

# 2024 Annual Report

# Hope Episcopal Church



**Annual Meeting - January 26, 2025**

*Immediately following 10:00 AM Worship*

# RECTORS MESSAGE

Dear Beloved Community,

As I reflect on 2024, I am reminded of the Apostle Paul's words in 1 Corinthians: "God has given us each our task, and we are God's coworkers." Together, we have accomplished much for the glory of God this year, and I am excited for what lies ahead.

## **YARN MINISTRY OF HOPE**

Our ministries have flourished in beautiful ways. The Yarn Ministry has wrapped our community in tangible love and care, offering prayers and handmade creations that warm both body and spirit. This quiet yet profound ministry reflects the heart of Hope Church—faithful, compassionate, and steadfast.

## **OUTREACH**

Hope Church has lived into its mission of loving and serving our neighbors through impactful outreach initiatives. Our food drives have provided vital support to families facing food insecurity, while *Help, Healing, and Hope* has continued to grow, offering life-changing resources to those in need. We extended our compassion beyond our local community through natural disaster relief efforts, raising funds for Episcopal Relief and Development's Hurricane Relief Fund, and supporting the vital work of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. These efforts are a testament to our commitment to being the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

This year, we were honored to be featured in another full-length film by Sight and Sound, an extraordinary opportunity to share our story on a broader stage. Our digital ministry has also expanded, allowing us to connect with more people and extend our message of hope and faith to the wider community. These initiatives have strengthened our identity as a church that invites others into meaningful relationships and worship.

## **FINANCES**

Financially, we have made thoughtful and strategic progress. With the dedicated leadership of our new finance team, Lucy Longo and Gwen Norton, and Katie Brown's skilled support as Financial Secretary, we've partnered with the Parish Resource Center, a church-based nonprofit that augments ministry and

administrative work. Coordinating with the wisdom of the Vestry, we adjusted our annual meeting date to align with firm numbers from our trust and investment advisors. This ensures we can deliver a balanced budget with the highest degree of certainty, stewarding our resources faithfully for the future.

## **YOUTH AND CREATION CARE**

This year marks the beginning of *To+gether*, our new youth ministry focused on forming a community rooted in the practices of the Way of Love. This vibrant initiative invites our young people to deepen their faith, connect meaningfully with one another, and discover their role in God's mission.

Our commitment to Creation Care remains steadfast. From planting pollinator-friendly gardens to participating in grant-funded projects, we continue to be leaders in environmental stewardship. We are poised to receive a record level of grant income in 2025 to support ministry areas in creation care, youth, and music.

## **LEADERSHIP**

In this term, we are welcoming the next generation of leadership onto the Vestry, bringing fresh perspectives and enthusiasm to our common life. At the same time, we are sustained by the steadfast and future-minded legacy leadership that has faithfully guided Hope Church through many seasons of growth and transformation. This balance of new energy and enduring wisdom ensures that our path forward is both dynamic and rooted in faith.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

As we step into 2025, I encourage us to renew our commitment to volunteering in support of our ministries. A parish of our scale thrives when each person cherishes its mission and serves in these areas of grace, while inviting others and new people to more! With hope and faith, I believe we can expand our reach, grow in spirit, and bear witness to the Gospel in the world and to one another.

In hope, always

Bradley+

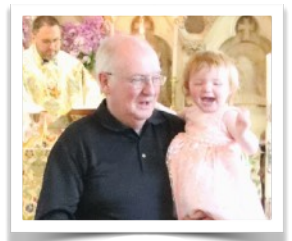


# VESTRY

As we approach our upcoming vestry election, we want to acknowledge and celebrate the commitment and leadership of those who serve at Hope Church.

This year, we are excited to share the slate of candidates for election and reaffirmation:

- **Steve Palmer** is running for re-election, continuing his dedicated service to the vestry and to the life of our community.
- **Tom Brown** and **Brandon Peach** are seeking reaffirmation for their roles, having been appointed to fill existing terms since our last annual meeting. Their work so far has been a blessing to the parish, and we look forward to their continued contributions.
- **Janelle Weckerly** is running for her first election, bringing fresh energy and new perspectives to our vestry leadership.



We are also deeply grateful for the ministry of Gail Edgell, who has served faithfully as our vestry secretary. While Gail steps back from this official role to focus on her family, she remains an integral part of our church community. We are thankful for the time she has given in this capacity, and we are excited to see her continue to serve in the areas of ministry that are closest to her heart. Gail's love for the garden and her passion for nourishing the youth of Hope Church, particularly through planning meaningful worship experiences like the Epiphany Pageant, continue to enrich our parish life.

We give thanks for the ongoing commitment of all who serve and look forward to the future of our shared ministry. Please join us in prayer and support as we move through this election season together, trusting in God's guidance as we seek leaders who reflect His love and grace.

