

December 2019



Communicator

is a publication of

Grace Episcopal Church

555 E. Mountain View Road
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 on Thursdays 7:30-9:00 PM

From your Rector ~ The Rev. Susan Scranton



And the angel said to them, Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

(Luke 2:10-11)

Dear Parish Family,

Are you ready for Christmas? Ready or not, the glorious mystery of Christmas is ready to burst out in all of its glory in less than a week.

Our children gave us the first clue that Christmas was near as they reminded us of that Holy Night so long ago. In word and song, pageantry and color, they told the story of God's love for the world. "And so it was that God touched the earth in the form of a tiny child, born of a virgin in a lowly stable on that holy night many years ago. This little baby would become the King of Kings and the Savior of the world, just as the prophets foretold." Of course, it was Colette and William who stole the show and I suspect will show us the true meaning of Christmas.

Our choir and handbell choirs gave us the next clue of the nearness of Christmas as they proclaimed through music, the joy of the love that came down at Christmas.

For all of us, the voices of children and the glorious music reminds us that what we celebrate is not merely a remembrance of a birth that took place more than 2,000 years ago, but rather the wonderful and mysterious truth of the incarnation: God came to us to be with us, God is with us, *Immanuel*, and God still comes to us, seeking to be born anew in our hearts. As Phillips Brooks' words to "O Little Town of Bethlehem" proclaim, *where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

Please join us on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 PM and at 11:00 PM to hear once more the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

In Christ's love, Susan +

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Services

Festive Family Service with Holy Communion ~5:00 pm
(Pre-Service music ~ 4:30 pm)

Hear the story of Jesus' birth in scripture and song, with special music offered by Grace Parish Choir and Sounds of Grace Handbell Choir. The service will culminate with Holy Communion and the singing of Silent Night by candlelight.

Midnight Service with Holy Communion ~ 11:00 pm
Experience the mystery and exquisite joy of receiving communion at the midnight hour of our Savior's birth.



Diocesan Convention Delegates Sought For Convention 2019

Every year, the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles gathers with all of her members in convention. Clergy and lay delegates from 147 churches and missions, along with representatives from other diocesan institutions, meet in convention. As is noted on our diocesan website, Diocesan

Convention is the annual business meeting of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles and acts as the chief legislative body of the Diocese. It is a time when clergy and lay persons representing churches located from Southern Orange County to northern Santa Barbara County and from the ocean to the desert come together to vote on a diocesan budget, elect officers, and hear reports of work from Diocesan institutions. Our bishops offer their reflections on the work of the past year and their visions for the future. During some years, we are privileged to hear an inspiring speaker supported by the Parker Lectures. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet with Episcopalians from throughout the diocese, worship together, learn together, and be an important part of shaping a vision for the future of our church.

Each church is allowed a set number of delegates, based upon the size of the church (somewhat like the House of Representatives in Congress) who will vote and make decisions on behalf of the parish they represent. Grace Church is allowed clergy delegates, Rev. Susan and Fr. Jim and three lay delegates. Additionally, three alternate delegates are elected in case one or more delegates are unable to fulfill their duties. And never think that an alternate will not be used. Helen Crisp was the third alternate elected for 2019, and she was privileged to serve due the other obligations of one delegate and two other alternate delegates.

2019 was a wonderful convention, held at the Riverside Convention Center on November 14-15, 2019. Delegate Bobbi Patterson noted that she thoroughly enjoyed hearing legendary labor organizer and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta, and one of her students at school will be the lucky beneficiary of a video of Huerta as she spoke at convention. Helen's first impression of convention was that it was a "Sea of white collars," but by the end of convention, she was convinced that it was not just white collars who made decisions but that she and other lay leaders are just as important, carrying just as much impact. Kathi Ferris, a veteran of many conventions, regaled us with tales of past conventions, all the while thoroughly enjoying the present convention.

