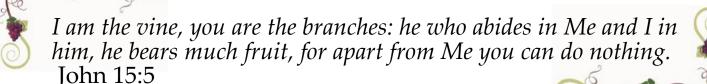


Grace Episcopal Church Galveston Island, TX



Established as a Parish in 1876

1115- 36th Street Galveston, Texas 77550 (409) 762-9676 www.gracecchurchgalveston.org



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Website: www.gracechurchgalveston.org

Grace, the Grapevine: Who We Are

Grace Episcopal Church located on historic Galveston Island, south of Houston, is in search of a new rector. The scripture about the vine and the branches spoke to us as a way to describe our parish community.

Grace Episcopal Church is ready for the next chapter. It is an exhilarating time that offers the possibility of hope and change. We are seeking a new rector who shares our excitement and is ready to join us on our journey. In this profile we will work to evaluate who we are, both the challenges and the blessings. We have strengths but we also have weaknesses and shortcomings. It would be impossible to reveal everything about us in these few pages but we have taken our task of self-examination seriously and will do our best to present an honest portrait of a loving, generous, and welcoming family of believers.

We are trusting in the "still, small voice" of God, our trusted guide, in this process and it is our fervent prayer that the next rector of Grace Episcopal Church will soon hear and answer that same Godly whisper. We invite you to read on and let us tell you about our church, ourselves, our hopes and our dreams.





By the late 19th century, Galveston was well on its way to being the "Queen City of the Gulf". The population and prosperity of the town concentrated around the Port of Galveston and the downtown area. That is where the first Episcopal Church in Texas, Trinity Episcopal, was established in 1841. As Trinity church grew they reached out to rural areas on the island. A mission school for children



"out in the country" was started. This mission was so successful that by 1876 the members were given permission to establish Grace Episcopal Church. In 1884 wealthy Galveston entrepreneur Henry Rosenberg and wife, Leticia, moved their membership from Trinity to Grace, purportedly as a result of Mr. Rosenberg's disagreement with Trinity Vestry members and Rector over the proposed vesting of the Trinity where the proposed vesting of the Trinity

choir. Henry was a Swiss immigrant who had worked hard to achieve financial success and was generous to

his adopted city. He died childless and bequeathed his fortune to many good works. Rosenberg Library and the Texas Heroes Monument are both gifts to the city. He died in 1893 and his will included a bequest to Grace Church of \$35,000 to replace the small frame church with the beautiful neo-gothic building you see today. Grace was designed by Nicholas Clayton who also created the designs for First Presbyterian Church, the original medical school building known as "Old Red" and many other buildings in the community.



The parish grew for many years but was affected by the atmosphere of "good times

and gambling" that was pervasive on the island in the 1940's and early 50's. Low membership caused the church to be closed for several years during these wild times. When the church reopened it grew and prospered. The Centennial Celebration of the building was held in 1995. The 130th anniversary will be in 2025!

A complete picture of Grace would not be possible without a chapter on Hurricane Ike, September 1, 2008. The storm brought a record storm surge and all church buildings sustained significant flood damage. Island residents were allowed back on the island September 25 and Grace held Sunday



services in Jinkins Hall (our Parish Hall) September 29. After initial clean-up Grace Church faced difficult decisions about finances, rebuilding and a substantially smaller congregation as a number of our families would never return to the island. The rector, vestry, and church members coordinated hundreds of decisions and waded through oceans of information necessary to make decisions about our future.

With God's help, Grace was able to restore and rebuild better than before the storm. It took a little over a year to complete the repair

and renovation of the sanctuary, education building, parish hall, Silk Purse Thrift store, Youth building and rectory.

Like the rest of the world COVID impacted Grace Church. Initially there were no in-person services with our services available only on Facebook. We started out with a single iPhone and transitioned to



having 3-4 camera that we could switch between to offer more of a feeling of the service online. When we transitioned to in-person services, we started with limited number of parishioners with services streamed live on Facebook. We eventually returned to normal services, initially still offering the streaming option.

Our ministries have been slow to restart. We are optimistic that our new rector will continue to build and grow our community. We invite you to read on and learn more about our church, our hopes and our dreams.

