

Grace Presbyterian volunteers prepare church for reopening

By Carol King
Church correspondent

During this time of coronavirus restrictions, Grace Presbyterian Church volunteers have been busy getting the church ready for reopening. The church has been deep cleaned, and a group has made a reserve of silk flower arrangements for the church. Another team has been creating and refurbishing liturgical banners, which adorn the sanctuary.

“We are fortunate to have two creative and dedicated volunteers to manage our nearly 30 liturgical banners,” Grace Presbyterian’s senior pastor, the Rev. Mark Burnham, said. “Grace Church is a modern structure, and the sanctuary is unadorned. The lovely, hand-made banners dress up the sanctuary and help set the mood for the liturgical seasons such as Lent, Easter and Pentecost.”

Carol Parker and Susan Blair have been managing the Grace Church banners for many years. “Carol and Susan work well together. They make a good team, and I appreciate

the work that they do on behalf of the church,” Burnham said.

Susan Blair became involved with Grace Church when she enrolled her son, Scot, in the Grace Co-Operative Preschool. When the church was seeking 25 new members for its 25th anniversary celebration in 1983, Susan and her husband, Jim, joined, making the 24th and 25th new members.

Soon after, Blair was asked to create two Easter banners. She was the right person for the job, as she holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Moore College of Art and Design in Philadelphia. She and Jim own Blair Graphics, where she is responsible for signs, murals, banners and window art.

Blair has served the church in many capacities over the years. “I have painted windows, the nursery mural and made signs for the preschool and other areas,” she said.

She has also taught crafts to the frail elderly in the Tice Valley Respite Center, which was located at Grace, every Friday for 17 years. The center was a joint effort between Grace and Acalanes Adult Education.

One of the liturgical banners Blair created is on the wall in the adjacent picture. “The design is original, and all work was done by hand,” Blair said. “This banner was displayed in the church sanctuary during the recent Easter service this year. Even though our services are temporarily viewed on Zoom, the banners are displayed on screen during services.”

Parker has been a member of Grace Church for 20 years. She too has volunteered in many capacities. During live services, Parker operates the sound system. She also is Boy Scout charter organization representative for Troup 302, which meets at the church.

The boys also participate in church events such as the Veterans Day program, as well as take on projects on the church campus.

Early on, Parker joined the Worship and Education committee, which was responsible for banners. “We have an elaborate pulley system that allows displaying eight banners at once,” Parker said. “My job was to ensure that the banners were rotated according to the liturgical sea-



Rossmoor resident the Rev. Mark Burnham (standing), senior pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, looks on as Carol Parker, left, and Susan Blair complete restoration of a liturgical banner.

sons,” she continued. “Now Susan and I do that together. Over the years, we’ve created several banners. Many of our banners, however, were made years ago by our women’s circles.”

“Constructing new banners is fun, but restoration is important, too,” she added. “The banner on the table in the adjacent picture was gifted to Grace. Unfortunately, after dry cleaning, much of the fabric disinte-

grated from age. “This has been our most difficult restoration project. But Susan and I enjoy working together, and it is satisfying when a piece is completed and it turns out well.”

For information about Grace Presbyterian Church, call 925-935-2100 or email gracepreschurchwc@gmail.com.

The church website: <https://www.gracewc.org>

Bible Study Group to host April 10 ‘Spring Fling’ at Dollar

The Rossmoor Bible Study Group will continue with its examination of the book of Acts at its weekly Thursday meeting on April 8.

This study group meets every Thursday via Zoom at 10:15 a.m.

The April 8 lesson is on Acts 6:8-8:3 (“First Martyr”). The Apostles, who faithfully attended temple services and followed the customs of Jewish tradition, were “highly regarded by the people” even though

the authorities detested them.

This is a non-denominational study group that welcomes everyone. For more information on how to participate in the Zoom, email Pat Hutchison at rossmoorbiblestudy@gmail.com. Participants will receive an email with the link to join the meeting. Attendees who want to skip the video feature still can participate using the audio-only option.

