



# GRACE CHURCH FAMILY



## ANNUAL REPORT



2012





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# Pastor's Report

I mentioned to one member that I was working on my annual report and sharing what has happened this past year and her immediate response was "A lot of people have died." No arguing that. Since the beginning of the year 16 members have died. They are named under the Clerk's report. This is part of the nature of our older community of faith, outside a retirement community. Fortunately this is not the total story.

I celebrate that we grieve together. We are a community of closeness, compassion, friendship. We share grief with one another. I experienced the supportive presence of the body of Christ--Grace Church, through the compassionate care that surrounded me and my family with the death of mother in July. This care is a strength of our community witnessed in structured ways such as memorial receptions, cards sent by Deacons, visits by Caring Callers. And it is a strength realized through deep friendships that have been created here.

I celebrate that even as we grieve the loss of members we embrace others who are new to our community. Grace Church welcomed 15 new members in 2012, all of whom are engaged in our ministry in one way or another. Part of the health of our community is reflected in its ability to make room for others. Not only do our new members feel welcomed they also know that their gifts are valued and they are eager to find ways to contribute to our life together.

I celebrate all the ways we are currently living out Radical Hospitality and extending ourselves to others and engaging them in the life of the Church. This happens through specific programs such as RFOG (Rossmoor Friends of Grace), concerts, adult studies, worship and greeters, and special events like the Advent Tea and the Harvest Dinner. This happens when members and friends of the church desire to share their relationship with God and the care of the community which they enjoy. I celebrate every invitation, every welcome, every embrace that helps others to realize that they are loved by God.

I celebrate my colleague, Pastor Charie Reid, and the many ways she shapes our community through her compassionate ministry with us the past 40 years. Her leadership and witness have been evident in the creation of the co-operative preschool, work with the deacons, pastoral care, encouragement of faithful mission outreach, adult education, and engagement in our total ministry. As she prepares to retire on March 31, 2013, I grieve loss for the church as I celebrate all the ways she has contributed to our ministry, making this a welcoming and vibrant community.

I celebrate the rest of the staff and all they offer to our ministry: Steve Cram and the fine music and many concerts under his leadership, Judy Williams who daily manages our office with the aid of volunteers and interacts with many outside user groups, Bob Williams (Pastor Emeritus) who continues to provide pastoral care as well as oversees the Men's Club, Diana Barkley (Parish Associate) who is engaged with choir and active with our Women's Association.

I give thanks to God and celebrate our community which is faithfully living out what it means to be the Body of Christ.

Roger Reaber, Pastor

# Pastor's Report

As I round out 35+ years as one of your pastors, I am focused on two things: *first, incredible gratitude for the wondrous blessings I have experienced in your midst.*

In the late 70's you "loved me into" ordination. I was privileged to work first with our founding pastor Bob Williams, and his team mate, Betsy, and since fall of 1992 with Roger. I discovered a pastor's heart assisting in the interim ('90-'92) and as Roger came on board.

You have encouraged me and helped me grow. We have worked together on many different projects, and that's been a privilege. You inspire me, as you deal courageously with illness, loss and aging. You are creative in tackling new possibilities, like RFOG. You are hard workers and volunteer in so many ways to help us be the congregation God calls us to be. You reach out to "the least of these," through CCIC's "food boxes," CCIH and the Garden Park Apartments. I am inspired by your loyalty, dedication and commitment to Christ and his church.

*Second, prayer that you be open to God's Spirit, God's future for Grace Church, as you respond to the nudges of what's often called "an outward-focused holy urgency."* We thank God for so many blessings even as we ask God to help us grow so that we may better reach out to share the good news of God's love in Christ for all. I pray for

- *a group who will pray daily (and perhaps weekly as a group) for those in our environs who do not yet know the amazing love of God in Christ for them;*
- *a group who will pray that we grow "deep and wide," individually and as a congregation, so that we deepen our own spirituality and reach out ever more widely to others;*
- *God's guidance as we seek widespread ownership of the holy urgency to which God is calling us, to reach those who need what we offer in Christ's name:* vibrant worship of God in Christ who loves us unconditionally and offers us abundant life, the fellowship of a community of faith, purpose in shared ministries, the invitation to bless as we have been blessed.

Grace Church can make an incredible difference in the lives of those around us, *with the good news we share:* so many face barriers to abundant living with joy and fulfillment. I pray that when you hear God's calling you to reach out to that neighbor, or employee in the shopping center or care facility, your response will be: "Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart."