Grace Episcopal Church is a church in transition with the search for a new rector.















The Map of Grace Church Campus



Key to photo:

- 1. Grace Church
- 2. Quin Hall
- 3. Jinkins Hall/Parish Hall
- 4. Rectory
- 5. Molhusen/BSA #177
- 6. The Silk Purse



The Rectory and Jinkins Parish Hall were painted in 2019.

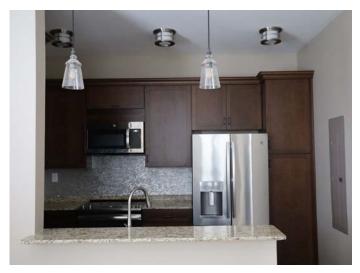


Our Rectory

With the help of the Diocese our Rectory was completely redone and modernized in 2019.

















OUR VISION

Today and Tomorrow

The survey of our membership suggests that Grace Church is friendly and warmly welcoming to our visitors, we have made an effort to care for those in our midst and have been moderately active in our ministries beyond the church. But the survey

also suggested that we are looking for a seasoned rector to lead us.

We are looking for someone who can:

- ✤ Lead a congregation of older adults.
- Develop a program for the growth of Grace without destroying the fabric that presently exists;
- Develop programming that effectively serves the demographic of Grace while continuing to meet the spiritual needs of a vibrant older demographic that remains crucial to the life of Grace.
- ✤ Pastoral care that engages all of us; and
- Interact with community outreach

The rector we seek should lead us more fully and effectively into the reality of our vision

Our Mission Statement

Through the Grace of God help each person experience God's love and guidance.



Our Core Values Statement

We believe in the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

At Grace Church we value:

- ✤ A traditional and dynamic style of worship
- ✤ An open and inclusive church
- ¹ Our historic presence in our community
- ✤ Service including outreach and pastoral care
- Hospitality and fellowship
- The courage to grow and change
- Our steadfast commitment to our community
- ✤ Stewardship of our resources including time, talent and treasure

Our vísion for the future of Grace will include:

† Expanded worship opportunities

A variety of worship services that reflect the interests and passions of parishioners.

Pastoral care team

Parish members caring for each other.

Development of Christian Education Commitment to thought-provoking and inspiring educational enrichment for all ages.

† Outreach

Partnership with our neighbors, other churches and community social services.

[†] Grace campus as community meeting place

Bringing the island to Grace through the use of our facilities.





Central to our life at Grace church is our Sunday worship services. We currently have two services. One at 8:00am of Holy Eucharist Rite I and one at 10:30 am of Holy Eucharist with music. During the time period after Hurricane Ike to post COVID there was one service—9:30am Rite II Holy Eucharist with music. Although the storm was 15 years ago attendance has only just warranted the need for a second service. There is a small devoted group that know as "8 o'clockers" who attend the shorter Rite I service without music.

Before COVID-19 we had a robust group of individuals who worked together to prepare and participate in our traditional worship service. The Book of Common Prayer and the 1982 Hymnal are the basis for the service. Worship is enhanced by a pipe organ and a Chancel choir. We are blessed to have the services of a talented musician as organist.

Post COVID, we have a much smaller group of individuals that we draw on to assist with our services. A small, dedicated group forms the Altar Guild. A larger group of people perform the functions of Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Readers, Acolytes and Ushers. Pre covid we had a few individuals that were trained to administer Healing Unction during communion and take reserve sacrament to homebound parishioners and we are looking providing this to our parishioners again. Also, a contemplative prayer group meets in the chapel on Tuesday evenings.

We had an active wedding ministry as many couples are drawn to the beauty of the sanctuary and wished to hold their service there. A parish wedding coordinator met with the couples to help them with their options. If the couple desires to have their wedding to be at Grace, they meet with the rector for pre-wedding counseling. The wedding ministry is currently on hiatus until our full time rector is found.

Overall, the style of worship is traditional and is in keeping with the atmosphere of the historic church building.







The Branch of Education and Service

The following groups are dedicated to serving God through work in our church and community.

Children's Sunday School—A talented and veteran teacher leads creative and fun lessons for younger children during the Sunday morning worship and the children rejoin their families for Eucharist.

