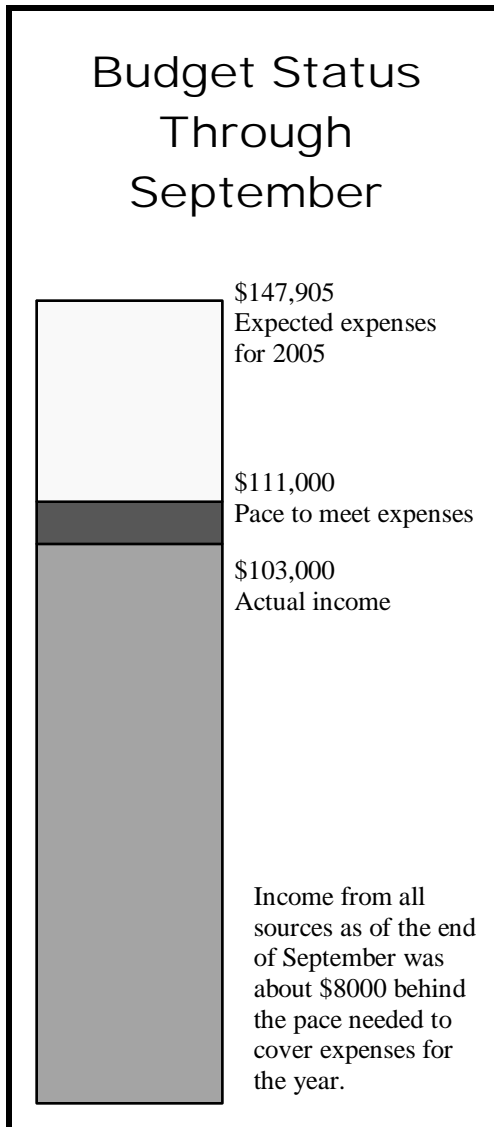
First, let me say that the dollar figures in this article are a simplified and rounded off picture. As with any large operation, there are many ways that money comes and goes and even Fred is hard pressed to explain quickly and clearly how all the categories of income and expense fit together. The Vestry's goal in this article is to provide a helpful, if approximate, monitor of the overall budget so far this year.

So, how are we doing on expenses so far? Have we stuck to budget? We began the year with expected operating expenses of \$147,905. "Operating Expenses" are the bills for the buildings and people that make up the church facilities. It does NOT include spending on groups and activities such as Christian Ed or the Youth Group. It does NOT include outreach and donations we make to various causes. It does NOT include money spent on large upgrades, such as the new sign or new landscaping. Money for all those things is currently coming from interest on the Mary Helen Beatty Endowment Fund (see July '05 issue of the Grace Vine) and from special donations made for specific purposes.

Those are completely separate budgets.

Nine months, or 75%, though the year we would expect operating expenses of \$111,000 or so from the above annual total. The treasurer's last report shows \$112,500 spent, pretty close to the expected pace. The most significant single item over budget is the assessment paid to the Diocese, currently about \$1300 ahead of schedule. The Diocese final assessment, based our end of year report, required the additional amount to finish 2004's assessment.

We began the year anticipating that giving, fund raising and other income for the year would be \$133,000. That's about \$14,000 short of covering the year's expected operating expenses, let alone having any left over to set aside for future projects or to increase activities or outreach.



So, how are we doing on anticipated income? Nine months into the year, we would expect about \$100,000 income so far. The last report shows \$103,000 and that is coming out of the summer months, when the conventional wisdom says giving is at its slowest. We are indeed ahead of expected thanks to generosity and hard work!

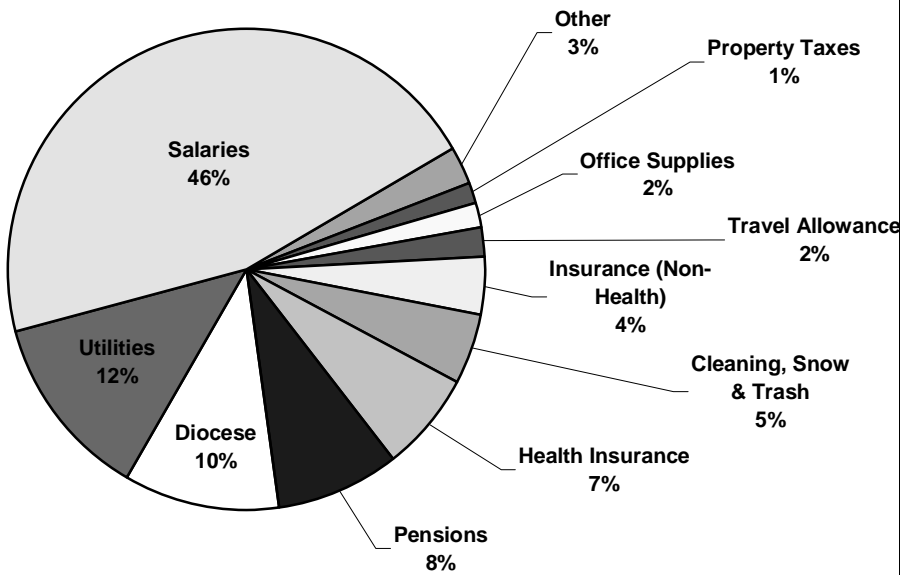
Still \$103,000 income is less than the \$112,500 expenses for nine months and indeed, the operating checkbook has run dry several times and the Vestry has had to find a way to pay the bills.

