

## In Brief - Leadership News for February & March 2021

- February:

A great deal of the work of both the **PMC (Program Ministry Council) and the Vestry** in February was in preparation for the Annual Meeting, which was held Sunday, 2/28, immediately following church.

At the PMC meeting, our last with some of our leaders, we had the bittersweet opportunity to say Fare Thee Well and express gratitude to leaders completing their terms: Mairead Shutt, Amanda Grossman, Jane Crane and Judy Cozine. We also had the opportunity to express gratitude to Cindy Logan, Heather Paar, Pegge Ashcroft, Florrie Munat, and our staff who continue in their PMC roles.

Florrie reported the many caring connections in Pastoral Care. Pegge talked about GOD (Gifts of Dirt garden project) in conjunction with Outreach. Cindy and Heather talked about the important local ministries that serve unhoused people in Kitsap County.

The Vestry's major task was to scrutinize the Budget & Finance Reports provided by our long-serving and hard-working Treasurer, Deborah Schenk, at her final meeting on the Vestry. The Vestry approved the proposed 2021 Budget for parish approval at the Annual Meeting; it is balanced using some of the 2020 surplus. Because the funding of a position for an assistant clergy position is a high priority for the Vestry, the balance of 2020 surplus funds will be added to the Webster Clergy Assistance Fund. The Vestry will be establishing a study committee to determine how Grace can continue to provide for assistant clergy.

The Treasurer presented the recent in-house Audit (required by the Diocese). An anomaly in the Grace reporting systems will be pursued by the current and previous bookkeepers, in concert with the incoming Treasurer, Terry Jones.

Place for Grace Trustee Mike Leamon presented a request, which was approved, for several repair/maintenance items.

- Annual Meeting:

The first-ever Zoom Annual Meeting convened February 28, immediately following church. An unprecedented 97 participant links (some representing more than one person) meant that Grace met and far exceeded its quorum of 50 members. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL that you chose to attend. We conducted our business according to the special Adopted Rules, met and welcomed new leaders, thanked outgoing leaders, continuing leaders and our staff, and celebrated Grace. We saw a slide show that resonated with the love and energy of kids and adults. We heard about a proposed Memorial Garden enhancement project, including outdoor worship space. And we reflected on what we had heard about our Strategic Plan for the next five years.

- March:

### **PMC**

Stephen shared a College of Congregational Development (Diocese of Olympia) model called Sources of Transformation (focusing on Prayer and Worship, Study and Learning, Life in Community, and Action). Members of the PMC reflected on the many ways Grace has embodied those attributes.

Wren asked for ideas and feedback on Holy Week offerings, which will feature increasing in-person opportunities, while we also continue to worship on Sundays via Zoom. PMC members highlighted the benefits from Zoom church, including closer and more personal conversations incorporating more voices in the "Coffee Hour" breakouts.

We welcomed and heard from new Tribes Ministers, Jeff Bassette and Greg Abell. Collectively, they bring deep professional skills in direct ministry, team building and interpersonal communications. For the present, the position of Membership Minister will be vacant, as these new leaders work with tribes and staff to determine next best steps, which may fold some membership functions into the tribes.

Cindy and Heather continue to lead Outreach work while awaiting new leaders; they mentioned that Service Sundays will return. Faith Formation continues a robust series of offerings for kids and adults. Two work parties have occurred in the GOD (Gifts of Dirt) garden, which will donate produce to local food banks. Prayer shawls are available by request: contact Florrie, Wren or Stephen. Youth are meeting in person and on Zoom. The Youth program is seeking adult mentors to attend groups.

### **The Vestry**

Wren shared the circular graphic of Life in Community, Learning & Study, Action, all anchored by Prayer and Worship. She used it to detail the many action steps already being taken in the recently shared Strategic Plan. As the plan unfolds, more links will be added to the grid, showing expansion and growth at Grace. She thanked Warden Luke Yoder for his technical help with Zoom broadcasts and for a review of the Grace telephone system which will lead to savings. She referenced plans for Holy Week, incorporating some in-person opportunities and events that engage children. A motion related to the Rector's Housing agreement was proposed and approved, allowing Wren to make specified improvements to her house at her own expense. Stephen's Curate's Report was sent in advance and details the long list of work he's doing: PMC coordination, Pastoral Care, Youth program and much more.

Daphne and Luke thanked the members for all their hard work, reflected in the reports and participation in the Annual Meeting. Next year's Annual Meeting is set for February 13, 2022.

Krista asked what trainings leaders may still need, to use onRealm effectively in accessing group lists, contacts, and more. She will schedule a training. A discussion ensued about the ability of members to access shared documents on Google Drive. Following some research and problem-solving, an orientation can be provided.

Mike reported on the status of current Place for Grace projects, including ongoing work by a small group assessing facilities maintenance. Refinishing of the altar and other maintenance tasks are complete. A motion was approved to accept the gift of a bench in honor of a parishioner. A tree planted recently by a Grace member in memory of a sibling is thriving in a spot where a tree had died.

Judy reported that Patty Molloy is leading a team to hire the new Grace Communications contractor, as the fabulous Lindsay Masters completes her work at the end of March, returning to graduate school. Judy also mentioned the Mutual Ministry Review process in which Wren and the Vestry participate (upcoming in May).

We welcomed and received the financial reports from our new Trustee for Finance (Treasurer), Terry Jones. Terry has met with each member of the Budget & Finance committee. We placed and approved several motions related to providing the appropriate signatories on the bank accounts and credit cards, removing outdated names and adding Terry and Luke. A motion was placed and approved to use funds from the Columbarium fund for a recent fountain repair.

Ann discussed establishing records which will be easily accessible to the next Development trustee. A brief discussion ensued, of the shared work of Development, H.R., and Budget and Finance relative to the Assistant Clergy Fund as part of a five-year plan.

The Minutes of each February meeting have been approved; for a copy, please contact Cindy at: [office@gracehere.org](mailto:office@gracehere.org). March Minutes will be approved mid-month in May.

Questions about this report? Please contact: [daphnehdavies@msn.com](mailto:daphnehdavies@msn.com)

Daphne Davies (Warden)