

also discussed preparation for the Leadership Retreat and review of the Strategic Plan.

Fishline "Safe Park" Proposal-

Daphne provided information about a Safe Park proposal from our Outreach partner Fishline. Wren, Daphne and Bridget Berry had met with/been in communication with Fishline about this, for Grace to provide overnight parking spaces for several Fishline clients who are temporarily unhoused and spending the night in cars. Safe Park is a 10-year program successfully working with several Poulsbo churches. More space is needed, especially one dedicated to families and another for members of the LGBTQ community.

Vestry members discussed the request thoroughly, asking questions about lighting, liability, safety of vehicle occupants, communications with neighboring properties, and more. Families and LGBTQ are two groups Grace clearly cares about. While the Vestry was highly supportive of this need, we were asked to follow up with other churches and get more information before finalizing an agreement.

Subsequently, Fishline withdrew the request because our site is too far from local needs for their clients. Grace may in future work with Helpline if there is a similar local need here.

Treasurer's Report -

The Treasurer provided full July Income/Expense sheets and other regularly provided financial reports prior to the meeting. Pledge income is unusually low for July, although it seems to be an anomaly; annual totals are currently keeping pace with projections. Deborah also reported on the current status of various funds, including the Schaeffer-Webster fund, dedicated to providing funding for our curate (with gratitude).

Development -

Ann New asked Vestry members to send statements about how each of us is "Living into Grace" in our leadership roles and our personal lives. Through the e-News, all members of Grace were asked to do the same; some statements may be shared in the Annual Giving campaign, set for September 20. Ann felt this was an opportunity for elected leaders to introduce ourselves more fully to the congregation.

Leadership -

Krista reported that she had placed a "welcome" letter in the e-News, inviting Grace members to let her know if they had an interest in serving in leadership roles. She mentioned that a personal invitation from another leader is also a potentially compelling way to encourage interest.

Place for Grace -

Mike gave an update report on the **Bike Rack** project, which is staged but not yet in construction by Ryan Alsberge, as an Eagle Scout project.

Mike had sent the Vestry background material and a draft **Trails Use** agreement in process for the Island School (proposal reviewed and agreement drafted by "Warden Emeritus" Tom Tyner). A motion was made and seconded to approve the agreement and it passed unanimously; a warden will sign and the agreement be sent to the school.

A similar request from the Island School to use **Grace field and patio space** for outdoor P.E. classes was discussed. The school is utilizing their own outdoor space as classrooms this fall. Mike also reported on another local agency which may request rental space for a children's program.

Subsequent to the meeting, Tom Tyner reviewed and provided a similar **Field Use** agreement. In an e-mail vote on August 31, 100% of the Vestry members voted unanimously to approve (as required by the Diocese for electronic voting). The signed agreement is filed with the Grace office.

Strategic Plan -

Judy reported on the status of the Strategic Plan full draft, which is being edited and revised in preparation for review/comment at the Leadership Retreat September 12. Stephen and Judy are working on a plan for a Zoom session retreat 9AM to 1:00 PM, with a long break and aimed at strong engagement, plus some fun. The goal is to provide the groundwork for a first-year work plan and the development of an Executive Summary to share with the congregation.

The meeting closed with a prayer.



PMC & Vestry Leadership Retreat - September 12

The two leadership boards gathered via Zoom on Saturday, 9:00 - 1:00, to provide responses to the **Strategic Plan draft** sent in advance by Judy McKenzie and Stephen Crippen, who organized the retreat. Aided by facilitators from the vestry, and joined by Patty Molloy and Tootie Kuhn (also facilitators), the group divided into small groups to focus on vital questions. Following an hour's break for reflection and creativity, the entire group reconvened. Participants shared personal reflections, and artistic responses. Facilitators reported on key emerging themes. In next steps, a revised draft based on the work of the retreat will be brought back for review and approval. An Executive Summary of the plan will be developed to share with the parish.

September Meetings:

PMC September 9

We opened with a reflection: "When has someone shown you mercy?"

Rector's Report:

Wren reported on the upcoming **Homecoming**; this year, people can come to Grace and get a blessing/prayer written by another Grace member.

Wren shared conceptual drawings for proposed expansion of the **Memorial Garden** developed pro bono by Grace member and landscape architect Cassie Picha, with a small team of other Grace members. The design features an arc extending into the field below the Columbarium. It includes other features detailed in the Vestry report.

Wren also reported on Re-Opening plans going forward and will report back on Diocesan guidelines. Small group gatherings early this Fall will precede reopening of indoor services, which will be limited in size.

Tribes are organized for the future and both ministers, Jane and Judy, will act as Tribe Hosts in addition to their leadership roles. Many Tribe hosts agreed to continue in their roles.

Faith Formation - Kim enthusiastically reported many plans for the upcoming season, all of which are detailed in the Sunday bulletin, as well as e-News.

Outreach reported a continuing and deepening focus on Grace partner organizations, for example, Fishline this month. They also reported on the

exceptionally generous gifts gathered for the families of La Iglesia de la Resurrección, which Cindy will deliver to Mt. Vernon. Funds set aside for the canceled Grace Camp Resurrección will also be sent to the church for use with member families.

Faith reported for the **Youth program**, which plans to gather in-person soon. Stephen is also working with the group. For the first activity, 18 youth responded.

Pastoral Care reported the ongoing (and increasing) needs for care. The group reviewed the Pastoral Care section of the Strategic Plan and is impressed by its depth. The ministry seeks to connect more closely with other ministries, such as the Caregiving Forum developed with Faith Formation.

Parish Life reported on plans for the "blessings corridor" for Homecoming. The **Parish Retreat** has been cancelled by Nature Bridge due to COVID-19 concerns. Some alternative form of gathering is under consideration.



Vestry September 16

Wren opened with a reflection on a reading from Jonah 3.

August minutes were approved. The wardens thanked the vestry, Judy and Stephen, for the work at the Leadership Retreat.

Rector's Report:

Wren asked for thoughts and ideas about a potential reopening for indoor worship with a Prayer service for up to 50 participants. Sunday morning service would continue on Zoom until we have worked out sound issues with a livestream.

A member raised concern about people unable to attend in person possibly feeling left out. Another mentioned the benefits of greater freedom in musical performances. We discussed a perception that people are feeling the need for personal connection and discussed how we might livestream with a congregation present. Wren will update the Vestry and PMC when she has a Diocesan response about current guidelines.

The **Memorial Garden** conceptual drawings were placed on the screen (presented in full in a previous meeting). Wren reminded members of the design

features, which include large boulders within an arc that extends behind the church, and a cross-shaped central feature down which will flow a rill emanating from the existing fountain. A "council circle" will provide gathering/worship space at the top of the arc. Boulders within the circle will not have names, but three large boulders in proximity of the circle and the existing large maple can be used to record the names of Grace members interred in the soil, or elsewhere. Project estimates were also brought back to the Vestry and discussed.

The Vestry was enthusiastic about the design and the goals of the project. Wren articulated the value and importance of honoring and being able to help children see and understand the birth-to-death cycle. A member noted that the garden design completes the esthetic established by the tree lined alley which leads to the font, the zinc line that extends from the font to the cross, and the metaphorical shadow of the cross that extends to the Columbarium and, in the design proposal, comes to rest in the ground beyond the church.

A lengthy discussion ensued. The Vestry will seek to better understand costs, how to fund it, how the project stems into other initiatives in the Strategic Plan and how to communicate with the parish.

Ann New reported for **Development** that **Annual Giving begins September 20** with an announcement during the Grace service. The campaign, "Living into Grace," will run one month.

Deborah gave the **Treasurer's Report**, referring to the Budget to Actual and other reports provided directly to the Vestry prior to the meeting. She also reported that the Finance Committee will be advisory to her if/when investment accounts need to be rebalanced; she will inform the Vestry when those occur.

Judy reported on **Human Resources**. Due to a processing/communications error on Stephen's healthcare plan during open enrollment, the Vestry made and passed a motion to add to the expense line in that category of the budget.

Judy also reported that the **Strategic Plan committee** will be meeting soon to incorporate feedback to the plan draft. She may reach out to Vestry members as the plan goes through revision.

We closed with a prayer.

*Minutes of governance meetings are available through the Grace Office following approval, which occurs at the start of each subsequent meeting.

Please send questions to: daphnehdavies@msn.com

Daphne Davies, Warden