

Grace Episcopal Church



Parish Profile ~ March 2025

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LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

Dear Friend in Christ,

Grace Episcopal Church, in the unique island community on Lopez Island, is embarking on a journey of renewal and growth, and we invite you to consider joining us as our new vicar. We are a congregation rich in history, with a love for tradition, and a desire to embrace the future.

We are seeking a part-time Vicar who will:

- Nurture our intergenerational community: We recognize our long-time members and their wisdom, while also seeking to grow the number of young families within our congregation. We seek a vicar who can bridge these generations, fostering a sense of belonging and shared purpose.
- Inspire joyful worship: We believe that worship is essential to spiritual growth. We are open to exploring new expressions of worship while honoring our Episcopal traditions.
- Lead collaboratively: We value the gifts and talents of our congregation and desire a vicar who will empower us to share in ministry and leadership.

Who We Are:

We are a loving and committed congregation, serving God and our community. There are challenges in growing and maintaining a vibrant church in a small island setting and we believe with the right leadership we can grow and thrive.

We value:

- Kindness: We strive for steadfast love and mutual relationships.
- Community: We are deeply connected to Lopez Island and seek to be a beacon of hope and service.

Life on Lopez Island:

Lopez Island offers a peaceful and beautiful environment with a strong sense of community. While the Island can provide life's necessities, shopping, dining, and entertainment options are limited. Access to the mainland requires ferry travel, which is always a consideration.

Our Hope for the Future:

We envision Grace Church to continue as vibrant center of spiritual life for all ages, where we deepen our faith, grow in our love for one another, and extend God's love to our island community. If you feel called to explore this ministry with us, we would be delighted to hear from you. We trust God's guidance for you as well as for Grace Church.

Our mission is to provide worship to meet the needs of a diverse congregation; teach and model the basics of our faith; reach out in service to others; enhance communication and togetherness within our congregation and community; provide ecumenical ties; and encourage participation in the Church's ministry.



VICAR JOB DESCRIPTION

This is a paid, half-time position offering the opportunity to lead worship, provide pastoral care, and collaborate with dedicated lay leaders to further the mission of our church.

Spiritual Leadership:

- Lead Sunday worship services, including preaching and presiding at the Eucharist (approximately 36 Sundays per year; presiding only an additional 10 Sundays).
- Foster spiritual growth and encourage Christian service among the congregation.
- Develop and implement a Christian formation program for all ages, nurturing faith, and its application in daily life.

Pastoral Care:

- Provide pastoral care, including in-home visits, and counseling to parishioners, offering support and guidance through life's challenges.
- Refer individuals in need of long-term counseling to qualified professionals.

Administration and Collaboration:

- Oversee parish affairs working in collaboration with the Bishop's Committee.
- Working in partnership with the Senior Warden, set the monthly Bishop's Committee meeting agenda.
- Empower staff and lay leaders to utilize their gifts in service to the church.

- Oversee all aspects of worship, liturgy, and music, working collaboratively with the altar guild and worship team.
- Assist in setting and achieving realistic goals for the parish.
- Encourage stewardship of time, talents, and financial resources.

Community Engagement:

- Participate in Diocesan meetings and committees as required.
- Engage with local ministries and community outreach initiatives.

Personal and Professional Development:

- Maintain a strong personal spiritual practice.
- Model a positive Christian example for the community.

Schedule:

- Be present in the vicar's office a minimum of three weekdays per week, 3 hours each day (schedule is negotiable).
- Be present at the church on Sundays from approximately 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

VICAR COMPENSATION

Grace Episcopal Church is an E-size parish in the Diocese of Olympia and we are offering a half-time position.

The vicar salary will be 50 percent of the midpoint of the Diocesan clergy salary range for a parish of our size. There is an option for a higher salary, depending on years of experience.

We will provide a 3-bedroom 3-bath vicarage, pension contribution, paid vacation and sick leave, mileage and ferry fees while commuting on church business, and reasonable cell phone charges.

As required by the Diocese we will provide paid health insurance.

Relocation and other expenses are negotiable.

To view the Diocese of Olympia's clergy compensation scale, please refer to the Diocese of Olympia Parochial Clergy Scale.

CHURCH HISTORY

Grace Church has a rich history, built on the dedication and perseverance of its members. From humble beginnings in 1954, gathering for Sunday school in a living room, our community has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to its faith. Led by devoted lay leaders and the women of Grace Guild, we have held services in various locations, including Hetzler's Lopez Inn and Center Church, where oil lamps illuminated the space and a wood stove provided warmth.

In 1955, we officially became Grace Church, with a vicar traveling from the other islands to lead our services at the Lopez Inn. Years later, thanks to the generosity of the Spencer family, we were inspired to build a church on Humphrey Head. The congregation actively participated in its construction, and the first services were held in December 1968, with the official dedication by the Bishop following nine years later.

1984 marked a significant milestone as we became an independent Mission Station and welcomed our first half-time vicar. As our congregation grew, we envisioned a more visible presence in Lopez Village. Our current church, situated on a hill above the Village, features a beautiful bell tower and clerestory windows crafted by local artists from our original church. This space has allowed us to strengthen relationships with other faith communities and foster friendships with those of all beliefs. We are proud to share our building, with its wonderful acoustics, and our welcoming parish hall, with various community organizations.



Over the past 34 years, we have been blessed with the leadership of six part-time vicars, many of whom have chosen to retire on Lopez Island.

WORSHIP LIFE

Grace Church follows the liturgical seasons throughout the church year. The service utilizes The Book of Common Prayer, Enriching Our Worship, The Lectionary, Hymnal 1982, and Wonder Love & Praise. We have one Sunday service at 10:00 am and offer communion to all. Music is an important part of each service with both traditional and contemporary hymns. Most of Grace Church parishioners are both respectful of traditions, and open to change.

We believe in the priesthood of all believers and encourage all parishioners to exercise their gifts for the ministry and mission of our church. As our congregation ages we welcome both

new and current members to become more involved. Opportunities to contribute to our worship life include acting as Worship Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Acolytes, and participation in the Altar Guild.



During the year there are extra services or special Sunday services such as Blessing of the Animals, Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday with Stations of the Cross, all of which are open to the Island community.

During Advent there is an ecumenical service of "Lessons and Carols" with guest instrumentalists and readers from various community churches. Grace Church is beautifully decorated with local greenery and candles that create a festive tradition for the entire island community.

MINISTRY PRIORITIES

Our ministry priorities are to:

1. Deepen our sense of connection to God and one another.
2. Develop ministries that work toward healing, including assisting our members to “age in place”.
3. Enhance the accessibility of ministry opportunities.
4. Renew and revitalize by continuing coalitions with partners that share our vision and commitment.

5. Develop spiritual generosity by inviting our members to contribute time, talent, and treasure.
6. Explore strengthening our ministries for our church's future.
7. Help members discern their gifts.
8. Growing Grace Church and serving the community.

CURRENT PROGRAMS & MINISTRIES

Outreach

An important part of our mission at Grace Church is expressing our faith through action. We share our church facilities with the St. Francis Roman Catholic Church congregation. Additionally, several local community programs also make use of our space, e.g., Creaky Yoga, and the Heart and Soul Recovery Café in collaboration with the Family Resource Center.

Music

Grace Church offers exceptional music, mostly traditional, to the congregation. Our talented team of organists provide beautiful music and accompaniment throughout the service. The pipe organ is a treasured and well-maintained instrument. The church Sanctuary hosts many concerts throughout the year with musicians from around the world. The congregation loves singing and music. The worship committee solicits hymn favorites from the congregation. At the end of the service, parishioners often remain to listen to the organist's postlude as a final "Amen" to the worship service.



Fellowship

Fellowship is an important part of life at Grace Church. Every Sunday after worship, we gather in the parish hall for a lively coffee hour: it's a wonderful time to connect with friends, welcome newcomers, and enjoy delicious treats and warm conversation. We often linger long after the coffee pots have been emptied.



We also cherish many beloved traditions such as the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, the festive Christmas Lessons and Carols service, our Lenten Soup Suppers shared with other denominations, and the joyful Blessing of the Animals.

For those seeking spiritual growth and deeper connections, we offer a variety of opportunities: the Oreo Book Group meets Tuesday evenings to explore thought-provoking works on spiritual and secular topics; an ecumenical Men's Breakfast and Bible Study and Women's Text Study Group gather on alternating Wednesdays.





CHURCH BUILDING & GROUNDS

Grace Church, completed in 1999, is located on a peaceful 5-acre parcel acquired in the 1990's overlooking Lopez Village. This location offers a welcoming presence to the community. The church building itself is set back from the road, providing a graceful setting. Hoyt Hall was finished the following year, and is connected to the church by a breezeway.

The church grounds are well maintained, with landscaped lawns and maturing trees surrounding the buildings and parking area. The surrounding land has a pastoral feel, connecting the church with open spaces and neighboring homes. From Hoyt Hall and the church yard, there are lovely views west towards Lopez Village, Fisherman's Bay harbor, and the Olympic Mountains.

The church building, with its traditional open cathedral design and natural beam construction, exudes a peaceful beauty. The nave provides seating for approximately 120 people and features a lovely pipe organ that enhances our worship services.

Hoyt Hall is a vibrant hub for both the congregation and the wider community. It houses a spacious gathering space with a capacity of 200, a well-equipped kitchen, an office, a children's room, and restrooms. The hall's warm and inviting atmosphere, mirroring the aesthetic of the church, makes it a popular venue for a variety of gatherings.

