

Pastoral Care FAQs

Who needs pastoral care?

At one time or another, everyone needs loving spiritual care. People tend to experience spiritual questions and crisis in times of greater stress, and stress is typically linked to significant life transitions. These might include:

- Death of a loved one
- Physical or mental illness
- Economic uncertainty (loss of job, poverty, homelessness)
- Birth and adoption
- Marriage, divorce, separation
- Family conflict
- Aging, isolation, cognitive decline

Who provides pastoral care?

Each of us is called to care for one another, and each of us has special gifts that we can use to care for others: bringing Eucharist to the ill, quiet listening, offering food to relieve some of the pressure during a difficult time, or offering prayer for those in need. Each of these gifts becomes pastoral care when carried out in the name of Christ on behalf of the community.

Pastoral Care Leadership Team

Rector Wren Blessing oversees and guides the Pastoral Care Leadership Team. Current members are:

Nancy Beck | nlbeckspirit@outlook.com
Emily Chamberlain | emchamberlain@mindspring.com
Bev Gaines | bevgaines@gmail.com
Tom Leigh | leight7c@gmail.com
Fran Moen | fmmoens@gmail.com
Florie Munat | fmunat@aol.com
Jan Ringo | ringoan@gmail.com
Judy Williams | jbwms@comcast.net

The Pastoral Care Leadership Team's main concerns are:

- To ensure that pastoral care needs are met in a timely fashion while protecting desired confidentiality
- To broaden our community's thinking about what constitutes pastoral care beyond a visit from clergy

Clergy Care

The Rev. Wren Blessing provides pastoral care to members of Grace Church in partnership with Grace's Priest Associates, Pastoral Care Leadership Team, and lay Eucharistic Visitors.

In emergencies, including sudden hospitalization:

Call Grace Church's office | **206-842-9997 Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm**

After office hours, or if you cannot get through to the parish administrator, call:

Wren Blessing | Rector | **406-422-9908**

Florrie Munat | Pastoral Care Team contact | **206-227-4896**

At the time of death:

Please contact Wren as soon as possible when a member of Grace Church becomes seriously ill or is near death.

In times of illness or other circumstances:

Call the office during office hours (see above) to make an appointment with Wren or a Priest Associate. If you call when the office is closed, please leave a message that will help us clearly understand your situation and immediate needs.

Home Eucharistic Visits:

Wren coordinates with Grace's Priest Associates and lay Eucharistic Visitors to make regular home Eucharistic visits, or to pray with and anoint those who, due to serious illness or infirmity, are homebound or in a medical facility.

Healing Prayer:

Grace holds a Healing Eucharist on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., providing an opportunity for prayer and anointing for anyone seeking grace and strength.

When requested, Wren will:

- Offer spiritual direction and counseling
- Offer prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of a child, or other family occasions and milestones
- Offer a blessing of a home, or a service of prayer marking a transition or new season
- Hear confession and offer the Rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent
- Meet with a family to prepare for baptism, or with a couple to prepare for marriage
- Connect a Grace Companion--a layperson trained to listen and be present without suggesting solutions--to a person who would like support or who is going through a difficult transition

Priest Associates

Rev. Kate Kinney is Grace's newest Priest Associate who has served in a pastoral care capacity at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle and parishes in Sequim and on Orcas Island. She assists Rector Wren Blessing by visiting parishioners in hospitals and medical facilities, and those who are homebound. She also makes Home Eucharist Visits, and occasionally preaches and celebrates Eucharist on Sundays and at the Wednesday morning Healing Prayer service.

At Grace, we enjoy fellowship with other retired clergy, including: the Rev. Jim Phinney, the Rev. Bill Sell-Lee, the Very Rev. Bill Maxwell, the Rev. Patti Barrett, the Rev. Beth Orling, and the Rev. Bob Zimmerman.