

Grace Church in the Mountains

2019 Annual Report

Annual Meeting - Sunday, December 1, 2019, 9:15 am



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Rector's Report

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God...finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Philippians 4:6 - 8

2019 has been an amazing year for Grace Church in the Mountains - a year filled with risk and beauty, change and constancy. God has blessed us with incredible resources - namely each of you and the gifts you bring. Each of you is one of the “living stones” that is being built into a spiritual house. This year we’ve been blessed to add 36 new members to our parish family, 8 of whom are under 18. Clearly God is working through our ministries to provide a place of nourishment, belonging and joy at Grace Church. Together, we’ve also mourned the deaths of eleven saints whose legacies of kindness, common sense, musicality and so many other gifts will be carried forward by our community with God’s help.

In January, the Vestry set off to Lake Logan for a two-night retreat. On Friday night, we watched the Fred Rogers documentary “Won’t You be my Neighbor.” The film’s message of simplicity, presence and love helped to set the tone for how the Vestry operated all year - with diligence, compassion and joy. At the retreat, we modified our missional priorities based on prayer and discernment. Below you’ll see the 2019 missional priorities and many of the ways we’ve pursued them this year:

1. To steward God’s creation faithfully.
 - a. Installing a dishwasher to reduce use of paper and plastic
 - b. Education hour focused on book *Reforesting Faith* and “Finding God in Nature”
 - c. Creation care was focus of the monthly evening worship service “The Gathering”

2. To develop a vibrant ministry to children, youth and young adults.
 - a. Trained 8 Children’s Chapel leaders and have that every Sunday
 - b. Clarified mission of Grace Giving Garden as a teaching garden
 - c. Offering overnight hospitality to women and children without homes “Cold Grace”
 - d. Special worship services including The Gathering and Family Ash Wednesday service designed to meet needs of multiple ages
 - e. Resilience documentary shown at Social Issues Forum
 - f. Family Mission Trip to Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry in Dunn, NC
 - g. Episcopal Church Women support for children’s playroom at Pathways

3. To enhance our ministries to meet the needs of seniors.
 - a. Buildings and Grounds enhancements
 - i. Railings installed around church
 - ii. Bathroom accessibility improved
 - iii. New “limited mobility” parking spaces
 - iv. Received grant from Diocese to install automatic doors
 - b. Experiment with Senior Lunches one Wednesday a month
 - c. Developed Homebound Ministry teams and trained 16 parishioners to serve in this ministry
 - d. Workshop in Lent about funeral planning, advanced directives, hospice care, etc.

We also have been working on improving our organizational processes in order to develop strong lay leadership. This was the first year we implemented Vestry Standing Committees: Finance, Buildings and Grounds, Parish Life, Outreach and Education. As with any new process, there were bumps in the road. We made some adjustments mid-stream, like removing pastoral/congregational care responsibilities from Parish Life, and plan on making additional process improvements next year.

I would be remiss if I didn't offer special thanks to God and all those whom God inspired to support our Icons in Transformation Exhibit. This exhibit was energizing for us as a parish, helping us develop new friendships, offer hospitality to nearly 2,000 visitors, and see and experience the beauty of our Nave (sanctuary) in new ways. We now have a new "arts ministry" at Grace, which, God willing, will bear all kinds of Spirit-saturated, creative fruit.

Our worship life has been full this year with special services including several Taizè services, an Evensong, a Saturday evening Easter Vigil, an awesome family Ash Wednesday service and the steady leadership of our choir with members: Kathy Alley, Jackie Blevins, Kathleen & Bob Vogt, Diane & Bill Collins, Peter & Paula Welling, Carlos Matthews Davis, J. Mark Taylor, Kenneth Ratcliffe, Mary & Mike Hartman, Mary Alice & Michael Lodico, Bill Simmons, Meg Smith, Jan Treston, Ann-Cherie & David Dye, Pam Davis, Nancy Fergusson and Betty Bradley. Also grateful for our new monthly worship service, The Gathering, and its worship music leadership: Asia Clarke, Tim Hussey, Daniel Yeargin, Paula Brandt, & Brian Schaefer,

A final highlight of the year was the ordination and ongoing ministry companionship of our fabulous Curate, the Rev. Gaelyn Evangreene. Her leadership, teaching and preaching has been such a gift to the Grace community.

