

Leadership News for December 2021

PMC Meeting

The Annual Meeting, open to the entire congregation, will take place on February 13, 2022.

Stephen announced that as many as six baptisms may take place on Easter morning.

Everyone is excited that Jordan has officially started as the Music Director at Grace. We plan to install and bless Jordan during an upcoming Sunday service.

We are continuing to evaluate and adjust to the evolving pandemic. In-person attendance has dropped recently, likely due to the omicron surge.

Pastoral Care--The PCLT is excited to start working with Home Groups on Pastoral Care. Each Home Group will have a Pastoral Care liaison with a direct contact on the PCLT. The biggest challenge is discovering the needs in the community. If you see a need, please contact the Pastoral Care liaison in your Home Group.

The Outreach Committee will continue to collect donations and with Service Sundays, maintaining covid precautions whenever possible. The need for collections for the needy remains high. If you have questions or see needs for Outreach, contact Heather Paar at: heatherpaar96@gmail.com or Cindy Logan at: cynthialogan63@gmail.com

Grace Home Groups will begin on February 1, 2022. 134 people have signed up. Most groups have 20-25 adults.

The Parish Life committee is looking at the possibility of a Parish Retreat in October, 2022. Location is yet undecided and covid restrictions remain a concern.

Children and Family Ministries reports that Sunday School for children will remain suspended until covid precautions allow.

Vestry Meeting

The Vestry discussed the possibility of vaccine requirement for Sunday morning services. Different opinions were offered and discussions continue while the progress of covid is closely monitored.

The church is currently negotiating a Temporary Trails Use Easement agreement with the City of Bainbridge. This will allow the public to access trails on Grace's property. Tom Tyner is reviewing the agreement.

The Music Director position has been increased from 15 to 25 hours per week.

The Diocese has approved a 5.5% COLA for all clergy in 2022. Stephen's salary has been adjusted accordingly. The portion of Stephen's salary classified as a housing allowance was increased to \$4700 per month.

20% fewer households are pledging, but the average pledge has increased by \$400. The Vestry discussed the challenges and options for closing the gap on the pledge target. Terry Jones reported that Grace will receive a \$43,500 tax refund due to the employee retention credit. Deborah Schenk was thanked for her work which helped facilitate the refund.

Terry reported that the AUP audit recommended a number of improvements to our accounting processes. Grace has transitioned accounting to Battershell and Nichols starting January 1, 2022. B&N has been very helpful during this transition, and many of their procedures will support the recommended improvements.