Education for Adults - There is a group of adults who meet between services on Sunday mornings to follow a course of bible study that is led by the priest. Usually these classes last 4-6 weeks and often follow the church year.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew – is a local, national and global men's Episcopal and Anglican ministry. Our areas of mission focus are: discipleship and mentoring of youth and scouting, prison ministries, racial reconciliation, recovery, social justice, and veteran's ministires. Prayer, study and service describe the mission of The Brotherhood. The chapter was originally chartered in 1893 and re-chartered in 2022.

Daughters of the King chapter supports members and others through a prayer ministry. They are always quick to provide meals, transportation and a hand-made prayer shawl for people needing assistance. They support each other spiritually and recently held a Quiet Day for their members. The DOK offers quiet days twice a year in Advent and Lent.

The "*Over 55's*" are a group that meet weekly to be stewards of our church and grounds. In a hundred year old plus building there is always something that needs repair or maintenance.

Boy Scout Troop #177-Grace Church is proud to host Boy Scout Troop #177 for over 14 years. Grace provides a dedicated space for a scout house and supports the troop through donations and annual popcorn sales. The scouts support Grace by helping with events at Grace such as the BBQ and Thanksgiving Feast. .













The Branch that reaches out to our community



Our annual BBQ and Auction is the major fundraiser for Grace Church. Each year in the fall. This event is much more than fundraiser for Grace. It is an annual opportunity to reach out into the larger Galveston Community and bring the community in to experience the welcoming members of Grace. The entire church comes together to make the BBQ

and auction a success, from selling tickets to cleanup and everything in between. Grace is known for its Chicken BBQ and the Auction helps keep the BBQ guests to stay longer and get to know Grace. A docent has been available in the past to give guided tours of the sanctuary and to express how faith is the strength of Grace's members. It is our opportunity to share a meal and conversation with others.

In 2022, we renamed our BBQ to the AR Lucas Memorial BBQ. AR was so instrumental in the success of the BBQ through the years and is greatly missed.



Thanksgiving Feast—Over 20 years ago Grace made the commitment to have a Thanksgiving Feast for our neighborhood community on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Neighbors around the church are invited to join us for a turkey dinner to stay and eat and visit with us. Church members underwrite the cost of the meal and make an effort to greet our neighbors and help them enjoy a wonderful meal. Usually over 200 people are served that day.









Seaside Senior Lunches Grace has been active in this ministry since 2013. Moody Methodist Church coordinates, prepares nutritious meals and delivers them to a rotating schedule of churches each Thursday. Grace and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew hosts the luncheon on the 4th Thursday of each month.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper– Each year on Fat Tuesday, the last day of the Mardi Gras celebrations in Galveston, Grace hosts a Pancake Supper in Jinkins Hall. The Kitchen Crew mixes the batter and heats the sausage. The flippers cook and server the pancakes.





Blessing of pets-

On the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Francis, known for his love of all animals, we host a blessing for Pets of all kinds. We request a donation of food that can be shared with the Island Animal Shelter. Volunteers are needed to accept the donations, and deliver them to the Humane Society.







The *Silk Purse Thrift Shop* is the oldest thrift shop on Galveston Island. Located behind the main church at 1124 37th Street, the old house is a 1900 storm survivor. Established in 1959 by the Women of Grace Episcopal Church, this wonderful community outreach continues to serve with our neighborhood with low cost clothing and household goods.



Seeding Galveston – Grace supports community gardens with garden plots and kitchen facilities are used to prepare and cook meals for people who need them.



Episcopops -The choir has a social group that meets to sing popular music hence the name, "*EpiscoPops*". The Episcopops group meets on a regular basis to sing popular music, gospel, show tunes and folk music. They perform at local retirement homes and other venues.

Church Ministry Reboot

As a result of the COVID shutdown, many of our ministries took a hit. We are in the process of rebuilding the ministries of Grace.



Rally Day—In the fall of 2023, Grace had its first Rally Day in many years. Each ministry had a panel on a display board and sign-up sheet. We went back to a previous format of having a progressive brunch with a different dish offered at each station. We also added some new ministries that we wanted to get started.



