

# 2019—A YEAR OF TRANSITION



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**2019**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF**

**GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA**

**2100 TICE VALLEY BLVD. | WALNUT CREEK, CA 94595 | GRACEWC.ORG**

### A YEAR OF TRANSITION

*Grace is our name,  
Grace is our calling,  
Grace is our attitude,*

and with grace we have maintained our beloved church through a period of transition between pastors.

Following the retirement of long-term Senior Pastor Roger Reaber in mid-2018, Grace Church contracted with Interim Pastor Thomas Waddell for a year of service. This contract ended in the summer of 2019, when health and family concerns compelled Dr. Waddell's retirement. Since August 2019 Grace Church has been served by our Associate Pastor Karen-Hastings Flegel, our Office Manager, Judy Williams, guest preachers and a Transition Team of church officers.

These circumstances will be reflected in all the following reports. While demands on staff and volunteers have been heavy, involvement has been exceptional. Worship attendance and membership numbers have been steady, financial stability has been maintained, and a full schedule of activities has been provided. A search for a permanent pastor is well underway.

We welcome 2020 with renewed faith in our capacity to learn, grow, rely on one another, and count on the Grace of God.

Reta Wilcox  
Clerk of Session

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## *Treasurer's Report*

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2019

#### Activities Results

Grace Church budgeted \$425,319 for its General Fund in 2019, an increase of \$4,934 over the preceding year, due mainly to staff salary increases and facility operation costs. Expenses came in at \$409,134, or \$16,185 under budget due mainly to absence of the interim pastor for the final four months of 2019 offset by pulpit supply, facilities and mission study expenses.

	<u>Church program expenses</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Personnel	\$225,716	55%
Local Program	\$126,615	31%
General Mission	<u>\$ 56,803</u>	<u>14%</u>
Total	\$409,134	100%

Total income for the budget program came to \$425,133, a decrease of \$4,085 over the preceding year, mainly due to a 2018 one-time pledge and investment capital gains offset by lower facilities. Income came in \$38,968 over budget due mainly to non-pledged payments, facilities and investment capital gains. By decision of Session, \$25,000 was transferred from Investment Funds to the program for the second of five years to support the Associate Pastor position.

	<u>Church program receipts</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Pledges for 2019	\$248,315	58%
Other revenue	<u>\$176,818</u>	<u>42%</u>
Total	\$425,133	100%

As a result of higher income and lower expenses, the bank balance increased by \$15,998 at year end.

Bank balance on 1/1/19	\$ 37,921
Church program receipts	\$ 425,133
Church program expenses	<u>\$ 409,134</u>
Bank balance on 12/31/19	\$ 53,920

#### Dedicated (Special) Accounts Results

In addition, Grace Church handled \$635,988 in receipts and \$110,115 in expenses for special accounts and activities during the year. The majority of the receipts was due to \$333,605 in equity sharing proceeds from the sale of the Roger Reaber home and a \$160,000 gift from Richard Carll's estate. At the end of year 2019, church bank accounts held \$731,311 for these designated purposes, apart from the church activities program.

#### Endowment, Bequests and Investment (EBIC) Results

The year 2019 saw an increase in the value of the church's investment holdings owing to the year over year strength in the market. After allowing for income withdrawals and the \$25,000 mentioned above, the increase was roughly 10% in asset value. At the end of 2019, the Investment Fund included the True Wealth Advisory Group fund, \$832,401, and the United Presbyterian Foundation, \$536,778, a total of \$1,369,179.

As recommended by EBIC, \$30,000 was received from the True Wealth Advisory Group, and \$22,358 from New Covenant Funds of the United Presbyterian Church, for various church purposes.

#### Debt

There is no outstanding indebtedness.

