

Grace Episcopal Church

Hastings-on-Hudson, NY



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Welcome!

Grace Episcopal Church, an Episcopal parish in the village of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, is a growing, vibrant church that is committed to a full and active spiritual life. Our mission is to bear witness and to continue in the teachings of Jesus especially as we care for one another within and without our church community.

We are seeking a rector who will guide and nurture us so that we may participate fully in a life of Christian faith. Though a relatively small parish, Grace Church is diverse and inclusive in its membership, welcoming all worshippers. Our parish continues to grow with incoming young families, but is also supported by a loyal base of long-time parishioners, many of who have been actively involved in the life of Grace Church for more than 20 years. The Reverend Betty Hudson has served with distinction as the rector of Grace Church for sixteen years.

We invite qualified candidates to submit their resumes for review electronically (preferably) or by mail to Marc Gouran, Search Committee Chair at: mgouran@spges.com or by mail to: 24 Kent Ave., Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706. For more information on Grace Church, please visit our website at www.gracehastings.diocesenyny.org. ▸



Our History

Grace Episcopal Church, today one of nine houses of worship in Hastings-on-Hudson, was built with prize money donated by Admiral David Glasgow Farragut, a southerner by birth, who moved to Hastings in 1861, shortly before the Civil War. Farragut's resounding victories at Mobile Bay and New Orleans made him one of the great Northern heroes of the war (to this day, several streets and the public middle school in Hastings bear his name), and he became the first naval officer in American history to attain the rank of full admiral. In thanksgiving for his safe delivery from war, Farragut donated \$1,000 of his prize money from the Battle of Mobile Bay toward building a new church in his village.

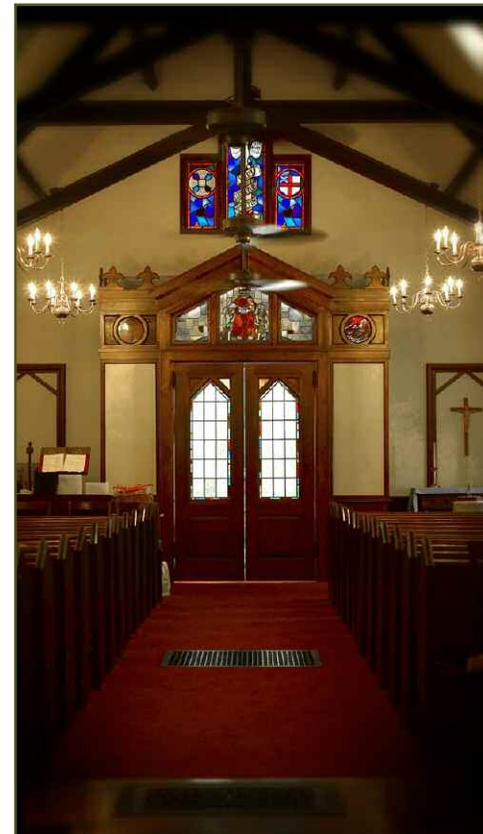
Richard Upjohn, then one of America's most famous architects (known for the Gothic Revival Trinity Church in Lower Manhattan) designed the church in a style known as Hudson River Gothic. The anchor finials, still on the dormer windows, are said to be a symbol of grace and hope. The construction of what was then called Zion Chapel cost \$6,000. The cornerstone of the church, an event attended by Farragut, was laid on October 2, 1867.

In 1909, the Rev. Walter Archbold became Zion Chapel's first full-time vicar and in 1917, under the leadership of the Rev. Horace Clute, the mission became an independent self-supporting parish known as Grace Church.

During World War I, several hundred Army troops were quartered in barracks along Warburton Avenue; many of them found refuge in nearby Grace Church. The first floor of the adjacent vicar's cottage was converted into a clubroom for the troops and the women of the parish took turns serving refreshments and mending the men's uniforms.