Sunday Worship Ministries– The ministries necessary for Sunday worship have been slow to return to full strength. We have a strong core of parishioners dedicated to these ministries.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors—We are in the process of reinstating our lay visitors ministries.

Newcomer's Ministry – works to create a welcoming atmosphere for visitors and potential new members to the church. The goal is to help new people to feel comfortable as they visit and get to know our community.

Newsletter and Website – Grace strives to grow and maintain an online presence with the ENews – electronic newsletter, Grace Church Website and a social media presence.







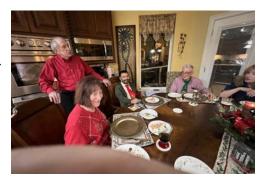
The Branch of Fellowship

Grace church members love to eat and talk and rarely miss an opportunity to do both. There is weekly fellowship after every Sunday service that many people attend in Jinkins Hall. A light lunch is served twice a month. On alternate Sundays coffee, fruit, and sweets are served.



Graceful Gatherers

On the first Friday of each month the *Graceful Gatherers* meet in the home of one of our parishioners for a potluck supper and fellowship.





Camp Allen Retreat

Each year Grace goes on a weekend *Camp Allen Retreat* in Navasota, TX.. It is a time of reflection and renewal.





Grace Church Foundation



The purpose of this Foundation is to receive and manage any funds given in trust, except operating funds, on behalf of Grace Episcopal Church; to protect such funds while so held, and to use those funds in strict accordance with the purposes of the donors. The Foundation has its own board, and functions independently of the Vestry (the Senior Warden is ex-officio). These funds are used for major repairs, scholarships, maintaining Jinkin's Hall, Christian education, emergency needs and other needs as deemed appropriate. The Foundation helped to fund the renovation of Grace Church after Hurricane Ike and fund the streaming cameras and equipment during COVID. Each year the Foundation funds children to go to Camp Allen.

Foundation Board

Carol Ramirez Jim Thompson Fernando Buckley Judy Kay John Giovannini Judy Webb Roy DeGesero, treasurer Bill Watson – Ex-Officio

About the Diocese....Walk in the way of Jesus! Widen the Walls by welcoming all people – no exceptions! Wake up the World to the grace and mercy of God! In the words of our current Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, "Jesus came and started a movement and we are the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus movement."



The Diocese of Texas

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas is led today by Bishop C. Andrew Doyle. In addition to the Diocesan Center in downtown Houston, there are regional centers at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin and at All Saints Episcopal School in Tyler. Bishop Suffragan Kathryn M. Ryan offices in Austin and Bishop Suffragan Jeff Fisher is in Tyler. Additionally, Bishop Hector Monterroso joined the staff in July, 2017 as assistant bishop and offices in Houston.

Bishop Doyle was invested as the ninth Bishop of Texas on June 7, 2009. He oversees 154 congregations (80,000+ members) in 57 counties spread over nearly 50,000 square miles. The Diocese is one of six in the state. Congregations vary

widely in size; as measured by attendance, six of the largest parishes in the top 35 in the United States are in EDOT, two of which are Spanish-speaking. Congregations throughout the Diocese offer a broad range of worship styles, from traditional to contemporary, from jazz to Taizé. Parishes similarly reflect a diversity of views--traditional to more liberal--on issues facing the Church today.



Our New Rector...

Grace Episcopal Church is faithfully praying for someone who will value our unique parish. We are praying for a warm, compassionate, inclusive leader whose strong Christian faith will inspire us, empower us, unify us, and encourage us to grow

spiritually. Our new rector will not only need to be aware of the significance of our historic church buildings to our congregation, but also understand the importance of the Grace church campus in the community.