In the year to come, I hope to focus on building up our Grace Church Endowment to ensure God's ministry through our parish for generations to come. I look forward to offering a 24-week Bible Study, working toward a more sustainable youth ministry, and improving audio-visual capabilities here at Grace. Of course, my primary role and privilege is to proclaim the Good News...and I'm blessed to be in a community that is a sign of God's goodness and grace is redeeming the world bit by bit, piece by piece, here and now. Thanks be to God.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Joslyn Ogden Schaefer+



Senior Warden's Annual Report

We are blessed to be a growing church. If you've been at church for our seasonal newcomer welcome liturgy, you have seen the new folks we are welcoming into what Bishop Curry terms "the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement." I credit Joslyn with some of this growth, as she has become well known and respected in our local community, and in fact at our newcomer meet up in November, a couple of our new folks said they came here because they had heard of Joslyn. But I think it's mostly that God is calling people to join in God's mission as it is being carried out here at Grace Church. We are blessed!

Growth isn't always easy, and those who study church growth say that the hardest size transition for a congregation is from a "Pastoral" church to a "Program" church. A Pastoral church is one with about 50 - 150 in attendance, so a place "where everybody knows your name" and where organization is low-key and flexible. The Program church, with an attendance of about 150 - 350 by nature needs a more formal organization of programs and ministries. Our attendance numbers put us right in the boundary between these two models of church. In this larger structure, one cannot know everybody, or be active in all that goes on, (sometimes I can't even keep track of all that goes on here). And that can feel like loss. For those who are feeling loss, I offer this meditation by Bishop Steven Charleston:

"Close your eyes and open your heart, then speak to the Spirit as she glides above you, her great wings widespread to hold back the chilling wind, her eyes bright as firelight, her voice a gentle power older than the night. Speak to the Spirit and she will hear you, and when she speaks back time will not move, and your fear will fall like leaves, and your spirit will be lifted up, and you will be made ready again: ready for any tomorrow, whatever tomorrow may be."

When Joslyn arrived almost 3 years ago, we handed her our list of over 50 ministry groups, and basically said, "Good luck herding all these cats!" Under her leadership, your Vestry has called Standing Committees to oversee ministry groups in a more structured arrangement, with each Committee having a Vestry liaison to maintain connection between Committees and the Vestry. And each year at our Vestry retreat, your Vestry discerns Missional Priorities for the coming year, to enable us to focus our ministry efforts. This year the Missional Priorities have been:

1. To steward God's creation faithfully.
2. To develop a vibrant ministry to children, youth, and young adults.
3. To enhance of ministries to meet the needs of seniors.

Your Vestry then discerns S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Results-focused, and Timebound) Goals for each Missional Priority and tracks progress on meeting those goals. When one is met, your Vestry discerns a next step toward that Priority and sets a new S.M.A.R.T. Goal. Many of the goals are carried out by a ministry group under the guidance of their Standing Committee, and in communication with the Vestry Liaison for that Committee. Details for the work done towards our Missional Priorities for this year should be in the Standing Committee reports.

Our Annual Giving Campaign is the foundation for all that we do in carrying out God's mission here at Grace Church. Your Vestry will finalize our budget for 2020 this month, and that budget is based on pledge income. Both Mission work and Maintenance of our buildings and grounds require money. If you have not yet pledged your support for 2020, I urge you to do so as soon as you can. The other component of our Annual Giving Campaign is the pledging of your Time and Talent to join in the mission work that goes on here. If you have received your green card, you noted that it is in two parts, one for pledging financial support, and one for pledging support of time and talent in direct work with our ministries. Both are vital. Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches." May we bear much fruit.