Submitted by Linda Neyer  
Treasurer

## *Clerk of Session*

<b>Active Membership as of 1/1/2019</b>	<b>148</b>
Deaths as of December 31, 2019	7
Other Losses as of December 31, 2019	0
Gains as of December 31, 2019	7
Active Members as of December 31, 2019	148
Affiliate Members as of December 31, 2019 Timothy Hamilton, Allen Teagle, Elise Teagle, Mary Munsell, Nancy Lee	5
<b><u>Membership as of December 31, 2019</u></b>	<b><u>153</u></b>

***We remember and celebrate the resurrection of those members of Grace who died in 2019.***

Maybelle Corrigan, Louella Horning, Marty Landon,  
John Owen, Pat Petrie, Peggy Peifer, Ethel Wood

***We are very pleased to welcome seven new members and one affiliate member in 2019.***

Mariane Anderson, Shirley Dal Porto, Kenny Han, Jean Irvine  
Judith Jones, Nancy Lee (Affiliate) Angie Shin, Marianne Seals

Submitted by Reta Wilcox  
Clerk of Session

## *Financial Secretary*

### Pledge Comparison - 2019 & 2020

	<u># of Pledges</u>	<u>Pledge Amount</u>		
<i>Persons with a 2019 pledge:</i>	88	\$226,770.00		
<i>Persons with a 2020 pledge:</i>	80	\$219,614.00		
<i>Persons with a 2019 pledge who have passed away or moved:</i>	4	\$6,420.00		
<i>Remaining Persons who pledged 2019 but not 2020:</i>	20	\$24,700.00		
<i>Persons who pledged 2020 but not 2019:</i>	12	\$10,390.00		
	<u># of Pledges</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Net Change</u>
<b>Persons who pledged both 2018 and 2019:</b>				
<i>Persons who pledged the same amount:</i>	32	\$95,524.00	\$95,524.00	\$0.00
<i>Persons who increased their pledge:</i>	30	\$94,726.00	\$105,220.00	\$10,494.00
<i>Persons who decreased their pledge:</i>	6	\$11,820.00	\$8,480.00	-\$3,340.00
<b>Totals:</b>	68	\$202,070.00	\$209,224.00	\$7,154.00

Submitted by Jennifer Wallace  
Financial Secretary

## *Transition Team Report*

In 2019 we focused on looking forward while keeping the church stable. The Mission Study required by the Presbyterian denomination before beginning a search for a new pastor was completed in June. Copies of this comprehensive portrait of our church are available to everyone through the church office. A Pastor Nominating Committee was soon elected and began its' work without delay. Meanwhile, we carefully shepherded worship, pastoral care, our longstanding commitment to mission giving, and stewardship of the business and finances of our corporation.

Our Transition Team included: Associate Pastor, *Karen Hastings-Flegel*, Clerk of Session, *Reta Wilcox*, Treasurer, *Linda Neyer*, Chair of the Pastor Nominating Committee, *Geri Rentz*, and the four chairs of the Session departments, Worship & Education, *Susan Blair*, Witness & Ministry, *Sharon Lyons*, Discipleship, *Liz Bradner*, and Business, *Earnie Cunningham*. The Co-chairs of the Church Nominating Committee, *Rosalyn Cannelora* and *Marlene Hall*, Deacon *Jan Zimmerman* and Office Manager *Judy Williams* completed the team.

### **WORSHIP**

was led by Pastor Tom Waddell during his tenure, and then by excellent guest preachers who offered us fresh perspectives. *Geri Rentz* has managed pulpit supply and her efforts are highly appreciated! Our extraordinary music ministry continued. Several publicized Sunday Celebrations, with enhanced fellowship following worship, served as outreach and were enjoyed by members and visitors. Christian education continued, and details can be found in the Worship & Education report.

### **PASTORAL CARE**

was sensitively and capably managed by Associate Pastor *Karen Hastings-Flegel*, assisted by deacons and others. Ideas about sharing congregational care from the Mission Study were implemented.

### **MISSION GIVING**

increased! Complete information is found in the Witness & Ministry report.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

of our resources was always on our minds, and the reports of the Discipleship department, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer show pledges were fulfilled and renewed, and expenses carefully guarded. The report of the Business department describes the work of maintaining and improving our property.

The Transition Team demonstrated cooperation and unity. We feel privileged to have served.

Submitted by Reta Wilcox,  
Clerk of Session

## *Pastor's Report—Karen Hastings-Flegel*

It was a unique year. The Rev. Dr. Tom Waddell was with us as Interim Pastor until late May. After that, we formed a Transition Team. I have consistently been impressed with the leadership of this group and the dedication of these people and of many other church members. I am honored to be your Associate Pastor of Music and Pastoral Care.