As our 2023 parish survey indicated, we are looking for the following characteristics in a new rector:

- ✤ Leading the congregation—73.1%
- ✤ Adult Christian Education—73.73%
- ✤ Provides pastoral care—70.73%
- Local community interaction—68.29%



While not the most important, the following traits are significantly important:

- ✤ Reflects spirituality in personal life—60.9%
- Delivers meaningful sermons—60.9%
- ✤ Welcomes new ideas and suggestions—58.5%
- ✤ Focuses on the assimilation of newcomers—58.5%

Somewhat important traits are the following:

- Good administrative skills
- ✤ Ability to offer educational opportunities for all ages
- Interacts with community outreach

When asked if there were any other issues regarding a new rector they would like to address, about half of our parish survey respondents offered additional thoughts. The primary issues raised were as follows:

- + A rector who is caring and willing to shepherd our congregation
- Worship services conducted in a holy and sacred manner and blending worship styles.
- + A rector with life experience

Our new rector will find that our congregation is deeply devoted to Grace Church, proud of our past and excited about our future.

See Appendix 1a on Page 18 for Survey Results

Our New Rector...

In the parish survey our parishioners identified the following 5 spiritual gifts as the most important from a list of 19. See Appendix 1a on Page 18 for Survey Results

- 1. **Faith** to be firmly persuaded of God's power and purposes to accomplish His will and purpose and to display such a confidence in God and the Word that circumstances and obstacles do not shake the conviction (1 Cor. 12:8-10)
- 2. Leadership to stand before the people in such a way as to attend to the direction of the church with such care and diligence as to motivate others to get involved in ministry and pursue God's vision for that congregation (Rom. 12:8)
- 3. **Pastor** to be responsible for spiritually caring for, protecting, guiding, and feeding a group of believers entrusted to one's care. (Eph. 4:11)
- 4. **Hospitality** to warmly welcome people, even strangers, into one's home or church as a means of serving those in need. (1 PET. 4:9,10)
- 5. **Wisdom** to apply knowledge to life in such a way as to make spiritual truths quite relevant and practical in proper decision-making and daily life situations. (1 Cor. 12:8)





Elementary and High Schools

The Galveston Independent School District serves more than 7,000 students on Galveston Island and Bolivar Peninsula, with two high school programs, five middle school programs, and six elementary schools. The boundary of those schools stretches from Oppe Elementary in the West End of Galveston Island to Crenshaw Elementary and Middle School in Crystal Beach on Bolivar Peninsula. The Texas Accountability System assigns a B rating to the Galveston Independent School District. www.gisd.org

<u>Ambassadors Preparatory Academy (APA)</u> is an open enrollment public charter school serving students from Pre-K through 8th grade with a mission of providing a safe, hands-on, learner-centered environment that cultivates excellence, offers challenges and embraces lifelong learning for all students. www.apagalv.org

<u>Odyssey Academy</u> is an open enrollment public charter school with locations in Galveston and El Lago. Odyssey Academy exists to provide the best learning environment throughout the Gulf Coast area, serving students from Pre-K through high school. www.odyssey-academy.com

Satori School is an open enrollment independent day school servicing students in Pre-K through 6th grade. Satori provides a unique educational experience in a small, community-like setting. Satori was designed around the principle of authentic, meaningful learning experiences for children.

Trinity Episcopal School is an independent school serving Pre-K through eighth grade. The school combines rigorous academics and spiritual enrichment with competitive athletics, fine arts, technological instruction, and a service program to create a comprehensive education. <u>www.tesgalv.org</u>.

<u>O'Connell Prep School</u> offers each student a rigorous academic program. O'Connell offers college prep courses, including college essay writing, researching and applying for grants/scholarships, résumé building, and SAT/ACT prep courses. Students earn college hours through advanced placement courses and dual credit classes with Galveston College. <u>www.oconnellprep.com</u>.

Colleges and Universities

<u>*Galveston College*</u> offers more than 50 degrees and certificates in several career pathways. Credentials earned at Galveston College include associate degrees, university-transfer credits, career-technical certificates and a bachelor degree in Nursing and Healthcare Management. <u>www.gc.edu</u>.