To such an end it has always been a privilege to share with Roger in leading adult education opportunities, Sunday mornings, sometimes a weekday evening. This is one way we go deeper and grow spiritually – individually, and as a congregation. I also loved the small groups we shared over the years.

May God continue to bless you richly, in every way, as you account for "the hope that is in you." (I Peter 3:15)

Charie Bowman Reid, Associate Pastor

# Mission & Vision

## **MISSION STATEMENT (2007)**

*Guided by the Holy Spirit, with open minds and hearts,  
we celebrate and share the love of Jesus Christ,  
and are instruments of God's grace, justice, and peace.*

## **WELCOME STATEMENT (2011)**

*We welcome and celebrate all who worship with us—  
the young and the old, the rich and the poor,  
the gay and the straight, the strong and the weak,  
the meek and the brave—  
and though we are different one from another,  
we are united in loving and praising God  
and in loving each other.*

## **VISION STATEMENT (2007)**

### TOGETHER WE:

- Deepen our faith in Jesus Christ through worship, study, fellowship, and mission.
- Exemplify and offer the good news of Jesus to our neighbors.
- Offer hospitality, nurture, and empowerment.
- Provide a comprehensive ministry with/by seniors, which respects and addresses the various stages and issues of growing older in Christ.
- Welcome younger adults, teenagers, and children in a ministry that enlivens their Christian Discipleship.
- Are in close collaboration with other faith and secular organizations to address social needs within our local community and throughout the world.
- Pursue excellence in all that we do as we glorify God through faithful stewardship seen in sharing our time, talents, and treasures.

## **CORE VALUES (2008)**

1. Growing and Sharing the Faith
2. Outreach to the Community and Beyond
3. Developing an Extended Family

## **OUR ASPIRATION (2008)**

Grace Church makes a significant positive impact on the lives of its members and friends, and on the life of its community.

Grace Church is a thriving congregation, showing a growing membership, increasing community recognition, and financial stability.

# Goals & Strategies

## Goals

The overall goal of our ministry, established by our Session, is “**to effectively share the love of Jesus Christ and invite others into deepening discipleship and active participation in the life of our community of faith.**” Each Department, and the Board of Deacons, has specific goals and strategies to fulfill this overall goal.

**INSPIRES** members and friends to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ through worship and study.

**Worship & Education**  
*(Passionate Worship/Intentional Faith Development)*

**ENCOURAGES** members and friends to contribute time, talent, and treasure, as well as to articulate the love of God and extend invitations to others to participate in our community of faith.

**Discipleship** *(Extravagant Generosity & Radical Hospitality)*

**SEEKS**, welcomes, and integrates visitors and members, and enhances their lives through a variety of group experiences.

**Discipleship** *(Radical Hospitality)*

**RESPONDS** to social justice issues locally, nationally and globally with compassion and support.

**Witness & Ministry**  
*(Risk-taking Mission & Service)*

**MANAGES** its finances and property with integrity to attract and benefit members, friends, donors, and community partners.

**Business** *(Extravagant Generosity)*

**MINISTERS** to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any who may be in distress.

**Deacons**  
*(Deliberate Congregational Care)*

**COMMUNICATES** with the congregation and the community to encourage dialogue and enhancement of our ministry. **Session**  
*(5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations)*

## Strategies

1. **Create a vision** of ministry and mission which is intentionally interpreted to the members and friends of Grace Church.
2. **Enhance worship** experiences and opportunities to attract, inspire, and further the spiritual growth of people.
3. **Offer and advertise** a variety of adult education opportunities which will nourish our membership and be attractive to non-members.
4. **Upgrade the facilities** to improve our profile and safety; and develop a Capital Improvement Plan.
5. **Implement a marketing plan** to attract visitors and maintain membership.
6. **Provide small groups** and larger celebrations to communicate and advance our values and ministry.
7. **Practice faithful stewardship** with property and finances and provide innovative stewardship appeals with an integrated calendar to support our annual budget, mission support, and facility upgrades.
8. **Interpret national and global mission** and work with local organizations to invite greater active participation of our members and friends.
9. **Enhance recognition of members** to acknowledge faithful volunteerism and invite other contributions.

# Session

## GOAL

...communicates with the congregation and the community to encourage dialogue and enhancement of our ministry.

## RESULTS

Each Department of Session and the Board of Deacons is responsible to keep the congregation informed about its work and mission. Our newsletters "Grace in the World," "Generosity Journal," and Sunday bulletins have been the main vehicles for this. Special notices have also been generated through the office and distributed by email thanks to our office manager, Judy Williams.