## **PROPERTY** - *Jeremy Brown*

The property committee in conjunction with Vestry has been very busy this past year catching up on maintenance and property updates including:

- New HVAC system
- New roof on the Parish House
- Gutter repairs to the Church
- Installed UV Sterilizer and water softener
- Basement renovations including: ceiling drywall, lighting and fresh paint

As part of our vision from the 2024 Vestry Retreat, to transform Hope Church into a "destination for renewal ministry", we have work hard to make practical updates and repairs to the church and parish house. By continuing to update the Parish house to match the recently updated kitchen we are working to create a cohesive and welcoming environment for all. 2025 plans also include working with the youth of our parish to plan a new, suitable playground area.

## **THE YARN MINISTRY OF HOPE** - *Dec. Nancy Lesher*

The Yarn Ministry had a vibrant and meaningful year, offering a wonderful opportunity for members to spend time together in fellowship while creating handcrafted items to comfort and bless others. Throughout the year, the group lovingly crafted lap blankets, prayer shawls, pocket prayer shawls, and hats to provide warmth and solace to those in need. Some of the blankets were donated to individuals, others were given to Bishop Audrey to share with those she encounters on her journeys around the diocese.

As a special project, they also sewed Christmas stockings, which were generously filled by the congregation and donated to Teen Central, spreading joy and hope during the holiday season. The ministry was further blessed by a generous gift of nine bins of yarn from Christ Episcopal Church in Williamsport and The Rev. Kyle Murphy, providing the resources to continue their heartfelt work in the coming year.



## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT** - *Kathleen Peach*

As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and beyond through various outreach initiatives. A few notable projects from 2024 are the filled stockings we donated to Manheim Teen Central for their annual Christmas party, bringing joy to many local teens during the holiday season. Additionally, we contributed to the North Carolina hurricane relief efforts through Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) and donations from the Greiner brothers, helping those affected by the devastating storms.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to continue these efforts and expand our outreach programs. A key initiative for this year will be developing a framework for all future donations that aligns with Episcopal values and the charge of Jesus to feed the hungry, clothe the poor, and help the least of these. We plan to continue initiatives already in place like our donations to the Manheim Food Bank and we look forward to new opportunities to impact our community for Christ. All are encouraged to get involved and help us share God's love with our neighbors. Thank you for your continued support and prayers as we serve together.

## **GRIEF SHARE** - *Jo Steffy*

The Grief Ministry at Hope Church has been very successful! We will be starting our next session in February. The Blue Christmas services are well attended and as Father Bradley announced, we went on the road to Landis Communities this last time around. What a blessing it was to all who attended, and all who helped bring the service to life.

Since the beginning of the Grief Ministry in 2023 we have had over thirty people attend one or more of our three GriefShare programs. The library has proven to be a success as I take notice of books coming and going.

I am so excited to announce that this year will bring a new, more comfortable and intimate space for the GriefShare attendees as we will be making a few additions to the larger upstairs room. People share quite private feelings in our meetings, and a quiet, private space allows people to feel safer opening up. If you know someone who is grieving the loss of a special someone, share with them about our programs.



# FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

*Lucy Longo, Finance Committee Chair & Assistant Treasurer  
Gwen Norton, Treasurer*

This year, Hope Episcopal Church reflects on the abundant blessings that have sustained and strengthened our ministries. Through diligent stewardship, generous giving, and collaborative efforts, we are well-positioned to meet the opportunities and challenges of 2025.

## **KEY BALANCES & INCOME PRODUCING TRUSTS** (AS OF 1/22/25)

Our financial position remains strong, with investments and trust funds providing critical support for our mission:

- Church Investments:
  - Building Fund: \$37,991.69
  - Preservation Fund: \$451,436.90
  - Operating Surplus: \$39,094.43
  - Total Investments: \$528,523.02
- Dunlap Stohler Trust: \$3,139,430.70 - (income @5%)
- Daisy E. Grubb Trust: \$122,000 - (income @5.5%)

We concluded 2024 with a solid cash position, the above resources, along with pledged and plate giving, form the financial base that enables us to fund our operations, sustain our ministries, and pursue new opportunities for growth.

## **2025 Summary Operating Budget Overview**

The proposed budget for 2025 reflects our commitment to maintaining operational stability while advancing ministry priorities. Key highlights include:

- Operational Support: Core expenses, including clergy and staff compensation, utilities, and maintenance, are fully funded without relying on reserves.
- Expanded Ministries: Strategic investments in grant-funded initiatives ensure robust music, youth, and digital ministries without placing additional strain on church finances.
- Stewardship of Resources: Continued contributions to preservation funds and the completion of creation care projects highlight our commitment to sustainability and long-term vitality.