-Paula Welling, Senior Warden 2019



Administration/Personnel/Staffing

2019 has been a year of transitions for our staff. Dawna Wade, Parish Administrator & Bookkeeper resigned in the summer, and we hired Andrea Croskery for that role. Sarah Yeargin filled in as interim parish administrator for a few weeks, and Alyson Nelson served as interim bookkeeper for a few months as Andrea was being trained. Charles Banks resigned as Director of Music at the end of July, and we have been served faithfully by Lillian Daniel and other able substitutes. Dawna Keilman, our Nursery Supervisor, tendered her resignation in October but remains on staff as the search for another nursery supervisor is ongoing.

The parish began using ADP to process payroll in October on the recommendation of the Diocese.

An “Agreed Upon Procedures Review” of our finances (similar to an audit) was conducted by an outside firm, and the Vestry made several small changes to its procedures.

The Vestry continued the work began in 2018 with the by-laws revision by updating our policies and procedures. The Vestry also revised our Endowment policies



Parish Life

Vestry Charge: To care for our parish community and welcome and incorporate newcomers and the ministry groups that fall within the committee's responsibility.

Members: Mary Lou Daily – Chair, Lauri Sojourner – Vestry Liaison, Joyce Brooks, Sue Shirley, Linda Deeb, Chas Lawrence, Natalie Bayless

Missional Priorities:

1. To steward God's creation faithfully (MP1)
2. To develop a vibrant ministry to children, youth, and young adults (MP2)
3. To enhance our ministries to meet the needs of seniors (MP3)

The first meeting of the Parish Life Committee was February 3, 2019. This committee has been given a budget to manage as funds are requested for events sponsored by the various Parish Life ministry groups. The Parish Life Committee will organize and/or support requests for events from the vestry and Parish Life Ministry Groups. (MP1)

Originally Parish Life included 3 Areas: Fellowship, Congregational Care and Newcomers however in April it was determined that our charge was so broad that the Congregational Care area needed to be moved to a full committee designation.

Parish Life Ministries Groups now function in two areas: Parish Life and Newcomers

- ECW – Mary Lou Daily, President (meets quarterly)
- Men of Grace – KG Watson, Chair (first Saturday breakfast at 9 AM)
- DOK – Jo Phelps, President (meets monthly)

- Fellowship / Event Planning - Linda Deeb, Chair
- Sew Graceful (Quilters) - Carol Lans, Chair (meets on Saturdays at 10:00 AM)
- Marthas - Paula Welling, Chair (meets on Thursdays at 10:00 AM)
- Hikers - Karen Morris, Chair
- Arts Ministry added in October - Sue Shirley , Chair
- Greeters - Chas Lawrence & Natalie Bayless, Chairpersons
- Coffee Hour - Those who sign up will be sent an email with guidelines and a schedule. People will be responsible for finding their own substitutes.

2019 Parish Life Events

- February 10 - Ice Skating
- March 3 - Mardi Gras Party
- April 3 - Artist's Reception
- May 5 - Newcomers Liturgy
- May 26 - Blessing of the kitchen after the second service with a heavier coffee hour. (MP1)
- June 20 - Reception for Curate ordination.
- June 22 - July 20 - Safe Movement, Saturdays at 12:30 PM (MP3)
- July 20 - Lake Logan Summer Series Music and Food (\$20 per carload)
- July 27 - Parish Fair was a big success with \$23,000 + to use for community outreach. (MP1)
- August 1 & 2 Multitudes of Grace (Bible School) (Dinners organized by Parish Life) (MP2)
- August 11 - Tubing (MP2)
- August 24 - Tablesapes Luncheon
- September 8 ,15, 22 & October 13 - Episcopal Church 101
- September 15 - Parish Picnic (Funding by Parish Life)
- September 29 - 5th Sunday Pot Luck Brunch between services (Parish Life)
- November 5 - Contra Dancing (MP2)
- November 20 - Senior Luncheon (Parish Life/ECW) (MP3)
- December 14 - ECW Cookie Sale
- December 18 - Senior Luncheon (Parish Life/ECW) (MP3)
- December 1 - Annual Meeting (Election of Vestry)
- December 22 - Greening of the Church (MP1)
- Coffee hours scheduled through December

Suggestions to improve Parish Life Events:

- Committee determined that one of the best ways to make important announcements is in the weekly Sunday church bulletin.
- Fellowship / Event Planning - Suggests that different ministry groups coordinate a Senior Luncheon on Wednesday after the Healing Service and state it's for anyone, not just seniors.
- Ask each committee to be in charge of one meal for Lent. Ask Vestry to endorse.
- Committee chair will email committees with updates from the committee and ask them to send updates in order to better communicate with all of our ministry groups.

- The Greeters’ ministry has had challenges in growing the program; getting recruits, training and developing a “ministry description” for greeters. Help from the vestry would be helpful.
- Increase the budget or allow having a voluntary “tip” jar to defray costs especially for events that include meals.
- Conduct an annual survey asking: 1. What is a good fellowship experience you have had?
2. What additional events would you like to see? This will be helpful to guide the scheduling of events next year.
- Keep a record of attendance at events to assist in better preparation or to eliminate the event entirely.
- Create a better process (designated responsibility) for setting up (chairs, tables, audio visual, etc.) for events and rearranging afterward.

The most successful events include:

- The Parish Fair
- Sunday Pot Luck Brunch between services
- Parish Picnic (Funding by Parish Life)



Buildings and Grounds

Vestry Charge: To maintain current facilities, steward the Church’s property, and implement property changes as directed by the Vestry.

Membership: Bob Vogt, Chair; Crystal Clary & Kenneth Ratcliffe, Vestry Liaisons; Joe Tyburski, Kathie Johnson, Joe Root, Kent Clary & Tony Sexton

It has been a busy year for Buildings and Grounds but also an exciting one. To meet the needs of what was normally accomplished by our Sexton, we formed an “On-Call B & G Team,” a unique group of 12 individuals. When there was a B&G need, the church office would call the On-Call Team member for that month and the task would be dealt with.

To meet the needs of seniors, we upgraded our kitchen. No longer does it take 2-3 hours to wash a load of dishes, with two residential dishwashers and someone (thank you Melissa Van Noppen) to return the next day to unload and put the dishes away. Our new commercial dishwasher takes 2 to 3 minutes a load! To meet the needs of those parishioners who need a meal now and then from our homebound ministry, we replaced the 23-year-old fridge/freezer with two commercial units, giving us much more room for storing food at safe temperatures. We also have new stainless-steel countertops and new flooring and a garbage disposer!

In addition, we added hand railings on our grounds, both in our Giving Garden and at our front patio steps. On Sundays we now have two Limited Mobility Parking spaces and a specific loading/unloading

parking space. Very soon we will have accessible electric door openers at the outside glass door closest to Thatcher Hall and into the Sanctuary at the end of that hall.



Congregational Care

Note: This is a Rector's Committee, not a Vestry Committee. Therefore, it isn't "charged" by the Vestry.

Leadership: Maureen Hunt, Prayer & Card Coordinator; Joyce Brooks, Homebound Ministry Team Coordinator; Pam Davis, Chair

The Congregational Care Team consists of members of our parish who want to offer care to the members of our church family. If a member indicates an interest on the time and talent section of the stewardship card, a member of the Congregational Care Team will contact them. Opportunities to serve include: writing cards to members who are experiencing events needing support or joyful recognition, preparing meals for members in time of need and organizing dates and delivery of meals, visiting parishioners, and serving on "homebound ministry teams."

In September, 16 parishioners completed a six-hour training in order to serve as pastoral visitors and/or on our homebound ministry teams. So far, we've served three parishioners through our team approach, but many others have received support through cards, prayers, meals, occasional rides to doctors appointments, etc.

All of our activities are under the guidance of the Rector. We depend on good communication between church members and the committee. We follow strict guidelines of privacy and respect.

The team is in need of active members. Please contact Pam Davis or the church office if you would like to know about opportunities to serve.

Eucharistic Visitors

Scheduled by Kent Clary; Trained by Dn. Br. Ray Escott

Maybe you have experienced our service of "Sending Forth" our Eucharistic Visitors with a travel case prepared for sharing Holy Communion with our homebound or hospitalized members. We have a small, dedicated group of EVs including Donna Buckner, Kent Clary, Jim Treston and Bob Stambaugh. A training for additional Eucharistic Visitors is scheduled for December 15.

Along with Joslyn+ and Dn. Ray, our Eucharistic Visitors have made approximately 60 visits this year either in homes, hospitals, or care facilities. For more information, please contact Dn. Ray or the Rector.

Daughters of the King

St Teresa of Avila is the chapter of The Daughters of the King at Grace Church. We are an Order of the Episcopal Church dedicated to prayer and service

To the church. Our vows are to pray, serve, and evangelize. We pray daily for the people on our prayer list. Christ is the center of our life and work

Our primary service at Grace Church has been to provide the funeral receptions for family members. We have done dozens of these receptions for over 20 years. For many years, we have also delivered poinsettias to our shut ins and the bereaved at Christmastime. We do make a yearly gift to a charitable organization. The display case in Thatcher is in our care to display pieces of history of Grace Church...

Daughters themselves are involved in every facet of our church's life.

A daughter may be identified by the engraved silver cross she is wearing. There are currently 18 daughters in our Chapter. Our meetings are held the second Saturday of each month. We have various studies revolving around our vows and relationship to God. We have just finished "Continuing the Journey," and our current study is "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World." Anyone interested may contact Jo Phelps or a Daughter of the King. We would love to have you attend a meeting.

For His Sake...Jo Phelps, President, Daughters of the King



Education

Vestry Charge: To grow in the knowledge, service and love of God as followers of Christ informed by Scripture, Reason and Tradition.

Membership: Rob Viau & Mary Lockey, Vestry Liaisons; Chairs have included Joslyn Schaefer+, Nancy Armstrong and Laura Armour; The Revs. Mike Shirely and Earle Pratt, Donna Buckner, and Bill Simmons.

It has been a good year for Christian education/formation at Grace in the Mountains. While we have taken a step back with our youth ministries- temporarily- we are hopeful that the seeds have been planted for future growth in the areas of Children's Chapel, Vacation Bible School, and ministries for newcomers and candidates for confirmation/reception.

Retreat:

The Education Committee scheduled a special meeting on September 13 in order to formulate a mission statement. This was done to get the Spirit to lead us in formulating a mission statement that would guide us in our endeavors. Eden Lewis, Diocesan Missioner for Youth and Young Adults, contributed as an outside consultant and Mike Shirley provided a video to set the stage for this important effort.

This is the mission statement adopted by the Education Committee:

Create welcoming spaces for all people to encounter "the loving, liberating and life-giving God" through study, storytelling, fellowship and prayer.

Throughout the year, the committee tried to offer educational programs aligned with the parish's three missional priorities.

1- To steward God's creation faithfully

Sunday Forums:

Where do you find God (or where does God find you) in Nature
Reforesting Faith book study

Our summer intern, Madison Owen, brought children from the Pigeon Center to work in the Grace Giving Garden.

2 - To develop a vibrant ministry to children, youth, and young adults

The Education Committee took a hiatus at the first of the year to re-gear and reflect on our purpose. The group studied the book Will Our Children Have Faith?.

Children's Chapel-

Madison Owen began this program during her summer internship in 2018. In the Fall of 2019, we decided this would be a year-long offering (not just in the summer) and recruited and trained eight volunteer leaders.

Summer Internship- Madison Owen was hired to serve as the Summer Service Intern at Grace. Madison led inter-generational formation, led Morning Prayer, taught classes, and helped at the Pigeon Center. She also coordinated Vacation Bible School and was instrumental in starting Children's Chapel.

The four "education hour" classes for children were disbanded in May because of lack of attendance, and replaced by one class for all children youth led by Sarah Yeargin, who is paid \$100 to offer these. Many thanks to the people who devoted their time and energy to the four classes:

Catechesis:

Louisa Lunt
Laura Armour
Linda Sexton

Rite 13

Crystal Clary
Sarah Yeargin
Mary Hartman

Godly Play

Karen Morris
Linda Deeb
Donna Buckner

I2A

Karly Wells
Mary Lockey
Rob Viau
John Zeller

Youth activities have been scheduled monthly by the Rector beginning October, though the Committee would like this to be lay led moving forward.

3 - To enhance our ministries to meet the needs of seniors

Sunday Forum on the History of Grace Church (Mary Lou Daily and Donna Buckner led this)

Intergenerational Activities & Programs (Combination of 2nd and 3rd missional priority):

Icons in Transformation

Grace in the Mountains was transformed by the Icons exhibit featuring internationally acclaimed multi-media artworks by Ludmila Pawlowska. this year. More than a thousand people of all ages visited our church and witnessed the remarkable juxtaposition of traditional and modern abstract sacred art. In addition to the exhibit itself, Grace offered programs on art and art history (Visio Divina) as well as worship services and sacred dance. Six Sunday Forums were conducted in conjunction with this exhibit. The J2A and Rite 13 classes made icons. All ages in our parish participated and welcomed the surrounding community in our embrace and celebration of the power of art. The six paintings our church members bought are a lasting treasure and reminder of the exhibit's impact on us. And the legacy of this impact lives on in the newly created Arts Ministry.

Vacation Bible School- Our Vacation Bible School was led by our intern, Madison Owen. The theme was “Multitudes of Grace” and the intergenerational activities included crafts, games, discussions and songs which helped us learn about worship around the world. The group of about thirty children and adults met August 1, 2 and 3 and concluded with using a labyrinth for meditation and receiving the Eucharist. Many thanks to all of the adults (Madison Owen, Donna Buckner, Asia Clarke, Rob Viau, Mary Hartman, Mary Lockey, Mother Gaelyn, Joslyn Schaefer, Lauri Sojourner, Vicky Gribble, Laura Armour, Wendy Forbes, Linda Deeb, Sarah Yeargin, Linda Sexton, Pam Vaughn, Blair Bishop, Dave Crowder and Jan Treston) who made this such a successful and meaningful experience.

Sunday Forum—frequently intergenerational

Other:

Education for Ministry (EfM)

In May, 2019, Laura Armour, Elaine Dohms, and Mary Lockey were acknowledged for completing the four year EFM program sponsored by The School of Theology at The University of the South. Laura and Mary completed mentor training in June, and a new EfM class began in September. New members include: Bill and Diane Collins, Alan King, Amanda Hill, and Paula Welling. Returning members are Joyce Brooks, John and Derick Zeller.

Deck Discussions

During the summer months, deck discussions have provided an opportunity for members of grace church to gather for both fellowship and stimulating conversation. It has given to those attending the chance to learn more about one another as well as to broaden each other's perspective on controversial issues. Father Orion Davis, the facilitator, plans to offer deck discussions again next year.

Pub Theology

Rob Viau formed this group in order to discuss theology in relation to a contemporary world and enjoy his favorite brew. The Pub Theology group meets every 2nd Monday year-round at a local business at discuss lively and sometime "edgy" topics.

Lectionary Studies concurrent with Sunday Forum

The lectionary group, formed by Mike Shirley, has continued to meet weekly to study the scripture assigned to be read each Sunday by the lectionary. Attendance has ranged from 4 - 12 adults. Those who participate have continued to build a sense of community with each other.

Bible Studies

Joslyn+ and Mother Gaelyn lead a four-week study on the parables of Luke.



Finance

Vestry Charge: To oversee monies gathered through parishioners' giving, entrusted through our endowments, and any other funds, by developing annual budgets monitoring investments, auditing church finances annually and advising the Vestry.

Membership: Jim Moore, Committee Chairman and Sandy Curtis, Treasurer. Other members included Sara Tyburski, Melanie Walt, the Rev. Orion Davis, Peter Welling, Alyson Nelson as Asst. Treasurer, Fred Deeb, and Mary Hartman and Dale McDonald, Vestry Liaisons.

