

**GRACE CHURCH VESTRY
RETREAT
2008**

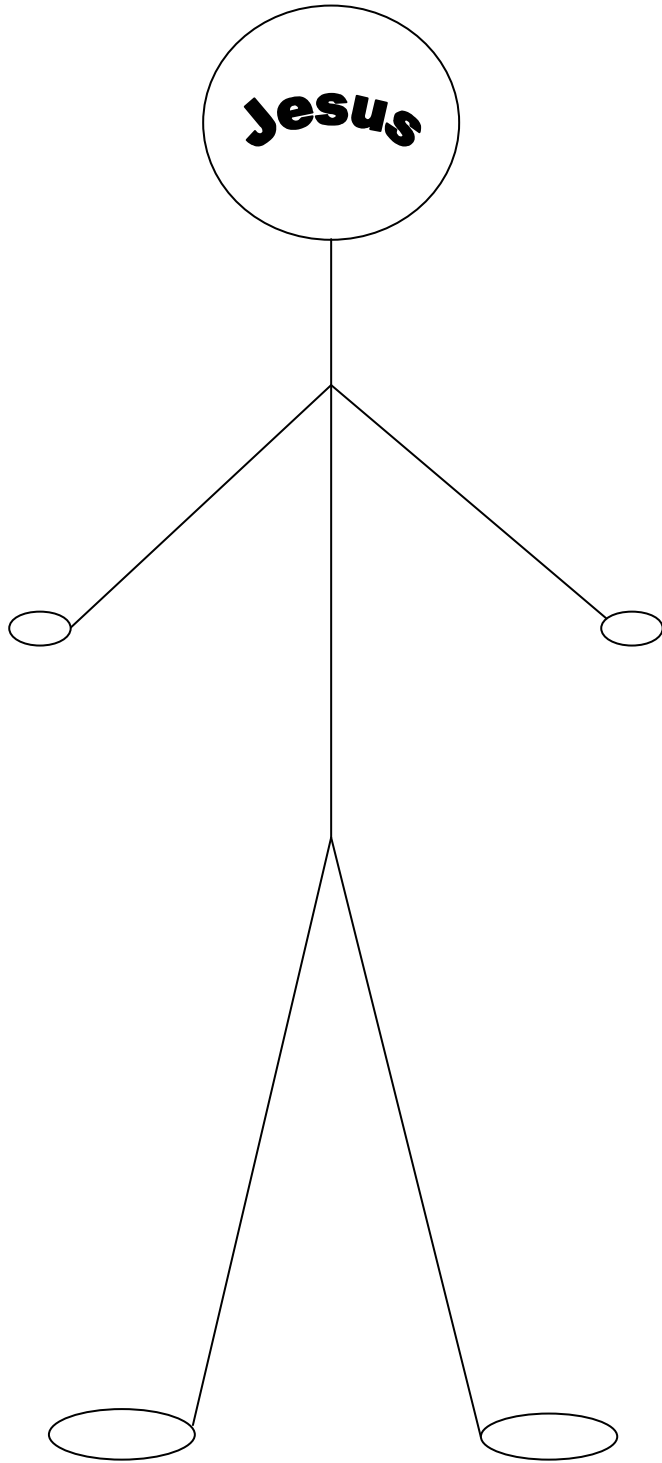
Vision Statement

“We seek to embody the love of God in Christ and share that love with others.”

Mission Statement

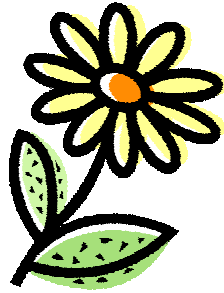
“The mission of Grace Church is to continue Christ’s ministry in the world through worship, teaching, healing and service.”

From Strategic Plan



TIME TO PLANT SOME SEEDS

Welcome!!



AND GROW!!

Thank God you are here...

Organizing our work

Staples (Infrastructure)

Running the church

Sunday worship

Pay the bills

Raise money

Welcome people into the church

Caring about those who are missing

Bible study

Christian formation

Rosary group

Special Events

Weddings and funerals

Celebrations

Theatrical events

Fellowship events

Fund raising events

Lenten studies

Movie nights

Women's group events

Need to manage the regular things so that they all get done, but have enough resources and energy to do the special things as well.

THINGS FATHER NEEDS FROM THE VESTRY

- Communicate!
- “Have his back”
- Find ways to use him – (speaker, singer, whatever)
- Write newsletter articles
- “Move”
- Enlarge our territory

GRACE CHURCH COMMITTEES 2008

Worship: Sally and Peg

Pastoral Care

Healing Ministry

Finance: Jeanne

Stewardship

Administration

Buildings and Grounds: Roger, Alex and Ray

Education: Brooke

Parish Life: Sue and Sally

Outreach: Peg, Brooke and Alex

Peace and Justice

Evangelism and Growth

THINGS WE WANT FROM FATHER...

- Forums to discuss events in Episcopal Church and/or current events (once a month after service)
- Continue Bible study after Lent
- Bring Vestry on board with new ideas (practicing new service music was a great example with the whole parish)
- Adding new programs is a good idea (sunrise service)
- Enquirers' class?
- Maybe ask us for history if you want to know background on something

OUTREACH

Peg, Brook and Alex

- Host a “forum” on ethnic minorities and “the church” in Sterling/Rock Falls
- Teach an evening class on womens’ issues and women in the church (Peg will do following the series on the Jabez Prayer)
- Write a brief description of the dioceses we pray for during the prayers of the people
- Find a not for profit organization to help, work with and support (perhaps offer space, too)
- Start some kind of campus ministry (see education committee)
- Support Father and Elizabeth in the community
- Our website

PARISH LIFE

Sue and Sally

- Provide dish to pass, serve and clean up for funerals, organize people to help, consider ways to pay for the dinners (look at what other churches do)
- Coffee hour, or Breakfast every Sunday (perhaps try once a month)
- Receptions after Christmas and Easter Vigil
- Easter egg hunt
- Produce a play or mystery dinner (Elizabeth, Mary and Peg Romanelli)
Project of women's group?
- Seder supper
- Women's Group (Elizabeth)

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Roger, Alex and Ray

- Grace Gardners
- Clean-up and inventory the upstairs
- Deal with Columbarium!!!
- Move piano
- Plan for Grace House/use/future?
- Put pews back

EDUCATION

Brooke

- Sunday School
- Nursery
- Bible study and Lenten programs (add Bible study to the ad in the paper)
- Ministry Fair
- Campus ministry (Grace House idea?)
- Vacation Bible School (Remember late start)

FINANCE

(Stewardship, Bookkeeping, financial reporting, employee salaries)
Jeannie

- Make sure we audit properly
- Audit committee
- Organize annual stewardship campaign

WORSHIP

(Acolytes, LEMs, choir, music and healing)

Sally and Peg

- Altar Guild – Find person in charge, committee to review and develop procedures
- Order of St. Luke healing ministry
- Choir for funerals?
- Train new acolytes and review training for all servers
- Work with Father to think about a special music service – start a Band
- Develop trained pastoral care cadre (for one-on-one care) – Elizabeth?
- See about having our service on the radio – or Father doing a program on the radio
- “Mass in the Grass”
- Service at the park in Mt. Morris?
- Rosary group

THOUGHTS AND IDEAS FROM PARISH

- Prayer chain
- For the ladies – a hat Sunday once a month
- Arrange for someone to call when regular attendees are not here