<u>Texas A&M University at Galveston</u> is a special-purpose institution of higher education for undergraduate and graduate instruction in marine and maritime studies in science, engineering and business and for research and public service related to the general field of marine resources. The institution is under the management and control of the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System, with degrees offered under the name and authority of Texas A&M University at College Station. www.tamug.edu

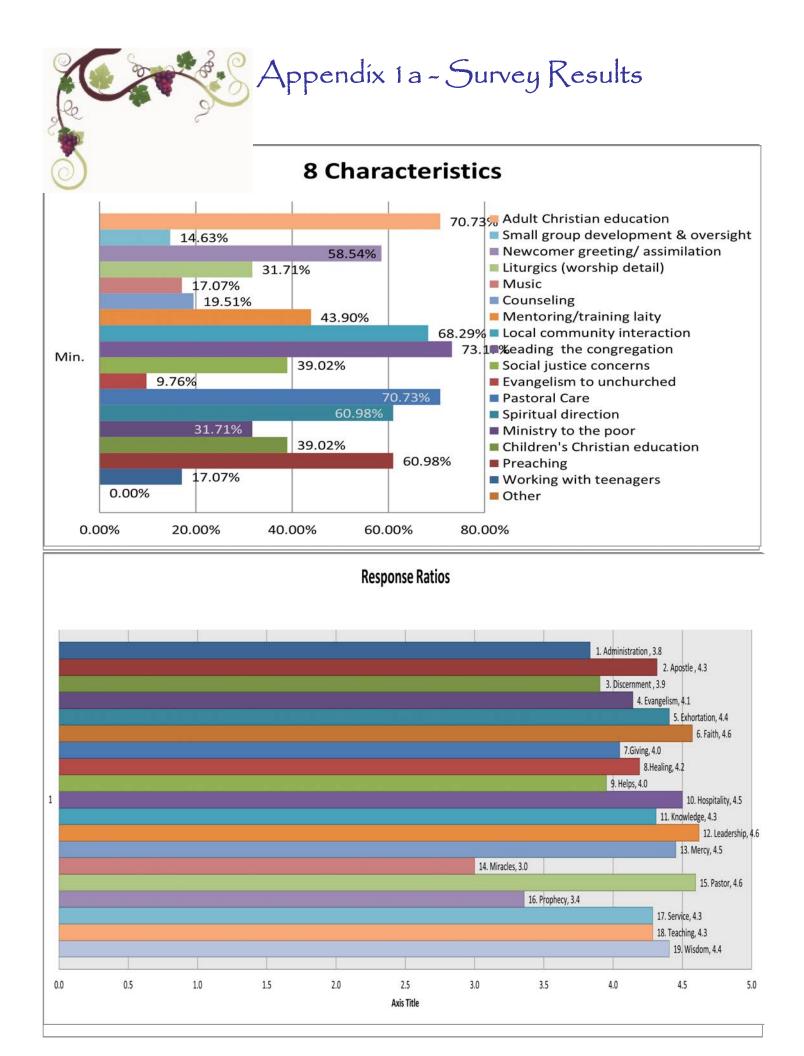
<u>UTMB</u> includes schools of Medicine, Nursing, Health Professions, Public and Population Health, and Graduate Biomedical Sciences. It has four institutes for advanced study; a major medical library; a network of hospitals and clinics that provide a full range of primary and specialized medical care; and numerous research facilities. UTMB is a part of The University of Texas System and a member of the Texas Medical Center. www.utmb.edu.

What's going on in Galveston?

Tourism & Special Events City of Galveston Galveston Chamber of Commerce Galveston Historical Foundation Moody Gardens Rosenberg Library St. Vincent's Episcopal House Texas Workforce Commission The Grand 1984 Opera House Trinity Episcopal Church William Temple Episcopal Center

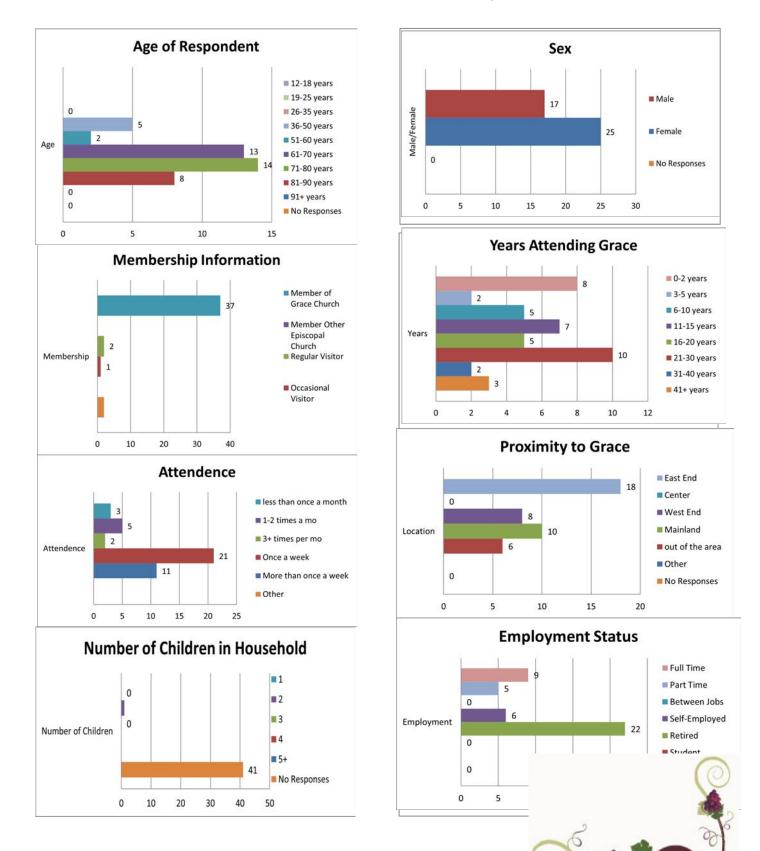
www.visitgalveston.com www.cityofgalveston.org www.galvestonchamber.com www.galvestonhistory.org www.moodygardens.com www.rosenberg-library.org www.rosenberg-library.org www.stvhope.org www.stvhope.org www.twc.state.tx.us www.thegrand.com www.trinitygalv.org www.williamtempleepiscopalcenter.org





Appendix 1b - Parish Demographics

Who Answered the Parish Survey



Appendix 2-2023 Budget

Treasurer's Report

Church Operations, from an accounting results point of view, went well in 2023, bearing in mind the resignation of the Rector, the appointment of an Interim Rector, the inevitable attendant temporary changes to the administration, and the preparation for the Search procedure in 2024.

We ended the year with a surplus, based partially on having only six months of the full expenses of a Rector and six months with the lesser costs of our Interim Rector. Total Expenses for the Church Operations were less than budgeted for the year.

Pledged Income for the year 2023, the life blood of a Church, was maintained at normal levels and the 2024 Stewardship Campaign total pledge figures are similar.

Randy Bailey, Treasurer

Profit and Loss Budget Overview Jan-Dec 2023

Income and Expenses INCOME Pledges and plate offerings Investment Income Other income Total income	\$235,360 1,460 <u>25,168</u> \$274,148	
Expenses Salaries and Benefits Rector Interim Rector	\$49,545 17,460	
Payroll Total salaries and benefits	<u>49,108</u> \$116,113	
Church operations	<u>147,558</u>	
Total expenses Net profit	<u>\$264,671</u> <u>\$9,497</u>	
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Appendix 3-2023 Financial Report

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Our Staff and Volunteers

The Reverend Dr. Bob DeWolfe Lori Garibaldi Aaron Hervey Laura Hyatt Cathy Smith Randy Bailey Pat Bevil Judy Webb Brent Barnes Interim Rector Parish Administrator Organist Choir Director Sunday School Director Lay Ministry Coordinator Wedding Coordinator Business Manager Sexton

Vestry

The Vestry is the governing body of the church, carrying out the day-to-day administration of the parish, including collecting and allocating monies form the General Operating Fund. Our vestry is composed of 9 members elected for staggered three-year terms.

Bill Watson–Senior Warden Jeff Kilgore–Junior Warden Marcey Casey—Clerk Cherie Thompson Doris Niccolai Calvin Buckley Lee Davis Corlie Jackson Randy Bailey - Treasurer

Search Committee

Randy Bailey, Nancy Conoly, Monica Golemo, Laura Hyatt, Corlie Jackson, Judy Kay, Jeff Kilgore, Camillia St, John, and Jim Thompson Our Grace Church Family