Highlights:

- Fred Deeb coordinated our annual "agreed upon procedures review," completed by a local CPA firm.
- We advised the Vestry about updating is Endowment policy.
- Fred Deeb transitioned Treasurer's duties to Sandy Curtis. Alyson Neslon has been serving as assistant treasurer to also help with the transition.
- Mortgage Loan Update: The Finance Committee recommended to the Vestry to pay off the remaining balance of our loan. The Vestry approved this recommendation and Sandy Curtis completed the transaction.
- During the monthly meetings, budget updates and spending by the committees were reviewed and discussed.
- An asset inventory is currently being evaluated and updated by committees.
- Sandy Curtis updated our insurance policy and added coverage for our Icon artworks.
- We are have converted to a new payroll system for our employees, ADP. This is in compliance with the Diocese.
- The Finance Committee representatives participated in the Ministry Fair.
- The Finance Committee continued to follow the Financial Visioning Guidelines.

A balanced budget approved for the 2019 year, has been maintained and is currently on track to meet expectations. Discussions continue to look at budget items for the 2020 calendar year with recommendations upcoming to be made to the Vestry.



Stewardship

Note: This is a Rector's Committee, not a Vestry Committee. Therefore, it isn't "charged" by the Vestry.

Leadership: Rector, Vestry, & Treasurer

This year the Vestry elected to take responsibility for Stewardship. We offered a Lenten program to help people think about their financial well-being in practical ways and their legacy. We offered two adult forums - one on generosity another was a bible study on Matthew 6.

The Vestry created a Stewardship statement in preparation for its 2019 Annual Campaign, Growing in Grace: As the Vestry of Grace, we **believe** God provides all things, both spiritual and material.

We **commit** to:

- Pray
- Hold household conversations about Christian stewardship
- Give proportionally
- Increase the percentage of the parish's budget for outreach
- Conserve and care for the church's resources

We **invite** the people of Grace Church to:

- Recognize all the ways God has blessed your life and the gifts you have received
- Reflect on your gifts and talents
- Give back to God through Grace Church that which you can give with a grateful heart

Personalized letters were sent to the Parish in October that included a 2020 Commitment card with opportunities for members to give of time, talent and treasure. The members' offerings were consecrated on All Saints Sunday.



Outreach

Vestry Charge: To enable our hands to be God's hands in caring, comforting, and advocating for God's people beyond our doors.

Membership: Michael Lodico, Chair; Paula Welling, Vestry Liaison; Sue Shirley, Secretary; Linda Sexton, Betsy Stecher, Vicky Gribble, Gwen Breese & Stephen Hattendorf

The Outreach Committee oversees ministries beyond the walls of the church through **service**, **education** and **funding**. The specific ministries are described below. The connections to the three missional priorities are indicated as follows:

1. To steward God's creation faithfully. ~ STEWARDSHIP
 2. To develop a vibrant ministry to children, youth, and young adults. ~ YOUNG PEOPLE
 3. To enhance our ministries to meet the needs of seniors. ~ SENIORS
- **Food Pantry** – the Grace Church in the Mountains Food Pantry is a Service Ministry supports food-insecure families in our community through weekly distribution of food. It is staffed by volunteers and funded through your pledge. The Pantry is also an Education Ministry in that it provides clients information about healthy diet and cooking. [YOUNG PEOPLE, SENIORS, STEWARDSHIP]
 - **Grace Giving Garden (GGG)** – the GGG is an Education Ministry that provides lessons to groups of young people about growing healthy, fresh food. GGG is also a Service Ministry since the garden produce goes to the Food Pantry for distribution to guests. The GGG's mission is "To grow and share God's bounty in fellowship and learning with people of all ages." The GGG had an active summer, providing workshops for a number of young people in our community and beyond. [YOUNG PEOPLE, STEWARDSHIP]
 - **Social Issues Forums** – these forums, which are open to the public, are an Education Ministry. They promote deeper understanding of complex social issues. Two forums took place in 2019, one in January on the opioid crisis in Haywood County, and one in November on childhood trauma factors and resilience. [YOUNG PEOPLE, SENIORS]
 - **Parish Fair** – Grace Church's annual Parish Fair is overseen by the Outreach Committee. The fair is a Funding Ministry since all funds raised are given to non-profits in Haywood County. The 2019 fair was a great success, raising twice as much money as the 2018 fair. [YOUNG PEOPLE, SENIORS, STEWARDSHIP]
 - **Recurring Hands-on Projects** – this is a Service Ministry that oversees the monthly dinners at Haywood Pathways center, as well as other projects. [YOUNG PEOPLE, SENIORS]
 - **Short-Term Hands-on Projects/Parish-wide Appeals** – the Outreach Committee is a clearinghouse for communicating and, on occasion, organizing service opportunities in the community. Parish-wide appeals in 2019 included "Undie Sunday," which collected children's clothes for Clothes for Kids; the Warming Tree, which gathered new clothes distributed

through Haywood Pathways; and the Christmas Angel Tree, which gathered gifts for homeless high school students. [YOUNG PEOPLE, SENIORS]