If you would like to serve as a Diocesan Convention Delegate for the 2020 Convention, which will take place at the Riverside Convention Center on November 13 and 14, 2020, please speak with Rev. Susan. Names must be submitted for nomination prior to our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26, at which time elections will be held. Interested candidates must be at least 16 years of age and be active, pledging members of Grace Episcopal Church.



Christmas Flowers: You can take part in making the church beautiful for Christmas by giving donations for Christmas flowers. Christmas Flower Envelopes will be found in your pews. Flowers may be given in honor of someone, in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving for an event. Your dedications will be printed in the Christmas bulletins. Fill out your Flower Envelope and place it in the collection plate or in the office.

**Please have your envelopes in the office by Sunday,
December 22.**



WALKING THE WAY OF LOVE ~ Stewardship 2020

As we have come to the conclusion of our 2020 Stewardship Drive, *Walking the Way of Love*, we have come to recognize that both love and walking implies an active faith and love, based not simply on emotion but upon our responsiveness to God through the power of the Holy Spirit. Every time we gather in worship to pray, hear scripture, and receive the body and blood of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion, we walk the way of love. Every time we gather to practice music, prepare the altar and beautify the church, fix the sprinklers, weed the gardens, and welcome people into our doors, we proclaim the message of God's love to the world. Every time we feed people through our various outreach ministries, we touch those in need. God's blessings were never more evident or more abundant than when we brought the Blessing of the Animals to Finkbiner Park. All point to *Walking the Way of Love*.

Walking the Way of Love also implies a response of financial generosity to undergird and make possible our life together as the "Church that love built." As our Senior Warden, Frank Boyd stated, "Financial stewardship is a time to celebrate our community. It is a time to bring your talents and resources to the table with joy and thanksgiving."

Our Stewardship Ingathering Sunday, was held on Sunday, November 10, at which time we received 51 pledges. Since then we have received additional pledges, bringing our total to 66 pledges totaling \$226,280. This represents approximately 88% of our pledge base. We hope the remaining pledges will come in as soon as possible.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to pledge, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible, thereby enabling us to make good fiscal decisions and to plan for the future. Pledge cards are available in the pews, the narthex, and the church office. In the days ahead, we look forward to following in the footsteps of the faithful "Saints of Grace Episcopal Church," as we echo St. Paul's words, *I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among us will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.* (Philippians 1:6).

In Christ's love,

Your Stewardship Committee (Margo Keller, Marilyn Scranton, Bobbi Patterson, and Rev. Susan)



Tax notes and your contributions

Thank you for your generosity throughout the year. Your gifts have made possible our ministries and the upkeep of our beautiful church. As you are aware, even with the tax changes, the IRS still allows for certain deductions on your annual income tax. In accordance with this, we have

kept records of all financial donations from parishioners and visitors alike. In January 2020, you will receive a 2019 Year-End financial statement detailing your contributions to Grace Episcopal Church. This tax receipt may be used as part of your 2019 income tax documents.

At this point in the year, I hope you will take the time to examine your pledge records to see if you are up to date on your current pledge. The church office will be happy to send you a year-to-date statement, if that would be helpful to you.

Please note that per government regulations, all contributions you intend to itemize on your 2019 tax returns must be received and posted at the bank no later than Tuesday, December 31 before 12 noon.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE SET UP DONATIONS TO COME AUTOMATICALLY FROM THE BANK:

Please be advised that mail service in Glendora is extremely slow. It is suggested that you request the bank to send any donations that you expect to be recorded in 2019 in a timely manner, allowing for at least 6 working days for delivery.

Please remember that all parishioners are welcome to attend our vestry meetings. Normally the vestry meets on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. The meeting for November was held on November 18.

The November 18, 2019 meeting opened with prayer.

Heard oral reports from the Rector and Wardens

Treasurer's Report: Karen Cleland presented the October 2019 financial statements, including the Income and Expense Sheet, Balance Sheet, Fund Summary Report, and the Scrip Income report. Karen reported that since vestry has been adding \$500 to each loan payment since the beginning of the year, we should be on track to completely pay off the roof loan by the end of 2019 as was planned. The actual duration of the loan would have extended to October of 2020.