Two Congregational meetings have also allowed for interpretation of our mission, ministry, and budgetary needs. In addition to these two meetings there was a Congregational Conversation after worship on March 11 in the Oak Room to discuss the usage of the building as well as offer renovation suggestions. One upgrade that came through that conversation was the replacement of the blue curtains in front of the storage closet with wood grain sliding doors that blend into the wall. In 2013 we will be looking at other steps to take...stay tuned!

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

At the August Session meeting, the Rev. Charie Reid shared her plans to retire on March 31, 2013. The next day letters were sent to the members of the congregation to celebrate her 40+ years of ministry at Grace and anticipate her retirement. Three committees were created to help with this time of transition 1) to support Charie, 2) to plan for celebrating and honoring Charie before she retires, 3) plan for future staffing needs to fulfill our mission and ministry. Each committee includes members of Session and other members of the church.

The Session has established that the overarching goal of our ministry is "to effectively share the love of Jesus Christ and invite others into deepening discipleship and active participation in the life of our community of faith." With this in mind "Radical Hospitality" will be a key focus of ours in the upcoming year. In addition to the Goals and Strategies that have been created, the Session has worked hard to create an integrated church calendar built upon worship, concerts, and other special outreach activities in 2013. Look for the annual calendar in your February 2013 *Grace in the World*. How will you be engaged in Radical Hospitality in the upcoming year?

## THANKS TO

All of our incredible Elders & Deacons and the other many volunteers who enable and enrich our ministry.

Submitted by Roger Reaber.

# Clerk of Session

<b>Total Membership as of 1/1/2012</b>	<b>230</b>
Losses	
Deaths	17
Other	1
<b>Total Losses</b>	<b>18</b>
Gains	
New	15
Other	0
<b>Total Gains</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total Membership as of 12/31/2012</b>	<b>228</b>
<b>Marriages Performed</b>	<b>2</b>

***We are very pleased to welcome our new members***

BJ Boone, Roger Buttermore, Kathie Buttermore,  
 Rosalyn Cannelora, Patricia Hansen, Karen Haus,  
 Louella Horning, Ray Livingston, Barbara Livingston,  
 Byron Maynes, Joyce Maynes, Maxine Olney,  
 MJ Palley, Bob Quivey, Geri Rentz.

***We remember with gratitude and celebration of their  
 lives those members of Grace who died in 2012***

February 1, 2012	Glenda Guillinger	July 18, 2012	June Allen
March 7, 2012	Ruth Owens	July 23, 2012	Effie Swagerty
March 28, 2012	Stephani Gallaher	August 12, 2012	David Pearson
April 6, 2012	Mary Anduri	September 30, 2012	Lois Potter
April 3, 2012	Jean Kenyon	October 2, 2012	Lois Ireland
May 12, 2012	Idel Schultz	December 24, 2012	Al Groeper
June 24, 2012	Virginia Lee Gould	December 31, 2012	Bettie Fisher
July 1, 2012	Florence Wald		
July 9, 2012	Darlene James		

***Noted is the death of our Parish Associate  
 Hal Foster on January 17, 2012***

Submitted by Marjorie Bradley

Note:  
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# Treasurer's Report

## STATEMENT OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR 2012

Grace Church budgeted \$400,804 for its General Fund in 2012. Total income for the budget program came to \$393,389 and total expenses for the year were \$394,420 leading to a \$1,032 decrease in the bank balance.

Bank balance on 1/1/12	\$ 45,538.80
Church program receipts	\$ 393,388.82
Church program expenses	<u>\$ 394,419.99</u>
Bank balance on 12/31/12	\$ 44,507.13

In addition, Grace Church handled \$176,696 in receipts and \$157,950 in expenses for special accounts and activities during the year, and held \$124,233 in the bank accounts for these items at the end of 2012 (not including \$32,392 in funds pledged for the year 2013.)

<u>Church program receipts</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Pledges for 2012	63%
Other revenue	<u>37%</u>
Total	100%
<u>Church program expenses</u>	
Local Mission	90%
General Mission	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

*The year 2012 was again a significant year for Grace Church's investment holdings.* At the start of the year, the Church's holdings included the Gemmer-Schwab Asset Management Fund valued at \$720,694 and \$437,821 held in funds invested with the United Presbyterian Foundation (UPC). During the year another \$12,500 was placed in the Gemmer Fund to benefit the music program of the church.

Upon recommendation by EBIC (Endowments, Bequests, and Investments Committee), it was decided to withdraw \$20,000 from the Gemmer Fund during the year 2012, which along with \$9,172 in earnings distributed from UPC, provided investment income for church purposes.