More information is available by calling Owen at 925-234-

0205 or Mary at 925-934-8829.

‘Spring Fling’ on April 10
The Rossmoor Bible Study group will host an outdoor “Spring Fling” on Saturday,

April 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Dollar picnic grounds.

There will be entertainment, fellowship, snacks and a chance to meet the group’s

teachers Kids and everyone welcome.

For information, call Owen at 925-234-0205 or Mary at 925-934-8829.

Dolores Burriss

Dolores Burriss of Rossmoor passed away peacefully last week only a few days shy of her 94th birthday. After her retirement from computer programming, she fulfilled her dreams of an active life and world travel. Dolores was a vibrant participant in many areas of Rossmoor. She will be remembered most as the founder of Sing For Joy and the song leader at the Christmas Tree lighting and many 4th of July events for over 20 years. She served as a deacon in the Rossmoor Pilgrim Congregational Church and as a contributor to the Interfaith Council throughout the development of the prayer chapel in Dollar Clubhouse. Many will have shared a lane with her at Hillside pool throughout the last 30 years where she swam almost daily just before sunset.

Dolores is preceded in death by her brothers Richard and Robert, husbands Charles & Richard and by her son Charles. She is survived by her siblings Jerry, Jack, Carol, and Sandy, her daughter Christine, daughter-in-law Margaux, her grandchildren Alicia, Scott, Andre, Andrea, Kelsey, and her great grandchildren Madison, Dalton, Ashleigh, Kyrie, and Serenity. She enriched every relationship, and her passing is deeply felt by all.



PAID OBITUARY

STANLEY FOX NEWMAN

Stanley Fox Newman (1924-2021) died February 28 after a short hospitalization. The only child of Henry and Mildred (Fox) Newman, Stan was born on September 8, 1924, in Kansas City, Missouri. He graduated from high school at age 16 and attended Caltech in Pasadena, graduating in 1944 with a degree in chemical engineering. He enlisted in the Navy, serving on active duty until 1946, when he returned to Caltech to get his master’s degree.

In Pasadena, Stan met Miriam Edelman. They were married in New York City on April 28, 1945, shortly after he was commissioned. Their first son, David Michael Newman, was born in March 1946, while Stan was serving on the USS Perkins in the western Pacific.

Stan worked for Shell Development Company, first in Long Beach and then in the Bay Area. Their second son, Kenneth Alan Newman, was born in June 1949. Stan and Miriam lived in San Francisco until 1971, when they moved with his job, first to Cherry Hills, New Jersey, and then to Houston, Texas. They returned to the Bay Area in 1981 after Stan’s retirement from Shell. He finished his career at Catalytica, a small Silicon Valley firm. Although he rarely talked about his work, Stan was clearly a gifted engineer. He received several patents for his work at Shell Development and Catalytica.

In 1983, David invited him to try



cross-country skiing. It was a perfect match. He became an avid skier, spending three weeks every year at Royal Gorge’s Wilderness Lodge near Soda Springs. He routinely out-paced skiers who were a generation younger and made friends with people to whom he remained close for years after he put his skis away in his mid-80s.

Stan and Miriam were enthusiastic supporters of Israel, and after Miriam’s death in 2017, Stan made major gifts to Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the Weizmann Institute of Science. He believed that Israel’s greatest strength was its people and that supporting its universities was a way of developing Israel’s human capital. He also made a major gift to Caltech, in thanks for the role it played in launching his career.

Stan is survived by his son and daughter-in-law David and Ellen Newman of San Francisco and grandson Benjamin Newman of Waltham, Massachusetts; his son and daughter-in-law Kenneth and Kathy Newman of Overland Park, Kansas, grandchildren Brian and Adam Newman and Kristin (Dylan) Rogers, and great-granddaughters Madelynn and Leah; and dear friend Mimi Rosenberg of Walnut Creek.

Donations in Stanley Newman’s name may be made to the Stanley and Miriam Newman AKIS Fellowship Fund of the American Associates of Ben-Gurion University or to your local food bank.

PAID OBITUARY