

January 2020



Communicator

is a publication of

Grace Episcopal Church

555 E. Mountain View Avenue
Glendora, California 91741

www.GraceGlendora.org

 Like us on Facebook!

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



For surely I know the plans I have for you,
says the Lord, plans for your welfare and
not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

(Jeremiah 29:11)

This passage from Jeremiah undoubtedly is my favorite Old Testament scripture reading. Written at a time of trouble for the people of Israel as they languished in exile in Babylon, God still promised hope and a future. That hope and future is our promise as well.

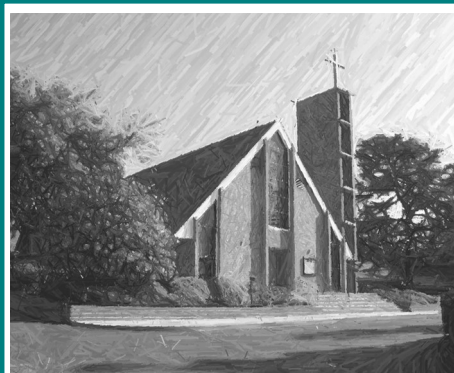
Our Annual Meeting, scheduled for this coming Sunday, is an opportunity to celebrate Grace Church as we gather to reflect back upon 2019 and look forward to 2020. It is the one time during the year that the entire congregation meets for a formal business meeting. It is required by both our bylaws and the National Episcopal Church to have such a meeting. You might call it the "State of Grace" address.

After the luncheon, we will reflect on the past year, celebrate our achievements, and thank our members for their many contributions to the life of our parish. Outgoing vestry members Reid Killen, Dawn Mellon, and Kathy Seielstad will be honored for having each served a three-year term. Additionally we will elect three new vestry members. Patrick McAlmond, Laurel McKenzie, and Hannah Palpant have placed their names in nomination for election to the new vestry. Following such election, we will turn to electing three delegates and three alternate delegates to Diocesan Convention, which will take place November 13-14, 2020. At this point, I have received nominations from Kathi Ferris and Miles Bresee. Please consider placing your name in nomination for this ministry.

Looking ahead, the vestry will present the 2020 budget, enabled by our collective response to the recent stewardship campaign. You will have the opportunity to ask questions about the budget and about plans for the coming year.

Essentially, our Annual Meeting calls upon us to view all dimensions of our life together at Grace Episcopal Church as we seek to serve our Lord. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

In Christ's love, Susan +




ANNUAL MEETING

& Potluck Lunch

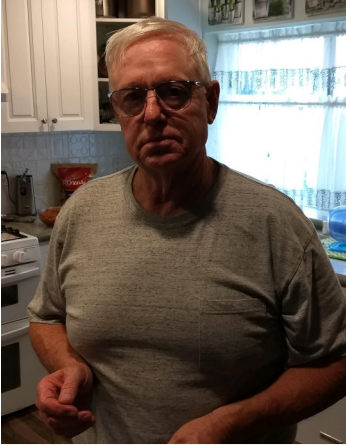
January 26 ~ 11:30 am

Please bring a dish to share!

2019 Annual Meeting - Vestry Nominations for 2020



My name is Laurel McKenzie and I would love to serve on the Vestry for the next three years. I am a mother to two great young adults, a music educator at Mt. SAC, a musician, an avid hiker, and a greyhound volunteer advocate. My husband Alex and I have been members of this church for twenty years and have been blessed to make wonderful friendships along the way. I cherish my Grace Church family because it is made up of hard working, innovative, and faithful people that make our small church a great place to worship for all ages. Joining the Vestry will give me a chance to learn about the nuts and bolts of running this church and offer a fresh perspective. I look forward to working with the Grace Vestry team.



My name is Pat McAlmond and I have volunteered to run for Vestry at Grace Episcopal Church.

You can usually find me in the choir loft singing bass. I have been married to my wife Donna for almost 47 years. We have 2 adult daughters, a grandson, granddaughter and 3 dogs. I am retired so I have the time to commit to Vestry.

I agreed to run for vestry in order to help shape the future of Grace Episcopal Church. I can communicate with members of the congregation to bring good ideas and make good decisions related to the values we promote.

I did serve on the Vestry several years ago and it would be a privilege to serve again.

I've been attending Grace Episcopal Church for 2 1/2 years. On my spiritual journey, I have been a part of a handful of protestant denominations. I have found that the Episcopal tradition, specifically at Grace, is a place where my family, individually and collectively, can thrive. I want to be able to continue to create that space for others to know God and be connected to this community.

I've worked in nonprofit organizations for the last 19 years, previously with Christian organizations, English Language Institute China and Reasons to Believe and recently with education at the University of La Verne. My focus has specifically been with relationship development in advancement. I hold a doctorate in transformational leadership and have studied and implemented organizational leadership and change. I learn through doing, and I hope that I can intentionally learn from the vestry members.

I enjoy being a part of a team and working together to create, build, and grow people. The vestry team seems to be an enthusiastic and life-giving team that values each other and the congregation. I would love to come along side to bring whatever experience, learning, listening, and encouragement that I can to this community.

Thank you for your consideration,
Hannah Palpant



WALKING THE WAY OF LOVE ~ Stewardship 2020

Thank you Grace Church! Your generosity is truly a testament to our walking God's way – the way of love.

As we put the final touches on Budget 2020, we noted that we have received 74 pledges, including restricted ones. Pledges to the General Operating Fund total \$227,880. That is an increase of \$4,530 over last year's pledge base to the General Operating Fund. It is even more amazing considering the truth that this increase comes with having four fewer pledges than last year: a blessing and a concern.