While the budget is balanced and forward-thinking, it relies on sustained pledge income and careful financial management to meet our goals and fund our vision.

## GRANT-FUNDED INITIATIVES FOR 2025

Through Bishop Scanlan's *Shaped By Faith* initiative, we are grateful to receive funding for key ministry areas:

- Musical Ministry Expansion: \$4,000 to enhance music ministry in collaboration with St. Paul, Columbia, and St. Thomas, Lancaster.
- Youth Ministry Development: \$5,000 to support youth programming in partnership with St. John's, Lancaster, and St. Thomas, Lancaster.

Additionally, a \$17,000 *Shaped By Faith* grant will support digital ministry through a collaboration with St. Thomas, Lancaster, and All Saints, Hershey. While this grant is not recorded as direct income to Hope Church, we are a 1/3 beneficiary of its benefits, funding Micah Roldan's work in maintaining and expanding our online presence.

## CREATION CARE PROJECTS

In 2025 Hope Church will celebrate the completion of \$50,000 worth of creation care projects, including a bio-retention swale to manage stormwater sustainably and combat erosion. These projects, generously funded through public grants, will be completed at no cost to the church and reflect our commitment to environmental stewardship.

## PENDING GRANT APPLICATIONS

We have also submitted a Darlington Construction Grant application to the Diocese, requesting \$10,000 or more to reimburse property maintenance expenses. This grant, if awarded, will support the diligent efforts of the Vestry in maintaining and improving our facilities over the past year and into 2025. This would bring our total grant impact to Hope Church for 2025 (approved and pending) to about \$75,000 and counting.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Our financial strategy for 2025 demonstrates faithfulness to our mission and careful stewardship of our resources. It highlights the importance of collaboration, creativity, and trust in God's provision.



175th Campaign



Jan. Newsletter



Fall Newsletter



May Newsletter



## Hope Episcopal Church 2025 Operating Summary Budget

Category	Amount (\$)	Notes
<b>Income</b>		
Pledge and Plate Giving	\$ 37,000.00	
Dunlap Stohler Trust	\$ 165,000.00	
Daisy E. Grubb Trust	\$ 6,500.00	
Rector's Tithe	\$ 4,500.00	
Outreach income	\$ 1,500.00	
Grant Income (Music)	\$ 4,000.00	
Grant Income (Youth Ministry)	\$ 5,000.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 223,500.00</b>	

<b>Compensation and Benefits Annualized Totals</b>		
Rector Compensation ( BAH and SSI offset )	\$ 49,266.00	
Rector Pension	\$ 8,868.00	
Rector Professional Expenses	\$ 3,750.00	
Rector Education	\$ 1,250.00	
Rector HSA Contribution in lieu of health insurance	\$ 6,000.00	
Sexton Compensation	\$ 5,000.00	
Parish Administrator	\$ 20,000.00	
Musician Compensation and Music Special	\$ 12,500.00	
<b>Total Compensation &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 106,634.00</b>	

<b>Expenses</b>		
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 13,129.10	
Outreach total including internal sub categories	\$ 10,000.00	
Griefshare 1000		
Rector's Discretionary 2000		
Deacon Discretionary 750		
<b>Digital Ministry</b>	<b>Via SBF Grant</b>	
Vestry Development	\$ 1,000.00	
Financial Management Fee	\$ 5,500.00	
Altar Guild	\$ 2,000.00	

Creation Care & Outdoor Property as a ministry	\$ 2,000.00	
Hospitality and Fellowship	\$ 2,500.00	
Youth Ministry Budget (Grant)	\$ 5,000.00	
Year End Bonuses	\$ 1,000.00	
Utilities and...	\$ 11,000.00	<i>Electric for church, parish house, oil, gas and telephone/ internet.</i>
Normal repairs and maintenance	\$ 11,000.00	<i>Security, snow rem, lawn maint, trash rem and minor repairs to the Parish House.</i>
Debt Service	\$ 12,000.00	<i>Heistand loan. 128k balance @1.5% (Dunlap+Stohler Organ and Cemetery Wall)</i>
Office Supplies	\$ 7,000.00	<i>Includes postage, copies, copier lease, website and breeze expenses.</i>
Insurance	\$ 7,000.00	<i>Includes church insurance for all church property.</i>
Other Miscellaneous Payments (TBD)	\$ 2,500.00	<i>This is for other misc items.</i>
Planned Savings ((surplus to savings (DDMP))	\$ 24,000.00	
Total Expenses	\$ 116,629.10	
Total Expenses and Compensation	\$ 223,263.10	
Total Exp. and Comp. Minus Total Income (surplus)	\$ 236.90	