At the end of the year 2012 the value of the Gemmer Fund was \$775,750 and the UPC investments were \$487,437, in total \$1,263,188. This was an increase of \$104,673 during the year.

There is no outstanding indebtedness.

Submitted by Richard Carll

*Note: Detailed copies of financial reports are available in the church office.*

# Deacons

## **GOAL**

Deacons shall minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any who may be in distress. They shall be responsible for other duties as may be assigned to them by Session.

## **STRATEGIES**

- Continue caring ministry to support and encourage our membership.
- Fulfill other responsibilities; oversee Deacons funds and mission-giving.

## **RESULTS**

- The Caring Caller program has been revitalized: eight callers have made 422 visits and 120 phone calls this year.
- Communion elements are prepared, candles are filled, and elders and deacons accompany the pastors on home Communion visitation.
- Memorial receptions are provided when Circles are not in charge.
- Memorial gifts have been acknowledged.
- Note cards are sent to shut-ins, those hospitalized or in need.
- The needs of the Food Bank are kept before the congregation as well as opportunities to bring cans for the Food Barrel and to sort food at the Food Bank.
- \$100 in food cards is made available monthly to Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition for the Fourth Week Food Program
- With Richard Carll's assistance, we disbursed funds per policies and Mission Budget.
- Hosted fellowship time each 4th Sunday.

## **DEACONS RESPONSIBLE**

Margaret Sandelmann, Moderator  
Betsy Williams, Secretary

Rita Dorst, Deacon at large, Caring Caller  
Marty Landon, Deacon at large  
Buddy Maynes, Deacon at large  
Joyce Maynes, Deacon at large  
Dorothy Miller-Nelson, Communion preparation (for worship)  
Jeanne Owens, Deacon at large  
Robert Quivey, Candle filling and maintenance  
Marjie Tweedie, Memorial gifts  
Dot Wanamaker, Deacon at large  
Jan Zimmerman, Note ministry, 4th week food program, Food ministry

We are indebted to:

*Phyllis Carman* who leads the Caring Callers group.  
*Sonja Luscher* who organizes memorial service receptions.  
*Marcia Stover* who continues to arrange for elders and deacons to accompany the pastors on home Communion visits

Submitted by Margaret Sandelmann

# Business

## **GOAL**

Manage the finances and property of Grace Church with integrity in order to attract and benefit members, friends, donors and the community.

## **STRATEGIES**

Continue to upgrade the campus by managing the renovations and maintenance of buildings and grounds.

## **RESULTS**

- Revitalized the landscaping by enforcing the contract with contractor about irrigation system and planning upgrades.
- Upgraded landscape with new plants, rock and bark material per recommendations from the contractor and Bethallyn Black with assistance from members.
- Revised janitorial contract to cover maintenance duties for which no one was currently responsible.
- Renovated memorial garden.
- Repaired or replaced building equipment that failed during the year.
- Completed renovation of the Fireside Room including the installation of a gas fireplace.
- Trimmed and pruned the Oak and Redwood Trees. Removed two large oak trees that were dead or dying.
- Installed new folding doors in the Oak Room.

## **THANKS TO**

- Volunteers who have helped at work parties and on special projects.
- Dick Carll for his financial guidance.
- Our pastors for spiritual guidance and helping us as we make decisions.
- Donors who contributed funds to various projects.
- The church office for administering decisions of the department.

## **ELDERS RESPONSIBLE**

Stan Dorst (Chair), Bethallyn Black and David Fellner

Submitted by Stan Dorst

# Worship & Education

## GOAL

To inspire members and friends to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ through worship and study.

## STRATEGIES

Enhance worship experiences and opportunities to attract, inspire, and further the spiritual growth of our congregation.

## RESULTS

Sunday morning worship is our primary offering. Special services have been offered as a way to reach out to the community. A contemporary service continued on Sunday evenings preceded by potluck dinners and featured a hired band to provide music. This continued until summer. In the fall a different format was used called *Good Food—Good Book*, with a potluck and Bible study.

The first Sunday of each month, Communion was served with home visits for shut-ins. A special Ash Wednesday service was observed with other local churches. Maundy Thursday Communion was preceded with a potluck. Good Friday services were held in Rossmoor with other local churches. On Labor Day a hymn sing and ice cream social was open to the community. A Veterans Day program/concert was observed for all veterans. There were two Christmas Eve Communion services, and a New Year's Eve service was held with some community churches participating.

Our choir has been dwindling so musicians have been hired to supplement as needed. The bell choir is temporarily out of service due to various disabilities and lack of numbers.

Each month under the planning of our Director of Music, special concerts have been held in our Sanctuary. This is an outreach program to acquaint the community with Grace Presbyterian Church.

### **Education:**

Studies in the past year have included, *Isaiah, Reclaiming the World, Living the Questions, Open to Me the Gates, Embracing the Prophets, Held in God's Grace*, and discussion of the morning service and sermon. DVD lessons are a good format to follow.

Vacation Bible School was held in July. The decision has been made not to hold a VBS in 2013 because of the lack of leadership. Grace Preschool is in charge of Family Camp and took a group in May.

## THANKS TO

The church staff has been outstanding in furthering the work of this committee. Thank you to Roger Reaber, Charie Reid, Steve Cram, Judy Williams , and the elders who served this year: Carol Parker, Roger Schultz, Fran Whipple, and our member-at-large representing the congregation, Aline Wilson. Also helping in many ways to beautify our Sanctuary, Rita and Juan Chorne, Carol Parker, and Florence Stone .

Submitted by Fran Whipple

# Witness & Ministry

## GOAL

Respond to Social Justice issues locally, nationally and globally with compassion and support.

## STRATEGIES

Highlight the church-wide mission programs supported by the Mission Budget and seek to widen the reach of Grace's generosity in the local community and worldwide. We accepted the additional challenge of again raising at least \$10,000.00 for budgeted mission giving = *Risk Taking Ministry and Service*. For 2013, amount reduced to \$7,500.00.

## RESULTS

- Created a Mission Budget reflecting support of local mission work in Contra Costa County and the Bay Area, as well as national and international concerns. (This budget was \$312.00 more than last year.)
- Recommended to Session expenditure of EBIC mission monies, including support for a couple who anticipate work as Mission Partner volunteers in Egypt.
- Collaborated monetarily with the Deacons in support of local mission programs. Members also contributed \$710.00 worth of gift cards at Christmas for Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition and the Garden Park Apartments.
- Created and/or supported fund raising events towards the \$10,000 mission challenge. "Souper" Bowl collection, dinners and musical concerts were supported by members and guests, creating a sense of community as an extra plus and outreach for our fund raising endeavors. Sponsored a special donation for victims of Superstorm Sandy.
- Answered community needs with special donations to the S.F. Network Ministry, Meals on Wheels, Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Habitat for Humanity, and Pittsburg Pantry. The Giving Tree cards went to CCIC and Garden Park Apartments. (See total Mission Giving on next page.) Provided a meal for Warm Winter Nights program and furnished school supplies for the Garden Park Apartments.
- Furnished five food boxes a month to Antioch Child Protective Services with the help of your "in kind" and monetary donations. (Each food box is valued at \$70.00.)
- Interpreted traditional special offerings with mailings to the Grace community supplemented with Minute for Mission deliveries to highlight significance of the offering to Presbyterian mission work - One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace Offering and Christmas Joy Offering. An additional Pentecost offering was taken in 2012 for Bay Area Crisis Nursery and Meals on Wheels. Information was included in bulletin announcements and postings, articles in Grace in the World and display materials.
- Thanked the Grace Community with an invitation to the Harvest dinner where many donated to the food box program: \$657 (Funds for the dinner came from a non-budget source.)

## THANKS TO

- All who made Grace Church's 2012 mission giving a success – Grace people are very special. Your enthusiasm for helping others is living proof of God's love.
- Dick Carll for financial information and maintaining our mission giving on schedule.

## ELDERS RESPONSIBLE

Barbara Odell (Chair), Sonja Luscher, Jon Littig. Guidance from Pastors Reaber and Reid.

Submitted by Barbara Odell

## 2012 BUDGETED GIVING @ 12% of operating budget:

*Local Mission*

14	Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition - CCIC	\$ 200.00
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# Mission Giving

Contra Costa Interfaith Housing – CCIH	2,000.00
Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County	2,000.00
Interfaith Council of Rossmoor	50.00
Westminster Woods (Camperships)	150.00
S.F. Network Ministry (Glenda Hope)	1,000.00
	<b>\$ 5,400.00</b>

***Board of Deacons Local Mission***

Contra Costa Food Bank	\$ 1,200.00
Loaves and Fishes	450.00
Meals on Wheels	450.00
Pittsburg Pantry	450.00
S.F. Presbytery Deacons Fund	200.00
	<b>\$ 2,750.00</b>

***Additional Mission Support***

(Superstorm Sandy Relief, Diablo Respite Center, Children's Home Society, Garden Park Apts., SF Network Ministry, Local Food Distribution, Pentecost offering, Habitat for Humanity)	<b>\$ 10,211.11</b>
<b>TOTAL LOCAL MISSION</b>	<b><u>\$18,311.11</u></b>

***Special Missions (Designated)***

Pastoral Salary Supplement Fund (to Presbytery)	\$ 300.00
Special Offerings (OGHS, Peace, Joy)	6386.00
Theological Education Fund	900.00
Pilgrims of Ibillin	250.00
	<b>\$ 7,836.00</b>

***General Missions (Undesignated)***

S.F. Presbytery Mission Programs	\$13,800.00
Synod of the Pacific Mission Programs	552.00
General Assembly Mission	4,048.00
	<b>\$18,400.00</b>

**TOTAL MISSION GIVING**

**\$44,547.11**

*Other Mission Support*

Facility use/in kind (ATC, DRC, GCPS)	priceless
EBIC funds used for Mission Giving	\$1800.00
Monthly \$100 4 <sup>th</sup> Week Food donation, Deacons	1,200.00
Food Boxes (5/month @ \$70.00 each)	4,200.00
<b>Additional Giving (over &amp; above budget)</b>	<b>\$7,200.00</b>

**GRAND TOTAL 2012 MISSION GIVING**

**\$ 51,747.11  
(14%)**

# Discipleship

## GOALS

- Encourages members and friends to contribute time, talent, and treasure, as well as to articulate the love of God and extend invitations to others to participate in our community of faith. (*Extravagant Generosity & Radical Hospitality*)
- Seeks, welcomes, and integrates visitors and members, and enhances their lives through a variety of group experiences. (*Radical Hospitality*)

## STRATEGIES AND RESULTS

### Stewardship:

- Conducted Facilities Campaign, “*Home, Sweet Home*,” Endowment Appeal, Annual Pledge drive, “*Extravagant Generosity: The Heart of Giving*.”
- Published four *Generosity Journals*, “2011 in Brief,” “Donor Choice,” “Endowment: What’s it all about?” and “Practicing Extravagant Generosity.”
- Supported Witness and Ministry Department’s mission appeals with integrated calendar and consulting on Pentecost appeal.
- Continued E-Scrip enrollment – accomplished by Melinda Boxold.

### Evangelism and Outreach:

- Extended radical hospitality to Rossmoor neighbors and newcomers through four successful “bring a friend” theme events: “Hooray for Hollywood,” “The Joy of Travel,” “Hawaiian Interlude,” and “Candles, Carols, and Cookies.”
- Improved record keeping systems for visitor and member data, evaluated outreach efforts; task force made recommendations to Session for a focused outreach approach in 2013. (See next page.)
- Supported small groups including: Exercise with El, Bridge, Supper and Games.
- Continued Sunday Greeters and new member sponsors.

### Volunteerism (giving of talent):

- Continued monthly recognition of volunteers at Sunday worship and in *Grace in the World* newsletter.
- Produced photo tribute to volunteers and donors for October Recognition dinner.

### Fellowship:

- Coordinated the refurbishment of the Fireside Room: walls, furniture, drapes, fireplace, tables, art and all in cooperation with Business Department.
- Maintained Fellowship Hour schedule and weekly hospitality – ably managed by Margaret Sandelmann and teams.

## THANKS TO

- Strategic Stewardship Advisory Committee: Reta Wilcox, El Nungesser, John and Joan Larsen.
- Rossmoor Friends of Grace: Leaders El Nungesser and Joan Larsen, committee and many hostesses.
- Leslee Prahl and Sharon Lyons for replacing June Perry and June Allen as Elders.
- The pastors, Judy Williams and Jennifer Wallace for a thousand behind-the-scenes efforts.

Submitted by Reta Wilcox

# Outreach

## STRATEGIES

The Outreach Task Force met for several months in 2012, carefully reviewing Grace Church's:

- Membership information
- Attendance information
- Community demographics
- Church demographics
- Marketing efforts over the past five years
- Small groups and other outreach opportunities, and
- The positive impact of new members on church vitality.

## RESULTS

In August 2012 they presented a summary of findings and recommendations to the Session. This led to the following plans for 2013:

- A year-long focus on Radical Hospitality, inviting and welcoming newcomers, as stated in the Pastors' and Session reports.
- A church calendar focused on evenly spaced and consistently promoted invitational options. This calendar will be presented in the March *Grace in the World* newsletter.
- Emphasis on enhancing Sunday worship with memorable opportunities for connection, such as the recent renewing of Baptismal vows, and the prayer gathering following the service. Implementing more personal follow-up with visitors.
- Emphasis on expanding "bring-a-friend" opportunities, so successful for Rossmoor Friends of Grace, to other groups.
- Emphasis on inviting music lovers who attend our Concert Series to further involvement with the church, through more follow-up.

All Session departments and the Deacons have included Radical Hospitality in their 2013 action plans, and the outreach priority has influenced budget and staff redesign discussions.

THANKS TO: The Outreach Task Force – Linda Neyer, Chair , Florence Stone, Judy Williams, El Nungesser, John and Joan Larsen, Betsy Williams, Reta Wilcox

Submitted by Reta Wilcox

# Women of Grace

The year saw many changes for the PW. After the death of Ruth Adams, the members of Rebekah/Ruth Circle merged with Esther Circle. With just three remaining circles, it was decided that as of September 2012, there will be only four events each year instead of ten. The three circles continue to meet monthly (except July and August). We currently have 49 members and 12 associate members.

The Bible study was "Confessing the Beatitudes" which was interesting and shed new light on familiar passages. From January to June we maintained the usual schedule of luncheons. Topics included: *Nutritional Advice* from Barbara Christie (Bob and Betsy Williams' daughter); *Stand Against Violence*, thanks to Peace and Justice Moderation, Diana Barkley; *Emergency Preparedness*, thanks to Lavenia Black, Study Monitor. We also had a program on Transitional Housing and the Garden Park Apartments and on Domestic Workers, many who are immigrants. During the last half of the year (September through December) we had just two programs. In September, Susanna hosted the luncheon and Charlie Reid gave us a review of her trip to the Triennium — "Rivers of Hope." The topic made us keenly aware of the need for clean water, something we take for granted.

Also in September several members went to SFTS to be introduced to the 2012-2013 Bible study, "The General Epistles," Dispatches to God's Household. It was very rewarding to preview the study presented by the author, Nancy Benson-Nicol.

The final event of 2012 was our December Advent Tea. The community was appreciative of all the Presbyterian Women who helped with refreshments, decorating and serving. The event was wonderful. We thank Janyce Gerber for having the Harmony Singers for our entertainment. PW was delighted to celebrate Marjie Tweedie by presenting to her the Honorary Lifetime Membership award.

In closing, a great big special thank you to Dottie McGhee and Judy Williams for the devotion involved in preparing our Membership Directory. Dottie was handling health issues and was an inspiration to all of us. Thank you Dottie.

## **COORDINATING TEAM LEADERS RESPONSIBLE**

Esther Moderator and Fellowship Moderator — Janyce Gerber

Lydia Moderator and Secretary — Dottie McGhee

Susanna Moderator and Coordinating Team Leader — Lorna Barber

Treasurer — Margaret Sandelmann

Mission Moderator — Betsy Williams

Study Moderator — Lavenia Black

Peace and Justice Moderator and Needlers Coordinator — Diana Barkley

Submitted by Lorna Barber

# Diablo Respite Center

**GOAL:** To provide memory stimulation and nurture to those with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders, and respite to their caregivers.

**STRATEGIES:** We provide hands-on mission to a vulnerable population of our community under the sponsorship of the Witness & Ministry Department.

**RESULTS:** Each week the members of the DRC meet and enjoy field trips to local museums, historical sites, nearby restaurants, etc. Our unique program provides invaluable social interaction and memory stimulation for men and women in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. Our membership, historically, has averaged 6-9 participants until recently; the average of 4 participants is well below our breakeven level.

This downturn is attributed to the recession wherein organizations such as the DRC experience a delayed reaction to economic downturn. Organizations that provide valued and needed personal support or care are known to be resistant to the early recession stages with problems showing up near the end of the recession. This is where we find ourselves. Our projected year-end bank balance is expected to be \$3,150.00 plus \$788.00 which is held in our Rossmoor Fund Fiduciary account.

Our experienced staff remains the same as in 2011. We have enjoyed the continued support of the Lions and Rotary Clubs of Rossmoor, CHEERS, Diablo Retired Teachers, members of Grace and the wider Walnut Creek community. Our appeal campaign early in the year received generous donations of over \$1,600.00, yet donations are dwindling due to the poor economy. We have received grant money from the Rossmoor Fund to provide scholarships for four Rossmoor residents experiencing memory loss. With the help of Judy Williams we have advertised in the Rossmoor News and their Annual Health Issue, placed an ad on one of the Rossmoor busses and revised our DRC brochure. Our Steering Committee added two new hard working members, Nancy Goelkel and M. J. Palley. We are still mourning the loss of our staunch supporter and Steering Committee colleague, June Allen. Our Advisory Committee has offered their expertise.

In view of the present scenario we are facing the reality of winding up the DRC. We have taken a careful look at budget, costs and hoped for participant levels. We have been offered a very generous stand-by commitment of \$1,500.00 from Grace Church, which has been and continues to be supportive of the DRC, a local mission outreach. We are prepared to run one more ten week session from January 10, 2013 to March 14, 2013, which gives us time to launch an aggressive marketing plan to increase volume and to initiate back-up plans to ease our participants into alternative programs if need be. On a positive note, 2013 will mark the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Diablo Respite Center.

**ELDERS RESPONSIBLE:** John and Joan Larsen

**THANKS TO STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Rev. Diana Barkley, Nancy Goelkel, Marty Landon, M. J. Palley and Rev. Charie Reid; to **ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Pam Bouey, Rev. Roger Reaber and Reta Wilcox; and to **STAFF:** Director, Bob Stark; Assistant Director, Florence Stone; Business Manager, Marsha Stark; and Program Assistant/Driver, Nancy Houk. A special "Thank You" to Judy Williams for her assistance and graphic arts creativity.

Submitted by Joan Larsen

# Grace Preschool

Grace Cooperative Preschool enjoyed a wonderful year in 2012 as families worked together to renovate the school playground into a magical musical garden, received a renewal in accreditation from the NAEYC, and completed the first year of the Kinder Prep program.

During the summer of 2012, the families and teachers of Grace worked together to enhance the school playground. The playground was transformed into a naturalistic and musical wonderland for the children. The hillside in the backyard was enhanced with beautiful native plants and a carved wood sluiceway water feature. The slide was embedded in the hillside, where it leads to a gigantic spider web net where children can climb, relax and read books. Musical instruments were installed throughout the yard, including a thunder wall, a giant wooden xylophone, large metal drums, and chimes. The children of Grace have been delighting in their new garden. The summertime ribbon-cutting ceremony and the garden were even featured in an article in the Contra Costa Times!

The Kinder Prep program finished its inaugural year at Grace in 2012, and started the new school year with enrollment numbers doubled. Enrollment numbers are strong in both the TTh and MWF classes, and the Membership Coordinator continues to tour interested families for the new year. In 2012, we received our renewal for Accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, which was a long but successful process that demonstrates the high quality of our program.

In February, we held our successful Pancake Breakfast. Our theme was "Under the Sea," and children and families worked hard to turn the Oak Room into an ocean filled with fish, turtles, an octopus, pirates, and mermaids. Funds raised from the pancake breakfast were used to support our wonderful music program; tuition assistance and proceeds helped to create the transformations in the backyard classroom. We are so grateful to all of the Church members who attend the pancake breakfast and support our school during this event.

We feel so lucky to have so many amazing volunteers from the Church who help us out in the classroom. The MWF children cherished their time with Margaret Sandelmann and Joan Larsen as they learned about cooking and creating food. Ethel Vaughn and Kay Hatch have been so helpful in the classroom, and the children enjoyed spending time with each of them. The time spent in music class with Lavenia Black is enjoyed by all of the children and families as the children sing along and develop a love of music. Santa visited Grace again this year, with many thanks to Dick Pierce, who wore the red suit. Judy Williams provided our school with great support in the office with many of our needs. Grace Preschool is also so grateful for the support from Charlie Reid, Roger Reaber, and the many Church volunteers who support us. We thank you for everything you do for us! We appreciate you!

Submitted by Sarah Lee-Jaine, Board President 2012-2013

# Officers 2013

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\*Moderator

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE - 2013 (To be announced)**

# Legacy Society

## LEGACY SOCIETY

Grace Presbyterian Church expresses grateful thanks to past, present and future donors of major gifts, bequests and endowments. Their thoughtful contemplation of our church's future needs, and their generous commitment to extend their faith, influence and support beyond their lifetimes is sincerely appreciated.

## PAST DONORS

This list includes major gifts, bequests and planned gifts already established.

June Allen	Eleana Lass
Earl & Judy Bardin	Paul Martina
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Dorothy Gans	Victoria Young
Janyce Gerber	
Charles & Irene Guntz	

## FUTURE DONORS and LIFE GIFT CONTRIBUTORS

This list includes those who have notified the church of their future intentions.

Anonymous
Carol Bergesen
John & Joan Larsen
Don & Sharon Lyons
Paul Martina
Ginnie Millson
Reta Wilcox
Bob & Betsy Williams





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