



ANNUAL REPORT OF 2020

**GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA**

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

Table of Contents

Clerk of Session Statistical and Financial Secretary	2
Treasurer's Report	3
Pastor's Report (Rev. Mark Burnham)	4
Pastor's Report (Karen Hastings-Flegel)	5
Mission & Vision	6
Goals & Strategies	7
Discipleship	8
Outreach	9
Business.....	10
Witness & Ministry.....	11
Worship & Education.....	12
Board of Deacons	13
Women of Grace	14
Men's Club	15
Grace Cooperative Preschool	15

Clerk of Session

Active Membership as of 1/1/2020	149
Deaths as of December 31, 2020.....	11
Other Losses as of December 31, 2020.....	0
Gains as of December 31, 2020.....	1
Active Members as of December 31, 2020.....	139
Affiliate Members as of December 31, 2020	4
<i>(Timothy Hamilton, Elise Teagle, Mary Munsell, Nancy Lee)</i>	
Membership as of December 31, 2020	143

We remember and celebrate the resurrection of members of Grace who died in 2020.

Cornelia Bensley, Mark Chapman, Rita Chorné, Ermina Dykstra, Phyllis Hewett,
Robert Ingersoll, Billie Lenox, Joy Maynes, John Owen, Denzil Storbeck, Hazel Tawney

We were very pleased to welcome new member Barbara Rainis in 2020.

Submitted by Reta Wilcox, Clerk of Session

Financial Secretary

Pledge Comparison - 2020 & 2021

		# of Pledges		Pledge Amount
Persons with a 2020 pledge:		84		\$224,299.00
Persons with a 2021 pledge:		69		\$225,700.00
Persons with a 2020 pledge who have passed or moved:		3		\$470.00
Remaining Persons who pledged 2020 but not 2021:		16		\$10,365.00
Persons who pledged 2021 but not 2020:		2		\$220.00
	# of Pledges	2020	2021	Net Change
Persons who pledged both 2020 & 2021:				
Persons who pledged the same amount:	26	\$92,260.00	\$92,260.00	\$0.00
Persons who increased their pledge:	33	\$104,264.00	\$119,680.00	\$15,416.00
Persons who decreased their pledge:	8	\$16,840.00	\$13,540.00	(\$3,300.00)
Totals:	67	\$213,364.00	\$225,480.00	\$12,116.00

Treasurer's Report

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2020

ACTIVITIES RESULTS

Grace Church budgeted \$437,887 for its General Fund in 2020, an increase of \$12,568 over the preceding year, due mainly to senior pastor search and relocation costs. Expenses came in at \$419,414, or \$18,473 under budget due mainly to the senior pastor start date one-half month later than expected, and lower operating costs as a result of the pandemic shutdown of facilities.

	<u>Church program expenses</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Personnel	\$238,751	57%
Local Program	\$126,258	30%
General Mission	\$ 54,405	13%
Total	\$419,414	100%

Total income for the budget program came to \$407,900, an increase of \$21,735 over the preceding year, mainly due to budgeting for donors who make pledge payments without submitting a pledge. Income came in \$8,494 over budget due mainly to CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program forgivable loan, non-pledged payments, and gifts offset by lower facilities income and plate resulting from the pandemic shutdown of facilities. By decision of Session, \$25,000 was transferred from Investment Funds to the program for the third of five years to support the Associate Pastor position.

	<u>Church program receipts</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Pledges for 2020	\$252,045	61%
Other income	\$164,349	39%
Total	\$416,394	100%

As a result of income being lower than expenses, the bank balance decreased by \$3,020 at year end which was an improvement over the budgeted decrease of \$30,000.

Bank balance on 1/1/20	\$ 53,919
Church program receipts	\$ 416,394
Church program expenses	\$ 419,414
Bank balance on 12/31/20	\$ 50,899

DEDICATED (SPECIAL) ACCOUNTS RESULTS

In addition, Grace Church handled \$165,379 in receipts and \$259,098 in expenses for special accounts and activities during the year. The receipts included EBIC investment income, facilities campaign donations, and preschool payroll reimbursement. The expenses included a \$150,000 gift from Richard Carl's estate which was moved to EBIC funds as an endowment for staff support, preschool payroll costs, mission food donations, consulting support for Church at Home videos, and procurement of live streaming equipment, an organ dolly and new PC for the church administrator. At the end of year 2020, church bank accounts held \$637,593 for these designated purposes, apart from the church activities program, of which \$300,000 is an investment in the senior pastor's home as part of an equity share agreement.

ENDOWMENT, BEQUESTS AND INVESTMENT (EBIC) RESULTS

The year 2020 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, the \$25,000 mentioned above, and Richard Carl's gift, the increase was roughly 4% in asset value. At the end of 2020, the Investment Fund included the True Wealth Advisory Group fund, \$1,004,860, and the United Presbyterian Foundation, \$567,084, a total of \$1,571,944.

As recommended by EBIC, \$37,000 was received from the True Wealth Advisory Group (in addition to the \$25,000 mentioned above), and \$27,349 from New Covenant Funds of the United Presbyterian Church, for various church purposes.

DEBT

The CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program loan of \$50,062 (\$36,700 for church and \$13,362 for preschool) forgiveness application was in process at year-end.

Pastor's Report—Mark Burnham

I'll begin with a confession: as I sit and face the blank page of my Pastor's report for 2020, I can't **begin** to figure out how to sum up the year in one page! I suppose I could list the various ministry activities and programs since I started at Grace on April 15, but that seems very inadequate given the momentous events of the past year.

Instead, I'll share a story by the poet and farmer Wendell Berry, who is one of my favorite writers. Berry tells of a place on his grandfather's farm in Kentucky where a battered galvanized bucket hangs on a fence post. *The old bucket has hung there through many autumns, and tree leaves have fallen around it and into it. The leaves hold the moisture of the rain and snow, and so have rotted. Nuts and shells and animals droppings have fallen in; insects have flown into the bucket and died and decayed; birds have scratched in it, leaving a feather or two.*

This, Berry writes, is the slow work of growth and death, gravity and decay, which is the chief work of the world. It has now produced in the bottom of the bucket several inches of black humus—rich, life-producing soil. I look into that bucket with fascination, he writes, and I recognize there an artistry and a farming far superior to mine, or to that of any human. I have seen the same process at work on the tops of boulders in a forest... and in time immemorial over most of the land-surface of the world. All creatures die into it, and they live by it.

The old bucket may seem small and insignificant, but it's not trivial. *It is, he writes, one of the signs by which I know my country and myself. And to me it is irresistibly suggestive, in the way it collects leaves and other woodland sheddings, as they fall through time. It collects stories too as they fall through time. A human community too must collect leaves and stories, and turn them into an account.*

After almost 28 years in pastoral ministry, I believe that the old bucket described by Berry is a powerful way for us to imagine the local church. At its core, a congregation is a community that both invites and collects stories—stories of loss and grief or pain and confusion, but also ones of joy and wonder and comfort and assurance.

The church is the place where those experiences are collected and honored. The church is the place where, through the mysterious power of the Spirit, an account is given. The church is the place where we discover that we are not alone but rather caught up in an on-going story of faith and life. Given the traumatic events of 2020, especially the COVID-19 pandemic, this collecting and honoring of stories is vital and important work!

Now, I could go on for a while here with numbers and statistics, with figures about budgets and membership and worship attendance. I could tell you about the Zoom meetings and worship recordings. These are all important things! But what I believe is of ultimate importance for the congregation is this: are we a place and people from which life and faith can grow?

Thank you for trusting me with your stories and experiences. It's a privilege to serve as your pastor and I am confident that the Spirit of God is at work in our midst, calling us to new places and an exciting future together.

