

November 2019



Communicator

is a publication of

Grace Episcopal Church

555 E. Mountain View Avenue
Glendora, California 91741

www.GraceGlendora.org

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Sunday Services:

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist ~ Rite I

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist ~ Rite II
Choral Family Service

Nursery Care ~ Available 9:00 AM
- 11:15 AM in St. Martha's Room.

Sunday School ~ 10:00 AM
Kindergarten - Grade 5

Youth Group ~ Grade 6-12
Meetings are bi-monthly in the
upstairs Youth room. 11:30 AM - 1 PM

Activities:

Bible Study ~ Wednesdays at
10:00 AM in the Fireside Room in
Baxter Hall.

Sounds of Grace Handbells ~
Rehearses Wednesdays 7:30-8:30 PM

Grace Parish Choir ~
Rehearses Wednesdays 7:30-9:00 PM

From your Rector ~ The Rev. Susan Scranton



O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands: serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name. AMEN.
(Jubilate)

If music to the *Jubilate* is going round and round in my head, it means one thing: it is late November, the stewardship harvest is nearing completion, Thanksgiving is beckoning, and Advent, my very favorite season, cannot be far behind.

When I think of Advent, my mind goes to Advent wreaths and calendars, preparations for Christmas, including baking, gift buying, parties, and of course the practicing of Christmas music. It is a time of great joy and thanksgiving, articulated for me through the *Jubilate* and the great hymns of Advent.

That being said, the season of Advent has always been described as a time of watchful preparation, a time of waiting for the Christ child. We, however, seem perpetually to have difficulty waiting. We want what we want when we want it and have little tolerance for the lack of an immediate response. On the other hand, waiting can also be used as an excuse to postpone, perhaps forever, taking on new commitments or exploring new opportunities. How often have we uttered, "I cannot do that now, I have to wait until ..." On a larger scale, if we are not waiting for something, I wonder if we have given up hope and are simply waiting for the end of our days.

The ancient people of God waited in expectant hope for the coming of the Messiah, the Christ, the One who promised to come, and they never gave up hope that God would honor his promise. The waiting was passed on from generation to generation until the day of Jesus' birth. It was not a time of passivity, but rather a time of hope, a time in which God met his people in other ways. As the Psalmist said, *those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint* (Psalm 40:31). It is with this kind of expectant hope that we wait for our Lord to come to us in our daily lives and in the mystery of Christmas. In this hope, we live with all of our Advent preparations for Christmas.

Are you waiting in hope during this season of Advent? Only you can answer that question, but I hope that you will find the waiting to be rich with God's presence. The poet Raymond Chapman has left us with a short meditation on waiting for God:

*The time of waiting is wasted as we count time in this world.
We fret as we wait for the bus, for the examination result, for the surgery bell, and resent the time we could, as we think, use more to our advantage.
God's time of waiting is different; it is patient, creative, purposeful.
It is the love of a father who knows when it is time to give and when to withhold.
It is the compassion that reveals itself when we are ready and open to receive it.
Centuries of our time passed until time and place were ready together.
Time passed in Jerusalem, the holy city, the chosen place, where the sacrifices were offered and the covenant kept, where the prophets were stoned and the covenant broken.
But always the patience of love, waiting itself to follow the way of suffering.
Waiting with God is not time lost but time of being truly alive.
Speech is silent as the wonder is revealed.*

May the wonder of the Christ Child be revealed to each of you as you wait during this holy time.

In Christ's love, Susan +



WALKING THE WAY OF LOVE ~ Stewardship 2020

What a glorious day we had for our Stewardship Ingathering and outdoor Mexican Fiesta Celebration with a taco truck! We received more than half of our expected pledge cards on November 10 and subsequent weeks brought in a few more. To date, we have received 58 pledges, including three new ones, for a total of \$205,480. This is a terrific initial response, but we are still missing a significant number of pledges. To put it in perspective, for 2019 we received 78 pledges for a total of \$235,660 in support of the mission and ministry of Grace Episcopal Church.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to turn in your 2020 pledge card, please know that pledge cards still are being gratefully received. Please notify the office if you are in need of a 2020 pledge card.

Thank you for your continuing generous and faithful stewardship.

Rev. Susan +

Festive Family Advent Evening

**The First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 1 at 5:00 PM**



Join us as we celebrate the beginning of Advent. This family evening will include a pizza and salad dinner, complete with hot chocolate, popcorn, and other drinks, after which you will have the opportunity to indulge in other activities. We will have the makings for a lovely "Lighted Burlap Garland," and for making a limited number of "Snow Angels." Thanks to Carol Treacy for sharing Snow Angel project with us. Rev. Susan also will provide daily scripture readings and meditations for the Advent season. Topping off the evening will be the decorating of Christmas Cookies. Come enjoy the fun! Suggested donation is \$20 per family to help defray some of the cost.

Grace Church Receives Community Angel Award at Hillside Home for Children

On October 17, 2019, at Hillside's annual Circle of Excellence dinner, Grace Episcopal Church, along with five other outstanding individuals and organizations, was recognized for our long and fruitful work with Hillside Home for Children. For the first time, the annual recognition event was held in the new Margie &



Robert E. Petersen Student Center on the Hillside campus. All six of us were also awarded letters of commendation from Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

It was said of us in the introduction, "Known as 'The Church That Love Built,' Grace Episcopal has a long history of giving and taking care of those in need. Grace parishioners hold an annual holiday gift drive for our youth, have sponsored a Hillside child, and volunteered countless hours in the campus library and at the annual gala."

Our thanks go to Tricia Coppack and Pam Bryant, who first read to children in the library, before bringing along the rest of the congregation in serving the children of Hillside.





“Hillsides Children’s Home”

While still basking in the glow of Grace Episcopal receiving the Hillsides Community Angel Award this last month, and also being awarded a letter of commendation from Los Angeles Board of Supervisor Katheryn Barger, it is hard to believe just how far our journey with Hillsides has come.

Twenty-four year years ago, I was approached by Ruth Lindgren and asked if I would like to take over being the liaison with Hillsides. Ruth had been having some health issues and felt the need for a younger person to take over. I had never heard of Hillsides, but Ruth was very impressed with the facility and it didn’t take much talking for me to get on board. When I first went out to Hillsides, Human Relations Director, Barb Schmidt, gave me a tour of the campus and I learned how back in 1913, an Episcopal Deaconess, Evelyn Wile, being concerned at seeing so many orphans and children uncared for, decided an orphanage was needed. Evelyn had the blessings of the Bishop and the Diocese, but lacking funds, relied on prayer and goodness of people to make it happen.

The first home was called “Church Home for Children of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Los Angeles.” It was a large house located in Highland Park, and it opened in 1913. When all the rooms were immediately filled, Evelyn started dreaming of opening a larger facility, where the children would live in cottages rather than dormitories, and in the country, with lots of room to play and breathe fresh air.

That dream came true when she was able to acquire land from an Episcopal family; land which adjoined the “Church of The Angels” in Pasadena. In 1917, “Hillsides” opened with two cottages, one for girls and one for boys. From those early days, it has been transformed into the beautiful campus it is today. A beautiful Resource Center was built in 2002 with the children's library dedicated to Lynn Angell, who first brought a box of books to Hillsides and asked if she could read to the children. Lynn and her husband, Producer David Angell, were among those killed on the first plane that hit the Twin Towers.

This past September a new Recreation Center was opened, and it is absolutely beautiful. Evelyn would be truly amazed at how Hillsides has grown to become a premier provider, dedicated to healing children and young adults as well as strengthening families from all over southern California and is widely known and respected in the child welfare community.

As we head into the holidays and Christmas, I am pleased to announce that Hillsides has given me their children’s wish lists. Knowing exactly what a child is wishing for makes buying that “special” gift so much easier. The wish lists have already been divided into easily accessible gifts and those that will take a little more work to purchase. Such gifts will be purchased online and we will seek monitory donations to cover the cost. The rest of the list will be posted in the narthex for those who enjoy shopping themselves. If you choose to shop for special gifts on the wish list, please sign up with Debbie Pullen, purchase such gifts, and bring the unwrapped gifts to Grace Church no later than December 8. As always, you can leave the shopping to us by donating money, as the youth group will go shopping on December 8. I’m quite excited about that!. Thank you!!!

As in previous years, extra gifts are welcome as well as well as gift certificates to any of their favorite stores, (Target, Kohl's, Walmart) or fast food and entertainment. They are most appreciative of those. I will have my boxes in the narthex from November 24 to December 15. Thank you so much for your generosity over the past years and for opening your hearts again this year.

Have the best of holidays!
Tricia Coppack - Outreach Committee



Grace Episcopal Church ~ Vestry Nominations for 2020

From the church that has given you the narthex instead of the foyer, rector instead of senior pastor, and vergers instead of master of ceremonies comes the term “Vestry.” The vestry of an Episcopal Church is analogous to a board of directors, with some important spiritual differences.

Coming originally from usage in the Church of England, the annual election of churchwardens took place in Easter week. The parishioners gathered at the church to hear the outgoing wardens render their accounts and elect their successors. The parishioners assembled in the vestry, the room off the chancel where the clergy vested. The assembled parishioners came to be known as the vestry. These were open vestries in that all adult male parishioners could participate. It was like a modern annual congregational meeting. In Virginia the parishes were very large and it was difficult to get all the male parishioners together. So they would meet only once and elect twelve of their number to serve for life. This was known as a closed vestry. The transition to a closed vestry was completed by 1633 or 1634, when a Vestry Act was passed. It provided that "there be a vestry held in each parish." The current vestry evolved from this colonial pattern.

Today, the parish vestry is made up of both men and women, who work in concert with the rector to provide leadership for the church, both temporal and spiritual. The presiding officer of the vestry is the rector. There are usually two wardens. The senior warden, or rector's warden, is chosen by the rector to be the primary lay leader for the church and support person for the rector. The Junior Warden is chosen by the sitting vestry and serves as the Peoples' Warden, with his or her ear closely attuned to the needs of parishioners. This person is also a primary lay leader for the parish. This is all bound together legally, as we are *The Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church, a corporation*. However, we are first and foremost a church, seeking to love and serve God and God's people. To that end, the Vestry formulates policies of the parish and collaborates with the Rector and staff in setting goals and objectives for our ministry together. The Vestry is also responsible for the stewardship and financial management of the parish as well as for the care of the physical plant.

Your current vestry is composed of nine lay leaders who are passionate about serving God through Grace Episcopal Church, striving to support the mission of the church and seeing to its fruitful future. Each member serves a three-year term, with terms staggered and beginning and ending at the Annual Meeting in January (this year to be held on January 26, 2020). At that time, we will be saying thank you to departing vestry members Reid Killen, Dawn Mellon, and Kathy Seielstad.

If you are at least 16 years of age and an active and pledging member of Grace Church and feel a calling to help us move into the future as a strong and vibrant church, please consider serving on the vestry. If the answer is “yes,” speak either with our Senior Warden Frank Boyd or with Rev. Susan and we would be glad to answer further questions and submit your name in nomination to the vestry for 2020.



Christmas Concert

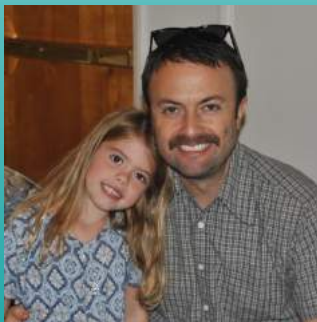
at Grace Episcopal Church
featuring Grace Parish Choir
and Sounds of Grace Handbell Choir

Sunday, December 15, 2019 ~ 4:00 PM



All Saints' Celebration

Visitation from Assisting Bishop Samuel Azariah
The Sacrament of Confirmation
for Janice Lyn Holland



Thank you to everyone that helped make this a great day for Bishop Sammy!
Acolytes, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Hospitality Ministry, Lay Eucharistic Ministers &
Lectors, Sounds of Grace Handbells, Parish Choir & Organist, Ushers, and Office Staff.



Grace Church Will No Longer Accept Papers for Recycling

For many years, Grace Church has tried to be a good steward of our environment by recycling paper, newspapers, and cardboard. Unfortunately, too many people have put non-paper recycling items in the dumpster, the latest being bricks and mortar. Our plan is to sell or give away the dumpster. Thank you for understanding.



Grace Episcopal Church at Diocesan Convention ~ November 15-16, 2019



Grace Episcopal Church was well represented at our recent Diocesan Convention. Rev. Susan, Fr. Jim, Helen Crisp, Kathi Ferris, and Bobbi Patterson were our delegates. Jade Lakin served as part of the youth and young adult leadership team that directed youth volunteers who helped out at convention. Patty Hess and Stephen Rice represented Grace Episcopal Church. Check out the pictures in which Stephen served as a LEM and Patty as the crucifer for the concluding service of Holy Communion. Further behind the scenes and doing a boatload of work was Janet Kawamoto, editor of *The Episcopal News*, who designed and produced the beautiful and comprehensive convention booklet, all the while taking pictures during convention, ably assisted by her daughter Alysha. Molly Kawamoto served as a childcare provider for children who attended convention with their parents. Well done Grace Episcopal Church!



Youth Group Member, Patty Hess and the West Covina High School Air Force JROTC honored local veterans on Veteran's Day. Patty was thrilled to be able to honor Navy veteran, Todd Rice. He served on the aircraft carrier, USS Kittyhawk. Todd was grateful and honored to have been invited by Patty and the McAlmond family!

VESTRY NOTES

Please remember that all parishioners are welcome to attend vestry meetings. Normally the vestry meets on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 PM. The meeting for October was held on October 21, 2019.

The October 21, 2019 vestry meeting opened with prayer.

Heard oral reports from the Rector and the Wardens.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Cleland presented the September 2019 financial statements, including the Income and Expense Sheet, Balance Sheet, Fund Summary Report, and the Scrip income report.

Pledge Report, 3rd Quarter: Rev. Susan reported on pledge fulfillment as of the 3rd Quarter (January 1 – September 30, 2019). She noted that we have 78 pledgers and as of September 30, 2019, 27 pledgers are on target, having given what they pledged; 22 pledgers are ahead by \$9,729; and 29 pledgers are behind by \$6,817.

Stewardship Committee Update: In Margo's absence, Rev. Susan reported that *Walking the Way of Love* stewardship program will come to a conclusion with Stewardship Ingathering Sunday on November 10. The Ingathering celebration will conclude with a Mexican Fiesta and taco truck lunch following the 10:00 AM service.

Youth Leadership: It was reported that newly appointed youth leader, Jade Lakin, is doing a fabulous job.

Fee Schedule and Baxter Hall Rentals: Vestry reviewed the fee schedule that was passed a few years ago and made recommendations for updating and adding to the schedule. Discussion included upgrades to the facility and possible consultation for making Baxter Hall a viable and profit-producing venture for the church.

Outreach Report: Debbie Pullen reported on upcoming outreach projects – Hillside's Toy Collection, the Winter Shelter, and the Blood Drive. She noted that there will be an outreach committee meeting on November 5.

Buildings and Grounds: Immediate concerns include the purchase of new folding chairs for Baxter Hall, the repainting of the lines on the church parking lot, and the need to add new ground chips to the playground.

Bishop's Visit: Bishop Assistant Samuel Azariah will be our guest on All Saints' Sunday, November 3, 2019. There will be one combined service at 10:00 AM. A reception will follow in Baxter Hall.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer.