

217 Adams St.
Jefferson City, MO 65101
573-635-4405
www.gracechurchjc.org



Grace Episcopal Church

Jefferson City, Missouri

Mission

At Grace Episcopal Church, we are a people who strive and pray that God may grant us the strength and courage to honor the dignity of every human being, to speak the truth to one another in love, and to walk humbly with each other and our God for the good of all people in this nation and the world.



Grace Episcopal Church is looking for a leader who will assist us in promoting the importance of Christian formation, community ministry, and diversity. This individual will be a leader who will be able to reconcile different viewpoints and at the same time ensure that all parties are included and a part of the church community and its decision making. The church will be looking for both a mediator and facilitator for the issues and theological discussions that the congregation would like to have in the future, while still serving as a spiritual and moral guide for our church community. And, last but not least, this person will be an inspiring preacher whose message moves both the head and the heart and leads one to thoughtful contemplation throughout the ensuing week.



Worship at Grace

Our traditional liturgical worship is supported by church music (pipe organ, piano, and other instrumental accompaniments) and choral voices, which maintains a healthy balance that invites everyone to participate. We currently offer two main Sunday morning services: an 8:00 a.m. contemplative service with Rite I spoken liturgy and a 10:30 a.m. Rite II service with music. A midday Eucharist is held in the Chapel on Wednesday. Special services are held throughout the liturgical year on Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and the Easter Triduum. Morning Prayer is held via Zoom on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. Together with our clergy, altar guild, crucifers, greeters, acolytes, readers, intercessors, musicians, and other lay worship leaders strive to make every service unique and meaningful. There is care and intentionality in every part of our worship, and everyone views their role as an expression of Christ's love.

Community Ministry

Lay-led community ministry began at Grace Church two decades ago and remains a priority as identified in the Requiem or Renaissance process. Our community ministry efforts were strengthened when the Rev. Dr. Paula Hartsfield was assigned to serve as deacon at Grace. The Community Ministry Committee discerns where our efforts should be focused. One of the first partnerships developed was with the Salvation Army where we established a Prayer Garden and playground supported by a diocesan grant and provide a monthly meal. Grace Church also participates in the Prison Ministry Christmas Tree program, allowing parishioners to purchase Christmas gifts for children of incarcerated parents.

Grace was a founding member of the Common Ground Community Building (CGCB), an ecumenical benevolence ministry, and established a community garden there. Last year, the Missouri University Extension service was included to show the CGCB neighbors and clients how to plant vegetables and flowers. Later in the summer they came to teach the neighbors how to prepare and cook dishes utilizing the produce that was harvested from the gardens.

Through the graciousness of a Hunger Grant from the Diocese, we have been able to sustain a Blessing Box, an Eagle Scout project of one of our parishioners, providing food to unhoused individuals and others in need residing primarily in the downtown area. This box is located near the front doors of Grace Church and provides items such as easy-to-open meats, pastas, crackers, fruits, personal hygiene products, and water.





Grace Church parishioners also volunteer at Jefferson City Room at the Inn which is hosted by the First Baptist Church and open December-March each year to provide an over-night shelter, dinner and breakfast for up to twenty unhoused adults. Parishioners also volunteer at the annual Project Homeless Connect event setting up and serving as tour guides assisting unhoused individuals through almost 100 stations offering no cost medical (getting vaccines, BP and glucose checks), personal (bathing, haircuts), social (getting birth certificates, applying for Medicaid), and counseling services.

Recently, Grace Church was awarded a New Ventures in Community Ministry Grant from the Diocese. The grant for "Loads of Love--A Laundry Voucher Program" will allow Grace Church to collaborate with Common Ground Community Building to provide laundry vouchers for low-income individuals and families to obtain services and supplies at a nearby laundromat. Grace Church volunteers will also work with the First United Methodist Church on days they bring persons they identify as needing assistance to the laundromat by providing a meal and fellowship while waiting to get their laundry done.

As a result of these ministries, as well as our monthly food drives and other drives (diaper, school supplies, toiletries, etc.) we host throughout the year, Grace Church has been designated a Jubilee Ministry Center. Jubilee Ministry Centers empower those who are poor and oppressed in their communities by providing direct service, such as food, shelter, and healthcare, while also advocating for human rights and social justice.

Strengths and Challenges: An example of Grace's ability to deal with difficult circumstances and respond to needs in the community

In May 2019, a devastating F3 tornado struck Jefferson City, killing three people and destroying hundreds of homes, government buildings, and businesses. Many of the lost homes had housed low-income residents, contributing to a growing unhoused population in the years that followed.

Located downtown across from the public library, Grace Church began seeing an increase in unhoused individuals on and around its property, especially after installing the Blessing Box with food and supplies. As encampments formed near the library and church, concerns arose about trash, public urination, safety, and division among parishioners over how to respond. Some members left the church, prompting the Vestry to act.

The church improved exterior lighting, secured a large city trash receptacle, and implemented a property-use policy outlining behavioral expectations. The policy, posted near the church doors, includes guidelines about clearing personal items before services and proper trash disposal, with police involvement for serious violations.

Grace Church also partnered with the Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team, particularly Officer Markita Hitt, to connect unhoused individuals with appropriate services. As a result, while unhoused individuals still gather at the church, encampments have ended and mutual respect has grown. In a powerful moment during a neighborhood walk, when Fr. Bill offered to pray for the group, one man declined—saying instead that they wished to pray for the church in gratitude for being treated with dignity and compassion.





Jubilee Ministry

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Grace in the Larger Church Community

Grace Church has been quite active in the diocese for many years. Parishioners have been on the Diocesan Council, the Standing Committee, the Disciplinary Board, Cathedral Chapter and the Nominating Committee, and attend convocation meetings. Presently, we have a member on the Diocesan Council, Deacon Jane Dey Convocation Committee, Diocesan Prayer Committee, Gun Violence Prevention Mission, Disciplinary Board, and Cathedral Chapter. We faithfully pay our full diocesan assessment. We always have representatives at the Diocesan Convention, Commission on Ministry, and one of our members has been a Deputy to General Convention.

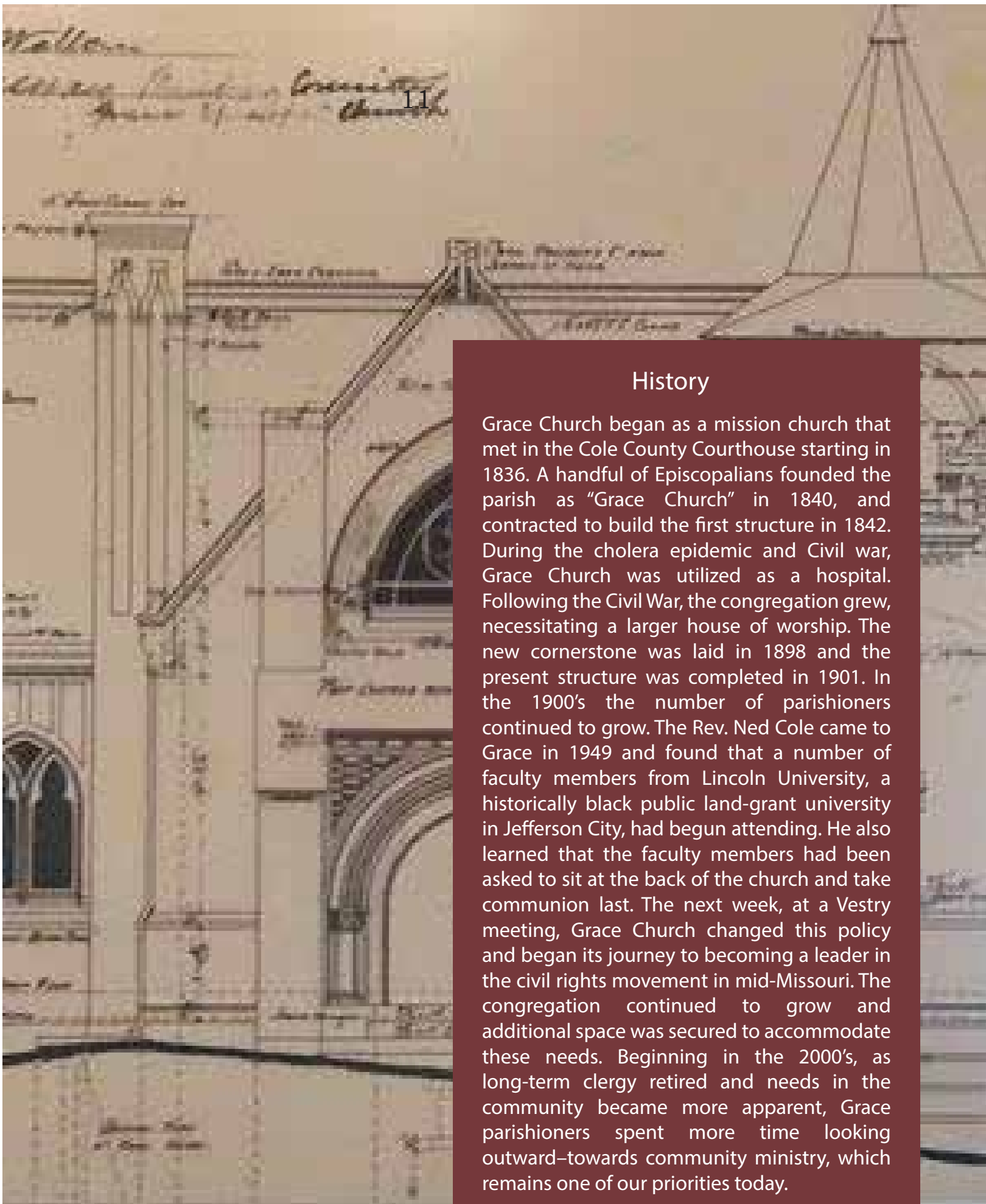
Grace Church parishioners have gotten to know the Rev. Jessica Wachter, Priest-in-Charge, The Journey, as she has served as our Supply Priest on several occasions. As a community ministry project, toiletries were collected for "gift bags" the parishioners of The Journey were preparing for distribution to the unhoused and those living in long-stay hotels/motels. We are looking for opportunities to collaborate more with The Journey in Fulton, MO.



Church of the Future

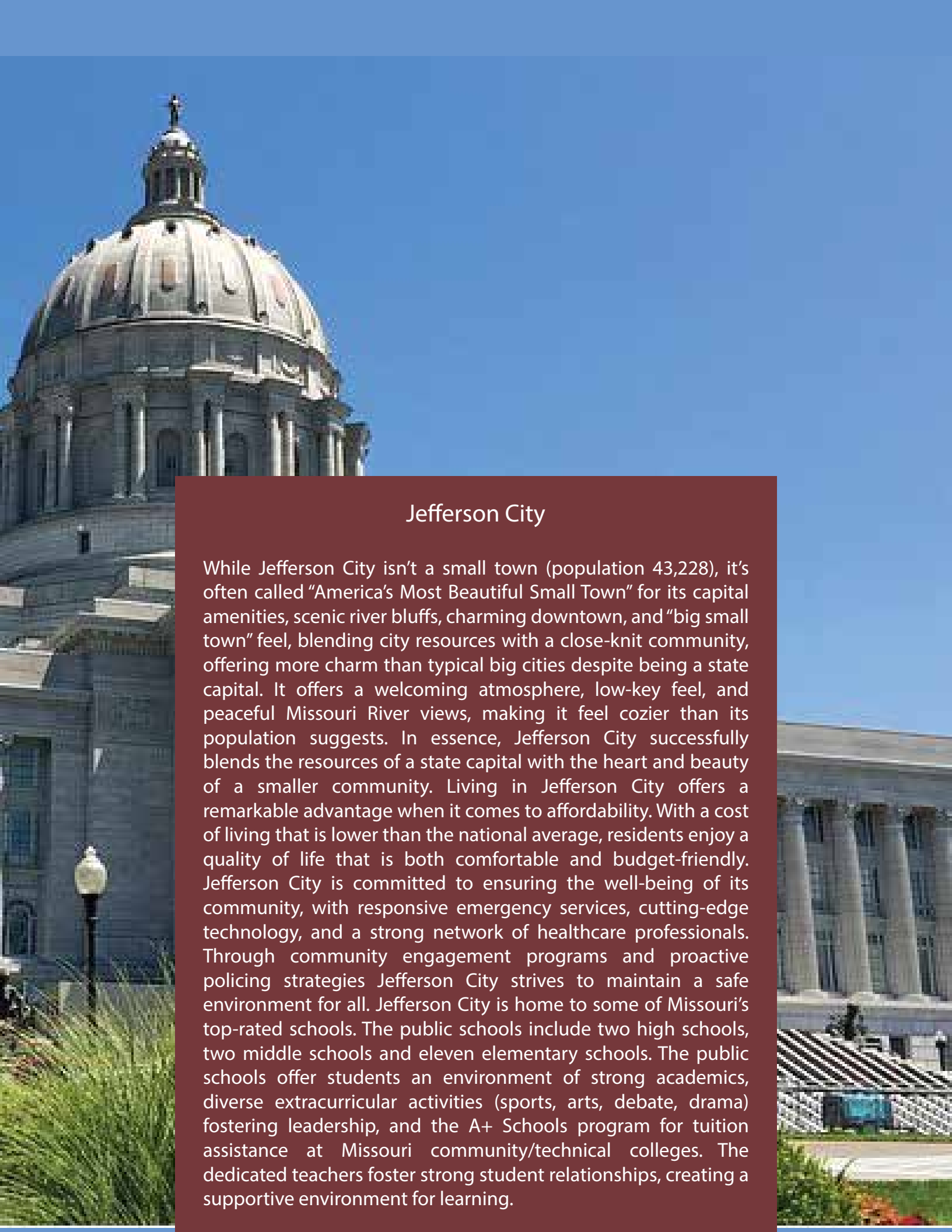
The Requiem or Renaissance process allowed Grace Episcopal Church time to focus on what our church could and should look like in the future. Utilizing feedback from parishioners, four priorities were identified: improve Christian formation, continue Grace community ministries with improved feedback to the congregation regarding the results of these activities, bring back/increase diversity to Grace Church which is a deep part of our history, and obtain a Priest-In-Charge in an expedited manner.

Grace Church has been streaming a Sunday service via Facebook for some time, but the older homebound parishioners receiving communion told the Eucharistic Visitors they are not on Facebook and are not able to view the services. Therefore, the "Stream Team" is looking at dual streaming solutions. We have begun planning how to implement some of the ideas we initially developed to increase diversity of our parishioners.



History

Grace Church began as a mission church that met in the Cole County Courthouse starting in 1836. A handful of Episcopalians founded the parish as "Grace Church" in 1840, and contracted to build the first structure in 1842. During the cholera epidemic and Civil war, Grace Church was utilized as a hospital. Following the Civil War, the congregation grew, necessitating a larger house of worship. The new cornerstone was laid in 1898 and the present structure was completed in 1901. In the 1900's the number of parishioners continued to grow. The Rev. Ned Cole came to Grace in 1949 and found that a number of faculty members from Lincoln University, a historically black public land-grant university in Jefferson City, had begun attending. He also learned that the faculty members had been asked to sit at the back of the church and take communion last. The next week, at a Vestry meeting, Grace Church changed this policy and began its journey to becoming a leader in the civil rights movement in mid-Missouri. The congregation continued to grow and additional space was secured to accommodate these needs. Beginning in the 2000's, as long-term clergy retired and needs in the community became more apparent, Grace parishioners spent more time looking outward—towards community ministry, which remains one of our priorities today.