Like last year, our goal for 2020 is to increase our pledge base, which means inviting more people to become a part of this wonderful community. Thank you again for your generosity in supporting our church.

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



Hillsides Home for Children

We certainly left 2019 on a high note regarding Hillsides. Once again all the children's wishes were granted and we even had extra gifts! Amazing that we could do this, showing the great compassion and caring of our parishioners that in addition to their own family's needs, they fit in Hillsides.

THANK YOU!

On that note, I have to also thank Debbie Pullen and Bobbi Patterson for all they did to make our drive so successful and helped to make it run smoothly. You can find more information in the Annual Report.

Mucho Gracias!!! Happy New Year! Tricia Coppack



Joseph W. Thompson, Boy Scout Troop 486 ~ Eagle Court of Honor

Congratulations to Joseph W. Thompson, the latest in a succession of nearly 70 Boy Scouts from Troop 486, for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. For his Eagle project, Joseph worked with a wildlife biologist and other Forest Service personnel to build and install 4 four-chambered nursery-style bat boxes in the Angeles National Forest. Joseph led 33 adult and youth volunteers through a project that totaled nearly 470 work hours. This project was the fulfillment of a goal he first mentioned when he was a Cub Scout. In the process, he learned a tremendous amount about amazing, vastly underappreciated bats, knowledge that he is endeavoring to share with others.

In addition to his Eagle project, during his time as a Boy Scout, Joseph hiked over 960 miles, camped 144 nights, attended five weeklong summer camps, and volunteered more than 240 hours of service in his community. It was my pleasure to offer an invocation and benediction at Joseph's award ceremony on Saturday, January 18.

Rev. Susan +

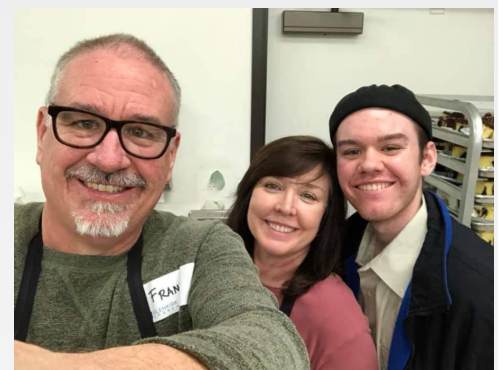


East San Gabriel Valley Winter Shelter Ministry Sunday, January 12, 2020



Jesus said, *I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.* (Matthew 25:35-37)

What a fabulous offering of compassion and response to Jesus' command that was visible as we fed the homeless as part of the Winter Shelter hosted by Glenkirk Church. On Sunday, January 12, Grace Church assumed responsibility for feeding breakfast, lunch, and dinner to nearly 200 people on day 13 of the 16 day run at Glenkirk's Winter Homeless Shelter. This truly was an all-parish event as so many people offered their time, talent, and treasure to assist those in need. We also enjoyed assistance from scouts and scout families from Troop 486. All together, it took financial donations, shoppers, chicken preparers, lunch makers, transportation helpers, cooks, servers, and the clean-up crew. Thank you Frank for leading our cooks and servers; thank you Debbie for shopping and organizing the sack lunch crew; and thank you to all who participated in this ministry. Rev. Susan +





**American
Red Cross**

2020 AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The 2020 Blood Drive was a great success! We were able to recruit 32 donors by the morning of the drive. Roughly, 40% were non-parishioners. As with other drives, there were donors

who were sick and unable to donate, no-shows. However, we did have four walk-ins! Our collection goal was 27 units; we were able to collect 26!

The need is always critical, especially this time of year where regular donors are unable to donate due to illness. The need for blood could not be more urgent. Our Red Cross Representative told me that Queen of the Valley hospital has only 22 units in storage, 20 of which have already been designated for scheduled surgeries.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the Red Cross on Monday. Just by coming, with or without donating, you made a commitment to being a part of something great. It is so rewarding to know that we have individuals around us that are so willing to give the gift of life by donating blood!

Thank you,
Catie Anders



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 7:00 PM. The meeting for December was held on December 16, 2019.

The December 2019 meeting opened with prayer.

Heard oral reports from the Rector and Wardens and received the minutes of the previous meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Cleland presented the November 2019 financial statements, including the Income and Expense sheet, Balance sheet, Fund Summary, and Scrip Income statement. Vestry authorized the treasurer to pay off the roof loan by the end of the year.

Stewardship Report: Rev. Susan reported that to date we have received 63 pledges, including restricted pledges, totaling \$226,280. She noted that a potential 16 pledges missing.

Outreach Report: A big thank you was offered to Debbie Pullen for her work in coordinating efforts to make Hillside's Toy Collection, and to Tricia Coppack and Bobbi Patterson for their work. The Winter Homeless Shelter feeding is scheduled for Sunday, January 12, 2020 and the Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, January 20, 2020.

Buildings and Grounds: Todd Rice reported that the parking lot re-striping of the lines has been completed. He also noted that the company provided painting for a basketball court. Todd reported that extensive inspection and repair of the sprinkling system has been completed.

Christmas Eve, the first Sunday after Christmas, and Year-End Considerations: Rev. Susan announced that there would be two services on Christmas Eve: 5:00 PM and 11:00 PM. Services on December 29 will feature Holy Communion at 8:00 AM and Christmas Lessons and Carols without communion at 10:00 AM. Sounds of Grace Handbell Choir will perform at Kid Space Museum on Sunday, December 29 at 1:00 PM.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer.