



*60 Years of Grace  
2018 Annual Report*

Grace Presbyterian Church \* 2100 Tice Valley Blvd. \* Walnut Creek, CA 94595

## *A Year of Change*

2018 was a year of change for Grace Church. Roger Reaber, pastor for 26 years, retired, announcing his decision in April and departing, with good wishes from all, July 1.

Following the procedure for pastoral transition recommended by the Presbytery of San Francisco, the church contracted with an Interim Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Waddell, for a year of service, and he began July 29.

During 2019 the church will complete a Mission Study, a comprehensive review including church history, financial reports and analysis, community and church demographics, and goals and objectives for the future inspired by interviews with members of the congregation. Once this report is completed and shared, a Pastoral Nominating Committee will be named, and the search for a new permanent pastor will begin.

All of the following department reports reflect these circumstances.

Thanks to the members of the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee: Sharon Lyons, chair, Earnie Cunningham, Sally Day, Meg Keeley, Jon Littig and Carol Parker.

Thanks to the members of the Mission Study Team: Reta Wilcox, chair, Roslyn Cannelora, Stan Dorst, Meg Keeley, Carol King, El Nungesser, and Geri Rentz.

Reta Wilcox  
Clerk of Session

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## *Treasurer's Report*

### STATEMENT OF THE GENERAL FUND FOR 2018

Grace Church budgeted \$420,385 for its General Fund in 2018, an increase of \$2,427 over the preceding year, due mainly to staff salary increases and facility operation costs.

Total income for the budget program came to \$429,218, for which \$25,000 was transferred from Investment Funds to the program by decision of the church Session. Total expenses for the year were \$427,204, leading to an increase of \$2,194 in the bank balance at year's end.

Bank balance on 1/1/18	\$ 35,726.64
Church program receipts	\$ 429,218.31
Church program expenses	<u>\$ 427,024.27</u>
Bank balance on 12/31/18	\$ 37,920.68

In addition, Grace Church handled \$205,123 in receipts and \$158,004 in expenses for special accounts and activities during the year. At the end of year 2018, church bank accounts held \$205,438 for these designated purposes, apart from the church program.

	<u>Church program receipts</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Pledges for 2018	\$253,654	59%
Other revenue	<u>\$175,564</u>	<u>41%</u>
Total	\$429,218	100%
	<u>Church program expenses</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Local Program	\$369,185	86%
General Mission	<u>\$ 57,839</u>	<u>14%</u>
Total	\$427,024	100%

The year 2018 saw a decline in the value of the church's investment holdings owing to the year over year decline in market values. After allowing for income withdrawals and the \$333,605 proceeds from the sale of Reverend Roger Reaber's home in which the church had an equity interest as well as the \$25,000 mentioned above, the decrease was roughly 9% in asset value. At the end of 2018, the Investment Fund included the Gemmer-Schwab Asset Management fund, \$1,094,346, and the United Presbyterian Foundation, \$489,261, a total of \$1,583,607.

As recommended by EBIC (Endowments, Bequests, and Investments), \$35,000 was received from the True Wealth Advisory Group, and \$27,708 from New Covenant Funds of the United Presbyterian Church, for various church purposes.

There is no outstanding indebtedness.

Submitted by Linda Neyer

## *Clerk of Session*

<b>Active Membership as of 1/1/2018</b>	<b>157</b>
Deaths as of December 31, 2018	10
Other Losses as of December 31, 2018	5
Gains as of December 31, 2018	6
Active Members as of December 31, 2018	148
Affiliate Members as of December 31, 2018 Timothy Hamilton, Allen Teagle, Elise Teagle, Mary Munsell, Jean Irvine	5
<b><u>Membership as of December 31, 2018</u></b>	<b><u>153</u></b>

***We remember and celebrate the resurrection of  
those members of Grace who died in 2018.***

M.J. Palley, Marilyn Stickler, Janyce Gerber  
Marcia Stover, Leland Drew, Helen Clise  
Helen Gossett, Richard Carll, Avis Eukel, Clyda Hull

***We are very pleased to welcome six new members in 2018.***

Connie Bills, Eleanor Karn, Lynn Lyons,  
Gessica Johnston, Annie Toy, Juanita Thomas

Submitted by Reta Wilcox  
Clerk of Session

## *Pastor's Report—Tom Waddell*

*“What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun.”* Ecclesiastes 1: 9

*“And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’”* Revelation 21: 5

As an Interim Pastor, I am accustomed to new things. Each church I serve has distinctive characteristics, and each congregation does things in its own unique way. To the members of the church, these idiosyncrasies are simply the way things have always been done. To me, they are delightfully new and original, and they help me to see our “Old-Time Religion” in a new light.

Because so many things are new, I spend most of my first couple of months just observing and not commenting. It is too easy to say, “You’re doing that wrong. Here, let me show you how to do it.” Instead, I watch and see whether this new way makes sense, which it usually does. Then, when I have seen a lot of what makes the church unique, I am able to offer some observations, and perhaps some suggestions for improvement.

Observations: I have experienced some beautiful worship services and concerts since I arrived at Grace Church. The music, the prayers, the symbols of our faith used in creative ways, all have lifted my spirit during worship. You have many wonderful musicians and a very creative worship leader in Rev. Karen Hastings-Flegel.

Second, I am impressed with your dedication to local mission. So many people that I have talked to are committed to helping others and making a difference in Walnut Creek. Ours is a church that gives back to the community. We collect food and dedicate it to those in need, we gave money to help a local student who suffered a terrible accident, and our Witness and Ministry Department is focused on local causes that we can support.

Suggestions: Grace is an attractive church. We have a beautiful traditional worship service, we are committed to local mission, and our people are friendly and inviting. Sometimes, though, I think that we have made ourselves invisible. We are tucked away in a quiet neighborhood, away from the downtown area. Our church lacks many of the programs that people expect to find, such as Sunday School and an active Youth Group. It is my intention in 2019 to see what we can do to let people know about the hidden gem that is Grace Presbyterian Church.

Finally, things will be very different in 2019 as we adjust to the loss of our long-time pastor, Roger Reaber. No matter what the outcome of our pastoral search, it will be difficult to replace such a talented person as Roger, and we can only trust that God has someone in mind that will continue his excellent leadership.

I wish to call attention to your excellent Session and the leadership they provide. I have seldom seen such a talented and knowledgeable group. You are fortunate to have such fine leadership. I would also like to show my appreciation for my colleagues, Rev. Hastings-Flegel and Judy Williams, our office manager. Their creativity and thoughtfulness have made me feel very welcome and excited about ministry with you in the coming year.

In 2019 we will see many changes as we complete our Mission Study and begin to search for a new pastor. May God grant us the ability to see what changes need to be made so that God can make all things new.

Yours in Christ, Tom

## Pastor's Report—Karen Hastings-Flegel

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. I served Home Communion with various elders and deacons. Grief Group at Grace (our grief support group) has met almost every week for more than two years. Jean Irvine is co-leader. Sara Allen helps as well. In May, I taught a five-week course on grief, using the Stephen Ministries book series, *Journeying through Grief* by Kenneth G. Haugk. On October 31, the Grief Group held a special event for Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). People honored loved ones by bringing pictures, mementos, and stories. On December 21, I led the church's third annual "Blue Christmas" service, especially for those who are mourning losses at Christmastime.

Other aspects of my pastoral ministry included co-leading Communion, officiating at Ed Hinds's memorial service, preaching several times, leading worship at Generations Healthcare (Kindred Care), and attending presbytery and church meetings. I led a prayer and played cello for Rossmoor's Interfaith Thanksgiving service. My study leave included two conventions, Hymn Society and American Guild of Organists, and the presbytery's "Journey Groups" program, which Grace has helped support. This program includes two retreats, spiritual direction, different spiritual practices, and small group meetings.

The Chancel Choir helped lead worship most Sundays of the year with beautiful singing. The Handbell Choir enhanced our worship with lovely bell music about every six weeks. The choirs had two potlucks. Trumpeter, Steve Gileno joined the Choir for the Easter Sunday music. Copious thanks to Choir and Bell Choir members, soloists, and organist, Julie Kim. Special thanks to pianists, Julia Linde and Julie Kim, who each played pre-service music for many weeks. All of these people are vital to our music ministry! Both choirs are a joy to direct. Grace hosted several community concerts, featuring artists including harpist Dominique Piana, and pianist, Kwangho Seo, who donated his time for the Peacemaking Concert. I helped plan the two patriotic concerts, for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and played the organ. Liz Bradner organized Christmas caroling at three senior residences and outside Safeway. Meg Keeley led the singing with her accordion. The Choir replaced its worn music binders with deluxe choir folders. The Bell Choir also bought new equipment: six-foot tables, new blue covers, foam pads, gloves, and polishing cloths. On Nov. 25 (in honor of Grace's 60th anniversary on Nov. 30), the Choir presented a special anthem with congregation and trumpeter, Steve Mullins.

Our dramatic group adopted the official name, Readers' Theatre of Grace. We presented two plays, both by Tom S. Long: "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Jericho" (fresh takes on the Good Samaritan parable) and "The First Congregational Meeting of the Church of Jerusalem" (Pentecost; included both choirs). Actors this year were Sara Allen, Susan Blair, Marjorie Bradley, Rosalyn Cannelora, Madelyn Cocoz, Karen Davis, Dave Fellner, Bob Flegel, Timothy Hamilton, Patricia Hansen, Meg Keeley, Jon Littig, Mary Ann Littig, Sharon Lyons, Geri Rentz, Liz Sloan, Reta Wilcox, and Jan Zimmerman. I directed the Good Samaritan play and the No Stress No Fuss Christmas Pageant. Rosalyn Cannelora, Dave Fellner, Bob Flegel, Sharon Lyons, Ruby Tuttle, and Reta Wilcox read the pageant's poems this year. Reta Wilcox directed the Pentecost play.

The Earth Care Team successfully completed the difficult application process for Grace to become an Earth Care Congregation! Team members are Kathy Anderson, Bethallyn Black, Lavenia Black, Nancy Brixey, Jane Burkland, Pat Devine-Cummings, Barbara DiGiorgio, Marlene Hall, Gessica Johnston, Meg Keeley, Julia Linde, Joy Maynes, Gail Peterson, and Charie Reid. The Earth Care Team sponsored an International Earth Day observance on September 2 during and after worship.

Chancel Choir: Sara Allen, Diana Barkley, Susan Blair, Liz Bradner, Rosalyn Cannelora, Rita Chorné, Madelyn Cocoz, Karen Davis, Dave Fellner, Timothy Hamilton, Linda Hohenfeldt, Dave Johnson, Meg Keeley, Gail Peterson, Marshall St. Clair, Marcia Sings, Tom Waddell, Fran Whipple, Nora Wu.

Handbell Choir: Sara Allen, Diana Barkley, June Bechtel, Susan Blair, Madelyn Cocoz, Meg Keeley, Julie Kim, Insun Lee, Mary Ann Littig, Judie Moore, Wendy Neale, Maryanne Sanchez, Marcia Sings, Jan Zimmerman.

Soloists & Instrumentalists: Diana Barkley, Dick Carll, Karen Davis, Katie Fang, Kyle Fang, Jeremy Flegel, Timothy Hamilton, Julie Kim, Julia Linde, Gail Peterson, Kwangho Seo, Marcia Sings, Fran Whipple, Jack Wright, and Nora Wu.

On July 1, we said a sad (though festively celebrated) goodbye to retiring pastor Roger Reaber. On July 29, we welcomed Interim Pastor Thomas Waddell. 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 in 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)
- Rossmoor Friends of Grace (RFOG) continued to improve our visibility and outreach to the Rossmoor Community. For the past eight years RFOG has increased our visibility in the community and we continue to have new members come to the church through these events.
- Discipleship also encouraged and supported other outreach efforts of the congregation, including the Advent Tea, concerts, speakers, Day Retreats, and other programs.
- Sunday Fellowship Time was supported through 13 hosting teams and coordinated by Sonja Luscher.
- In 2018 we welcomed six new members into our community,
- On October 12<sup>th</sup> we sponsored the Harvest Thank You Dinner with Witness and Ministry to thank our generous givers of time, talent and treasure. Freddie Delamain was the chef, Sharon Lyons led the set-up and serving volunteers, and the entertainment was planned by Sara Allen.
- In response to the new requirement for Kitchen Safety by the Contra Costa County Health Department, Sara Allen arranged for our kitchen to be certified. We had a kitchen clean-up day. Sara has completed the food safety certification course. The kitchen has been supplied with additional cleaning supplies. Our Oak Room commercial kitchen is now certified in compliance with public safety regulations.

## STEWARDSHIP

- Our annual stewardship campaign “Faith in Our Future” had an initial financial goal to meet last years pledges of \$218,310. However this did not address the gap in the budget. The pledge goal was revised to \$250,000 which would close the gap and balance our budget for 2019. As of January 10th we have received 82 pledges in the amount of \$225,665. In an effort to close the budge gap, the Discipleship team has been following up with pledgers from last year who have not yet committed to 2019.
- Proceeds from our summer facility campaign enabled us to resurface and restripe the parking lot, as well as repair a broken sidewalk. We met our goal of \$20,000. A \$10,000 donation was received from the Carol Bergesen family. 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. The RFOG Committee, Retreat Team, and others who organized our outreach events. To Sara Allen for spearheading the effort to commercialize our Oak Room kitchen. And especially to the pledgers to Grace Church whose financial support allows us to continue the work of the church.

## ELDERS RESPONSIBLE

Freddie Delamain (chair), Elizabeth Bradner, and Sara Allen

## *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 2018 toward this goal:

January 14	Glenn Staller Guitar Concert
January 29	RFOG, You Are My Sunshine Social with the Rossmoor Ukulele Club
February 23	Hans Hielscher Organ Concert
February 25	Author's Presentation: Sam Oliner, The Altruistic Personality
March 3	Day Retreat: Hope
March 18	Fremont Christian School Concert
March 19	PW Luncheon and Program: Living in the Bay Area as a Muslim
April 29	Harp Concert by Dominique Piana
May 28	Memorial Day Picnic and Concert (RFOG and Grace Church)
June 2	Day Retreat: Mending Wounded Hearts
August 27	RFOG, Garden Party Social with Container Gardening demonstration
September 30	Piano Concert with Mr. Seo
November 11	Veteran's Concert and reception with the Ashmolean Singers
December 1	Advent Tea and Program, with the Madrigal Singers of Northgate
December 9	"No Fuss, No Stress" Christmas Pageant during Sunday Worship
December 9	Ashmolean Christmas Concert

Submitted by Freddie Delamain

## *Business*

### **GOAL**

Manage church finances and property with integrity to attract and benefit members, friends, donors and community partners.

### **STRATEGIES**

- Maintain the grounds and buildings.
- Repair and replace equipment as needed.
- Oversee the finances of the church to assure transparency to the congregation.

### **RESULTS**

- Recoated and restriped the main parking lot.
- Repaired Library ceiling.
- Remodeled Treasurer's office.
- Heat and a/c system for all buildings on campus placed on a maintenance schedule for three times/year.
- Toilets for handicap stalls in Oak Room replaced with ADA compliant models.
- Replaced wireless microphones in sanctuary.
- General campus clean up and consolidation of items stored to more convenient locations.
- Boy Scouts refinished benches in central courtyard, replaced mulch in memorial garden, removed bumpers in parking lot and repaired part of cement sidewalk.
- Trimmed trees to allow parking lot lighting to be more visible. Lights to be upgraded.
- Building rewired to accommodate conversion to Comcast internet and telephone system.
- Recent sale of Pastor Reaber's home has closed. The EBIC Members along with the Business Department will make recommendations on how best to use Grace's share of this equity.

### **THANKS TO**

- Carol Parker and the Boy Scouts for all of their campus maintenance projects.
- Marlene Hall for organizing the storage of bells and major cleanout of storage areas.
- Geraldine Rentz for work in her new duties as Assistant Treasurer.
- To the many past donors to Grace.
- Don Lyons and Carol Parker for working on the sanctuary sound system.
- Don Lyons for all of his handyman work about the campus.
- Treasurer Linda Neyer - especially in transition of Pastor Reaber's retirement and Dick Carll's passing (past Treasurer).
- To the many donors to Presbyterian Church whose gifts Grace has received over the 60 years of our history. These gifts have been critical in maintaining our campus.

### **ELDERS RESPONSIBLE**

Dave Fellner (Chair), Earnie Cunningham, and Geraldine Rentz

Submitted by David Fellner

## Witness & Ministry

### GOAL

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

### STRATEGIES

The department is responsible for distribution of the mission budget (12%) of the total Grace budget and various special offerings and monies from investments. We seek to do this in a compassionate and responsible manner with the approval of the Session.\*

### RESULTS

Grace's \$50,000 Mission Budget included donations to the following organizations:

- Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition (CCIC)
- Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH)
- Trinity Center of Walnut Creek
- 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

Over and above the budgeted amount, Grace's great extravagant generosity allowed for a successful collection of back packs/school supplies in July – 15 backpacks, 6 boxes or supplies; \$1100.00 for Feed the Children in December; all this in support of CCIH programs and thanks to the work of Gail Peterson. The Earth Care Team was certified this year and has put several "planet saving" programs into place around our campus. 60 food boxes delivered to CCIC.

- Special offerings were received: One Great Hour of Sharing in support of Presbyterian programs nationally and internationally (\$14,151.00);
- Pentecost Offering (\$2539.00) in support of a program in the SF Tenderloin which Abby Pennington, former Grace member, works with the San Francisco homeless population through "At the Crossroads".
- Peace and Global Mission Offering (\$2458.00) gave Grace 25% of that amount – we added \$650.00 from a special concert supporting Ryan Joseph, former Grace student, seriously injured in a high school wrestling accident early in the year.
- To date the Christmas Joy offering amounts to \$2065.84.
- We also supported college student Coby Welby (\$250.00) on his cross- country bicycle ride for the disabled, "Journey of Hope" – Coby is also part of the Grace family.
- We enhanced our global mission by the ministry of Racini Baikin of the Phillipines for four days in October.
- Souper Bowl Sunday and Donations from the Harvest Dinner added almost \$1000 to the Food Box program.

The end of the year found us with \$700.00 plus from the Giving Tree program for extra food cards for use by CCIC. (These amounts do not include donations you made in support of the Facilities Campaign, Flower Donations, Deacons Donations to the CCIC food program.) IBEC shares for our department allowed us to donation \$1000 each to CCIC, Trinity House and Pastor Racini Baiken.

*\*Late in 2017, the San Francisco Presbytery gave Grace \$5,000.00 to distribute as we saw fit. Early in the year Session agreed to equally support the local ministries of the following organizations: Multi-Faith Coalition; CCIH, Trinity Homeless Center; Habitat for Humanity; Catholic Charities Refugee Program – presentations by each educated us to their work in the community.*

### THANKS TO

Judy Williams and office volunteers for producing inserts for Grace in the World; Bob Flegel who assisted at monthly meetings. Gail Peterson for her leadership with "Let's Feed the Kids". 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:** Sharon Lyons, Joy Maynes and Nancy Brixey

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**

- Worship was celebrated each Sunday at 10:00 am, with Communion the First Sunday of each month. Communion is observed at the first Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.
- Grace held the third annual “No Fuss, No Stress Christmas Pageant” where members of the congregation, visiting families and friends participated in the story of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem.
- We celebrated World Communion Sunday this year without our sister congregation ATC. Instead of a shared luncheon, we held an International Finger Food offering during Fellowship Hour on October 7.
- Earth Day Celebration was joyous with Grace Preschool participating in Sunday service.
- Ash Wednesday was held in the Sanctuary as an in-the-round setting. Maundy Thursday was observed with a pot-luck supper and an evening service.
- Reformation Sunday was celebrated with a Scottish theme. Interim Pastor Tom Waddell’s sermon about John Knox was enhanced with a slide show. Many in the congregation wore plaid.
- Reverend Karen Hastings-Flegel recognized the stress the holidays may bring with an intimate “Blue Christmas” worship service on December 21.
- Readers’ Theatre of Grace presented two plays by Tom Long, “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Jericho” (Good Samaritan story) and “The First Congregational Meeting of the Church of Jerusalem” (Pentecost).
- Visiting pastors preached several times, offering the congregation new perspectives. Karen Hastings-Flegel preached several times, usually when Roger was on vacation.
- On July 1, we said farewell to the Reverend Roger Reaber on the occasion of his retirement after 26 years as our Pastor. On July 29, the Reverend Tom Waddell began as Interim Pastor.
- Boy Scout Troop 302 participated in Scout Sunday and in Souper Bowl Sunday.
- On November 25, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of Grace Presbyterian Church which was founded on November 30, 1958 with a special anthem for choir, congregation and trumpet, played by Steve Mullins.
- We appreciate the profound leadership of Karen Hasting-Flegel as the Music Director/Associate Pastor. Karen is the Chancel Choir Director, Organist, Pianist, and the Bell/Chime Director.

### **EDUCATION**

- Sunday Adult Education/Study programs were offered. These include: discussion of Christian Churches, The Prodigal God, Prayer, Caring for God’s Creation, and guest speakers from charities that we support. Sermon discussions were held on Sunday mornings when studies were on break.
- Wednesday Bible Study was reorganized to be subject specific rather than a discussion of the upcoming Sunday sermon. Offerings included: Belonging to God: A study of the Brief Statement of Faith, and the Gospel of Mark as Story.
- Successful Aging presented several informative education programs which were presented by guest speakers.
- Two Retreats were held on Saturdays to welcome the surrounding community and to offer meaningful spiritual growth. The retreat team: Roger Reaber, Karen Hastings-Flegel, Leslee Prael, Gail Peterson, Julia Linde, Joy Maynes, Rosalyn Cannelora, and Jon Littig.
- Pastor Emeritus Bob Williams led the monthly Men’s Club meetings to discuss topics and educate one another about issues in the present day arena.
- As many as ten children at one time attended worship this last year. Leadership was offered by our Sunday/Nursery School team; Louise Milford, Marlene Hall, Lavenia Black, Bethallyn Black, and Daniel Rogers.

### **THANKS TO**

The Deacons, whose devotion to providing Communion elements, note ministry, phone ministry and outreach to members. Jan Zimmerman, Jon Littig, and Louise Milford who made sure our candelabra are ready to light up the Sanctuary every Sunday. Sunday ushers, and to Pat Hansen, for recruiting them each week. Dick Carll, Julie Kim and Julia Linde for offering their musical talents. Fran Whipple who recruited the Sunday liturgists. Susan Blair and Carol Parker for liturgical art. Carol Parker for her role as Boy Scout Liaison. Rita Chorné for her many years of managing the flowers for the Sanctuary, with special attention to the Advent decorations and Easter Celebrations. Pastoral representatives: Roger Reaber, Karen Hastings-Flegel and Tom Waddell.

### **ELDERS RESPONSIBLE**

Jon Littig (chair), Susan Blair and Rosalyn Cannelora

# *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.

## **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**

- Sally Day and Louise Milford, Co-Moderators
- Betty Adams, Barbara DiGiorgio, and Pat Devine-Cummings, Secretary
- Emergency/Disaster preparedness, Session Liaison, not assigned
- Sally Day, Kathy Anderson, Madelyn Cocoz and Barbara DiGiorgio  
Communion Preparation
- Louise Milford and Jan Zimmerman, Hymnal Board Monitor
- Pat Hansen, Food Barrel Ministry
- Jane Burkland, Memorial Gifts Recognition
- Jane Burkland, Caring Note Card Ministry
- Jan Zimmerman, Nominating Committee
- Louise Milford, Jan Zimmerman, Candle Filling

## **THANKS TO**

Sonja Luscher, to whom we are especially grateful for organizing memorial service receptions for the past eleven years, and who is retiring! To the deacons who helped: Sally Day, Mary Ann Littig, Louise Milford, Jane Burkland, Kathy Andersen, and Pat Hansen.

Submitted by Sally Day

# 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 one luncheon during 2018. 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.

The annual Advent Tea is a gift to the community. The purpose is to 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 biggest 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 new Treasurer for the Presbyterian Women organization. Pastor Karen 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, new to 2018, 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 Kaiser doctor, Lubna Hasanain, M. D. She shared her perspective on living as a Muslim in America.

