

In Brief - Leadership News for May and June Meetings

Often, we report all the business of each meeting. However, most of the news has already reported in the e-News by the time minutes have been approved.

Minutes of the May meetings are approved and available upon request through the office. Brief bullet highlights follow. Minutes from the June meetings will be available in July after approval. The June report features selected "focus" spots on specific programs and ministry areas.

❖ PMC May 13 Meeting-

- Wren discussed the Reopening Plan, informed by State of Washington guidelines adapted and followed by the Diocese of Olympia. Things change frequently, but limited attendance, signage, and cleaning measures, as well as mask wearing, no choral singing and reduced communion will be part of a required Plan.
- Warden Luke Yoder reported on work he, office manager Diane McGrew, and parishioners Mike Leamon and Dan Rohan collaborated on to move Grace to a cloud server, providing faster and more reliable technical service at a cost savings. Migration to the new server will occur in June.
- Pegge Ashcroft outlined the Welcome Celebration for our new curate, Steven Crippen, on June 28.
- Outreach reported on "butterfly gifts," including one to a prison art ministry and one to Faith Episcopal Church, Poulsbo.
- Pastoral Care continues to focus on meaningful engagement with people who need care.
- Lots going on with Youth Zoom meetings.
- Two book groups happening in Faith Formation.
- The Wardens reported that the vestry will meet with Bishop Rickel on May 17.

❖ Vestry Meeting May 17

Visit with Bishop Rickel

Members of the Diocesan Council, Peninsula Region, joined the Grace vestry. Heather Paar provided insight into the Grace Outreach program, including Outreach partnerships, hands-on work on Service Sundays, and the intergenerational nature of this work. Judy McKenzie talked about the Grace Strategic Plan, its focus areas and development of the process. The Bishop reported on the state of the Diocese in the midst of the pandemic.

In turn, vestry members talked about what excited them, including a sense that "Grace-ness" abides even in hard times and that intergenerational connections anchor all of the work.

Vestry Business

- The vestry approved a motion to accept that all gifts made in the name of a recently deceased parishioner be restricted to landscaping and grounds, according to family wishes.
- Ann provided a development update on Annual Giving planning, including discussion of linking the launch of the campaign with strategic planning efforts.
- Deborah provided a finance report, including updates on pledge payments, plate revenue, and the procedures around the payroll protection loan Grace has received.
- The vestry approved a gift of \$200,000 from the estate of Kate Webster for the funding of pastoral care assistance at Grace. The vestry approved the Treasurer to invest the funds when received.
- The vestry approved and accepted a Memorandum of Understanding between the Webster heirs to the effect of amending the use of previously-donated funds from Kate Webster to the capital campaign 2008 for a [Webster] chapel. The M.O.U. allows the funds to be used for capital updates and/or replacements identified as priorities for improving space in the current Grace Church facility.
- As required for tax purposes, the vestry approved the designation of a portion of the rector's salary as a housing allowance

❖ PMC June 10 Meeting

Focus on Music: (excerpted from Martin Cockcroft's PMC Report)

I have continued in a more limited role due to work obligations. I help "produce" the Sunday morning services, and meet with music circle members on Wednesday nights. I will lead Sunday service again June 28, when musicians will play some outdoor music to welcome Stephen Crippen. Ann Strickland has planned and led most Sunday services this spring and done a wonderful job involving Grace musicians of all ages.

Members of the Music Circle are continuing to meet via Zoom. Music circle "re-entry" will have to be done carefully, in line with the diocese's guidance as well as people's comfort with this format.

We held our strategic planning focus group on Wednesday, June 3. Daphne Davies led the meeting, and Diane McGrew, Marcus Lane, Dusty Collings, Stephanie Coates, Matt Perri, Barbara Hume, Kelly Hume, Tom Ringo, Pegge Ashcroft, and Garth Edwards participated. It was a fantastic conversation.

Challenges & Silver Linings

Quarantine has been difficult on our music ministry. Zoom is brilliant, but audio degradation and latency are issues that prevent listeners from fully entering into the experience and that completely preclude playing synchronously live.

On the other hand, virtual church has enabled more musicians to get involved in Sunday services, including people who no longer live locally and young people and families who were either not confident enough or not available to participate before. This has been a powerful silver lining.

❖ Vestry June 17 Meeting

Focus on Place for Grace -Mike Leamon

Mike shared information about a potential gift to replace the missing maple in the parking circle, to memorialize a Grace family member. The vestry accepted the gift. Mike also reported on two potential future projects: a collaboration with the Island School on trails improvement and an Eagle Scout's proposal to construct a bike rack for Grace. Both projects are pending further discussion.

The vestry voted to approve the addition of a new budget line for 1099 (contracted) services, for Building and Property maintenance required by COVID-19 prevention cleaning, funded in the amount of \$700.

Wren shared proposed sketches for a memorial garden enhancement project. The vestry raised questions about preserving flexibility for future building expansions.

The vestry voted to approve up to \$3,000 to fund landscape architectural services for design enhancements to the current memorial garden. The vestry voted to accept a significant gift in honor of a founding parish family, for expansion of or updates to the memorial garden.

Focus on Budget & Finance - the Treasurer's Report

Deborah reported that we are currently in good shape, but there is reason to anticipate that circumstances could become more concerning later in the year.

The Vestry voted to authorize the Treasurer to apply for forgiveness of the Payroll Protection Plan (SBA) loan at such time as this option becomes available.

Deborah updated the vestry on accounts and investments, balancing amounts across several accounts to ensure FDIC limits of protection prevail. The vestry voted to approve an information security policy statement required by our online (Realm) credit provider, Vanco.

Deborah reviewed investment options for the Webster estate gift ("Chapel Without Walls" for pastoral care assistance) based on the recommendations of the finance committee.

She also reviewed the status of communications with parishioners regarding the request to lift the chapel restriction on donations remaining from the 2008 capital campaign. Grace members have been extremely supportive; to date, only one donor has requested that a gift be returned.

Focus on the Strategic Plan & Parish Survey -

Judy McKenzie reported that all focus groups are complete, except one with younger families and one focused on community-building. The plan will be drafted by end of August, as the focus of a board retreat with PMC and Vestry working together.

The Parish Survey closed recently, with 191 responses and solid representation across age groups, gender balance and length of membership. Overall, survey results were positive; a full report will be forthcoming when comments and data can be meaningfully synthesized. The survey will inform the work already accomplished by focus groups and factor into the final Strategic Plan.

Questions: Contact Warden Daphne Davies, daphnehdavies@msn.com