

Fred & Ruby Stewart

ANNUAL REPORT

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MADISON, SOUTH DAKOTA

1988

ANNUAL MEETING
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
JANUARY 15, 1989

AGENDA

- A. Opening Prayer
- B. Call to Order
- C. Minutes from 1987 Annual Meeting
- D. Year-End Financial Report
- E. Proposed 1989 Budget
- F. Consideration of Annual Reports
- G. Old Business
 - 1. Structural engineer's report
 - 2. Other
- H. New Business
 - 1. Youth Convention
 - 2. Ethics in America *See 30 O.B.S. 10/15/88*
- I. Reelection of Bishop's Committee
Election of Delegates to Diocesan Convention (Oct. 5-7)
- J. Vicar's Report
 - 1. Status of grant
 - 2. New Vision
 - a. Where are we?
 - b. Where do we want to go?
- K. Adjournment

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VICAR'S REPORT

The Catechism, in both the 1928 and 1979 Books of Common Prayer define the sacraments as "outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace." That applies specifically to the seven sacraments recognized by the Episcopal Church, that is, Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Ordination, Holy Matrimony, Reconciliation of a Penitent, Unction of the Sick. But contemporary theologians also see the Church as a sacrament, in that it is an outward and visible sign of the presence of Christ in the world. Or to put it more succinctly, we, as Christian disciples, are the outward and visible sign of Christ's presence in the world. Imagine that, you and I, sacraments, the means of the grace of God to the world.

That, my friends, is the mission and ministry of Grace Episcopal Church--to be sacramental for the sake of the world--to know Christ's love and grace, and to make that grace known in the world--to bring the good news of Jesus as redeemer, as liberator, as brother, as lover, to a world desperately searching for peace and justice. Newsweek, in this latest issue, describes the legacy of President Reagan as one which restored the "soul of a nation." We, as Christian disciples, are called to be instruments of reconciliation so as to restore the soul of the entire created order.

And so we look to 1989 and how we best live out that mandate. We can no longer use the excuse that we are too small to make a difference, or that we do not have the necessary resources to make any impact in Madison, let alone the world. We have a special gift to give, that is, a community of loving persons who can offer a safe place, a haven of security, to many who live in our midst and who need to belong somewhere. We are a family. Oh, yes, we rub against one another; we trip over our insecurities and our frailties; we ask the best of one another and wish sometimes that the other person were a little more compassionate or a less abrasive. But we are a family, and when push comes to shove, we gather together in unity and harmony, supporting one another, affirming one another, encouraging one another. That doesn't cost anything; it is freely given to us and can be freely given to others. We don't need a sufficient outlay of capital to love and be loved. We don't need to parcel away a nest egg to be used for that "rainy day" in order to invite others into this family called Grace Church. We do, however, need to do the loving and the inviting, to risk sharing our faith stories, to dare to believe that God has gathered us together for a reason and a purpose, that we are not a cosmic accident in the larger life of the Church.

Let us then renew with vigor our call to be disciples of Christ--to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers; to persevere in resisting evil, and whenever we fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord; to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ; to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves; to strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being. When we do that, with the help of God, the resources will flow in abundance, and we will know what it means to be blessed.

M. Karen

Senior Warden's Report

There is a new spirit at Grace Episcopal Church in Madison.

While time has thinned the ranks of some of our long-time, stalwart members, it is exciting to see younger families in the pews for Sunday services and to hear the voices of children in the Guild Hall.

The every-member canvass at year-end was a success, with nearly every person contacted.

Not only were pledges of support obtained, but opinions about the church and its future were garnered from questionnaires completed. Although it takes time and effort, an annual canvass would be a worthwhile endeavor.

Your Bishop's Committee continues to wrestle with financial problems, but it is gratifying that we were able to complete 1988 with our pledge to the diocese paid in full. (Unlike the unpaid balance carried over from 1987 into 1988).

Our aging church building is both an asset and a liability. It's 100-year-old historic charm is a plus, while the crumbling mortar, particularly in the north and east walls, poses a problem for the future.

The ministry of the church is flourishing under the Rev. Karen Hall, and we are hopeful that she will remain with us for some time in the future. It is exciting to have clergy in residence after so many years. I believe that continuity in clerical leadership is a must if Grace Church is to fulfill its full potential of service to the Madison area community.