The annual Advent Tea was held on December 1 in the Sanctuary with the tea following in the Oak Room. The musical part of the program was by the Northgate High School Madrigals. The Presbyterian Women honored Geraldine Rentz and Gail Peterson with the annual life membership award. Refreshments for the tea were prepared in the Oak Room Commercial kitchen according to the Contra Costa County Health standards under the guidance of kitchen manager Sara Allen.

## THANKS TO

Gessica Johnson, Louise Milford, Betsy Williams and Jan Zimmerman for providing leadership to the Circles throughout the year. Lavenia Black for providing Bible Study at the Circle meetings. The leadership team: Gessica Johnston, Louise Milford, Betsy Williams and Jan Zimmerman for organizing the Advent Tea. Special recognition to Jan Zimmerman for spearheading the preparations for the Advent Tea and Program, and for completing the myriad of "behind the scenes" duties required for this event. Karen Hastings-Flegel, Jan Zimmerman and Dorothy Miller-Nelson for planning and speaking at the program. Rita Chorné, Jon and Mary Ann Littig for organizing the Advent Tea decorations. The many individuals who performed as tea servers, runners, setup crew, cleanup crew and the those who plated cookies and sandwiches. Sara Allen for her guidance in the kitchen. and Judy Williams for the support she provides.



## *Grace Cooperative Preschool*

Grace Cooperative Preschool enjoyed a wonderful year in 2018 as families worked together to strengthen our school's commitment to the environment, make some notable upgrades and continued our honored events and traditions.

Grace Preschool has been working hard over the past few years to deepen our commitment to "go green" and teach the children to be responsible patrons of the planet. We supported the environment through school projects and field trips, our Earth Day celebration and continued the effort to reduce the use of plastics throughout the entire school during snack time. We have also implemented a reusable water bottle program to lessen our need for paper cups. Earth Day has become a cherished tradition with families and the church community and we all enjoy the children's singing at the Sunday service. We are thankful to be included in this celebration.

During the course of the year, we updated the sinks and faucets in the classrooms to make them more efficient and conserve water. The removal of the drinking fountain, replacing old fixtures and watering plants with the used dish water leads to more responsible water use and models good habits to the children. We were also able to clean out and paint a storage shed and convert it into useable space to store outdoor equipment for the sport court. The school is looking great, and we are so happy to be a part of it!

In February, we held our successful Pancake Breakfast. We had a whimsical, Dr. Seuss theme this year, "A Time to Rhyme". Children and families worked hard to turn the Oak Room into a colorful compilation of books and art. The theme inspired children to read some extra Dr. Seuss classics to find their favorite characters and bring them to life that day. Funds raised from the pancake breakfast were used to support our wonderful music program, tuition assistance and purchase some new outdoor toys. We are so grateful to all of the Church members who attend the pancake breakfast and support our school at 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 continue to develop their 'español' with Miss Charie each week and enjoy the time spent expanding their horizons with a new dialect. A fan favorite for the children is always music class with Lavenia Black. This is enjoyed by all of the children and families as little voices sing along and develop a love of music. The kids were thrilled to help her celebrate her big 90th birthday this year and helped to throw a lovely ice cream and popcorn party in her honor. Santa visited Grace again this year, with many thanks to Dave Fellner, 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 ongoing support from the Church and so many volunteers who support us. We thank you for everything you do for us! We appreciate you!

Submitted by Laura Handley  
Board President 2018-2019

# 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
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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

# Church Leadership 2019

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*A Look to 2019*

- Jan. 12 Joint Elder/Deacon Lunch & Meeting  
Jan. 13 Glenn Staller Guitar Concert  
Jan. 20 Congregational Meeting
- Feb. 3 Souperbowl of Caring and Boy Scout Sunday  
Feb. 13 Hans Hielscher Organ Concert  
Feb. 23 Preschool Pancake Breakfast
- Mar. One Great Hour of Sharing Offering  
Mar. 6 Ash Wednesday special worship  
Mar. 18 Presbyterian Women's Luncheon
- Apr. 7 Special Worship - Earth Day with Preschool  
Apr. 14 Palm/Passion Sunday  
Apr. 18 Maundy Thursday Potluck and Worship Service  
Apr. 21 EASTER SUNDAY
- May Pentecost Offering  
May 27 Memorial Day Picnic & Concert