

In Brief - Grace Leadership Meetings - Notes from the Program Ministry Council (PMC) Vestry – November 2020

All meetings open and close with prayer, and often a reflection on a reading. Minutes of each previous month's meetings are approved.

PMC - Nov. 11

We heard Matt 25:14-30. Wren gave words of encouragement with this parable about a master who gave his slaves talents for investment.

The PMC reflected--What do we do with the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Wardens' report- Daphne:

A small task force is considering ways to fund a proposed memorial garden project. At the same time, Place for Grace is looking at future needs for all Grace facilities.

Annual Giving participation is nearing 90%!

Rector & Curate Reports:

Wren reports that the strategic plan is almost complete and planned for presentation in early 2021; we are receiving review help from the Rt. Rev. Brian Prior, Assisting Bishop in the Diocese. There will be a Thanksgiving Eve Zoom service. She is aware that parishioners are hoping to open the building for limited in person services and is working with the staff and Bishop Rickel to review what it may look like.

Stephen spoke about the Diocese Of Olympia Annual Convention, held the end of October. He was impressed with the circle of color discussions. Six resolutions passed focusing on antiracism efforts. Our Diocese is focused on developing cultural competence.

He expressed how rewarding it is to be involved with the small groups of high school students. They are discussing "Big Questions", which he facilitates.

Outreach:

Heather reported that we have begun our November "Month of Giving" with a call in the eNews for the Helpline Senior Giving Tree (\$25 Gift Cards) and Thanksgiving food donations to food banks at both Helpline and Fishline. This will continue throughout the month of November.

Typically in November our "Month of Giving" has intended to offer a menu of options for people to engage with giving/outreach. We have scaled back a little to try to prevent people feeling overwhelmed with monetary/donation requests in e-news, instead trying to focus on one need or ministry partner at a time. It is challenging to keep people connected.

Tribes:

Jane reported that parishioners have expressed how grateful they are that they can volunteer to do the Bible readings for the Sunday service. She suggested we could have in person services in future by tribe, with reservations (due to attendance limits during the pandemic).

Youth Ministry:

Faith talked about the current tween, middle school and high school small groups meeting in-person weekly. These are led by Wren, Stephen and Faith. Meetings average 8-12 youth and two adult participants each. Sessions last 3-4 weeks before they take a break to change topics or formats. This small group format is intense for the leadership, due to planning time required. For the month of November we are collecting food for Fishline. We will collect and deliver the goods on November 23rd. She is anticipating that the bonds that have formed in the groups will be strong even after COVID. All of the youth agree that the camaraderie is the best.

Faith Formation:

Wren reported for Kim. Small Groups continue to meet and flourish:

- Conversations on the End of Life Series
- Sacred Ground was launched (all the groups will have met this week)
- Advent Programming is well underway
- Wreath Making on the patio Nov 29th

Kim is very grateful for all the amazing things that keep happening at Grace.

Pastoral Care:

Florrie expressed that she is relieved that their work is not dependent on face to face encounters, due to health risks. The Care team keeps doing what needs to be done and strong bonds are forged. The team partners with Faith Formation and has been integral to the End of Life series.

Seasonal Decorations:

The PMC discussed Advent/Christmas decorations at Grace, in this unusual time. While the church is often empty, people may still visit for moments of reflection and solace. The consensus was to have decorations on trees outside Grace (lights, as is usual), but moderate, not overwhelming. Minimal lighting inside the narthex may also be added.

Vestry - November 18

Wardens' Report

- Daphne reported on a diocesan training about the impact of the pandemic on clergy and the Vestry later discussed options to be sure we are supporting Stephen and Wren during this stressful time.

Rector & Curate

- Wren reported on an offer for the diocese to act as agent for the parish and file a proof of claim on behalf of Grace in the bankruptcy action regarding the Boy Scouts of America (which the diocese is providing for a majority of parishes). A motion was made, seconded and approved to ratify consent.

Memorial Garden

- The Vestry has been discussing in some detail a proposal for expansion of the memorial garden, based on a design donated by Cassie Picha and proposed by parishioners beginning some time ago. This is an ongoing discussion.

Wren and Deborah reported on an option to fund the memorial garden from the following sources: the Landscaping Fund, the Moen Fund, a specific gift in the Vestry Discretionary Fund (previously in the now-retired Chapel Fund), and a proposal for in-house donations from individuals. The vestry discussed various formulas. Ultimately, the Vestry's concern for due diligence in the process resulted in a request for more firm bids and estimates before next steps. One member also called for a review of all potential improvement projects.

Place for Grace

- Mike asked the vestry for direction regarding whether to move forward on collaboration with the Bainbridge Island Parks regarding access and maintenance of a trail connection on Grace's property. The vestry expressed support for the partnership and the desire for Mike to continue to work on the agreement.
- The vestry approved using funding from the Road Repair budget line item to prune and clean-up the large maple located at the base of the open field opposite the memorial garden.

Development

- Ann reported that annual giving has reached 89 percent of goal (with 175 pledging households, resulting in \$511,952). The goal is \$575,000 for 2021.

Treasurer

- Deborah reported that the vestry has received monetary gifts in memory of Dick Shryock. The family has designated those gifts to be used for capital expenses, maintenance or improvements. In addition, Dick named Grace as the beneficiary of his IRA with the same restrictions. Under Grace's gift policy the vestry must accept gifts that come with restrictions.

The Vestry accepted the gifts in memory of Dick Shryock and the distribution of his IRA account, both restricted in use for capital expenses, maintenance or improvements.

Deborah reported that because of a failure with Wren's old computer, it was necessary to purchase a new computer.:

The Vestry agreed to cover the cost of the new computer from the capital reserve.

The vestry discussed the status and use of funds from Grace's PPP (federal Payroll Protection Program) loan.

Human Resources

- Judy reported that she is working on budget projections for personnel for 2021. She mentioned that the hiring process for a new parish administrator is underway (Diane McGrew will retire at the end of the year). She reported that a counseling and wellness benefit (EAP) is being added to employee health insurance.

Leadership

- Krista reported on the Leadership Orientation process, for which she had submitted a draft to the Vestry. She also mentioned several openings on the vestry and in the PMC for which she is seeking candidates. Krista and Wren are working closely on a list of potential candidates, to be proposed at the Annual Meeting in February.

Monthly minutes of each meeting are approved at the following session.

Please send any question about "In Brief" to: daphnehdavies@msn.com

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