As associate pastor, I visited many people at home, in the hospital, and at other healthcare facilities and did other pastoral care and counseling. I served Home Communion with various elders and deacons. Two groups of elders and deacons were trained in serving Home Communion in pairs. Our grief support group continues to meet every week, led by Jean Irvine. I led an anointing for healing service for a church member. On December 21, we held the church's 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Blue Christmas," especially for those who are mourning losses at Christmastime. The Deacons helped me initiate two ongoing pastoral care ministries, Care Notes and the Help Box.

Other aspects of my pastoral ministry included leading Communion, moderating Session and Session executive meetings, preaching several times, frequent worship planning (including Advent Candle liturgies), leading many Times with Children, co-teaching the Wednesday Bible study with Bob Flegel, officiating at memorial services and graveside services, leading membership explorations and receptions of New Members, writing newsletter articles, and attending Presbytery and church meetings (Deacons, Discipleship, Nominating Committee, and Worship and Education). I also participated in various Presbyterian Women activities. My study leave included two conventions, American Guild of Organists and Whitworth Ministry Summit.

Most Sundays, the Chancel Choir helped lead worship. The Handbell Choir enhanced our worship with lovely bell music about every six weeks. Trumpeter Steve Gileno joined the Choir for the Easter Sunday music. Both choirs are a delight to direct. Copious thanks to Choir and Bell Choir members, soloists, organist Julie Kim, and pianist Julia Linde. Thanks to pianists Julie Kim, Nancy Lee, Gail Peterson, and Adriane Van Bergen. All of these people are vital to our music ministry! Grace hosted several community concerts, including guitarist Glenn Staller, organist Hans Uwe Hielscher, the Ashmolean Singers of Rossmoor (Veterans Day and Christmas). I planned the Memorial Day concert and played the organ. Grace Preschool brought much joy, singing in church for Earth Day, accompanied by Lavenia Black.

Our dramatic group, Readers' Theatre of Grace presented an Easter season drama, "Where Is My Lord?" (a Drama Share play). Actors were Rosalyn, Gianna, and Gennaro Cannelora, Susan Blair, Gary Brassler, Dave Fellner, Patricia Hansen, Julia Linde, Daniel Rogers, Liz Sloan, Tom Waddell, and Jan Zimmerman. The spectacular set was made by Susan Blair. We also gave a stewardship play with actors Sara Allen, Susan Blair, Gail Peterson, and Geri Rentz, directed by Liz Bradner. We rehearsed for a Epiphany play to be presented on January 12, directed by Geri Rentz.

Grace was certified as an Earth Care Congregation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Earth Care Team members are Kathy Anderson, Bethallyn Black, Lavenia Black, Nancy Brixey, Jane Burkland, Barbara Di Giorgio, Marlene Hall, Meg Keeley, Gail Peterson, and Charie Reid. The Earth Care Team sponsored a World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation observance on September 1 during and after worship, and observed Earth Day with special readings and education hour.

Highlights of the year for me were the Memorial Concert for Richard Carll in January and the Peace Pole in September. The pole proclaims the phrase "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in English, English Braille, Mandarin, Arabic, Hebrew, Korean, Scottish Gaelic, Spanish, and Swahili. It was designed with the help of the Peace Pole Committee (Susan Blair, Earnie Cunningham, Marlene Hall, Bill Keeley, Geri Rentz, and Reta Wilcox). Members Bill and Earnie worked with our gardener, Trinidad Marquez (from Terra Landscape) to install it near the church sign. The Peace Pole was dedicated after church on September 22.

Thanks to the many Choir and Bell Choir members and to our many guest singers and musicians (listed in the W & E report). We trust that God will continue to guide us and keep us faithful in His service. Thank you for being a wonderful congregation!

## *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

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.

### Goals

**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.

## *Discipleship*

### **GOAL**

Encourage members and friends to contribute time, talent and treasure – and to articulate God’s love to our community of faith. Seek, welcome and integrate visitors and members by enhancing their lives through a variety of group experiences.

### **STRATEGIES AND RESULTS**

Expansion of programs to attract new members (Outreach and Fellowship). Visitors are given a call, sent newsletters, and given a pastoral visit. An outreach action plan was adopted and a task force will be formed in 2020.

Rossmoor Friends of Grace (RFOG) held two events to improve our visibility and outreach to the Rossmoor Community.

Discipleship encouraged and supported other outreach efforts of the congregation, including the Advent Tea, concerts, Day retreats, the Parkinson’s group and other programs.

In 2019 we welcomed seven new members into our church. They are listed in the Clerk’s report

On October 20 we sponsored the Harvest Thank You Luncheon with Witness and Ministry to thank our generous givers of time, talent and treasure. Sara Allen and Liz Bradner were the chefs, Sharon Lyons led the set-up volunteers, and the entertainment was planned by Pastor Karen Hastings-Flegel.

The kitchen was re-inspected by the County and passed. Church lockup was performed every fourth month.

We held two Sunday celebration luncheons to keep our congregation close during this period of search for a new pastor.

Sunday Fellowship Time was supported through 13 hosting teams and was coordinated by Sara Allen

### **STEWARDSHIP**

Our annual stewardship campaign has an initial financial goal to meet last year’s pledges of \$227,000. However this did not address the gap in the budget. The budget loss is forecasted at \$15,000 or \$61,000 depending on when a new pastor starts. As of mid-December we had received 80 pledges for a total of \$219,614. In an effort to close the budget gap, the Discipleship team follows up with pledgers from last year who have not yet committed to 2020.

Proceeds from our summer facility campaign enabled us to replace the heating system for the preschool building. Donations from the congregation totaled a little over \$10,000.

### **THANKS TO**

The members and friends who supported our efforts by participating in events and praying for our success. Thank you for helping us reach beyond our front door by inviting visitors into our community. Thanks to the RFOG Committee, Retreat Team, and others who organized our outreach events. And especially to the pledgers to Grace Church whose financial support allows us to continue the work of the church.

### **ELDERS RESPONSIBLE**

Elizabeth Bradner (chair), Sara Allen, and Jung-Kook Kim

## *Outreach—Radical Hospitality*

### **GOAL**

To increase our membership, the Discipleship Department is committed to outreach to the public by extending invitations to others to participate in our community of faith. Below is a partial listing of special events that Discipleship Department supported in 2019 toward this goal:

January 17	Staller Classical Guitar Concert
February 13	Hielscher Organ Concert
March 11	RFOG Social with Irish dancers
March 18	PW Luncheon and Program “Feed the Kids”
April 27	Day Retreat
May 5	Holocaust Remembrance Day speaker
May 18	Distributed flyers to new housing development
May 27	Memorial Day Picnic and Concert
July 8	Independence Day Celebration Luncheon
August 4	Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social
September 8	Homecoming Lunch
October 20	Harvest Thank you Luncheon
November 10	Veterans Day Ashmolean Concert and Program
December 7	Advent Tea
December 15	Christmas Carol Sing and Ashmolean Christmas Concert

Submitted by Elizabeth Bradner

## *Business*

### **GOAL**

To share our love of Jesus Christ by managing church finances and property enabling Grace Church to serve God, the community and the congregation.

### **RESULTS**

#### PROPERTY

- Replaced parking lot lights with LED lights.
- continued replacing old incandescent and CFLs with more efficient units.
- Replaced 50+ year old preschool heater.
- Contracted to replace the Oak Room hot water heaters with a single efficient unit.
- Completed contract for Comcast to install new phones and internet which are now functioning. Plan to extend internet to whole campus in near future.
- Arranged for the Scouts to replace the floor in our storage shed. (Thanks to Carol Parker.)
- Eradicated ground squirrel pests that were doing damage to the campus grounds.
- Arranged for hauling service to cleanout storage areas of junk and un-used items.

#### FINANCE

- Created an endowment account with the estate gift from Richard Carl.
- Began the process of converting our contractors to hourly employees. Began the creation of an Employee Handbook. (Thanks to Linda Neyer and Geri Rentz.)
- Contracted with an outside service to keep tax and financial records to help keep us in compliance with government regulations.

**ELDERS RESPONSIBLE:** Earnie Cunningham, Geri Rentz, Bill Keeley

Submitted by Earnie Cunningham

## Witness & Ministry

### GOAL

Respond to social justice issues and needs locally, nationally and globally in a responsible way.

### STRATEGIES

The department is responsible for distribution of the Mission Budget included in the total Grace budget and for various special offerings, plus 25% of monies from investments. We seek to do this in a compassionate, well informed and responsible manner with the approval of the Session. (Grace is committed to putting emphasis on local mission in support of community needs, while still supporting the goals of the national church.)

### RESULTS

**The Mission Budget\* included donations to the following organizations:**

- Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition (CCIC)
- Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH)
- Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County
- Interfaith Council of Rossmoor
- Trinity Center of Walnut Creek (now Trinity Commons)
- SF Network Ministry Safehouse
- Westminster Woods Camp & Conference Center/Camperships
- Presbytery of San Francisco Deacons Fund
- San Francisco Theological Seminary
- Synod of the Pacific Mission Programs
- General Assembly Mission Programs

\* *Note: the budget provided for \$21,000 from the four main special offerings taken each year. Actually, over \$27,000\*\* was collected for distribution. AMAZING GRACE!*

Continuing Grace's great extravagant generosity, the congregation donated backpacks/school supplies in July; \$2,221 for *Feed the Children* in December; all this in support of CCIH programs and thanks to the work of Gail Peterson. The Christmas Giving Tree donations generated \$330 in food cards for CCIH.

**Special Offerings sponsored by the national church were well supported:**

- **One Great Hour of Sharing** in support of Presbyterian programs nationally and internationally – Disaster Assistance, Hunger Program and Self Development of People - (\$15,267).
- **Pentecost Offering** (\$3806) in support of youth, allowed us to round out that amount from investment monies to give \$2,500 each to Ryan Joseph's continuing recovery program from his wrestling injuries in 2017 (he is home now) and to Dominic Lupkowski as a college fund (he is our longtime custodian's son, a high school freshman this year).
- **Peace and Global Mission Offering** (\$2458) gave Grace 25% of that amount for local use – donations went to Meals on Wheels and CCIC, again rounding off our amount to give each organization \$500.
- To date, the **Christmas Joy** offering amounts to \$3,673 in answer to the needs of Presbyterian schools serving students of color and retired church workers with emergency needs.
- Souper Bowl Sunday and donations from the Harvest Luncheon added almost \$650 to the Food Box program.

From donations of goods and money for food boxes, 60 boxes were delivered for Contra Costa County Social Workers through CCIC to deliver to clients in need. Each box holds \$75+ of food. (These amounts do not include donations you made in support of the Facilities Campaign, Flower Donations, and Deacons Donations to the CCIC 4<sup>th</sup> Week Food program - \$1,200).

### SPECIAL THANKS TO

Judy Williams, with whom we could not operate, and office volunteers for producing inserts for Grace in the World and other publicity; Bob Flegel, who assisted at monthly meetings and helped deliver our messages to the congregation; Gail Peterson for her leadership with "Let's Feed the Kids" for CCIH. Linda Neyer and Geri Rentz were valuable in keeping us aware and on track with our budget commitments. Especially, we thank the Grace members and friends for their continuous extravagant generosity which has allowed this department to be so giving to the community and the national missions.

**ELDERS RESPONSIBLE:** Marlene Hall, Lynn Lyons, Sharon Lyons

Submitted by Sharon Lyons

# Worship & Education

## GOAL

To inspire members and friends of the congregation at Grace Church to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ through worship and study of the word of God.

## WORSHIP

Interim Pastor Tom Waddell led most Sunday services until his departure at the end of May. From June until the end of 2019 a series of guest preachers enhanced the pulpit with new styles and perspectives. Many of our guests provided for a sermon discussion after worship.

- Worship was celebrated each Sunday at 10:00 am, with Communion the First Sunday of each month.
- Feb. 3 was Scout Sunday. The Scouts participated in our Souperbowl Sunday collection.
- Ash Wednesday was held in the Sanctuary as an in-the-round setting. Maundy Thursday was observed with a pot-luck supper and service with Communion in the Oak Rm.
- Palm Sunday and Easter Service featured music from both choirs.
- Readers' Theatre of Grace presented a play on Sunday May 19, "Where is My Lord".
- Earth Care Celebrations on two Sundays. One with art exhibit and second with Preschool.
- Graduation Sunday celebrated high school and college graduates.
- Pentecost celebrated on June 9.
- In September a new celebration was introduced, "Homecoming" with enhanced fellowship after worship.
- September 22 Peacemaking Sunday with dedication of Peace Pole installed on campus.
- October 6, World Communion Sunday celebrated with ATC.
- Stewardship Sunday, October 27, featured "Edyth's Gifts", a play by the Readers' Theatre of Grace.
- November 3— All Saints Day. Meg Keeley provided special music with her accordion.
- November 24—Pledge Sunday featured huge cornucopia display on Communion table.
- December 15—Karen led a special Sunday with a Christmas Carol sing. Enhanced fellowship after.
- Pastor Karen recognized the stress of the holidays with a "Blue Christmas" worship service on 12/21.
- Candlelight Christmas Eve was celebrated at 4 with a soloist and Communion and 7:30 with both choirs.

## EDUCATION

- Adult Education/Bible Study programs were offered. These include: Lenten study led by Bob Flegel, Presbyterian History led by Rev. Waddell. Additional studies included the Book of Revelation led by Pastor Tom and Bob Flegel, Book of Titus led by Pastor Karen and Book of Daniel led by Bob Flegel. Sermon discussions were held on Sunday mornings when studies were on break.
- A Retreat was held on April 27 to welcome the surrounding community and to offer meaningful spiritual growth. The retreat was led by Charie Reid, Karen Hastings-Flegel and other volunteers.
- August 4 Hymns, Stories and ice cream, featuring guest hymn writer and performer, Barbara Hamm.
- Sunday School/Nursery Care was offered on Sundays when children were present. Leadership was offered by Marlene Hall, Lavenia Black, Bethallyn Black, and Daniel Rogers.

## THANKS TO

The Deacons, for providing Communion elements and weekly candle preparation. Sunday ushers, and to Pat Hansen, for recruiting them each week. Communion servers. Fran Whipple for recruiting Sunday liturgists. Susan Blair and Carol Parker for liturgical art. Carol Parker, Boy Scout Liaison. Faye Hutchings, Mary Munsell, Pat Hansen, Kathie Paul for the flower ministry which provides the arrangements and decorations. Pastoral representative: Karen Hastings-Flegel.

Chancel Choir: Sara Allen, Diana Barkley, Susan Blair, Liz Bradner, Rosalyn Cannelora, Rita Chorné, Karen Davis, Dave Fellner, Timothy Hamilton, Linda Hohenfeldt, Meg Keeley, Nancy Lee, Joy Maynes, Carol Parker, Gail Peterson, Marshall St. Clair, Fran Whipple, Nora Wu.

Handbell Choir: Sara Allen, Susan Blair, Hannah Jekarl, Julie Kim, Insun Lee, Mary Ann Littig, Judie Moore, Wendy Neale, Dan Owens, Maryanne Sanchez, Jan Zimmerman.

Soloists & Instrumentalists: Diana Barkley, Lavenia Black, Maki Chen, Karen Davis, Katie Fang, Dave Fellner, Timothy Hamilton, Karen Hastings-Flegel, Meg Keeley, Julie Kim, Hayin Kimner, Nancy Lee, Julia Linde, Carol Parker, Gail Peterson, Roger Schultz, Adriane Van Bergen, Fran Whipple, Nora Wu, Kate Ye, Jan Zimmerman, and ukulele players Diane De Corso, Jane Fronk, Nancy Gilbert, Aki Rasmussen.

## ELDERS RESPONSIBLE

Susan Blair, Rosalyn Cannelora and Roger Schultz

Submitted by Susan Blair

## *Board of Deacons*

### **GOAL**

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

### **STRATEGIES**

- Continued caring ministry to support and encourage our membership.
- Fulfilled other responsibilities; oversee Deacons funds and mission-giving.
- Introduced Care Notes and Help Box.

### **RESULTS**

- The Parish Caring Phone Program continued with each deacon calling church members.
- Communion elements were prepared, candles were filled, and elders and deacons accompanied the pastors on Home Communion visitations.
- Memorial reception services were provided.
- Memorial gifts have been acknowledged through hand-written cards.
- Note cards were sent to shut-ins, those hospitalized, or in need.
- The needs of the Food Bank were kept before the congregation as well as \$100 in food cards were made available monthly to Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition for the Fourth Week Food Program.
- Local Mission funds were disbursed to C.C. Food Bank, CCIC food cards, and other food banks in our community.
- Non-perishable food was collected in the Food Barrel Ministry.

### **DEACONS RESPONSIBLE**

- Jan Zimmerman, Moderator, Marianne Sanchez , Co-Moderator
- Barbara DiGiorgio, Communion Bread Preparation
- Emergency/Disaster preparedness, Session Liaison, not assigned
- Kathy Anderson, Barbara Odell, Carol Parker, Communion Preparation
- Gail Peterson, Jan Zimmerman, Hymnal Board Monitor
- Pat Devine Cummings, Food Barrel Ministry
- Jane Burkland\*, Memorial Gifts Recognition
- Jane Burkland\*, Caring Note Card Ministry
- Jan Zimmerman, Nominating Committee Rep.
- Gail Peterson, Jan Zimmerman, Chancel Candle care
- Dorothy Miller-Nelson, Phone care

### **THANKS TO**

To the Deacons who have fulfilled their three years: Louise Milford, Jane Burkland\*, Kathy Andersen, Barbara Odell

*\* Jane has agreed to fill a second three year term as Deacon*

Submitted by Jan Zimmerman

## *Women of Grace*

### **GOAL**

Our purpose is to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, offer fellowship, education, and to be leaders assuring women have opportunities to grow and mature in their faith.

### **STRATEGIES**

The Women of Grace offered a joint Circle luncheon during 2019. The purpose of the luncheon was to offer an educational program, provide fellowship among the circle members, and introduce potential new members to the circles.

The annual Advent Tea is a gift to the community. We celebrate the season and invite church and community members to a lovely free event to introduce them to Grace Church. The Advent Tea continues to be one of the major events of the church calendar year.

### **CIRCLES**

Esther and Susanna Circles met once a month from September through June. The co-moderators of Esther Circle are Gessica Johnston and Jan Zimmerman. Dorothy Miller-Nelson serves as circle treasurer and Mary Munsell is the fellowship coordinator.

Susanna Circle co-moderators are Louise Milford and Betsy Williams with Mary Ann Littig acting as circle treasurer. Lavenia Black led the Bible study portion of both circle meetings. Geraldine Rentz is the Treasurer for the Presbyterian Women Association of Grace Presbyterian Church. Pastor Karen Hastings-Flegel provided spiritual support.

Needlers, a knitting craft group, regularly meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month. They continue to make scarves for our troops. In the nine years of supporting Operation Gratitude, Grace Needlers have sent 1075 scarves benefitting soldiers and first responders. Marsha Stark is the liaison for Operation Gratitude. Another project, in 2019, included gloves, scarves and hats knitted for the Trinity Center of Walnut Creek, which provides support services to the homeless. Jan Zimmerman is the liaison for the Trinity Center.

### **RESULTS**

The March luncheon speaker was Wendy Neale. She shared the history of project Feed the Kids. Its goal is to provide food to children who need lunches during the periods when schools are closed for Holidays.

The annual Advent Tea was held on December 7. Prior to the tea a musical program was given by the Northgate High School Madrigals. The Presbyterian Women honored Reta Wilcox and Fran Whipple with Honorary Lifetime Membership aware in the Presbyterian Womens Association. Following the ceremony in the Sanctuary, tea was served in the Oak Room. All food was prepared in the commercial kitchen according to the Contra Costa County Health standards under the guidance of kitchen manager Sara Allen.

### **THANKS TO**

Betsy Williams, Louise Milford, Jan Zimmerman and Gessica Johnston for providing leadership to the Circles throughout the year. Lavenia Black for providing Bible Study at the Circle meetings. Jan Zimmerman, Mary Ann Littig, Sara Allen, Faye Hutchings, Judy Williams and Geri Rentz for the preparations for the Advent Tea. Rev. Karen Hastings-Flegel, Jan Zimmerman, Geri Rentz, and Barbara Odell for planning and speaking at the Sanctuary program. Jon and Mary Ann Littig for organizing the Advent Tea decorations. Thanks to the many who provided food, performed as tea servers, runners, setup crew, cleanup crew and those who plated cookies and sandwiches for the tea.

## *Men's Club*

### **GOAL**

To provide a venue for camaraderie, education and discussion for the men of Grace Church.

### **STRATEGIES/RESULTS**

The Men's club of Grace meets on the second Friday of each month. The Club welcomes men of Grace and guests to join this support group that deals with fellowship and matters of faith and service. A different interactive topic is provided each month as a basis for debate and discussion. The group has been meeting for many years under the leadership of Pastor Emeritus, Bob Williams. A no-host lunch is offered after each meeting to further the social aspect of the group.

## *Grace Cooperative Preschool*

Grace Cooperative Preschool enjoyed a wonderful year in 2019 as families created special, lifelong bonds of friendship, evolved our daily commitment to the environment and continued our unique events and traditions.

Grace has continued our commitment to "go green" which has been accomplished by teaching the children to be responsible patrons of the planet. We supported the environment through school projects, field trips and continued efforts to reduce the use of plastics throughout the entire school during snack time. Even the youngest students have participated in our reusable water bottle program which lessens our need for paper cups. In addition, our Earth Day event has become a cherished tradition with our families and the community as we all enjoy the children's singing at the Sunday service. We are thankful to be included and join in this celebration.

In February, we held our successful 30<sup>th</sup> annual Pancake Breakfast. Our theme was "The Great Outdoors" and children and families worked together to turn the Oak Room into a visual sensation with environmental elements including land, sea and air. Children were able to bring their favorite outdoor activities to life through artwork lining the walls and adorning the tables. Funds raised from the pancake breakfast were used to support our wonderful music program, tuition assistance and purchase new sensory sand toys for the kids to enjoy outdoors. We are so grateful to all of the Church members who attend the pancake breakfast and support our school during this event. We look forward to our 2020 event which will have the theme of "Under the Sea".

We feel so lucky to have amazing volunteers from the Church who help us out in the classroom. The MWF children continue to develop their 'Español' with Miss Charie each week and enjoy the time spent expanding their cultural horizons. A fan favorite for the children is always music class with Lavenia Black. The room comes alive as their little voices sing along together and will hopefully result in a lifelong love of music. This year the children took their songs on the road to the Tice Oaks Senior Housing next door and serenaded the residents with festive holiday tunes. This caroling event was a hit with the residents as well as the students and families that were able to enjoy the show. Santa visited Grace again this year, with many thanks to Dave Fellner, who wore the red suit. He was accompanied by his favorite elf, Norma Fellner. Lastly, Judy Williams provided our school with great support in the office with many of our needs all year. Grace Preschool is also so grateful for the ongoing support from the Church and the many volunteers who support us. We thank you for everything you do for us! We appreciate you!

# *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	Dorothy Gans
Earl & Judy Bardin	Janyce Gerber
Frances Baugh	Charles & Irene Guntz
Dorothy & Thornton Beall	Eleana Lass
Hazel Bearss	Paul Martina
Carol Bergesen	Harvey McCammon
Dulcie Blume	Jackie McConnell
Max & Gene Brewen	Mabel Milhan
Joyce Call	Ginnie Millson
Richard Carl	H. Marshall Pitney
Charles Smith & Marion Cramer	William Sargent
Dorothy Crawford	Charles & Marjorie Schlegel
Emil Danielson	Dorothy Stacey
Warren Eukel	Gordon Studebaker
Carl & Betty Fisher	Jean Surdyk
Jeff & Fran Foster	Bea Tillotson
Florence & Archie Furr	Heidi Wagner
	Victoria Young

## **FUTURE DONORS and LIFE GIFT CONTRIBUTORS**

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

Anonymous  
John & Joan Larsen  
Don & Sharon Lyons  
Maryanne Sanchez  
Reta Wilcox  
Bob & Betsy Williams

*Officers 2020***MODERATOR**

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## *Special Thanks*

**Recognizing their importance in this year of transition,  
we offer Special Thanks to:**

### **2019 CHURCH NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Elder Rosalyn Cannelora  
Elder Marlene Hall  
Elder Sharon Lyons  
Deacon Jan Zimmerman  
Dave Fellner  
Bob Flegel  
Dorothy Miller-Nelson

### **FAITH JOURNEY WRITERS IN 2019**

Reta Wilcox  
Jon Littig  
Sharon Lyons  
Jung-Kook (Jay) Kim  
Carol King

### **THE MISSION STUDY TEAM**

Rosalyn Cannelora  
Stan Dorst  
Meg Keeley  
Carol King  
El Nungesser  
Geraldine Rentz, Secretary  
Reta Wilcox, Chair

### **THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Bethallyn Black  
Earnie Cunningham  
Sally Day  
Meg Keeley  
Jon Littig  
Kris Ludwigsen, Secretary  
Lynn Lyons  
Gail Peterson  
Geraldine Rentz, Chair

### **PASTORS EMERITI**

Robert Williams, for prayer, care, continuity and encouragement  
Charie Reid, for prayer, preaching, teaching, advising and encouragement