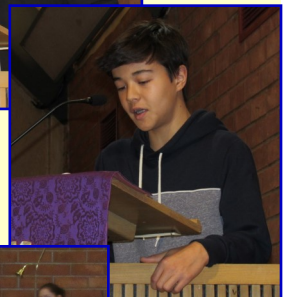
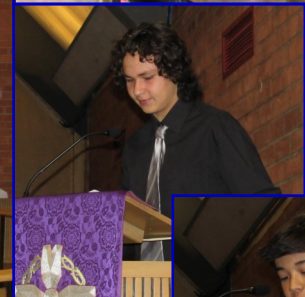
Stewardship Report: Rev. Susan reported that as of Ingathering Sunday, November 10, we have received 51 pledges. (See Stewardship article for updates)

Outreach Report: Outreach Committee member Debbie Pullen reported that we are involved in three major outreach projects between now and the end of January. The Hillside Toy Drive will be completed on December 15. Grace Church will be serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Sunday, January 12, 2020 at Glenkirk Church as a part of the East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless. Solicitation for financial assistance with the purchase of food will begin in late December. Sign-ups to work the various stations will be available on Sunday, December 22. The Blood Drive, in association with the American Red Cross, is scheduled for Monday, January 20. The drive will take place in Baxter Hall.

Buildings and Grounds: Todd Rice reported that the parking lot has been re-stripped. The new mail boxes are scheduled for installation. The recycling program for newspapers, boxes, and magazines has been discontinued due to abuse of the recycling bin by outsiders. After the bricks and mortar are removed from the recycling bin, the dumpster will be removed from the church grounds.

December events: Major Advent and Christmas events: Festive Advent Evening on December 1; the Children's Christmas pageant on December 8; the Christmas Concert on December 15; the greening of the church on December 22; and Christmas Eve Services on Tuesday, December 24 at 5:00 PM and 11:00 PM.

Capital Christmas ~ Christmas Pageant



East San Gabriel Valley Winter Shelter Ministry Sunday, January 12, 2020

It has become an annual tradition for Grace Church to assist the Winter Homeless Shelter during the time in which it is hosted by Glenkirk Church. The Winter Shelter, as sponsored by the East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless, seeks to provide shelter, showers, warm meals, clothing, haircuts, and other services for those who find themselves homeless. The Winter Shelter is hosted by different churches in the San Gabriel Valley from December 1 through March 3, with each church assuming responsibility for providing shelter for two weeks. Additionally, bus services provide transportation for guests, enabling them to find shelter for the entire winter.



Each evening, anywhere from 150 to 225 guests are provided with a dinner that is prepared and served by volunteers. Breakfast foods and sack lunches are provided for the next day, as guests must leave the host facility between the hours of 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

On Sunday, January 12, 2020, Grace Church will assume responsibility for providing food for three meals, preparing and serving dinner, packing lunches, cleaning up, and spending some time with those in need.

There are a number of ways in which you can participate in this ministry:

1. Donate money for the purchasing of food.
2. Volunteer your time after the 10:00 AM service on January 12 to clean the chicken in preparation for cooking.
3. Volunteer your time after the 10:00 AM service on January 12 to prepare and pack 160 lunches. This ministry will be similar to the lunch packing for Adopt-a-Lunch.
4. Help transport the food from Grace Church to Glenkirk Church on Sunday afternoon, January 12.
5. Volunteer your time between the hours of 4:30 and 9:00 PM to cook, serve dinner, or clean up at the end of the evening, assist as shower monitors, or help the Coalition with registration of guests. (Please note: You **must** be 12 years old to participate.)

Financial donations to help cover the cost of food will be solicited and Sign-up sheets for volunteering your time be available beginning Sunday, December 22.



Please save the date for our annual blood drive at Grace Church. The Outreach Ministry has scheduled our blood drive for **January 20, 2020** from **11 AM to 5 PM**

If you have any questions please call or text Catie Anders @ 909.994.7794
Or send an email to: BloodDrive@GraceGlendora.org