I would like to thank the loyal members of Grace Church who have given so freely of their time and resources during the past year. With a continuation of such spirit, we can look forward to the future with hope and renewed assurance of progress in our mission.

Merrill Hunter

Junior Warden Report
Grace Episcopal Church
Madison, South Dakota 57042

January 11, 1989

The year 1988 brought about some physical changes in the church, some quite visible, and others not as evident.

The first to be completed was the guild hall painting project. This was completed with the installation of the new grounded electrical outlets in the guild hall, and with the installation of additional electrical outlets in the kitchen.

The second major project was repair of the organ. Due to the nature of the damage to the tone generator, it was decided to install the upgraded unit for the organ that is available. However, in doing so, necessary modifications to the organ had to be made and the work is scheduled for completion during the month of February. The necessary electronics work for this project (approximately 100 hours labor) and the cost of the upgrade unit was donated to Grace Church by a member of the church. Hopefully soon, the organ once again will be with us.

The work on the lawn continues each year. This year saw the addition of some flowers along the entry to the church in addition to some shrubbery. Unfortunately, some of the shrubs did not survive the dry summer, but the flowers flourished under the dedicated care of Lois. She was the one that carried water to the flowers every night during the dry summer. A special thank-you to Gary and Heather for their help with the leaves this fall. Gary donated the use of his pickup to haul the leaves as we mowed and bagged the leaves this fall so the lawn would look presentable and be prepared for winter. Also a thank-you to Ben Johnson for his assistance in the fall lawn cleanup.

Highly appreciated, is the efforts of Larry Johnson in keeping the sidewalk and steps free of snow this past winter and the first snow falls of this winter.

What does the future hold? Installation during the month of January of wireless microphones that work with the current "speaker system". This will enable the person that is talking to use the system from any point in the church or guild hall, without being "tied" with a cord to the master amplifier.

Also in the future is the completion of the window work and entry trim in the sacristy, hopefully in May of this year.

Another project scheduled for this summer is the repairing of the cracks in the walls of the second floor and the complete

painting of the second floor hall, rooms, and office. Also this early summer (June) will see the remodeling of the storage room on second floor.

The buildings and grounds committee will be asked at the May Bishop's Committee meeting to draw up a plan by the July meeting for the renovation of the kitchen. Whether that work will be done during this year, will depend upon the total cost and available funds.

Finally, another project that will be a massive undertaking will be the repair of the north and east walls of the church. As some have noticed, the outer wall has separated from the inner wall on the north side. What has caused this is only speculation until we have received a report from a structural engineering firm, one that has experience with STONE buildings. How would this repair work be completed? THIS IS ONLY A GUESS, but it would probably proceed as follows:

A supporting structure would be erected on the north side of the building to support the roof. Then the interior wall would be taken down. Next would be a blueprint drawn up for the stone wall, with each stone being numbered. Each stone would then be taken down, one by one. The foundation would then be repaired, the stone wall rebuilt and a new interior wall built. The same process would be used on the east wall.

This same process was used to repair the WHITE HOUSE beginning in 1948 and continued until 1952. In the White House, a new inner structure of steel girders was erected on a new foundation of concrete pylons built into the ground. This was done because it was built on shale, and that is not exactly the most stable surface. The old sandstone walls were anchored to the steel inner structure. Thus all of the interior floors and walls are supported by the then new steel structure and the outer walls are also supported the same way. The cost, well please remember the White House is 132 rooms but I believe it was around 36 million dollars. A lot of money in 1948, but less than an F-14 fighter plane today.

The preceding historical note was for general interest, but the engineering practices would be the same for the church, but only on a much smaller scale. The cost? It would be appropriate to speculate until the firms report has been submitted and their recommendations considered. It should also be noted however that Medieval Castles have stood for centuries as have European Churches.

Grace Church is approaching it's centennial. It has been on the land for almost 100 years, and with care and consideration, it will be here for the another century.

There is always work to be done. Without proper care, buildings do not become "old." They don't even fade away, they become ruins.

This concludes the Junior Warden's report for 1988.

Submitted this 12th day of January 1989

by

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Richard Moose
Junior Warden
Grace Episcopal Church