

## In Brief – News from the Vestry & Program Ministry Council (PMC)

Your Grace leaders want to share our work you. If there's already lots of info about a program or decision in the e-News, we don't plan to share it here. So, briefly:

### PMC - news from 12/11/2019

- ✓ **Rector's Report:** Wren discussed plans for services for the Christmas season. She also asked program ministers to share activities for the Grace calendar in January and February, in order to invite participation.
- ✓ **Youth:** Faith talked about growing participation (and fun!) in the program. After a short break, Youth Group begins again Jan. 12.
- ✓ **Pastoral Care:** Welcome, Tom Leigh, who will partner with Florrie Munat on the Pastoral Care team, to provide PMC meeting representation. A celebration of Fran Moen's 38 years of Pastoral Care occurred within a December worship service. Many accolades to Fran, and thanks to Florrie for agreeing to lead the PC team.
- ✓ **Faith Formation** has been active in Advent, with meals, activities for children and families, quiet contemplation and several book study groups, both evening and midday. **Earth & Spirit** also hosted a book study. Kim reminded the PMC of activity bags for children to use at all services; we can help make newcomers aware of this opportunity. Upcoming activities: Couples' Retreat Feb. 8, St. Hildegard Retreat with Kate Kinney, date tba. Kim asked for suggestions for future programs and a brief discussion ensued.
- ✓ **Parish Life:** Program leaders have been busy supporting Faith Formation with set-up, meals and clean-up during Advent evenings.
- ✓ **Outreach:** Heather reported on four "Butterfly Gifts" awarded recently. One of our partners will be "in the spotlight" each month; Service Sunday, January 26, will put the spotlight on Chaplains on the Harbor. Heather asked for more people to help host activity tables for Service Sundays. In early January, Grace heard the moving stories of two high school students, one a refugee and one an asylee; both are pursuing citizenship and have received help from Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center (KIAC), another Grace Outreach partner.

**Streets of Seattle:** We were reminded that when evening events coincide with Streets of Seattle preparation activities, we will respectfully leave the kitchen free for SoS during their busy preparations (they have a standing reservation on the kitchen prior to each monthly Seattle trip). This month, those waiting for Advent activities "pitched in" and made stacks of sandwiches. More help for SoS is always a good thing.

- ✓ **Tribes:** We closed the meeting with a discussion of ideas to invite more participation in Tribes activities.

## **Vestry** - news from 12/18/201

**\*2020 Annual Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, Feb 23.** -- the wardens enthusiastically encourage members of Grace to attend. New leaders will be proposed, a 2020 operating budget will be proposed, and leaders completing terms will be celebrated. "Be there or Be Square."

**Annual Giving:** Julie updated 2020 Annual Giving; total pledges are at \$561,435 as of January 1, with 14 new pledges. The AG team plans one more round of calls before the end of the year.

- ✓ **Rector's Report:** Wren gave a brief review of some of 2019's accomplishments:
  - New Music Director, Martin Cockcroft, directed his first service in early January.
  - Faith Dougherty was hired as the Youth Ministry Coordinator in late summer.
  - The Grace Employees' Handbook was updated.
  - The Annual Meeting in February added new leaders in both Vestry and Program Ministry Council; later in the year, a new Place for Grace Minister was appointed by the vestry.
  - Newcomers dinners were warm and welcoming and a Newcomers' Brochure updated
  - Outreach launched Service Sundays, which continue each month. Outreach also launched a new program, Butterfly Gifts, and established Outreach Partner organizations.
  - The Vestry and PMC held a retreat in early spring which began a Strategic Planning process and talk sessions within the parish that is still ongoing.
  - Confirmation classes at Grace engaged youth and adults; 14 people were confirmed at St. Mark's in May.
  - Grace Summer Camp and Camp Resurrección engaged both youth and adults in lively fellowship in July. The Youth Pilgrimage followed, with trekkers heading to the mountains of Idaho.
  - Memorials, Weddings and Baptisms were performed throughout the year. In addition, parishioners received pastoral care visits.
  - Grace was well represented at the Diocesan convention, where a delegate and the rector began to explore the possibility of engaging a curate for 2020. Wren's letter to the congregation in mid-December confirmed the good news that Grace will welcome a curate in mid-2020.
- ✓ **Treasurer's Report:** Deborah referred to all November reports, sent to the vestry in advance; 2019 is currently in good balance. Year-end giving statements will be sent the first week in February.

A bookkeeping oversight was referenced and corrected by vestry action. The vestry also approved a *pro forma* resolution to define a portion of the rector's salary as housing expense, to comply with IRS rules.

Deborah presented a preliminary budget draft for discussion by the vestry. Much will depend upon 2019 end of year total pledge and plate figures. Projected 2020 expenses are similar to 2019; the draft was thoroughly discussed. The vestry approved a motion to fund the curate position in 2020 "off budget," using a portion of a bequest from a generous donor.

- ✓ **Lay Leadership:** Don reported the good news that he has recently confirmed several positions for both the Vestry and the PMC. A few positions are still in process; he will give a full report at the next meeting.
  
- ✓ **Annual Meeting:** Members of the vestry were reminded to begin draft reports for the Annual Report. Because the Annual Meeting will occur Feb. 23, for the month of February only, dates of PMC and Vestry meetings were switched.

Minutes of each meeting are available, once approved, the month following. Please ask at the Grace office, Mondays through Thursdays.

For a full listing of Grace Program Ministers and Vestry Trustees, refer to the [Lay Leadership page](#) on the Grace website.

Questions about "In Brief"? Please email Daphne Davies: [daphnedavies@msn.com](mailto:daphnedavies@msn.com).