A memorial garden adjacent to the church provides a quiet space for reflection. Volunteers maintain the grounds and facilities, ensuring a welcoming environment for all.

The Vicarage



Completed in 2024, the vicarage on the church grounds comprises 2,608 square feet, with three bedrooms and three baths. It also includes a generous office as well as a large detached two car garage, both for the vicar's exclusive use.



Bishop Rickel presides over the groundbreaking of the Vicarage.

Bishop Skelton performs a house blessing.



OUR COMMUNITY



Lopez Island, a picturesque island in the San Juan Archipelago, offers a tranquil and welcoming environment. Our close-knit community, diverse in thought and lifestyle, includes farmers, fishermen, artists, writers, craftspeople, and retirees, all drawn to the island's unique blend of rural beauty and vibrant culture. Grace Church, with its stunning views of the village waterfront and the Olympic Mountains, is an integral part of this community.

Island life offers a slower pace, with a population of 3,000 year-round residents that swells to nearly 5,000 during the summer months. Despite its small size (comparable to Manhattan Island in land area) Lopez boasts a beautiful K-12 school district, a University of Washington Primary Care Clinic, an award-winning public library, a Farmer's Market during the summer months, and a thriving arts and entertainment scene centered around the Lopez Center for Community and the Arts. Lopez Village provides essential services and some charming amenities, including two grocery stores, restaurants, coffee shops, an apothecary, a bakery, a bookstore, and art galleries.



The Lopez Island community is a blend of households: 40% depend upon agriculture, fishing, construction, and the service industry for their income; 30% are employed in management or administrative services; and 30% are retirees.



Schools



The Lopez Island School District has a K-12 school with a total population of approximately 200 students. The school boasts active extracurricular programs including boys and girls sports, various clubs, enrichment activities, and trips abroad. Lopez Island School also operates a nationally recognized Farm to School Program that allows students to participate in growing, harvesting, and eating their own organic vegetables in the school cafeteria.

Lopez Island Academy is a private, non-profit K-12 Christian school which aims to provide a rigorous comprehensive education. Students learn to be strong in character, strong in faith, strong in truth, and strong in competency.

Medical Services

The University of Washington Medicine Lopez Island Clinic provides excellent primary care for all island residents and visitors. The Public Hospital District utilizes tax revenue to support clinic operation.

The Lopez Island Fire District provides Emergency Medical Service (EMS) to the island, with full-time paramedics and a part-time Fire Chief. The Fire District is supported by a team of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs). In the event of a life-threatening illness or accident, medical airlift services provide rapid transportation to a proper mainland facility.



Housing

Housing on the island ranges from modest homes to large multimillion-dollar buildings. As is commonplace in the United States today, homes with water or mountain views are priced significantly higher than those without. There are several Land Trust communities on the Island that provide a limited amount of affordable housing to low- and moderate-income individuals and families. There is one Senior Housing Community for 55+ independent living located in the heart of the village.

Senior Services

The Senior Services organization, operating out of Woodmen Hall, provides Meals-on-Wheels, twice-weekly lunches, frequent speaker programs, and health services. Lopez Island Home and Hospice Support also provides services and operates primarily through the efforts of volunteers. They provide services to residents who are ill and homebound, allowing them to remain at home during a period of recovery. They also provide services for end-of life situations.

The Arts

The Lopez Community Center for the Arts is a community-owned building funded by a 501c3 non-profit. Various performances, speakers and concerts are held several times monthly.



Lopez Island has a large and vibrant art community consisting of musicians, writers, artists and craftsmen. There are several art galleries and many artisans take part in the Summer Farmer's Market. During the Studio Tour over the Labor Day weekend, many of the local studios are open to the public.

Library

Lopez Island has an award-winning library that is a focal point in the community. The library features a celebrated collection of titles, access to inter-library loans, a children's section, many computers with internet access, an extensive collection of DVDs and audiobooks, and musical instruments for loan. The Lopez Island community is among the highest in the nation for books read on a per capital basis. Book clubs and lectures from celebrated speakers are frequent events.



Recreation

Lopez is home to many types of outdoor activities including hiking, biking, golf, tennis, boating, fishing and many more. There are book clubs, writing groups, weaving and knitting groups, quilters and gardeners. Exercise opportunities are also plentiful - yoga, Zumba and fitness classes.



FINANCES

Grace Church has a tradition of being financially responsible. Capital improvement projects are started after parishioner discussion, require fiscal review by the relevant committees, and require budget approval by the Bishop's Committee. Grace Church has no outstanding capital debt. The current year's expected outlays are carefully estimated and provided for in the budget.

The 2025 budget is for income of \$130,318 and expenses of \$138,206.