Grace and peace, Mark

Pastor's Report—Karen Hastings-Flegel

I began last year's annual report by writing, "It was a unique year." Well, it was another unique year! Church administration was led by the Transition Team until April 15, when our new Senior Pastor, the Rev. Mark Burnham came on board. Many thanks to the Pastor Nominating Committee for finding him! At the beginning of the year, we worshiped God in the Sanctuary with no idea that in-person worship would be shut down in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, I have been especially impressed with the adaptability of the congregation, adjusting to Zoom meetings and worship and finding other new ways to keep in touch with each other and carry on the ministry of the church. We even became a Matthew 25 congregation, part of the national church's program that emphasizes congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. It was a satisfying challenge to move to recorded worship and Zoom meetings, with the help of a technology task force (which Roz called "Zoomers and Streamers") and consultant Tom Deans-Flegel.

As associate pastor, I made many pastoral care visits and especially phone calls. I served Home Communion with different elders and deacons (till mid-March). Our grief support group, led by Jean Irvine, continued to meet weekly until the pandemic shutdown (u.t.p.s.). I officiated at Joy Maynes's memorial service in Fresno and provided the music. I also led memorial services for Gordon Owens, Dan's brother, and played organ and piano at the Zoom memorial service for Lisa Ludwigsen, Kris's mother. Grace held an 18-hour Prayer Vigil, primarily to pray about the pandemic, racism, and wildfires. In October, there was a special Blessing of the Animals service on the sports court. We tried virtual Christmas caroling. On December 21, Mark and I held (via Zoom) the church's fifth annual "Blue Christmas" service.

Before Mark arrived, I moderated Session and Session Executive meetings, gave the announcements in church and frequently planned the worship liturgies, chose hymns, and led Times with Children. Pastor Emerita Charie Reid & I led the officers' retreat in January. During the year, I regularly wrote articles, co-led Communion, and attended Presbytery and church meetings (Deacons, Discipleship, Nominating Committee, Outreach Task Force, Presbyterian Women, and Worship and Education).

As Director of Music, I led the choirs, played for worship, and gave two organ recitals. Most Sundays u.t.p.s., the Chancel Choir helped lead worship. The Handbell Choir enhanced our worship about every six weeks u.t.p.s. Between April and November, we had a socially distanced Mini-Choir to record hymns and an occasional anthem. My copious thanks to the Choir and Bell Choir members, soloists, and instrumentalists who are listed on the Worship & Education page of this report. Special thanks to Gail Peterson and her brother Jack Wright, who made possible the Mini-Choir's virtual video of "O Christ, Surround Me".

Grace was certified as an Earth Care Congregation for the 3rd year. The Earth Care Team helped observe the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on August 30, and Earth Day in April. We sponsored a "Single-Use-Plastic-Free July" for the congregation. Special thanks to Bethallyn Black, Pat Devine Cummings, and Meg Keeley for writing several of the Earth Care Corner columns.

Earth Care Team: Kathy Anderson, Bethallyn Black, Lavenia Black, Nancy Brixey, Jane Burkland, Mark Burnham, Pat Devine Cummings, Barbara Di Giorgio, Marlene Hall, Karen Hastings-Flegel, Judith Jones, Julia Linde, Meg Keeley, Gail Peterson, Charie Reid.

We trust that God will continue to guide us and keep us faithful in His service. I miss seeing you in person. Thank you all for being a wonderful congregation!

In Christ's love, Karen

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

To share the love of Jesus Christ and invite others into deepening discipleship and active participation in the life of our community of faith.

STEWARDSHIP

Created the 2021 stewardship plan, coordinating with the Business and Witness and Ministry committees, and with the advice of Reta Wilcox on strategy and themes, and the graphics and layout assistance of Judy Williams. As of Jan 5, 2021 there were 69 pledges, totaling \$225,700. There are fewer potential pledgers this year, but many have increased their giving, recognizing the greater need for income during the pandemic when there are no facilities rentals. Total pledge income is expected to be \$245,000, which will still result in a significant shortfall to budget estimates.

The Facilities Campaign was held in June, with a goal of purchasing equipment to enable live-streaming the church services and possibly other events. The equipment included a dedicated computer, a camera, microphone, software, installation, and the assistance of a consultant. A little over \$9,000 was raised (the goal had been \$8,000). The selection of equipment and installation was led by Pastor Mark Burnham with the assistance of Tom Deans Flegel. The equipment is in use to facilitate the recording of services, improving the sound quality and picture. Residual funds are intended to install a sound loop to improve hearing aid reception for live services. Implementation of this project was deferred to 2021.

OUTREACH

From January through mid-March, services and events were still being held at the church. Discipleship facilitated regular Fellowship Hour in the Fireside Room after the service, including special receptions following the Congregational Meeting to issue the call to Rev. Burnham on Feb. 16, as well as following Karen Hastings-Flegel's organ recital on Feb. 22. Due to the world-wide pandemic, by March 15, very few people were attending and live services were suspended per Contra Costa County directives.

Sara Allen continued to coordinate the Fellowship teams, and to serve as the kitchen safety coordinator. However, there have been no inspections during the year by the county health department. Carol Parker undertook a deep cleaning of kitchen cabinets.

A new church directory project was organized by the Database Committee under Discipleship. The church database was audited by the group and corrections and adjustments made to the database. A neighborhood delivery list was created. The directory was printed and delivered to local parishioners by Grace volunteers. At the end of the project modifications were made to the database to incorporate the neighborhood list for future use. Thanks to Sara Allen, Linda Neyer, Marsha Stark, Jennifer Wallace, Judy Williams and the volunteers who executed the delivery.

Outreach

Many of the programs that Discipleship would have coordinated or assisted were not held this year due to the pandemic. These included:

- Events to welcome the Burnhams and to introduce Grace's new senior pastor to the community.
- RFOG events: There is currently no leader for Rossmoor Friends of Grace. Many of the same people attend each event, and it no longer seems to be generating new visitors to the church.
- Memorial Day Picnic and Concert
- Independence Day Luncheon
- Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social
- Homecoming Luncheon (the Sunday after Labor Day, with tables for church groups to attract new members and volunteers – initiated in 2019)
- Harvest Luncheon (to thank volunteers) Rev. Burnham thanked volunteers during a Zoom church service instead.
- Veteran's Day Ashmolean Concert and Program
- Advent Tea
- Ashmolean Christmas Concert
- Christmas Carol Sing (held via Zoom)
- The Outreach Committee, chaired by Lynn Lyons, worked independently to increase Grace's visibility in the community. Carol King undertook the position of Rossmoor News Correspondent. Through her writing and coordinating efforts Grace Church has a regular presence within the Rossmoor Community. Rev. Mark Burnham writes a monthly article and Carol submits regular press releases about things going on around the church. This is especially important during the isolation caused by the pandemic.
- There was no physical outreach in the new neighborhoods near the church as had been done the previous two years – caroling in 2018 and handing out leaflets in 2019.

ELDERS RESPONSIBLE

Sara Allen, Jung-Kook Kim (resigned mid-year), Pat Hansen

Pat Hansen also chaired the Nominating Committee for 2020, as the Session representative.

Submitted by: Sara Allen

Business

GOAL

Manage the finances and maintain the property of Grace Church in good order through 2020 in anticipation of the return to in-person church services and meetings on campus following the end of the Covid-19 Pandemic closure.

PROPERTY

- Initiated plans to enhance Memorial Garden board kiosk, benches, landscape and irrigation in Spring 2021
- Sanctuary organ maintenance and repairs completed included installing organ dolly for ease of moving
- Replaced and upgraded Office Administration computer and system
- Inspected and identified exterior areas of campus buildings in need of repair due to dry rot and normal wear and tear with repairs to be completed in 2021
- Repair/regROUT the Narthex bathroom counter and replaced one broken faucet
- Replaced water heater in Oak Room
- Conserved water by repairing sprinkler system leaks and monitoring water usage
- Purchased audio and video equipment to facilitate recording and transmission of Sunday services to congregation
- Installed WIFI to cover most of the Grace campus
- Draft agreements and plans in preparation for welcoming back our facility users

FINANCES

- Automated payroll and year-end reporting by outside vendor
- Received CARE PPP loan of \$50,062. Submitting forgiveness application for approval
- Upgraded Bank of America accounts with added security and control
- Initiated program of Online Giving for congregation

ELDERS RESPONSIBLE

Geri Rentz (Chair) Bill Keeley, Dave Fellner

Submitted by Geri Rentz

Witness & Ministry

GOAL

Provide information regarding social justice issues and opportunities to respond.

STRATEGIES

Be responsible for 1) distribution of mission monies in keeping with the church's annual budget 2) special offerings and 3) 25% of undesignated investments also set aside for mission. We seek to do this responsibly with the approval of the Session. The department works to balance support of community, national and international efforts.

RESULTS

Among those receiving support were

- Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition (CCIC)
- Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH) recently renamed Hope Solutions
- Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County (I4C)
- Interfaith Council of Rossmoor
- Trinity Center of Walnut Creek (now Trinity Commons)
- SF Network Ministries Safehouse
- Presbytery of San Francisco
- Synod of the Pacific
- General Assembly Mission

In addition, individuals funded "back to school" backpacks and supplies in July (Hope Solutions), *Feed the Children* in November, *Season of Hope* and the *Giving Tree* in December. Individual contributions through the year and the *Giving Tree* fund supported the Food Boxes which are delivered by county social workers to clients in need. In response to dramatically increased needs resulting from the pandemic, our support has emphasized efforts to alleviate hunger and homelessness.

Our thanks to Judy Williams for continued support (especially in the world of Zoom!) and to the office volunteers who produced newsletter inserts, Linda Neyer and Geri Rentz for advice, information and encouragement. And a heartfelt thank you to members and friends of Grace for your great generosity which allows the department, in turn, to support local, national and international missions.

You have demonstrated what we have emphasized through the year:

"WHEN WE ALL GIVE A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!"

ELDERS RESPONSIBLE

Freddie Delamain, Marlene Hall, Lynn Lyons, Bob Flegel (member at large)

Submitted by Marlene Hall

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

From January until Rev. Burnham's arrival in April, guest preachers continued to fill the pulpit. Regular in-person worship took place from January until late March. The pandemic resulted in worship services being recorded and broadcast by means of Zoom meeting software, whose subscription was provided by the Presbytery. Attendance continued to be robust on Zoom and staff spent time helping the congregation gain access.

- Worship was celebrated each Sunday at 10:00 am, with Communion the First Sunday of each month. Home Communion ceased after March.
- Our dramatic group, Readers' Theatre of Grace presented four liturgical dramas in 2020: a magnificent play for Epiphany, "The Fourth Wise Man" (by J. Chaitin, S. Stevens-Estabrook, and M.D. Anderson, based on a story by H. Van Dyke), directed by Geri Rentz; "A Costly Business" (D. Winfield), "The King's Invitation" (W. Judkins), & "Left in the Dark: A "Foolish" Bridesmaid Presents Her Side Of The Story" (J. Sharer Robertson).
- Feb. 2 was Scout Sunday. The Scouts participated in our Souperbowl Sunday collection.
- Ash Wednesday was held in the Sanctuary on Feb 26. A Maundy Thursday Service and potluck was not held this year due to the pandemic. Palm Sunday and Easter Service were held remotely by Zoom.
- All Saints Day was celebrated on November 1 with votive candles on the Communion table representing the members who passed in the last year.
- November 22—Pledge Sunday featured huge cornucopia display on Communion table.
- Pastors Karen and Mark held a "Blue Christmas" worship service on 12/21.
- Christmas Eve was celebrated with one service at 4:00 pm with special music.

EDUCATION

- Adult Education/Bible Study was offered on Wednesdays both in-person and by Zoom beginning in May.

THANKS TO

The Deacons, for providing Communion elements and weekly candle preparation. Sunday ushers, and to Pat Hansen, for recruiting them. Communion servers. Fran Whipple for recruiting Sunday liturgists. Susan Blair, Carol Parker and others for liturgical art. Carol Parker, Boy Scout Liaison. Susan Blair, Mary Munsell, Carol Parker, Fran Whipple 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, Karen Davis, Dave Fellner, Timothy Hamilton, Linda Hohenfeldt, Meg Keeley, Nancy Lee, Carol Parker, Gail Peterson, Fran Whipple, Nora Wu. Mini-Choir: Sara Allen, Susan Blair, Liz Bradner, Rosalyn Cannelora, Kris Ludwigsen, Carol Parker, Charie Reid, Judy Williams, Nora Wu. Handbell Choir: Sara Allen, Susan Blair, Julie Kim, Insun Lee, Nancy Lee, Mary Ann Littig, Wendy Neale, Dan Owens, Maryanne Sanchez, Jan Zimmerman.

Soloists & Instrumentalists: Timothy Hamilton, Karen Hastings-Flegel, Julie Kim, Hayin Kimner, Nancy Lee, Julia Linde, Miriam Plautz, Kwangho Seo, Adriane Van Bergen, Nora Wu, Kate Ye.

Readers' Theatre Actors: Mark Burnham, Susan Blair, Gary Brassler, Nancy Brixey, Rosalyn Cannelora, Dave Fellner, Bob & Karen Flegel, Patricia Hansen, Faye Hutchings, Gessica Johnston, Bill Keeley, Jon & Mary Ann Littig, Lille, Paisley, Ruby & Vivienne Tuttle, Reta Wilcox, Jan Zimmerman. Behind the Scenes: Susan Blair, Faye Hutchings, John and Elizabeth Leighton, Carol Parker, Geri Rentz, Scott Snyder, Jan Zimmerman.

ELDERS RESPONSIBLE

Rosalyn Cannelora, Roger Schultz and Gessica Johnston

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; oversaw Deacons funds and mission-giving.
- Emphasis was placed this year on the Deacons' Parish Contact Program as support for the congregation during the closedown of in-person meetings due to the pandemic.

RESULTS

- The Parish Contact Program continued with renewed energy and greater scope, with each deacon making regular phone calls and writing note cards to the congregation. Engaged non-members were added to the member calling lists this year because of the shutdown of in-person contact. Each deacon had a list of 13 to 18 individuals for whom they were responsible. Estimates are that collectively the deacons made about 850 contacts in the year 2020. The program was very rewarding according to overwhelming positive responses from recipients of the calls and notes.
- Communion elements were prepared, candles were filled, and elders and deacons accompanied the pastors on Home Communion visitations. Home Communion did not take place during the months of shutdown.
- Memorial receptions were not held this year.
- 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 during the pandemic, 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, Maryanne Sanchez, Co-Moderator
- Carol Parker, Faye Hutchings, Jean Irvine, Barbara Di Giorgio, Communion Preparation
- Pat Devine Cummings, Food Barrel Ministry
- Jane Burkland, Memorial Gifts Recognition and Caring Note Ministry
- Jon and Mary Ann Littig, Hymnal Board
- Gail Peterson, Chancel Candle Care
- Jon Littig, Jan Zimmerman, Sunday Candle Lighters
- Dorothy Miller-Nelson, Phone Ministry
- Jane Burkland, Carol Parker, Faye Hutchings, Memorial Services
- Emergency/Disaster preparedness, Session Liaison, not assigned

THANKS TO

To the Deacons who have fulfilled their three years: Pat Devine-Cummings, Barbara Di Giorgio, Dorothy Miller-Nelson, and Jan Zimmerman. Karen Hastings-Flegel for organizing the Parish Contact Lists. To Jon Littig, Nominating Committee Representative.

Women of Grace

GOAL

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

STRATEGIES

Due to the world-wide pandemic and for the first time since the inception of Presbyterian Women at Grace, the group did not host a luncheon or the much-beloved Advent Tea. The plan and hope is that these activities will resume later in 2021.

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

Likewise, the annual Advent Tea is a gift to the community where we celebrate the season and invite church and community members to this free event to introduce them to Grace Church. The Advent Tea has been one of the major events of the church calendar year until this year when there were no in-person events.

CIRCLES

Esther and Susanna Circles met in person in January and February. The circles met again in September and November by means of Zoom. The meetings were successful, though different. Lavenia Black continued to provide study leadership and other leadership was provided by Mary Ann Littig and Jan Zimmerman. Faye Hutchings developed the agenda and hosted the Zoom meetings.

Needlers, a knitting and crocheting craft group, continued their projects in their individual homes. They continue to make scarves for our troops. In 2020 they mailed 290 scarves to Operation Gratitude. Marsha Stark is the leader of the Needlers and the liaison for Operation Gratitude.

RESULTS

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Presbyterian Women managed to host successful Zoom meetings which enabled the group to make business decisions, select new leaders for 2021, continue with their Bible study, and connect with each other socially.

Although the group was unable to host their usual events, they plan to continue to meet by means of Zoom until such time when it is safe to resume in-person gatherings. Since the annual Advent Tea did not take place, a decision was made to postpone the choice of the annual Lifetime Membership Award winner until 2021.

THANKS TO

The Coordinating Team, Jan Zimmerman, Mary Ann Littig, Faye Hutchings. The Circle Leaders: Jan Zimmerman, leader, Gessica Johnston, co-leader - Esther Circle; Mary Ann Littig, leader, Faye Hutchings, co-leader - Susanna Circle; Lavenia Black for study leadership and Pastor Karen Hastings-Flegel for her support. Thanks to Marsha Stark for leading the Needlers. Special thanks and honor to Betsy Williams for her decades of inspiration and leadership of the Presbyterian Women at Grace Church.

Submitted by the Leadership Team

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 met on the second Friday of each month including regular meetings during the pandemic by means of Zoom. 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 stalwart leadership of Pastor Emeritus, Bob Williams, and now is led by Rev. Mark Burnham.

Grace Cooperative Preschool

Since the preschool year extends from August to May, two preschool years have been impacted by the pandemic. School year 2019-2020 started in September with all our typical activities. This was capped on February 29 by our 31st pancake breakfast which many Grace church members attended. Close monitoring of national and local health advisories led us to close in-person learning for preschoolers and families on March 12. We initiated some online activities via Zoom and maintained contact with our families. We continued to hope to have an opportunity to return to campus. As the pandemic ebbed and flowed, we officially ended our school year in May 2020.

Throughout the summer we continued to follow the developments and notifications from the various health departments trying to plan for the fall. We finally accepted that the best practice would be to initiate an online experience for the preschoolers and their families. We hold Zoom meetings in age groups and provide monthly materials for activities that we direct via Zoom and video.

Our enrollment has diminished significantly and has had a dramatic effect on our budget. Church treasurer Linda Neyer included the preschool in the application for the government loans to small businesses. This was used to cover use fees as well as staff for three months. We held a very successful pie sale which helped with expenses and we have begun to draw down from our reserves. Although the future is challenging, we firmly believe we have a core group of parents and staff that are committed to growth in the future.

We continue to be grateful for the support of Linda Neyer for financial direction, Lavenia Black for musical support, administrative advice from Judy Williams and the foresight of that group that established Grace Cooperative Preschool 50 years ago. While many were involved back then, among those central to the establishment were Betsy Williams and Charie Reid. Among the first enrollees was the child of David Fellner.

Submitted by Marlene Hall, Co-Director
Grace Cooperative Preschool

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

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

Church Leaders for 2021

ELDERS

BUSINESS

Bill Keeley	(2021)
Dave Fellner	(2022)
Jon Littig	(2023)

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Pat Devine	(2021)
Kathie Paul	(2023)

DISCIPLESHIP

Lynn Lyons	(2021)
Pat Hansen	(2022)

WITNESS & MINISTRY

Freddie Delamain	(2022)
Liz Bradner	(2023)

WORSHIP & EDUCATION

Roger Schultz	(2021)
Gessica Johnston	(2022)
Jan Zimmerman	(2023)

DEACONS

Faye Hutchings	(2021)
Carol Parker	(2021)
Gail Peterson	(2021)
Maryanne Sanchez	(2021)

Jane Burkland	(2022)
Jean Irvine	(2022)
Barbara Odell	(2022)
Mary Ann Littig	(2022)

Kathy Anderson	(2023)
Sally Day*	(2023)
Judith Jones	(2023)
Mary Munsell	(2023)