In 1919, the parish was given "Cooke's Woods," the land the church sits on today, by a wealthy family and parishioner whose homestead stood on the site of what is now La Barranca Apartments on South Broadway. The gift stipulated that the parish build a church on the property and maintain the Cooke family cemetery in the rear of the land in perpetuity. The church began a building drive in 1922 with a goal of raising \$100,000. Among the contributors to the drive was the famed theatrical couple (and Hastings' residents) the producer Florenz Ziegfeld (of Ziegfeld's Follies) and actress Billie Burke (Glinda in *The Wizard of Oz*).

Richmond Shreve of Hastings (architect of the Empire State Building as well as the Hastings Municipal Building and most of the Farragut Avenue public schools) was hired to design the new church. But with the advent of the Depression, parishioners were suddenly unable to make good on their pledges and construction came to an abrupt standstill. Under the creative stewardship of



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Our History (Continued)

the rector of Grace, the Rev. Walter Overs, the vestry voted to put a roof on what had begun as the new church and make it the parish hall, and then move the original Upjohn church (at the bottom of Main Street) onto the new site.

In November 1930, Main Street was sealed off to traffic for 48 hours in preparation for the move. The church steeple was removed in order for the building to fit underneath the telephone wires. Then, in what has become Grace Church's most famous hanging-in-the-balance moment, while the church was firmly lodged in the middle of the street, the movers went bankrupt. The vestry came through once again and managed to raise the funds necessary to move the church onto its new site. Bishop Overs also oversaw the construction of the present English Tudor-style rectory by Sears and Roebuck, one of the company's earliest prefabs.



Grace's succeeding rector, the Rev. John E. Reilly, arrived in 1934, when there were 47 parish contributors and a \$32,000 debt. By the end of his rectorship in 1940, the contributors had more than doubled and the debt had dwindled to \$18,000.

During the Rev. Arthur R. Willis's pastorate, from 1952 to 1971, the parish hall was doubled in size to provide more classrooms and an enlarged area for parish, civic and social functions. From 1970 to 1980, there was a population decline in Hastings of nearly 1,000 people. Grace then entered into a period of shared ministry with its onetime parent, Zion Church, in Dobbs Ferry.

The Reverend George E. Packard became Grace Church's next rector, beginning with a part-time ministry in 1979 and as a full-time rector in 1984. During those years the parish saw a surge in growth, including a number of families with young children. Grace Church also helped sponsor a refugee family from Liberia and oversaw major capital improvements to the church undercroft and Sunday school classrooms. In 1988, Reverend Packard left Grace to become Canon to the Ordinary for Bishop Richard E. Grein. The Reverend Packer was elected Fifth Bishop Suffragan for Chaplaincies and consecrated in February of 2000.

Grace church had an interim priest until 1991, when Betty B. Hudson came to serve as rector. Under the Rev. Hudson's stewardship, a number of major capital improvements were made to Grace, including a new church addition (designed by Grace parishioner and architect William Hall). The Rev. Hudson also instituted the annual Alternative Gifts Market, the church's largest mission project, which, through the sale of alternative gift donations and fair-trade craft items, raises thousands of dollars to help preserve the environment and help struggling people around the world achieve self-sufficiency. During the Rev. Hudson's ministry, Grace hired a Sunday school director and implemented a Youth Group to guide the church's growing population of children and young adults. Today the parish of Grace Church has 253 members, a balanced budget, and, thanks to a generous bequest left by a longtime parishioner, a healthy endowment fund. ■

Our Parish

Profile of Congregation

The congregation of Grace Church is a warm and welcoming community. Though modest in size, the membership is committed, inclusive and highly educated and includes a range of ages, economic levels and talents. The spiritual life of the church is enriched by its members' commitment to community worship and active participation in secular community organizations. Most parishioners live in Hastings-on-Hudson or one of the surrounding towns of Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry and Irvington.



A Summary of Relevant Statistics

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Active Members	257	241	243	253
Members under 16	94	80	74	82
Baptisms	3	5	6	4
Marriages	0	1	1	3
Burials	1	1	2	3
Number of Sunday Services	127	128	127	123
Number of All Services	160	160	159	169
Average Sunday Attendance	104	103	97	106
Easter Attendance	257	261	220	217
Enrolled in Sunday school	50	27	48	58
Number of Pledges	64	70	64	66
Total \$ in Pledges (actual)	\$99,140	\$96,468	\$101,048	\$111,252

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Our Parish (Continued)

Worship Services

To serve our growing and diverse congregation, we have three worship services on Sundays from mid-September through mid-June.

The 8:30 service is a brief, said Rite II Eucharist with sermon. Following the Peace, this small, faithful congregation gathers around the altar for Communion.

The 9:30 service, which includes Sunday school, is mainly a Rite II Eucharist drawing from alternative liturgical resources such as *Enriching Our Worship*. A volunteer choir meets at 9:00 to rehearse an anthem for the day, and hymns are drawn from *Taize, Lift Every Voice and Sing* and *Love and Praise*, as well as the 1982 Hymnal. During the Liturgy of the Word, Sunday school is offered for children ages 4-12 who then join the rest of the congregation at the Peace. Everyone who indicates willingness on a pledge card, regardless of age, is scheduled to usher, read, acolyte, lead Prayers of the People or join the choir at this service.

On the first Sunday of the month, there is currently no Sunday school so families worship together for the entire service and the readings and homily are directed to the intergenerational congregation. The Liturgy of the Word during this service has included scavenger hunts in the church and instructed Eucharist, a discussion of scenes depicted in the stained glass windows, and “visits” from some famous saints.

The 11:00 service is mainly a Rite II Eucharist from the Book of Common Prayer. The 11:00 choir warms up before the service and rehearses for the following week from 12:00 – 1:00. While this is a more traditional service, it does include hymns from sources other than the 1982 Hymnal. On the last Sunday of the month, the 11:00 service is currently Rite II Morning Prayer with sermon.

During the summer when our congregation is smaller (mid-June through mid-September), there is one Sunday service at 10:00.

In addition to Sundays, we have daily services during Holy Week and two services on Christmas Eve at 5:30 and 10:00 p.m.

Our priest also celebrates a monthly Eucharist at the Andrus-on-Hudson Home, a long-term care facility in Hastings.

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Our Parish (Continued)

Fellowship Activities

Weekly Coffee Hour from 10:30 – 11:00 provides an opportunity for fellowship for both the 9:30 and 11:00 congregations. It is a special time to socialize with the church community and welcome newcomers to the parish. Member volunteers host coffee hour and special coffee hours are also organized for events such as Easter and confirmations.

The church family also gathers throughout the year for a variety of parish activities: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Easter Egg Hunt and Coffee Hour, Summer Potluck Cook-out, Summer Riverfront Services, Sunday School Potluck Dinner from Christ's Time, Fall Picnic, Grape Stomp and Pasta Dinner, Greening of the Church for Christmas.

The primary forms of formal Parish Communications are the Monthly Newsletter (offered as an e-newsletter or printed version) and the Church Website. The website was revised and redesigned in the summer of 2007 under the direction of a dedicated group of volunteers. A Church Directory is published annually.



Mission

The mission committee coordinates mission activities and makes recommendations as to how mission monies are to be spent. The efforts of the Mission Committee are felt in the following arenas:

Fessenden House, in Yonkers, is a home for men in recovery from drug and/or alcohol addiction, run by the Episcopal Brothers of St Gregory. Members of the Grace Church Congregation volunteer to provide meals one Sunday a month for the residents.

The Alternative Gifts Market is run by Grace Church volunteers every November to provide the local community with an opportunity for meaningful holiday shopping which will serve needy people at home and abroad.

Contributions to the stores of a local food pantry are collected from members of the Congregation every month.

In addition to organizing ongoing programs, the Mission Committee helps Grace Church congregants respond to pleas for assistance that arise from a variety of places; locally, helping a neighboring parish provide Christmas gifts to its children; nationally, raising funds for victims of Hurricane Katrina; and, internationally, through various projects, such as the Carpenter's Kids, a sponsorship program for needy African children, which is overseen by the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund.

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Our Parish (Continued)



Wardens & Vestry

The Vestry at Grace Church is composed of the Rector, two Wardens and nine members of the parish. Vestry terms are staggered so one third is elected every year to serve a three-year term. Wardens are also elected for three years: one year as junior Warden, one year as Senior Warden and one year as Vestry member and Stewardship chair. The Rector looks to the Wardens and Vestry members for support and guidance, and parishioners look to them for leadership. Their effort and commitment bring the parish together to further our common goals.

Buildings & Grounds

Grace Episcopal Church is a classic white, wooden building that was designed by the noted architect Richard Upjohn and built in 1867 in a style known as Hudson River Gothic. In 1922 the church was moved from its original home to its current central location at the Five Corners of Hastings-on-Hudson at Main Street. It has newly restored antique stain-glass windows, copper gutters, a renovated undercroft and can hold a capacity approaching 200 worshippers. A new addition, elegantly designed to match the existing structure by a local architect and longtime parish member, William Hall, was added in 1997 that houses the sacristy and vesting rooms and allows for a handicapped entrance. The church has recently been painted and a new roof was installed within the last four years.

The property also includes a Parish Hall with a full kitchen that houses both the Rivertown Pre-School and the Echo Hills Counseling Center as well as the Parish Office. The Parish uses the space for numerous social events and functions, including weekly coffee hours and the Alternative Gifts Market, the church's largest annual mission project. The structure is in sound physical condition and its tenants provide valuable services to the community as well as income for the Church budget. Behind the Church is a well-maintained children's playground that is utilized by the Pre-School only during the week and available to younger church members on Sunday.

The Rectory, adjacent to the Church, is a newly renovated and updated Tudor home that is suitable for a family. It has four bedrooms and two-and-a-half bathrooms, with fine interior molding, fixtures and woodwork. The kitchen and bathrooms have been recently remodeled with new appliances, cabinets, tile floors and fixtures.

All three buildings sit on three-plus acres of park-like grounds with specimen trees, plantings, lawns, flowerbeds and stonework, including statuary. The buildings and grounds are maintained professionally and with help from an active Property Committee. Overall, the condition of the buildings and grounds is excellent, due to the care and commitment of the Parish, with no long-term maintenance issues.

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Our Parish (Continued)

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a group of men and women whose purpose is to prepare the altar for Holy Eucharist and all other areas of the Church for appropriate services, liturgical seasons, and feast days. Working in pairs or singly, they keep the silver sparkling, the crystal bright, and the linens immaculate. Baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals all have their special needs and the Altar Guild provides for them. Depending on the size of the Guild, members are responsible for a week once every six or eight weeks, requiring perhaps a couple of hours' service for each rotation.

Choir

Music is a significant part of all Grace Church services. This is a congregation that likes to sing, and we are assisted and encouraged in our efforts by our dynamic and talented organist/choirmaster Jennifer Griesbach. Grace Church also features a Choir of interested congregants who enrich our worship during the service. No special musical background or talent is needed to join the Choir; Jennifer and the choir welcome all to participate.

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Our Parish (Continued)

Sunday School & Christian Education

Grace Church is blessed with an abundance of children, and one of the highlights of the 9:30 “family” service is watching the members of the Sunday School parade down the aisle as they join the service after the sermon. The Church suddenly becomes quite lively as all the young voices are added to our worship. Sunday School meets during the 9:30 service every Sunday during the school year except for the first Sunday of the month. That Sunday, the sermon at the 9:30 service is addressed to the children in the Congregation.

Sunday School teachers help our children grow and learn as members of a community of faith. Every year the Sunday school takes on a Lenten Sharing Project such as adopting a family displaced by Hurricane Katrina and collecting money, clothing and household goods for them.



Congregants volunteer as teachers, and work with Christian Education Director Marlene Linz, who provides a detailed and pre-planned curriculum along with appropriate materials to follow the liturgical calendar. Each teacher serves for a 6 to 8 week rotation with one of four Sunday School groups: Pre K/K, 1st and 2nd grades, 3rd and 4th grades, 5th and 6th grades. Special projects are also planned such as an Advent wreath workshop or a family dinner with a “life in Biblical times” theme. A Christmas pageant takes place biannually.

Every two years, the young adults who are ready for Confirmation attend a 12-week class in preparation for Confirmation.

There is also a Youth Group that meets for discussion and activities on a regular schedule of Sunday evenings.

Adult Christian education occurs in the form of occasional Sunday-evening discussion groups in the homes of various congregants. ▸

Our Hopes for the Future

The solid foundation we have built supporting our Grace Church community fills us with a sense of pride and fulfillment. Yet we look to the future with an eagerness and enthusiasm for reaching our full spiritual potential. To achieve this, we appreciate the need to embrace a certain degree of change. With an inspired leadership, we see enormous possibilities ahead in a number of areas.

We look to bring renewed commitment to our community outreach efforts, aware that special attention needs to be paid to the older members of our community as well as to our teens. The inequitable distribution of the world's resources is an issue that the parish feels requires its attention and response. The parish has expressed a willingness and desire to act on those issues on a local level whenever possible. We believe that inspired ideas on how to provide meaningful outreach can be stimulated through a vibrant adult forum program and are eager to enhance our efforts in this area.

Maintaining our spirit of inclusiveness is essential. Grace Church has a history of embracing all newcomers, and it's our growing diversity that continues to bring greater meaning to our spirituality. Our connection with one another is possible through a continued commitment to stewardship, an area we look to maintain as a priority.

With an inspiring, innovative and embracing leader, we believe Grace Church can achieve an even greater richness in our spiritual life. We see this point in our church history not so much as a crossroads, but as a springboard to bring a renewed energy and commitment to those areas that provide meaning to our Christian lives. ▀



Our Next Rector

Grace Episcopal Church is a Parish with an active, vibrant membership that is seeking to continue its mission of supporting the spiritual needs of our community. The rectorship offers an opportunity to build on our legacy of success and to bring new ideas and energy to the work. The Search Committee has closely examined our Parish and gotten input from every constituency in order to understand who we are, where we want to go, and what qualities and skills a new Rector will need to take us there. In addition to being experienced in priestly parish ministry, he or she will be:



- A dynamic, inspirational spiritual leader who can effectively lead the parish's liturgical life
- A preacher with an abiding love of the gospel and the ability to deliver sermons that can reach people in their daily lives
- An effective teacher of the Christian faith who will further the Church education of our children, adolescents and adults in an engaging, compelling way
- A welcoming personality with a deep commitment to diversity, tolerance and inclusion
- Someone who can reach out to new people in the community to offer them a spiritual home
- An involved pastor who can minister to the needs of all members of our Parish during all phases of their lives and be supportive during life's difficult times
- An individual who is committed to working with families, reaching out to the community and integrating Grace Church into the fabric of the Village, the Diocese and the broader Church community
- A well-organized administrator who can manage the complexities and business affairs of a growing Parish and several lay staff members
- A champion of stewardship and a proponent of the self-sustaining nature of Episcopal churches
- An open-minded thinker with intellectual curiosity and a strong educational background
- A person who is focused on how those with plenty can help those in need and how that translates into our Mission work
- A role model of personal integrity and someone who exhibits warmth with both depth and humor ▶

Our Community

Grace Episcopal Church is located in the village of Hastings-on-Hudson, in Westchester County, approximately 22 miles north of Manhattan. The majority of Grace Church parishioners live in Hastings. With a population nearing 1,000,000 residents, Westchester County is a 450-square mile county. Westchester has urban areas such as White Plains and Yonkers as well as suburban and rural areas. Westchester County has the distinction of being the first county in New York State to become accredited by the National Recreation and Parks Association. Additional information can be found at www.westchestergov.com.

Hastings-on-Hudson encompasses approximately 2 square miles from the Hudson River on the west to the Saw Mill River Parkway on the east, north of Yonkers and south of Dobbs Ferry. Metro North trains runs frequently from Hastings to Grand Central Terminal; the rush-hour commute is about 30 minutes. Despite the easy commute, Hastings is not a classic bedroom community; many writers and artists live and work in town and frequent the village's bookstores and library.

Hastings borders the Hudson River and affords spectacular views of the river and the Palisades Cliffs across the Hudson. From certain vantage points, the Tappan Zee Bridge can be seen toward the north and the George Washington Bridge and New York City skyline can be seen toward the south. There are several ball fields, playgrounds and the Aqueduct Trailway for hiking or biking and Hillside Woods for nature walks and reflecting.

The population of Hastings is about 8,000, allowing for a small-town feel. The downtown business district includes specialty shops, boutiques and a number of restaurants, from pizza parlors to an acclaimed French bistro. Many community residents gather at the popular farmer's market

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Our Community (Continued)



every Saturday and the recreation department sponsors well-attended community events such as a Halloween window painting contest and parade, street fairs, pool parties at the town pool and Christmas tree lighting ceremonies in the center of town. With a collection of 60,000 books and audiovisual materials, the Hastings Public Library is an excellent and well-used resource. Additional information can be found at www.hastingsgov.org.

Hastings is designated as one of the Historic River Towns of Westchester. The Hastings Historical Society is an active volunteer organization and a rich repository of village history. The Jasper F. Cropsey Home and Studio and the Newington Cropsey Foundation's Gallery of Art are among the places our rich history and art collections can be viewed. Additional information can be found at www.hudsonriver.com and www.hastingshistorical.org.

The Hastings-on-Hudson public school district is widely recognized as one of the best in New York State with students in all grades consistently performing at the highest levels on local, statewide and national tests. Its students are well rounded with art, music and sports playing an integral part of their school experience. There are three schools: Hillside Elementary School, Farragut Middle School and Hastings High School. Additional information can be found at www.hastings.k12.us.org.



Our Finances

	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Budget
Income				
Plate	11,950	7068	10,153	7,000
Pledge	96,468	101,048	111,252	123,091
Dividends/Interest	901	374	11,226	900
Echo Hills Rent	28,226	28,918	29,440	30,600
Parish Hall Income	745	675	775	750
Special Contributions/Gifts	5,260	7,220	7,725	7,500
Miscellaneous Income	4,204	4,271	3,860	4,000
Pre School	15,720	15,780	16,040	16,300
Korean Congregation	8,400	11,400	9,800	7,200
Mission Income	4,034	4,573	3,182	3,000
Operating Income	175,908	181,327	203,452	200,341
Alternative Gift Market/Crafts	34,457	31,811	34,854	30,000
Total Income	210,365	213,138	238,306	230,341
Expenses				
Salaries & Payroll Taxes	84,228	90,024	89,989	95,440
Deacon Expenses	0	30	0	100
Continuing Ed/Discretionary	1,259	1,722	1,548	700
Auto Allowance	3,000	3,000	3,250	3,000
Supply Clergy/Organist	1,925	1,075	2,350	1,000
Maintenance/Repairs - Contracted	10,229	10,079	14,051	14,000
Maintenance/Repairs - Other	6,499	14,003	4,309	5,000
Utilities	9,891	11,320	12,999	14,000
Office Expense/Telephone	8,590	8,986	9,087	9,000
Christian Education	1,955	1,486	1,900	2,000
Liturgy	1,000	509	677	650
Youth Group	34	1,430	3,053	3,000
Mission - non-AGM	5,686	5,783	2,648	3,000
Special Activities	1,970	1,941	2,702	2,500
Capital Reserve Fund	7,525	7,525	10,000	10,000
Miscellaneous Expense	4,700	5,031	7,516	6,000
Nursery Attendant	1,300	1,275	1,275	1,300
Pension/Annuity	11,598	9,810	9,590	9,500
Insurance	8,288	6,789	7,156	7,200
Diocese of New York	13,396	13,507	13,151	13,773
Total Operating Expenses	183,183	195,325	197,251	201,164
Alternative Gifts Market/Crafts	33,640	32,178	32,896	30,000
Total Expenses	216,823	227,503	230,147	231,164
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	-6,458	-14,365	8,159	823

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Our Finances (Continued)

Account Balances @ June 30, 2007

Chase/JP Morgan Checking Account	\$4,936.00
Charles Schwab Money Market Account	\$7,247.00
Charles Schwab Investment Account includes Memorial Funds, Capital Reserve, operating surplus from prior years	\$90,750.00
Endowment Fund (Market)	\$952,468.00

Debt @ June 30, 2007

Diocese of New York, Property Support	\$6,750.00
Insured Value of Buildings	\$2,500,000.00