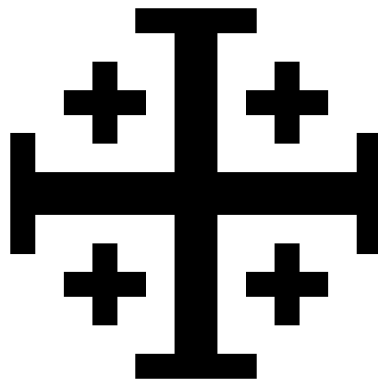


GRACE GRACE MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Annual Meeting of the Parish

January 25, 2015



The Annual Report – 2014

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church
Portland, Oregon

Annual Meeting of the Parish



AGENDA

January 25, 2015

Opening Prayer	The Rev. Esme J. R. Culver
Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting [Vote required]	Paul St. John Parker
Report of the Vestry Nominating Committee and election of persons to serve on the Vestry [Vote required]	Paul St. John Parker
Financial Report and Presentation of the 2015 Budget	George Fleming
Acceptance of reports as printed [Vote required]	The Rev. Esme J. R. Culver
Recognitions	The Rev. Esme J. R. Culver
Interim Rector's Report	The Rev. Esme J. R. Culver
Other business	
Blessing and adjournment	The Rev. Esme J. R. Culver



*The mission of Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, a parish for all people,
is to extend God's gracious love and hospitality to each other and to the community
by providing worship that inspires, opportunities for service and growth on life's journey,
and a sacred place in the heart of the city where people can find wholeness and strength.*

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Portland, Oregon

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Annual Meeting of the Parish

January 26, 2014

Minutes

Opening Prayer

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 11:30 am after an opening prayer by the Reverend Stephen Schneider.

Minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting

The minutes from the January 27, 2013 Annual Meeting were read and approved as submitted, by unanimous vote as moved and seconded.

Recognitions, Father Stephen Schneider

The Reverend Stephen Schneider awarded the Angeline Berry Award this year to Sue Jensen, who is celebrating her 20th year anniversary at Grace. Sue received the award with members of the Choir with her. Father Stephen noted her presence, heart of a Pastor and beautiful music. Outgoing Vestry members who were honored were Cathy Gibson, John McAllister, Nancy McCusker and LeRoy Patton.

Grace Officers for 2014 were announced. They are Paul Parker, Senior Warden, Dan Heuvel, Junior Warden and George Fleming, Treasurer. These officers were elected by the Vestry.

Report of the Vestry Nominating Committee, Paul Parker

Paul Parker reported that the following names were placed in nomination by the Vestry Nominating Committee to serve as the Class of 2017: Nancy Entrikin, Kelly Goodrich, James Skirving Smith, and Patti Whitney-Wise. There were no additional names in nomination from the floor and the slate was put forth in a motion and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Report for 2013 and the Presentation of the 2014 budget, George Fleming

George Fleming, Treasurer, presented the financial report for the year ending December 31, 2013 and the budget for 2014 as submitted by the Vestry. 2013 Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Activities were reviewed. George recognized the hard work put in on the budget, especially by Allie Mount for her daily work on expenses and Curt Germundson for his help along the way. Questions from the floor regarding the future use of Halsey House, as well as handicap access to that house, were addressed. In response to a question, it was clarified that Unrestricted Net Assets refers to owned equity. 2013 Funds Report was also discussed. A question from the floor about the surplus from 2013 budget was addressed that the funds remain in the general fund. A request was made to have the previous year's actuals presented on the New Year Budget in the future. The Financial reports and the 2014 budget were received by the membership with a motion, a second, and unanimous vote.

State of Grace

The Reverend Stephen Schneider reported on highlights of the past year. The report was included for the Membership in the 2013 Annual Report. The Statement of Purpose was highlighted, along with further recognitions of the many people who contribute countless hours to make Grace run well, both employees and volunteers.

Other Business

Campus Master Plan, Paul Parker

Highlights from the past year included a preliminary presentation to the Parish community on June 23, 2013. The themes that are driving the project are identity, utility and stewardship. A paint design has been accomplished. Access to the lower level and kitchen as well as a design

for an elevator are critical to the project and will be accomplished. A Kitchen Team has been meeting to create design that is effective for a volunteer staff. An all Parish meeting will be upcoming in the Spring.

Associate Rector Report, Mother Esme

Mother Esme was recognized for all of her efforts in her many different jobs in the Grace community by Father Stephen. Mother Esme reported on Global Grace and Grace Institute's activities.

Delegates to Diocese Convention

The following members of the Parish were nominated to go to the convention representing Grace in November, 2014 as delegates: Marsha and Will Sharpe, Cathy Gibson and Kathleen Chapman. Bob Zimmer and Shirley Johnson were put forth as alternates. A motion was made for this slate, seconded and approved by the Parish.

Closing

With a prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
John McAllister*

Interim Rector's Report

November 23, 2014 – Present

The Rev. Esme J. R. Culver

In July, 2014 I entered my ninth year of ministry at Grace. I give thanks to Fr. Stephen Schneider, the Vestry, and to the Grace congregation for this continued privilege to serve as your Interim Rector as we enter into this new year of transition. I thank the Vestry for its trust in my ability to lead Grace during this interim period and I thank the Grace congregation for your ongoing support. My gratitude extends to all those with whom I work closely, those who continue to inspire and motivate me through their own work and all those who walk the path with me into a deeper knowledge of God.

During the past year, it was my privilege to work closely with Fr. Stephen as he prepared for his November retirement as Rector of the parish. For the entire year, until the time of his departure, we continued to work from our individual portfolios, focusing on current and ongoing work, as well as allowing for creative development of program and unfolding ideas for the future. Much was accomplished.

Our annual "Candlelight" Auction proved to be the most successful to date and much credit goes to Nancy Entrikin and Kelly Goodrich, for their oversight and project management, our donation acquisition committee and our staff, who all worked hard to produce this huge event.

Among many other exciting projects, programs and developments, our parish responded resoundingly to our long-held dream of painting the exterior of the church. With great Spirit the funding was put forth quickly and the entire project, from gathering input from the congregation to overseeing the painters, was realized under the dedicated leadership of our Senior Warden, Paul Parker and with close monitoring by our Junior Warden, Dan Heuvel.

Through a generous donation by family members to honor the memory of Jeanne Lynch, the North Transept was transformed into the Chapel of Christ in the City (Christ Chapel). Master Iconographer Sherry V. Lynch was commissioned to write an icon "Christos Pantokrator" in memory of Ruth Lamb.

Our partnership continues with PHAME Academy, Portland's leading nonprofit arts organization for persons with developmental disabilities. Space continues to be made available for PHAME's expanding program of classes and performance practice.

Grace gives thanks for its team working with the New City Initiative, a local non-profit organization dedicated to building bridges between religious organizations and homeless individuals or families struggling to find the safety and comfort of their own homes.

To honor Father Stephen and Ann Schneider, the parish hosted a dinner and celebration, "Harvest Home," in the Parish Hall of Grace on November 22, 2014. The event filled the hall to overflowing, as parishioners and staff, past and present, were on hand to express gratitude for their 20 years of service to Grace and to wish them well for the future. Many gifts were offered to both Father Stephen and to Ann from the Vestry, Grace staff, various Grace ministries and parishioners. On Sunday, November 23, the Feast of Christ the King, a special farewell Eucharist was celebrated, followed by a closing reception in the Parish Hall. The entire weekend was deemed "spectacular" by Father Stephen and Ann. Deep and sincere appreciation goes out to Becky Wong for

her amazing ability to transform our Parish Hall into a magical reflection of Autumn's bounty and to Gale Beagle for his ability to create a beautiful backdrop with so many different kinds of flowers brought for the occasion. And to so many parishioners who helped, in so many ways, to ignite the ideas and vision for the weekend, through their tireless and joy-filled time and talent, thank you.

International Outreach for Grace Parish was realized as three high school youth parishioners: Isabel Anderson, Nick McAllister and Aaron Everly, accompanied me to Casa Chapi Children's Orphanage in Peru as part of a Grace Institute Leadership Development Project. Their task was to assist me in determining if Casa Chapi could be a viable venue at which we could hold an art camp similar to those held at Grace. The young people brought news of their experience and findings to the parish in a Sunday forum held at Grace on Mother's Day, May 1, 2014, following the 10:00 am service. The young people found the trip to be "transformational" and "life changing." I give thanks for the opportunity to be with them during this pivotal experience in their young lives.

November 24 – December 31, 2014

On the first Sunday of Advent following Father Stephen's departure, I assumed my role as your Interim Rector leading us through Advent and Christmas and into the New Year.

I give thanks for the continued loyal support and dedication of the Parish staff, Allie Mount, Business Manager, Ellie Martin, Administrative Assistant and Communications Coordinator, and Keaka Loo, Sexton. I also am very grateful for the continued assistance of Tom Krausse, volunteer Registrar for the Parish and for the tireless dedication of Frank Schramling, whose deep institutional knowledge of the needs of the campus adds priceless value to our capability of running smoothly. Thank you, all.

I am deeply grateful for the continuing services of Paul Parker, our Senior Warden, who has agreed to stay the course with me during this transition period. And I am delighted for the opportunity to work closely with Nancy Entrikin, who has agreed to take on the duties of Junior Warden. It has been my privilege to work with Dan Heuvel, outgoing Junior Warden, over the years and under his eagle eye and get-it-done approach, we have been kept in good working order throughout the campus. Thank you, Dan.

Much gratitude, too, is extended to our other outgoing Vestry members who have served us well for the past three years: Robb Beck, Suzy Jeffreys, and Peggy Panarella. Thank you for your thoughtful guidance and insights and for your faithful ministry to Grace in those areas in which you continue to serve.

During the short time between November 23rd and the end of the year, steps were taken to begin painting and cleaning some of the interior spaces of the Parish Hall, most notably painting the Ella Brown Room, the Parish Hall ceiling and walls, cleaning the Parish Hall fans, painting the Rector's office and its adjoining hall and bathroom. The Women of Grace have graciously offered to replace the Parish Hall blinds in the New Year. With the exterior and key spaces of the interior freshly painted, we are able to offer a clean and welcoming appearance to visitors and to our new Rector.

Our Grace Gallery parish invitational "Waiting Through" brought some lovely interpretive pieces to the gallery for our enjoyment from Advent to Epiphany, 2015. Thank you to all parishioners who answered the call: Paula Benjaminson, Gale Beagle, Mariann Koop-McMahon, Charis Barasch and Philip Barasch, Kristin Koop, Jo Bronson.

Our Advent and Christmas services were well attended, and our Children's Pageant was deemed the "best ever!" This was made possible, in part, to a generous donation of time and talent from our fellow parishioner, Stephen Weeks and to a generous donation of new costumes

for the pageant. We thank all our actors in the pageant and their very patient parents. And we thank the Grace Youth Group for their contribution to floor direction and technical assistance.

It is clear that as we came to the close of the year and entered into the change of a new one, that God's grace and the Holy Spirit is staying close within us. Grace has come to the beginning of the New Year with a supportive and enthusiastic, forward-thinking embrace of all that is possible at Grace. We are on our way in our search for a new Rector, as our Profile Committee completed its work and the baton was passed to our newly-formed Search Committee. Their work is to bring to the Vestry, and to the congregation, viable candidates who aspire to lead this great parish. Please join with me in prayer for their wisdom and insight as they complete the task set before them. This is sacred work for us all.

I thank God for my ministry at Grace and for the opportunity to know, serve and love the Grace congregation. I pray for God's guiding hand in all my works daily.

May God's peace surround each of you in the coming year, and as always,

to God be the Glory,

*Faithfully,
Esme J. R. Culver+*

Associate Rector's Report

January 1 – November 23, 2014

The Rev. Esme J. R. Culver

When I first arrived at Grace, I was asked by Fr. Stephen to bring Grace Parish and Grace Institute into mutual ministry and outreach and I am pleased to report that 2014 saw a culmination of years of working toward that end. Through the efforts and support of Grace Parish and its congregation, Grace Institute and its constituency of concerned parents, children and staff, and the Grace Memorial Episcopal Foundation, Grace and Grace Parish is poised for making a positive mark in the world through joined compassion and caring for the least of these in the world.

Most of this, my ninth, year as your Associate Rector was spent with continuing responsibility for adult and youth formation and creative liturgical opportunities, including vigils for peace in Israel and Palestine, Syria, and a vigil for the victims of Ebola and those called to administer to them. My work included continuing pastoral involvement which includes preaching/presiding, providing spiritual direction, vocational and discernment direction, grief support, Vestry and other parish-related committees and the business of the church.

In addition to my pastoral call, it was my pleasure this year to provide leadership to several wonderful groups, programs and events:

- The Grace Women's Retreat, January 19 – 21, 2014: "Back to the Future: A Conversation Between Women." A dynamic retreat in conversation with women of passion, power and purpose from scripture: Graced women! Many thanks are offered to the Women of Grace committee, and Becky Wong and Mariann Koop-McMahon for assistance in preparation for the retreat and to members of the Women's Retreat planning committee for their ideas, assistance and dedication.
- The Benedictine Way, continued to meet regularly on Thursday evenings in three groups, St. Hildegard of Bingen, St. Gregory the Great and St. Scholastica to study a humble yet powerful piece of teaching and Christian formation: The Rule of Benedict. The group sponsored its third pre-Holy Week Quiet Day at the Bishop's Close and enjoyed its second day-long retreat at Mount Angel on August 27, 2014, a study of the Four Senses of Scripture: Reading, Responding, Reflecting, Resting. As is its usual practice, The Benedictine Way offered "Breakfast with Benedict" on the first Thursday of Advent and Lent. Much gratitude is due to Peggy Panarella for her continued faithful leadership and support in the on-going life of The Benedictine Way. The Catechumenate Class of 2014 met from January to Pentecost and brought together five deeply committed parishioners, all of whom are currently moving forward in a variety of ministries and study. A Catechumenate Retreat was held on June 28, 2014 at the Bishop's Close. On Sunday morning, June 29, Bishop Neff Powell came to Grace for a special visitation service of Holy Eucharist honoring the catechumens, as they affirmed their faith, were confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church.
- "The Bible Workbench." A bible study group which meets each Sunday at 9:00 am continues to offer lively discussion and fellowship via each week's Sunday lectionary study.
- Youth Faith Formation continued with a small group of Middle School and High School Youth. Youth met twice monthly with program and service activities designed to closely follow the liturgical year.

- Grace Story Works, under the dedicated leadership of Ann Schneider, the Grace Church School enjoyed a full range of artistic interpretive opportunities, in conversation with the liturgical calendar and scripture.
- Grace Family Camp held August 29 – 31, 2014 at Cedar Ridge Retreat Center was well attended by parish families. Adult and children's study, program and fellowship followed the theme of Madeleine L'Engle's "A Wrinkle in Time."

Other Activities during 2014

- My work as Director of Grace Institute and Grace Art Camps continued in 2014 (See "Grace Institute" report on pages 33 – 35.)
- I completed my third year of a three-year term as Chair of the Mission and Ministry Committee of Diocesan Council.

To say my time spent working with Fr. Stephen Schneider in my role as Associate Rector has been full and fulfilling would be an understatement. It was energetic, visionary and rich. I will always count it a blessing that the Holy Spirit led me to Grace and to this collegial ministry.

*Faithfully,
The Rev. Esme J. R. Culver
Associate Rector*

From the Senior Warden

The Vestry agendas and minutes for 2014 make it abundantly clear: while this was a year of profound transition for Grace, the rhythm of the parish's temporal and "operational" year continued as steadily as did the church's liturgical year.

In short, your Vestry focused most of its time on two tasks: acting as the parish's steward of money and property; and embarking on the search for our new Rector. These are two of the three fundamental duties of a Vestry. (The third is to support the Rector through encouragement, engaged dialogue concerning the parish's mission, and regular communication about the needs and concerns of the congregation. Given the extraordinary energy and innate enthusiasm of Father Stephen and Mother Esme, the Vestry has fulfilled this role more by keeping pace with our clergy than by exhorting them to greater efforts!)

In undertaking the search for our new Rector, the Vestry made some early decisions: we would seek to involve the whole parish, through prayer and practical participation at every step; we would avoid getting bogged down in minutiae; and we would embrace our partnership with the Bishop and his staff in this process. Communication and dialogue with the congregation included several all-parish letters; updates in the Grace newsletters and e-newsletters; Sunday announcements; the Grace Community Summit facilitated by Father Rob Voyle on September 14; all-parish distribution of the Parish Profile executive summary (the "trifold"), with a request for feedback; an open invitation to apply to be on the Search Committee; and a January 2015 postcard inviting everyone to "spread the word." The Vestry has been tremendously encouraged by and grateful for the thoughtful and energetic participation of so many parishioners, making our work easier, and more reflective of the Grace community than it otherwise could have been. Thank you!

In carrying out its regular duties of stewardship, the Vestry energetically pursued implementation of the Campus Master Plan. The exterior of our main buildings is now painted, thanks to a remarkable outpouring of support and money from the congregation and other friends and benefactors. The north transept – especially through Father Stephen's efforts – has been refurbished and dedicated as the Chapel of Christ in the City.

The parish's finances remain healthy. The Vestry led the most successful auction ever; the number of pledging members has increased this year; and our budget shows a small surplus.

Your Vestry worked very hard this year. I particularly want to recognize those Vestry members who undertook additional duties in 2014: Patti Whitney-Wise and Suzy Jeffreys for their work on the Parish Profile Committee; Nancy Entrikin and Kelly Goodrich for their work on the Auction; and Suzy Jeffreys (again!) and Maya Crawford for their work on the parish pledge campaign.

I end by giving great thanks to Father Stephen for his unflagging, ever-loving ministry until the very day he left; and to Mother Esme, for her steadfastness (and mega-multi-tasking!) throughout 2014; and her commitment to lead us through this present transition.

*Respectfully submitted,
Paul Parker
Senior Warden*

From the Junior Warden

The most notable project completed in 2014 was also the one that involved the greatest number of parishioners – we painted the church. Painting was actually the easy part. Before we put paint on the walls the Grace community was invited to share their opinions regarding how our old church might best present itself to the neighborhood. Building on the professional suggestions of a local color specialist and the expertise of our own Paddy Tillett the Vestry and our clergy led us through a series of presentations and critiques of various color options. Once a color palate was identified, an impressive number of parishioners generously answered the call for the financial support needed to get the job done.

With decisions on color made and budget challenges met, work was begun in September and completed in November. The result is a revitalized exterior that better identifies Grace as an inviting place to worship and a vibrant member of the neighborhood. Much thanks to all who participated. Well done. This is an excellent first step in realizing the long term goals of the campus master planning project.

Painting was not the only project completed in this busy year. Other notable efforts include:

- Re-roofing of the breezeway. The badly deteriorated breezeway roof was replaced in conjunction with the painting project. Several layers of composition roof had been layered over the original cedar shingles over the years. This time, all the old roofing was removed and new sheathing and composition roofing was installed. New gutters and downspouts were also installed where needed.
- The north transept project was completed in November. The installation of an icon and an ambry, along with improved lighting, new flooring, fresh paint and new furniture has transformed a rather dark portion of the sanctuary into the inviting Chapel of Christ in the City. Here again, generous donations from the congregation made this improvement possible.
- Work continues in the Halsey House. Helen Slack-Miller announced her intention to adopt the house last year and has made good on her commitment. So far, the kitchen has been upgraded with new counters and floors and a coat of fresh paint. New floors were installed in both bathrooms and windows in the upstairs rooms have been repaired. Although there is still much to do, the Halsey House is now more suitable location for the many groups that already make use of its spaces.

Other projects include a new glass panel door for the Rector's office, replacement of some damaged electrical conduit, new flooring in the upstairs restroom and a wide range of plumbing, roofing, lighting, painting and hardware repairs. Late in the year, we enlisted the help of a professional janitorial service to recondition some of our tile and hardwood floors. The plan is to continue with periodic service to supplement routine maintenance done by our sexton.

Finally, the gardens and grounds have rarely looked any better thanks to the tireless effort of Frank Schramling.

This next year provides an opportunity to move on to the next phases of the campus master plan including the difficult issues of making our facilities more accessible and providing a more functional kitchen to support so many of our activities. Some specific projects will include additional work to deteriorated electrical conduits and repairs to exterior lighting. We will also continue with our paint brushes by turning inward and giving the community center, Ella Brown room, office spaces and the interior of the breezeway a new coat of paint.

2014 is my final year as Junior Warden. I want to thank everyone who has helped with so many projects, large and small, during the past four years. We got some things done and have many more to tackle in the days ahead. It's been a pleasure.

*Thank you,
Dan Heuvel, Junior Warden*

Altar Guild

This morning, the Altar Guild is hosting its annual Silver Tea in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Parish. We thank you for your support as this is our ministry's primary fundraiser with proceeds directed to meet expenses for the essential furnishings for services at Grace Memorial including linens, candles, communion wafers, and wine.

Each weekend, Altar Guild members serve in teams to clean and straighten the Sanctuary, and then prepare the necessary items for the celebration of the Eucharist. On Sunday morning, the team sets up for the two or three worship services including weekly communion in the Chapel, holidays, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and memorial services, assisting the clergy with any special needs.

Our special efforts this year have included attending to the cleaning of vestments and the repair of the Paten. Altar Guild members assisted in a myriad of details for the retirement of the Rector and for the dedication of the Chapel of Christ in the City in November. Co-Directresses met each month to plan, and both attended Liturgy Committee meetings throughout the year. They worked on the development and initial use of an Altar Guild Handbook. The Guild members shared several potluck dinners as they prepared for the seasons of Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas.

During this year our ministry welcomed Melanie Marcus as a sacristan. All of our members consider it a privilege to serve, care for the things that symbolize God's love and presence, and prepare for the worship space for Holy Eucharist services. We are looking forward to welcoming more new members in this wonderful ministry in 2015.

*Respectfully submitted,
Alicia Cash and Nancy McCusker
Co-Directresses*

Church School

During this year the Church School at Grace continues to offer families a range of nurturing and creative opportunities for children to experience our faith and traditions.

For the youngest children, the Nursery was available all year and was frequented by infants through young children. The welcoming environment of the Nursery allows parents to remain with their children as needed, permitting gentle transitions so that parents are able to focus on attending services. In July, the parish bid a heartfelt "Godspeed" to Jill Hartley who had provided reliable child care in the Nursery for decades. This past fall we welcomed Lucy Brockman as our current Nursery Coordinator, who brings her love of children and arts from her experience as a counselor at Grace Art Camp.

For those children ready for preschool through the early grades, the Godly Play curriculum was again available. The lessons follow the liturgical calendar and feature oral storytelling, manipulatives, experiential learning and creative expression in a nurturing, child-centered environment. In 2014, lessons were offered by Alicia Cash with assistance from parish family parents.

Grace Story Works was the curriculum provided for older children through 5th grade. Coordinated by Ann Schneider, the lessons mirrored seasonal liturgical themes and included a range of creative and service activities. Parish artists involved included Philip Barasch, Nancy Entrikin, Nancie Mann, and Julie Romberg. Service activities included writing seasonal greeting cards to parishioners, preparing planted Easter baskets for delivery to those unable to attend services at the church, planting a summer garden, building a labyrinth from packages of donated food items, and exploring the prayerful use of the labyrinth.

In Advent, all efforts turned to the tradition of presenting the pageant on Christmas Eve. This year the parish was again well served by the leadership team of Nigel Nicholson and Stephen Weeks who crafted a well-run presentation and fun experience for the parish. The presence of the Youth Group assisted in all aspects of the pageant, making this pageant truly an all-ages effort.

Finally, in early December, the Church School enjoyed a return visit of St. Nicholas at the annual Advent family potluck and craft event.

The many volunteers and parents of the Church School look forward to a bright new year ahead and opportunities to explore the traditions and strengthen the foundations of our faith.

*Respectfully submitted,
Alicia Cash*

The Daughters of the King (Las Flores de Jesus – The Flowers of Jesus)

The Daughters of the King Chapter at Grace Memorial Episcopal Parish, continues to grow. We have seven very active members: Shirley Johnson, Joy Finley, Evelyn Meade, Marsha Sharpe, Jessica Jones, Demetria Keck, and Liz Gautier. We also have a new member, Edie Ackerman, who will become a Daughter as soon as she has completed her “Discernment Training” in a few months. One very active Daughter, Barbara Kelsey, passed away in 2014. She is most certainly missed by each one of us.

At our annual meeting in September of 2014, we were fortunate to have The Rev. Esme J.R. Culver, the Associate Rector at Grace Memorial, as our keynote speaker. The title of her speech was “Through God's Eyes” and she was well received by the 20 plus members in attendance. Marsha Sharpe and her husband, Will, provided us with a fabulous luncheon, as usual.

We just installed the new leaders for the next three years: Demetria Keck, President; Evelyn Meade, Vice President; Jessica Jones, Secretary; Liz Gautier, Corresponding Secretary to the President (Newsletter Editor). We continue our “Ministry of Mailings” and two coffee hours. Individual members have added a coffee hour of their own. We are true to our God when we say, “For His Sake”, I am but one, but I am one. I can't do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. What I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do. Lord, what will you have me do? Prayer; Service; Evangelism.

*For His Sake,
Shirley Johnson
Outgoing President*

Women of Grace

(Formerly Episcopal Church Women)

The Women of Grace, formerly the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of Grace, includes all women who attend Grace Memorial Church. We strongly encourage all women to attend our meetings and become involved in making the Women of Grace an active part of the Grace Community. We are continuing to pay our dues to the ECW of Oregon so we can participate in their activities.

Our main fundraising event continues to be the Holiday Art Faire & Bazaar held on the first Saturday in December. Last year it was held on December 6 and included 23 artists from our own parish and the wider Grace Community. A portion of the artists' sales goes directly to the Women of Grace account. A high point of the bazaar is the food booth where nearly all proceeds benefit Women of Grace. We changed our lunch this year to the Grace Bistro run by Marsha and Will Sharpe and Connie Sullivan. The St. Mary's Guild offered a beautiful quilt, which raised over \$880. It was lovely to see the quilt go home with Efrosinia Bell. The net profit for the Women of Grace was a little over \$3,800. This annual event has been ECW's main source of income since the 1940s.

With funds raised, Women of Grace makes grants to parish programs and other organizations. Our budget for this is based on the amount raised each year. These grants are divided into three main designations: Church, Clergy and Parish House, Service for Parishioners and Gifts to the Community.

In 2014 the Women of Grace fundraising specifically supported Women's Retreat scholarships, Grace Art Camp scholarships, St. Mary's Guild and a Clergy Discretionary Fund. Our budget also allows us to replenish some supplies for the kitchen.

Again, we would love to have all women of Grace attend the meetings. We would also appreciate feedback on how we can better serve the needs of all the women of Grace.

*Respectfully submitted by the Leadership Team
Susan Germundson, Sharon Loomis-Malin and Connie Sullivan*

Friday Community Dinner

In April of this year we will be celebrating 20 years of service to the community. At the start, meals were prepared just once a month, but within a few years with Westminster Presbyterian joining us, we were able to serve the meals every Friday.

A dedicated group of volunteers, both members of Grace as well as “friends” of Grace, set the tables, serve the food, wash the dishes and clean up afterwards. Another group of volunteers, currently 11 in all, shop for the food and prepare the meals. This year we were glad to have Judy Prosper and Monika Soennichsen join this group.

On two different occasions students from Oregon Episcopal School spent an afternoon preparing and baking apple pies for the dinner. Our guests greatly enjoyed these “special” pies and appreciated the fact that they were made by a group of young people.

Generous support for the Friday Community Dinners was shown at the auction last fall when the “paddle raise” resulted in donations of \$5,000. A heartfelt “Thank You” from all of us who work on this program and from the hundreds of guests who enjoyed a “sit-down and be served” meal in our Parish Hall.

*Respectfully,
Hale McMahon
Coordinator*

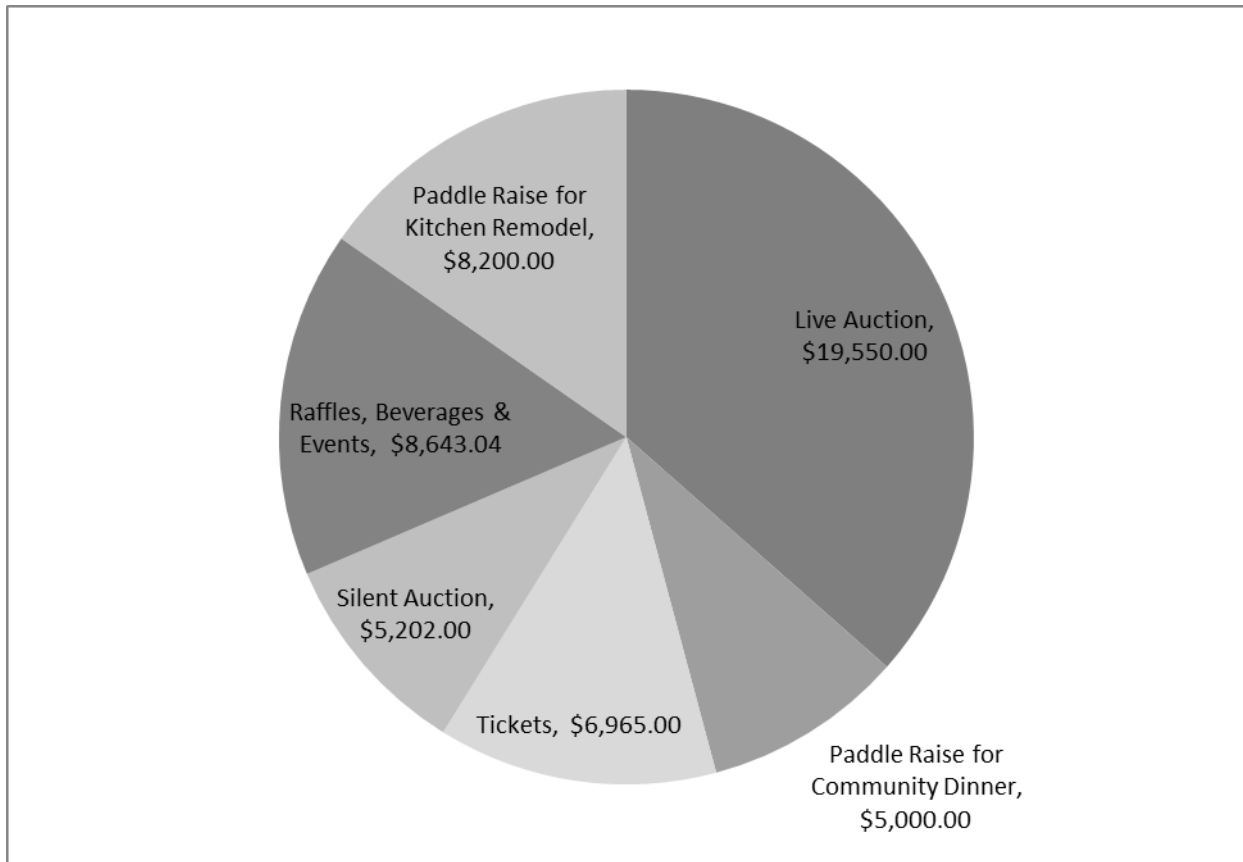
Grace Community Center Auction

One of our favorite traditions for the Community Center Auction is to take inspiration from the culture and folktales explored over the summer by Grace Art Camp. This year that meant we traveled to France, the Land of Castles and Quests! Themed food and decorations transported our guests to a joyful, Parisian evening in support of our beloved Community Center.

Our event was a success on many levels, but we are especially happy to report that we raised a record \$53,500. The Community Center is home to numerous enterprises: Grace Art Camp, PHAME Academy (an arts program for adults with disabilities), various 12-step groups and Friday Community Dinner to name only a few.

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers and members of the Auction Committee, the generosity of our local businesses and our faithful guests.

*Respectfully submitted,
Allie Mount*



Grace Community Center

During 2014, the Grace Community Center continued to cultivate partnerships with many local non-profits.

Four days a week from mid-January until mid-June and September until mid-December, Grace shared its space with PHAME Academy, Portland region's fine and performing arts organization serving young and older adults with developmental disabilities. PHAME students filled Grace with laughter and energy as they creatively expressed themselves through a variety of classes and workshops throughout the Grace campus while the PHAME staff used the Grace House as office space.

The Grace Community Center continued its partnership with local community organizations: Sullivan's Gulch Neighborhood Association and New City Initiative.

Twelve-step groups were also part of the Grace Community Center's dynamic with Women's AA, Overeaters Anonymous, Al-Anon 5+, and Gamblers Anonymous, to name a few.

Many other outside groups held meetings and events at Grace such as: American Field Service (AFS), Friends of Chamber Music, Allegro Investment Group, Portland Fertile Ground Theater, and the Nigerian Community in Oregon & Southwest Washington.

The Grace Community Center also offered space for religious groups including the Presbyterian Prayer Group.

Once again, the Grace Community Center continued to host a wide range of non-profit organizations and 12-step meetings enriching the Grace environment and allowing us to continue our mission to serve the larger community.

*Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Martin*

The Grace Labyrinth Guild

In 2014, the Labyrinth Guild continued its service to provide multiple opportunities for the local community to make use of this unique prayerful tool. The Guild strives to integrate the labyrinth into the seasons of our Christian life as well as to welcome people of all faiths and walks of life to find healing, nurture, peace and inspiration through this ancient spiritual experience.

During 2014, these opportunities included:

New Year's Day Labyrinth Peace Walk

For over seven years, the Labyrinth Guild has offered the local community the opportunity to begin the new year with a meditative walk for peace on either of the Guild's two labyrinths — the Chartres style or the classical. On January 1, 2014, this event was held in memory of Bishop William Spofford, a peace pilgrim and someone who enjoyed walking the labyrinth. The instrumental accompanists were flutist Laila Murphy and harpist Kim Swennes. The labyrinth event closed with prayerful dances led by Jane Rickenbaugh, sacred dancer and instructor.

On **Holy Saturday** a silent labyrinth walk was held with readings and images of the Stations of the Cross available for reflecting on Jesus' journey toward Easter.

Sunday School Labyrinth Walk

On the last Sunday before summer, the classical labyrinth was set up for the children of Story Works and Godly Play to learn about the labyrinth, experience walking it, and prayerfully contemplate the passing Church School year and their upcoming season of summer.

Autumn Labyrinth Walk

Inspired by her experiences connected to the rector's retirement, Ann Schneider facilitated a unique event concluding her service in the development and leadership of the Guild. Based on the theme of Autumn, a season of transformation and letting go, this half-day event included an introduction to the labyrinth, theological reflections by co-organizer Rev. Melanie Marcus, and opportunities for creative expression through art studio opportunities in fiber, creative writing and visual arts.

Food Labyrinth

In October, the children of Grace Story Works, in cooperation with the weekday Sack Lunch Ministry, gathered donations of food from Grace parishioners and built a food labyrinth in the classical design style. As an outreach effort, the reflection on food security is combined with the building the walls of the labyrinth out of everything from pudding cups to granola bars, cans of chili to cheese snacks. These donations helped to fill the cupboards and to remind the parish of the ongoing need for food.

Moving forward

During the second half of the year, the Guild prepared for the challenge of moving forward without direct involvement from its original founders and facilitators. With significant assistance from Linda Dodds, Mary Olson, and other former members, the preparations for the New Year's Day Labyrinth Peace Walk were addressed. The current Guild members look forward to joining with new members in 2015 to continue this unique and important ministry.

*Respectfully,
The Grace Labyrinth Guild*

Music at Grace

First I would like to extend a note of thanks on behalf of the congregation and Vestry to all the musicians of our parish who have so loyally contributed their gifts of time and talent to the Music Ministry at Grace for the glory of God in our worship services.

Special thanks to our dedicated and hard-working Coventry Choir – who joyfully sing and help to lead music at fifty-plus services a year. Coventry Choir members are a diverse group of dedicated people: librarians, educators, computer specialists, pharmacists, homemakers, retirees and others, some with music training, some not. What we have in common is a love of music and the desire to praise God. The motto of J.S. Bach: “To God alone be the glory” is the foundation of the choir; in all that we do, in all that we sing, our intent is to glorify God.

The choir is a group of people who work hard together and play together. The choir continued to have terrific brunches, parties, and social gatherings throughout the year including a special summer music soirée for long-time choir member Dale Walhood. From Byrd to spirituals and Bach to Britten, we become acquainted, learn and share some of the great sacred music of all ages. I am grateful for the choir’s hard work, love of sacred choral music, dedication, loyalty and commitment. They are at the foundation of the music ministry of Grace.

Special musical highlights have included the annual Music at Grace house concert in January at the Sullivan-Lovett’s home featuring Portland Classical guitarist Peter Zisa. A Brass Quartet added to the joyous occasion on Christ the King service, November 23 for the retirement service of Rev. Stephen V. Schneider. Other special guest musicians to our services included Olivia Langley, Principal Oboist with PYP, Bruce and Gwyneth van Buskirk, recorder ensemble, and soprano soloist LeaAnne denBeste. Music at Grace concerts featured SacroProfano (June 29), *Continental Tastes* with the Portland Viol Concert (May 23), and the Vir Men’s Ensemble (April 4 & 6). The Annual Prudence Denney Edwards Steinway concert in November, (featuring pianist Byron Schenkman) was postponed to May, 2015 because of painting the sanctuary.

Additional thanks are offered to Debbie McDuffee for her singing in the cantor and solo roles, our Grace Bellringers who have helped to enrich our worship ministry through their gifts of ringing handbells on special feast days (Alicia Lehrle - Bell Captain), and Emmy Ageros who helps to keep the choral library organized.

The support and donation of special gifts from individuals and the ECW to the Special Music Fund and the Music at Grace Concert Fund help to insure a high quality Music Ministry program at Grace and provide for the maintenance of our beautiful instruments.

In December, the Vestry approved the creation of a special Organ Committee to guide, plan, prepare and implement some long overdue, major maintenance work that is needed for the organ - built by the Canadian organmaker, Casavant Frères, in 1971. More information about this project will be forth-coming in the coming months.

We always welcome new members to this marvelous community of faith, fellowship and music ministry and to sing in the Coventry choir, play Dutch liturgical handbells, participate in a seasonal youth choir, and contribute in all ways that honor and glorify God with our best gifts.

Thank you all for your wonderful, kind and generous support in the music ministry at Grace. In all, it was a fabulous year of music ministry!

*Blessings to you,
Susan Jensen
Music Director / Organist*

The Guild of St. Mary

Working with the support of the Episcopal Church Women of Grace, the Guild of St. Mary gathers most Saturdays each month to sew, quilt, crochet and knit projects for outreach. The group also gathers to work on individual projects or to learn new skills. Anyone interested in learning how to make a quilt is most welcome to come and visit or attend one of our learning workshops. (Watch for announcements!)

There are several components to the Guild that make it integral to the life of our parish and an example of the many different and creative ways we do ministry and outreach at Grace Memorial.

We make quilts and blankets to give to those who need them. Since 2003, we have been making quilts and blankets to give to Bradley Angle House, a program that provides shelter and related services for women and children escaping domestic violence. After a special blessing during the 10:00 am service on December 14, 2014, sixty-seven new and unique quilts and blankets were presented to Bradley Angle just in time for Christmas. (In 2013 the Guild presented approximately fifty quilts to Bradley Angle House.)

We sponsor a quilt project for Grace's annual Grace Art Faire & Holiday Bazaar. This quilt project is a multi-faceted work of art involving collaboration and creative challenge. It is raffled off at the December Grace Art Faire & Bazaar.

In 2014, the annual quilt "Song of Spring" featured a challenging lattice design inspired by the stained glass windows in our Sanctuary. As members worked on the quilt, they talked about windows and their symbolism, and they found inspiration in this passage from the Song of Solomon:

Look, there [my beloved] stands ...looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone."
– *Song of Solomon 2: 8a – 11*

The group quilt in contemporary coral and greens was based on traditional "lattice nine-patch" and "snowball" blocks and featured the Mariposa fabric from Blend fabrics. The long-arm quilting was completed by master quilter Pat Roche in a Celtic lattice design to support overall concept.

In 2014, the group also made a large purple and green in a traditional "postage stamp" pattern quilt, plus a smaller rose-themed quilt for the Grace Community Center Auction.

We treasure our relationships with one another. Having just completed our eleventh year, we find that getting together to work on outreach quilts, joint projects or on our own tasks in the company of others who represent a wide range of age groups is a great blessing and joy! We meet most Saturdays in the Mason Burnham Room at Grace, and we have had the pleasure of welcoming several new and returning quilters this past year for a total of 20 members. St. Mary's welcomes women of all ages and skill levels to join us, and, if you are a beginner, we will teach you what you need to know!

In 2014, our work was greatly assisted by donated materials. (We do welcome donations of 100% quilt weight cotton fabric, and it is important to note that we believe there is almost no such thing as ugly fabric.) Cash donations, including a generous \$500 grant from ECW, were used to purchase additional supplies such as thread, quilt batting and backing and finishing fabrics.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mariann Koop-McMahon, Coordinator*

Weekday Sack Lunch Ministry

In 2014, the Grace Sack Lunch Ministry distributed 1,456 sack lunches, 232 pairs of socks, 33 hats and 24 pairs of gloves to low income and homeless individuals who came to our door. After Christmas several visitors also received packets of toiletries with knit caps and warm hand-made scarves remaining from those made specially for and given to Friday Community Dinner guests.

After many years of providing the laboring oar for this program, including packing lunches, organizing food donations, shopping and helping to distribute lunches, Ann Heuvel retired from the program and handed the baton to Avril Johnson and Sally Fraser. Many thanks to Ann for her years of dedicated hard work sustaining this ministry.

The program is primarily dependent upon non-perishable food donations from parishioners. Sack lunches are made up of available non-perishable items including pop-top cans such as soups, hearty stews and pork and beans, tuna lunches, Vienna sausages, pudding cups, fruit cups, small packets of dried fruit and nuts, granola bars and small juice cartons. The program strives to provide hearty and healthy meals containing protein, fruit, fiber and calcium. White socks are a needed item for those living on the streets who frequently have cold, wet feet.

The Church School hosted a highly successful food labyrinth on October 19, which resulted in full cupboards for the program for several weeks. This was the second annual food labyrinth that has played an important part in sustaining the program and raising parish awareness of needed donations. Many thanks to the volunteers who distribute the lunches and the many parishioners who faithfully provided food for those who come to us in need of a warm welcome and nutritious lunch.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sally Fraser*

Grace Foundation



The Grace Foundation had a successful year working with our Investment manager, Trillium Asset Management. As of December 31, 2014 the Foundation's portfolio was valued at \$999,042. After grants in the amount of \$36,190 to the Grace Institute in 2014, the Foundation showed a decrease of only \$11,135 for the year.

As in the past, the Foundation has assisted the Grace Institute by funding specific projects to support Institute programs and efforts. In October 2014 the Foundation approved the Grace Institute's grant proposal for 2015 in the amount of \$28,500. This grant includes:

- \$7,000 Scholarships for new eight-week Grace Art Camp
- \$2,000 Scholarships for Bridges to Peace and Understanding Camp and Spring Break Camp
- \$1,000 Relationship Development: Bridges to Peace and Understanding Camp & CARAVAN <http://www.oncaravan.org>
- \$2,000 Seed for GI Speaker Series: Global Grace & CARAVAN
- \$5,000 Two people: Return to assist Casa Chapi Art Camp 2015
- \$10,000 Documentary on Grace Art Camp/Bridges to Peace and Understanding Camp for Marketing and Fund Raising
- \$1,500 Website Management

Total Funding approved \$28,500

*Respectfully submitted,
Larry L. Snyder
President*

Trustees for 2014:

Maya Crawford

George Fleming (ex officio, Parish Treasurer)

Sally Fraser, Secretary

Susan Little

Larry Snyder, President

Stephen Schneider (ex officio, Rector)

Kari Stanley

Jeremy Thiessen

Grace Institute

Grace Institute enjoyed dramatic growth in its domestic and international programs during 2014 with an exciting new development which allows all three Grace entities: Grace Institute, Grace Parish and the Grace Foundation to jointly enter into a meaningful relationship with people of another culture.

I am deeply appreciative of an excellent staff at Grace Institute without whom we would not be able to accomplish the vast vision for development of program and events here in Portland and across the world. I offer thanks especially to Mariann Koop-McMahon, Program and Administrative Coordinator, and to Linda McQuery, Business Manager. None of this could be accomplished without their significant expertise and skill, not to mention their knowledge, dedication, flexibility and solid support! I am also indebted to a highly talented and experienced camp staff of artists and counselors and am deeply appreciative of the wonderful participation by parishioners who happily volunteer as part of our security team, as studio assistants and offer their services in a variety of other ways. I hope they had as much fun being there as it was for us to spend time with them in the camp.

Grace Art Camp: 7 Weeks, June - August, 2014

In its 18th year, Grace Art Camp 2014, *Folktales of France: Castles and Quests* continued to flourish and to solidify the stronger relationships between the camp and the parish. Repeating the successful enrollment patterns of 2012 and 2013, the camp filled to capacity in a record time (approximately 30 days), bringing over 1,250 children onto the Grace campus last summer and leaving over 200 families on a waitlist. How to accommodate all families who wish to come to camp will be our focus going forward. *Folktales of France* also led us to an exciting new relationship with the Portland Art Museum. The Museum held an exhibit from the Tuileries Gardens of Paris during the summer and, partnering with the museum, over 50 families visited the museum exhibit for private tours as part of Grace Art Camp's summer partnership with the museum. We hope this relationship will continue in the years to come.

Spring Camp: March 24 – 26, 2014 “What in the World Will You Do?”

Spring Camp is designed to annually introduce young campers to classic stories of renewal and creation. Using the beloved story of *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney as inspiration. We asked a record 74 campers “What will you do to make the world a better place?” in the third year of this growing camp. It has firmly established itself as a popular Spring Break event and has become a growing feature at Grace each spring.

Bridges to Peace and Understanding -- An Arts for Peace Camp:

For the fourth year, we brought together Muslim, Jewish and Christian artists to teach Muslim, Jewish and Christian children how to interpret through the arts. The theme for 2014 was “Pilgrimage to Peace.” Each morning of the three-day camp, campers heard a different journey story from each of the three faith traditions: the Story of Moses, a story about the Three Kings and the story that became the Muslim Pilgrimage to Mecca. At the end of the camp the young campers were introduced to the Labyrinth; many re-walked it with their parents after the finale. This camp is profoundly different from the other camps and has created a community of artists, children and parents that is particularly cohesive and passionate about the intent of the program. In response to change in the Portland Public School calendar, the camp moved to the week after Christmas. *Bridges to Peace and Understanding Camp* will continue to grow as part of our regular roster of camps.

Local Outreach: Scholarships for Campers and Leadership Training Scholarships for Counselors

Our outreach efforts, both locally and abroad, continued during 2014's *Folktales of France: Castles and Quests*. With grateful thanks to the Grace Memorial Episcopal Church Foundation, we continued to invite and offer scholarships to children from less-advantaged homes the means to participate in camp this past year. In addition to campers, these donations, as well as generous donations offered by individuals and families, made it possible for young people who have shown leadership capabilities elsewhere, the opportunity to train as counselors in the camp. Two young people who started into this training program in 2011 are now employed as highly valued counselors in the camp.

International Outreach: Grace Art Camp at Casa Chapi in Peru

Having successfully launched its first international Grace Art Camp in Chwele Village, Kenya, in August 2013, Grace Institute was asked to duplicate the international camp model in Casa Chapi, Peru. Grace Institute launched its second international Grace Art Camp or "*Festival de Arte de los Niños a Casa Chapi*," in the Andes of Peru, on Wednesday, November 5, with a team of 14 Grace Institute artists.

During our 2012 camp, Grace Institute developed a strong relationship with Oregon alpaca breeders and their non-profit organization, Quechua Benefit, through which they have created a village, including a children's orphanage and school at *Casa Chapi*. Grace Institute was invited to bring its successful model to *Casa Chapi* with the intent that the Peruvian coordinating team would replicate the camp in ensuing years, thereby increasing economic development and visibility of the area. In April 2014, Esme Culver and youth members of the team made a site visit and feasibility study trip, during which they were privileged to meet with officials from the Peruvian Ministry of Culture. The Ministry is deeply interested in the project, planning to use it as a vehicle for re-engaging Peruvian children with their Quechua culture through the arts – using the Grace Art Camp model.

The Ministry, Grace Institute and Quechua Benefit coordinated the November 2014 *Festival* trip, including creation of a team of Grace Institute artists and counselors and a mirror team of Peruvian artists and counselors. Grace Art Camp participants and its teachers and staff raised funds to provide funding toward the project. Grace artists corresponded via email with their Peruvian counterparts, designed studio projects, collected materials and left for Peru on October 29. All of the studios at *Casa Chapi* were successful. The T-shirts were beautiful and provided a great way for the mirror teams to make friends. There were totem poles and puppets, music and dancing, and a great deal of laughter. Parish artists accompanying me, as part of the Grace Art Camp team, were Paula Benjaminson, Nancy Entrikin and Cathy Gibson. Quechua Benefit founder, Mike Safely, who accompanied the Grace team, was thrilled at the realization of his group's request to bring Grace Art Camp to Peru. The (specially-built) glass kiln, donated and shipped to Casa Chapi by Grace Institute worked, and the children's glass art was beautiful! Now, having experienced the "Grace Art Camp model," the Peruvian artists and young people are planning – with the support of the Ministry of Culture – to work to provide similar *Festival de Arte de los Niños* experiences in other areas of Peru.

This project was funded by Grace Institute, The Grace Memorial Episcopal Church Foundation and through private donations. All artists, American and Peruvian donated their time to the project.

Back to Africa:

Following up on 2011's *Tales of the Serengeti*, a team of Grace Institute artists and counselors (some from Grace Parish) worked with a similar Kenyan team to produce an art camp at the Chwele Community Center in Kenya during the last week of August, 2013. The camps ran simultaneously in Portland and Kenya, offering a very exciting start to this international outreach program. The purpose of this venture was to create an economic development opportunity for the village, to exchange ideas and techniques, to create a relationship between Grace and

Chwele Village and to allow for future connections between the people of Kenya and the Portland community. Grace Art Camp Kenya was a great success and proved to be a transformational experience for many of the Art Camp team as well as representatives from Kenya. A small camp was produced in 2014 using guidelines provided by Grace Institute. The program has served as a learning pilot project which paved the way for the current, similar program Peru.

Grace Institute Art Classes and Workshops:

Grace Institute offered several new glass art classes to the community, especially during the winter holiday season, and, in response to requests, has begun to hold art class birthday parties.

Participation in Grace Community Center Auction:

Many of our Grace Art Camp artists donated their time, talent and art to our Grace Community Center Auction this year, furthering the nurture of our strengthened relationship between Grace Institute and Grace Parish. As Grace Institute moves the camp into stronger real-world connections to the particular cultures that it embraces, Grace Parish is able to develop those same connections as possibilities for its own global outreach.

I extend heartfelt appreciation to the Grace Institute Board of Directors for their advice, encouragement and support. A special note of thanks and gratitude goes to Patty Walhood, who has agreed to continue as President of Grace Institute and who “gets” the vision!

Current Grace Institute Board of Directors:

**Patty Walhood (President)
Cathy Gibson
Karen Talus
Dale Walhood
The Rev. Stephen Whitney-Wise**

As the Executive Director of Grace Institute, it is my dream that programs and events will emerge from both Grace Institute and Grace Parish as part of a holistic Global Grace program which will continue to strengthen the relationship between both and create connections for the people of Grace with the world. Come join us, take a class, volunteer at camp and enjoy this amazing organization you have created - Grace Institute!

*Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Esme J. R. Culver
Executive Director, Grace Institute
Grace Art Camp Director*

