

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

Submitted by Daphne Davies

Reports from January Leadership Meetings

Have you noticed that the reports from the leadership meetings referred to as “In Brief” aren’t really very brief? That’s because there are two meetings, with a combined number of specific reports equaling 16!!! That includes reports from staff, too, for Music, Faith Formation and Youth.

We start each meeting with **Evening Prayer or Holy Communion**, joining together in contemplating the readings, praying and reflecting.

The **Rector’s Report** gives us important news about **people new to Grace** and (sometimes) about those who have moved or moved on. Wren provided an overview of the Grace **onRealm data system** to the PMC. She highlighted the need, at both meetings, to assemble a strong planning team for **Camp Resurrección** (July). Kim C. had provided a thorough survey, review, and summary. A dedicated team of staff and volunteers must begin work on plans soon.

Confirmation, with the Bishop attending, will be May 17. Wren also reminded members of both teams about the “**Seasonal Newsletter**” in the e-News, highlighting a multitude of activities and events, including the Feb. 8 workshop and Feb. 9 homily of our **Curate, Stephen Crippen**, who will be with us by early July.

The **Wardens’ Report** is shared by the two wardens. This month, the wardens announced a schedule change: the PMC usually meets first (2nd Wednesday of each month). For February, the Vestry will meet in that time slot, with the PMC meeting the Wednesday following. This will provide the necessary time for the Vestry to consider and recommend the proposed **2020 Budget for the Annual Meeting (Feb. 23)**, and to share the draft budget with the program ministers in advance.

Tom Tyner reported that the **History of Grace book** started by Linda Fullerton and completed by David Moen and other members of the book committee will be available soon. He also encouraged members of the PMC and Vestry who may have verbal reports for the **Annual Meeting** to let him know.

PMC Report Highlights:

- **Membership**-Welcome dinners are a warm and personal way to get to know Newcomers to Grace; next, Jan. 26. ALL are welcome. P.S. The desserts are FABULOUS.
- **Pastoral Care**-In order to protect personal privacy, the Pastoral Care report is general in nature. Committee leadership has recently rotated, with Fran Moen’s “retirement.” Florrie Munat heads the team and Tom Leigh attends PMC meetings. Committee members serve as long as able. Gracies receive needed care and Tribes provide support, like rides to appointments, etc.
- **Youth Program**-Faith is creating a lively and engaging program for kids, despite fluctuating attendance. A dedicated core group of kids attend weekly; they sang holiday carols at a care

facility in December. Many youth have expressed interest in serving at Camp Resurrección this summer.

- **Outreach**-Heather reports lots of positive engagement with Service Sundays projects. Butterfly Gifts (mini-grants) were distributed in December. Monthly focus on each partner separately continues; Chaplains on the Harbor will visit Grace and speak to the congregation end of January.
- **Parish Life**-Pegge & Rachel talked about opportunities for fellowship, bolstering the connections in Tribes. The Parish Retreat (October) is already in planning; sites being reviewed. For 2020, a new partner will join Pegge in the PL team and Rachel will remain with the PMC as the Clerk.
- **Tribes**-Jane apprised the PMC of concerns with strengthening participation. A thorough discussion ensued, with many suggestions. Wren will work with Jane and Judy on messaging through the e-News.
- **Music**-Martin sent a report of increasing engagement in the Music Circle, especially highlighting solos by several Grace members. He continues to seek more music circle members. December was very full, with lots of energy and participation. The Interfaith Council concert is Feb.9 and Grace singers are preparing, with the help of Wendy Olinger.

Vestry Meeting Highlights

- **Treasurer's Report**-Deborah gave a general overview of the end of the year budget figures, which are still in process. 2019 pledges will still be logged through January; all is currently in good balance. By early February a full End of Year report and a proposed 2020 Draft Annual Budget will be provided for discussion by the Vestry.
- **Annual Giving**-Julie reported that the campaign officially closed with several encouraging new and renewed pledges. 204 pledging units have provided a campaign total of \$572,135. Julie also reported that the **Endowment Committee** met and may propose a series of estate/gift planning workshop(s).
- **Leadership**-Don shared a strong slate of proposed new leaders to fill open positions coming up on the Vestry and PMC, plus the Diocesan Delegates and Alternates. A current or former Vestry member will fill one of the Diocesan slots. By motion, the vestry **approved the slate and thanked** Don and Wren for the work involved. A motion was made and passed: Any changes to the slate, or added names, will be communicated and may be approved by email. Don will send a note to prospective new leaders with timelines, expectations and details. The **slate of elected Vestry and Diocesan Delegates is voted on at the Annual Meeting**. PMC members are appointed and a highlighted part of the Annual Meeting report.
- **Strategic Plan**-Judy (Human Resources), Chuck and Brian (both At-Large) provided a detailed update on the Strategic Plan. Because most of the people who attended Listening Sessions in the fall had attended Grace for 10 or more years, it's clear that more **input is needed from newer members**. A new planning draft proposed a series of **Critical Questions**. Goals refined to this point, and critical questions, will be forwarded to appropriate subgroups. A **space and facilities assessment** was proposed. Mike Leamon (Place for Grace) will facilitate the review process with a small sub-group of people who have expertise in space/facility review.