

## Pastoral Care FAQs

### **Who needs pastoral care?**

At one time or another, *everyone* needs loving spiritual care. People tend to experience spiritual questions and crisis in times of greater stress, and stress is typically linked to **significant life transitions**. These might include:

- Death of a loved one
- Physical or mental illness
- Economic uncertainty (loss of job, poverty, homelessness)
- Birth and adoption
- Marriage, divorce, separation
- Family conflict
- Aging, isolation, cognitive decline

### **Who provides pastoral care?**

Each of us is called to care for one another, and each of us has special gifts that we can use to care for others: bringing Eucharist to the ill, quiet listening, offering food to relieve some of the pressure during a difficult time, or offering prayer for those in need. Each of these gifts becomes pastoral care when carried out in the name of Christ on behalf of the community.

The Pastoral Care Leadership Team's main concerns are:

- to ensure that pastoral care needs are met in a timely fashion while protecting desired confidentiality.
- to broaden our community's thinking about what constitutes pastoral care beyond a visit from clergy.

### **Pastoral Care Leadership Team**

Rector Wren Blessing oversees and guides the Pastoral Care Leadership Team.

Current members are:

Nancy Beck | [nlbeckspirit@outlook.com](mailto:nlbeckspirit@outlook.com)

Emily Chamberlain | [emchamberlain@mindspring.com](mailto:emchamberlain@mindspring.com)

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Florrie Munat | [fmunat@aol.com](mailto:fmunat@aol.com)

Jan Ringo | [ringoian@gmail.com](mailto:ringoian@gmail.com)

Judy Williams | [jbwms@comcast.net](mailto:jbwms@comcast.net)

## **Clergy Care**

The Rev. Wren Blessing provides pastoral care to members of Grace Church in partnership with Grace's Pastoral Care Leadership Team. Whenever possible, Wren hopes to be present with parishioners at the time of death, and to offer counsel during periods of transition.

**When requested, Wren will:**

- Offer prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of a child, or other family occasions and milestones.
- Offer a blessing of a home, or a service of prayer marking a transition or new season.
- Hear confession and offer the Rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent
- Meet with a family to prepare for baptism, or with a couple to prepare for marriage.

**In times of illness:**

Wren coordinates with Grace's lay Eucharistic Visitors to make regular home Eucharistic visits, or to pray with those who, due to serious illness or infirmity, are homebound or in a medical facility.

**Healing Prayer:**

Grace holds a Healing Eucharist on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m, providing an opportunity for prayer and anointing for anyone seeking grace and strength.

**In emergencies, including sudden hospitalization:**

Call Grace Church's office | **206-842-9997 Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm**

After office hours, or if you cannot get through to the parish administrator, call:

Wren Blessing | Rector | **406-422-9908**

Florrie Munat | Pastoral Care Team contact | **206-227-4896**

**At the time of death:**

Please contact Wren as soon as possible when a member of Grace Church becomes seriously ill or is near death.

**In other circumstances:**

Call the office during office hours (see above) to make an appointment with Wren Blessing or a Priest Associate (one of the retired priests who offer pastoral care at Grace.). If you call when the office is closed, please leave a message that will help us clearly understand your situation and immediate needs.