Jefferson City

While Jefferson City isn't a small town (population 43,228), it's often called "America's Most Beautiful Small Town" for its capital amenities, scenic river bluffs, charming downtown, and "big small town" feel, blending city resources with a close-knit community, offering more charm than typical big cities despite being a state capital. It offers a welcoming atmosphere, low-key feel, and peaceful Missouri River views, making it feel cozier than its population suggests. In essence, Jefferson City successfully blends the resources of a state capital with the heart and beauty of a smaller community. Living in Jefferson City offers a remarkable advantage when it comes to affordability. With a cost of living that is lower than the national average, residents enjoy a quality of life that is both comfortable and budget-friendly. Jefferson City is committed to ensuring the well-being of its community, with responsive emergency services, cutting-edge technology, and a strong network of healthcare professionals. Through community engagement programs and proactive policing strategies Jefferson City strives to maintain a safe environment for all. Jefferson City is home to some of Missouri's top-rated schools. The public schools include two high schools, two middle schools and eleven elementary schools. The public schools offer students an environment of strong academics, diverse extracurricular activities (sports, arts, debate, drama) fostering leadership, and the A+ Schools program for tuition assistance at Missouri community/technical colleges. The dedicated teachers foster strong student relationships, creating a supportive environment for learning.

The Numbers

Contact Information: Rev. Canon Doris Westfall, Canon to the Ordinary

Address: 1210 Locust St., St. Louis, MO 63103

Phone: (314) 231-1220

Average Sunday Attendance (2025): 81

Average Weekday Attendance (2025): 12

CURRENT Annual Compensation: \$88,200

Housing Allowance: Up to discretion of the PIC/Rector

Utilities NOT included

SECA Reimbursement: 7.65% of SECA tax

Compensation available for NEW Position: \$74,263 to \$94,156, depending on years of service

Pension Plan: Church Pension Fund (18% of cash salary and housing allowance)

Healthcare: Basic (Diocesan) Group Health, Dental, and Life Insurance premiums OR provide equivalent compensation for third party insurance

Budgeted Housing Equity Allowance: No

Vacation: 4 weeks per year not to be taken during Christmas, Easter, or Bishops Visitation.

Sick Leave: 15 days per year.

Continuing Education: Accrue 10 days per year

Continuing Education Funding: \$500

Auto account: \$500 annually

Other Travel: \$2000 annually

Professional/Business Account: Varies, based on annual budget

The 4th Sunday of every month the undesignated cash collected for the offering funds the PIC/Rector's Discretionary Fund.

Previous incumbents in this position:

Name: William Nesbit (PIC/Rector) Date Begun: July 2020 Date Ended: Jun 2025

Name: Ian Lasch (Rector) Date Begun: Spring 2018 Date Ended: Spring 2020

Name: Shariya Molegoda (Rector) Date Begun: Spring 2007 Date Ended: Nov 2016

**Grace Episcopal Church
2026 Operating Budget**

Income

Plate Offering	\$6,000
Pledge Income	\$255,000
4th Sun. Clergy Disc. Fund	\$1,600
Inv. & Endowment Income	\$22,000
Altar Flower Fund	\$1,800
Christmas/Easter offering	\$500
Misc. Income	\$500
Total	\$287,400

Expenses

Diocesan Assessment	\$35,039
Dioc. & Gen. Church Prog	\$600
Mission and Outreach	\$10,000
Deacon Salary/Housing	\$300
Rector Salary	\$37,388
Supply clergy	\$12,000
Supply Musician	\$600
Deacon Expense	\$1,400
Choirmaster Salary	\$7,664
Organist Salary	\$11,480
Administrator Salary	\$18,416
Child Care Worker	\$2,590
FICA Expense	\$3,071
Clergy Pension Premium	\$8,000
Accounting Services	\$10,150
Health Insurance	\$12,000
Utilities	\$13,000
Office Expense	\$9,000
Rector's Housing All.	\$9,000
Auto & Other Travel	\$600
Telephone/IT contract	\$7,000
Altar supplies	\$750
Music & Choir Supp.	\$1,000
Postage	
Buldg. Maint. & repair	\$12,000
Building cleaning contract	\$11,000
Property & Liability Ins.	\$21,500
Misc. Exp. & Bank fees	\$500
Parking	\$1,000
Christian Formation	\$400
Parish Life & Hospitality	\$1,300
Cont. Education	\$1,000
Cong. Development	\$1,400
Stewardship	\$1,000
Rector's Disc. Expense	\$1,377
Deacon's Dis. Expense	\$2,123
Altar Flower Expense	\$3,600
Total	\$269,248