- **Mission Trips** – mission trips for young people and adults are both a Service Ministry and an Education Ministry. A very successful mission trip to eastern North Carolina took place in the spring of 2019. [YOUNG PEOPLE]
- **Discretionary Funding** – the Vestry allocates a percentage of funds from the annual budget for distribution by the Outreach Committee. In 2018 and 2019 the committee has allocated at least 1% of the church budget to support the Haywood Pathways Center. [YOUNG PEOPLE, SENIORS]

How has the Outreach Committee distributed funds from the Vestry in 2019?

The Vestry allocated roughly \$9000 to the Outreach Committee for 2019. In addition, the committee was given \$1200 of carryover funds from 2018. Those funds have been budgeted as follows:

- \$6000 to support the Food Pantry.
- \$1100 to support the Grace Giving Garden. *NOTE: the GGG has received a \$600 Grant from Master Gardeners and \$500 from the Mountain View Garden Club.*
- \$2400 to Haywood Pathways.
- \$250 to St. Andrew’s Church backpack program following its recent vandalization.
- \$500 for the Episcopal Church’s United Thank Offering.
- Up to \$200 has been set aside for the November Social Issues Forum on Adverse Childhood Experiences to cover publicity, refreshments, and childcare.
- By year’s end, the committee will distribute remaining funds to the following organizations: Haywood Pathways, Pigeon Center, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Haywood County, Haywood Christian Ministries, and Open Door.

How were 2019 funds from the Parish Fair distributed?

- \$1000 to **Clothes to Kids** for hygiene kits.
- \$700 to **Fines Creek Community Association** to improve handicapped access for their senior food pantry clients.
- \$2500 to **Haywood Christian Ministry** for its Food Security Program.
- \$1000 to **Haywood County Senior Resource Center** for nutritional supplements for elderly clients.
- Over \$9600 to **Haywood Pathways Center** for family shelter.
- \$500 to **Haywood Spay/Neuter** for its “fix at six” program.
- \$1000 to **Mountain Mediation Services** to provide schools and the community with timely access to restorative justice and mediations.
- \$7000 to **Pigeon Community Multicultural Development Center** for its after school and summer enrichment programs.



Statistical Data

Baptism

Mary Kate Dudley

Marriage

Elizabeth Chapman & Chris Hilgar
(held at St. John's, Marion)

Reception

Laurel Destry
(at St. John's, Sylva)

Deaths & Burials (* = inactive or non-member)

James Roberts*
John Malone
Mary Catherine Simons
Patricia Felmet
Laura Lang
Nan Flynn
Alice Rebecca Porter Sexton
Wendy Rae Myers*
Linda Hammar
Charles Alley
Tom Maloney

Transfers Out / Inactive

Sandy Thomas
Jim & Eleanor Crowder
Meg Smith
Scott, Edie, Mary Kate and Lucy Dudley

New Members

Sue Volgas
Rusty & Marie Ross
Wendy, Daniel, Xander & Vesper Forbes
Mariah Nehus
Eddie & Heidi Allison
John Mark Taylor
Chris, Pam, Olivia, Caroline & Thomas
Boggiano
Darryl & June Bollinger
Mary Kate Dudley
Mary Beth, Emma & Molly Dorgan
Allen King
Dave Crowder
Elizabeth Chapman
Walt & Clyde Austin
Jim Black
Sallee Glaesner
Betty Bradley
Kim & Scott Merritt
Joe & Kathy Gaskill
Peter & Jane Nurse

Reactivations

Norm & Linda Miville

Annual Sunday Attendance: 159

(last year was 148)