With much regret, we have had to use additional money from the Beatty endowment. This began last year with a move by the Vestry to bring an additional \$6000 out of the Fund beyond the normal annual withdrawal outlined in the annual reports. This money was to be a safety cushion for the Treasurer to pay bills during low points in income. The intent was that the cushion be repaid during high points in giving. Instead, this year we have used the cushion up and have had to return to the Beatty Fund for additional money, now totaling \$12000 withdrawn to be used for normal operations.

This use of Beatty money for basic operations has been a last resort. The guidelines for the Beatty Fund, which were written by previous Vestries, do not in-

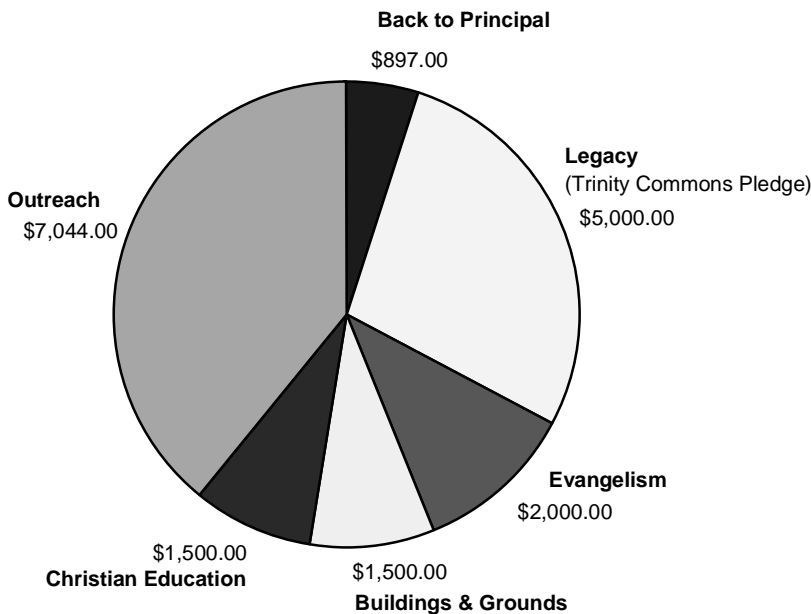
Where does the Money Go?

Breakdown of what is included in the \$147,905 Operating Budget



Salaries include the Rector, Secretary, Organist, Nursery, Supply Clergy and the church portion of FICA. **Utilities** includes Gas, Phone, Electric, and Water for both the church and the rector's allowance for the rectory. The **Diocesan Assessment** is a percentage of all income, essentially a tithe by parish to the Diocese. **Pensions** includes the mandatory contributions to the Church's funds for clergy and lay employee retirement.

Breakdown of the Allocation for 2005's Beatty Fund Withdrawal
Total: \$17,941



Outreach this year included the Jubilee Project, Boys & Girls Club, Safer Futures, Center of Hope, Family Development Center, Salvation Army, Head Start and others. **Legacy** is our parish's pledge to the Trinity Commons Project on the Cathedral grounds. Another \$5000 remains of our total pledge.

clude this use in their intent. Such use is a dangerous precedent to set because continued withdrawals from the Fund will erode its ability to pay for outreach and large projects as it should. Such use could even exceed the income of the investments and wear down the balance. The guidelines and advice of the diocese and national church also warn against using endowments for church operations. They caution that it tends to lead to bad financial habits and financially unhealthy parishes. So it remains the Vestry's commitment that this must not become a routine practice and every effort must be made in the future to repay the cushion fund from income, and eventually repay the Beatty Fund itself.

Still, as of this time, the Vestry has approved the use of Beatty money for next year in preparation for what is expected to be the same problem. Let us pray that it will become unnecessary. The proposed budget has been put together for next year and we are looking at operating expenses up 3% from this year, or \$3000 a week.

Elsewhere around this article, you'll find some graphs and short explanations to help give you a wider understanding of Grace Church's budget and where we stand.

On behalf of the entire Vestry,
Tim Splinter

Grace's Fall Festival

November 12
10am-3pm

People interested in tables can contact Addrienne Conway at 330-298-1182. A table for parish members will be available. We only ask that you consider donating a portion of your sales back to the church.

Flyers will be available if you would like to post any around our communities.