Grace Church parishioners give steadily, generously, and reliably, resulting in consistently balanced budgets and stable, respectful relationships with banks and area businesses.

| INCOME | End of 2024 | 2025 Proposed |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Plate | 14,853 | 15,000 |
| Pledges | 130,000 | 115,000 |
| Interest | 18 | 18 |
| Misc. Contributions | 0 | 300 |
| | | |
| Total Income | 144,871 | 130,318 |

| Operating Expenses | End of 2024 | 2025 Proposed |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| General operation needs | 132,452 | 133,506 |
| Vicar's Expenses | 5,146 | 4,700 |
| | | |
| Total Expenses | 137,598 | 138,206 |

| Other Income | End of 2024 | 2025 Proposed |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Hall Rental | 22,620 | 25,000 |
| Building Fund Income | 2,712 | |
| Organ Fund Income | 3,500 | |
| Investment Interest Income. | 675 | 700 |
| | | |
| Total Other Income | 29,507 | 25,700 |

| Other Expenses | End of 2024 | 2025 Proposed |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Building Fund Maintenance | 37,181 | 10,000 |
| Organ Maintenance | 937 | 1,000 |
| | | |
| Total Other Expenses | 38,181 | 11,000 |

PARISH STAFF

- Vicar, part-time, paid
- Church Office Administrator, part-time, paid
- Treasurer, part-time, paid
- Custodian, part-time, paid
- Music Staff, part-time, paid
- Bookkeeper, as needed, paid
- Grounds maintenance, volunteers
- Facilities maintenance, volunteers

Grace Church believes in the priesthood of all believers and encourages all parishioners to exercise their gifts of time and talent for the ministry and mission of our church.

Parishioners on a volunteer basis assume all other duties and responsibilities. The Senior and Junior Wardens coordinate the functions of the Bishop's Committee and most volunteer activities.

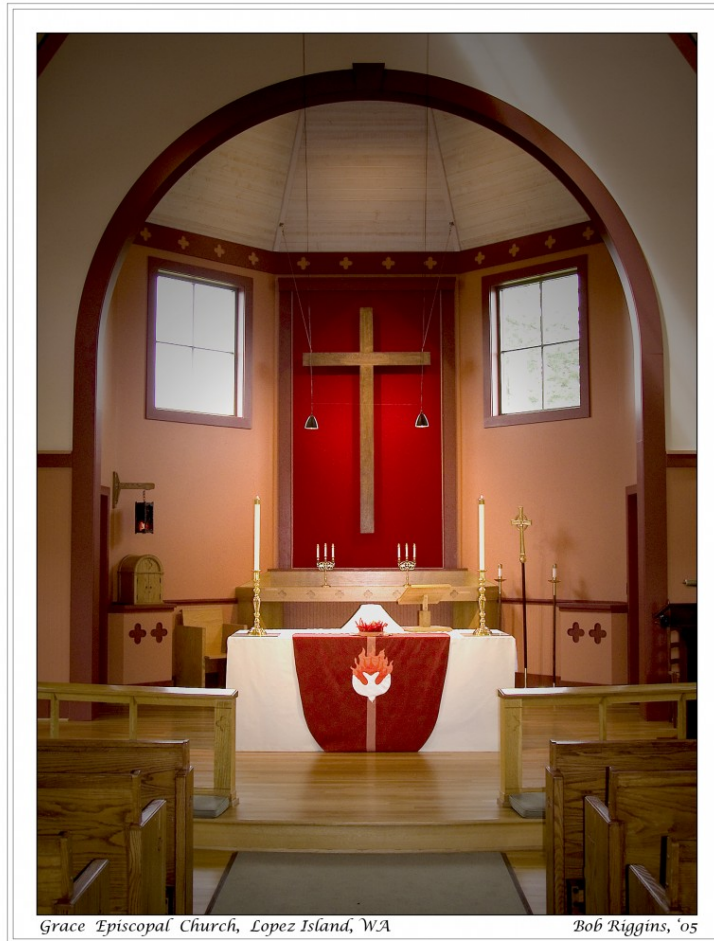
OUR DIOCESE

The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia traces its history to the establishment of the Missionary Jurisdiction of the Oregon and Washington Territories in 1853. We are also known as the Episcopal Church in Western Washington. Admitted by General Convention in 1910, the Diocese of Olympia is made up of more than 26,000 Episcopalians in more than 100 worshiping communities through Western Washington. Our geographic area stretches south from Canada to Oregon and west from the foothills of the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Philip N. LaBelle was ordained and consecrated as the ninth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia on Saturday, September 14, 2024. LaBelle previously served as the rector of St. Mark's Church in Southborough, MA. He received his MDiv from Yale, and a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary, focused on Christian Spirituality.

CLOSING PRAYER

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Grace Episcopal Church, Lopez Island, WA

Bob Riggins, '05