

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

Your Grace leaders have been working hard and want you to know what we're working on. If there's already lots of info about a program or decision in the eNews, we don't plan to share it here. So, briefly:

### PMC – news from 11/11/2019

- ✓ **Rector's Report:** Wren shared the names of Grace newcomers and encouraged leaders to recognize and welcome them. She also reported on Advent plans.
- ✓ **Outreach:** Cindy Logan reported on first "Butterfly Gifts" awarded to Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center (KIAC), Peacetreets Vietnam, Chaplains on the Harbor, and Isobel Coney for a prison art ministry. A report about Camp Resurrección is complete; plans for 2020 are under discussion.
- ✓ **Pastoral Care:** Florrie Munat will transition into program leader in 2020, and Fran Moen will step down. A newsletter, "What is Pastoral Care," is available and was published in a recent Grace Cares newsletter. Pastoral Care works closely with Tribe leaders to provide help for tribe members in need.
- ✓ **Parish Life:** Pegge Ashcroft will gain a new program partner in 2020. Rachel Brandt, the current program partner, will remain with the PMC as Clerk. The team reviewed the Parish Retreat, with an openness to consider other venues. Quarterly potlucks are planned for 2020.
- ✓ **Faith Formation** is very active in Advent, with special services to honor the quiet and the music, book studies, and more. See the eNews. **Earth & Spirit** will be active in partnership with Faith Formation.
- ✓ **Membership:** Mairead Shutt reported on a warm and inviting Newcomers' Dinner and a lively Ministry Fair in October. All who enter Grace are warmly welcomed at the door. **Reminder:** look around during the "Peace" and greet those you haven't met.

### Vestry – news from 11/19/2019

- ✓ **Place for Grace:** The Vestry welcomed Mike Leamon, who will be the interim Trustee for Place for Grace, following the resignation of Darin Gemmer. Mike will run for a full elected term at the **2020 Annual Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, Feb 23.**
- ✓ **Annual Giving:** Julie Shryock credited the A.G. team of Wendy Tyner, Mairead Shutt and Joe Paar, with the positive results of the campaign. Pledged to Date: \$533,405, with 188 households pledging (including 12 new households). The average pledge rose to \$2,837, all GREAT NEWS.
- ✓ **Treasurer's Report:** Deborah Schenk reported on the Finance Committee's review of all reports, the full text of which are provided to the Vestry each month. Despite some over-expenditures, there are also under-expended lines; all is currently in good balance.

The committee formed a team to review current investment accounts in a special gift holding, plus the Vanguard account that holds long-range investments for the Webster Chapel and Landscaping. The committee recommends the accounts should remain as/is until the Vestry sets a timetable for use of the funds. Questions about this may be directed to Deborah Schenk.

Because the Finance Committee was concerned about the significant amount of bank charges that Grace incurs, Walt Yund agreed to review those charges. After a thorough analysis, the Budget committee and Treasurer have concluded the fees are reasonable.

While the Annual Giving campaign was strong, the total doesn't match our goal. This presents challenges in planning for 2020; an early draft budget will be developed by the Treasurer for presentation at the December meeting.

- ✓ **What is God calling Grace to do and be in the next 2-5 years? – focus on Strategic Planning:** Judy McKenzie reported on the three formal "Talk Sessions" held at Grace in October through November – one after church, one a mid-weekday and one in the evening. The sessions helped us understand what Grace people Like, Wish for, and what challenges we perceive. However, the conversation must go on – in all, we talked to 25 people and heard from several via "poster wall comments," email and private conversations. Those heard from included a gender balance, as well as a balance of "years at Grace" experience.

Overall, there is lots of positive energy about Grace, especially the liturgy, the homilies, eclectic music, children's involvement in the service, faith programs for youth and adults, and a great deal more. Several wishes and challenges were also identified, but clearly this is a process that needs to access more members, especially newer families and individuals.

Judy and the "design team," Chuck Bombardier and Brian Forbush, will meet to set the next steps in the response-gathering process as we move to clarify and refine the answers to the big question: "What is God calling Grace to do and be?"

- ✓ **H.R.:** Judy McKenzie reported on the Diocesan Convention, which was attended by elected Grace delegates, including her. Because the diocese offers several sorts of parish assistance, Grace may seek Diocesan support for special future needs. A full report from the Convention appeared in a recent eNews.

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: [daphnehdavies@msn.com](mailto:daphnehdavies@msn.com).