

February 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



And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another. (Hebrews 10:24-25a)

According to Plato, *The unexamined life is not worth living*, and there is a certain truth to it, in that the church calls us to self-examination at different times during the church year. The Annual Meeting is one such time as the congregation is called together to reflect upon the past year. The beginning of Lent is another such time, a timely reminder that Lent is just around the corner.

The Annual Meeting 2020 was a glorious day in which we reflected upon the past year and saw God's hand at work among us as his love was incarnated by each and every one of us. We began the meeting by enjoying a luncheon feast with our church family. This was followed by a superb slide show put together by Rick Sandona that took us through the highlights of 2019, illustrating the essence of the "State of Grace" address that was given during the sermon time at both services.

We offered thanksgiving for Vestry members who had so faithfully offered themselves in service to our Lord. Reid Killen, Dawn Mellon, and Kathi Seielstad were appropriately roasted and toasted in an expression of gratitude for their ministries.

Newly elected to the vestry are Laurel McKenzie, Patrick McAlmond, and Hannah Palpant to the Vestry. Each will serve a three-year term. Continuing their service on Vestry are Frank Boyd, Kathi Ferris, Rosann Kindt, Debbie Pullen, Nancy Rice, and Todd Rice. Miles Bresee, Kathi Ferris, and Bobbi Patterson were elected as Diocesan Convention delegates, and Janese Grady, Tricia Coppack, and Pam Bryant were elected Alternate Diocesan Convention delegates.

Karen Cleland, Parish Treasurer, gave a detailed report on the finances of Grace Church, which included year-end statements, a fund analysis, a roof loan update, and the budget for 2020. To our joy, she noted that, per vestry support, the roof loan was paid off in December 2019. The challenges for 2020 continue to include growing the church.

The day concluded with the announcement that Frank Boyd will continue as Senior Warden.

I look forward to 2020 with joy, anticipation, and a prayer: *Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending. Give us faith to go out with good courage, knowing only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us. AMEN.*

In Christ's love,
Susan +

SHROVE TUESDAY



ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE SUPPER

Hosted by your BSA Troop 486

I think everyone, including poor breakfast eaters like me, enjoys a festive Saturday breakfast or a Sunday brunch after church. Even more fun is to have breakfast for dinner. You are invited to join us on Shrove Tuesday between 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM for an “All you can eat Pancake Supper” hosted by our Boy Scout Troop 486.

It was just last year that our Boy Scouts took over the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and what a success it was! Our 50-60 person fun family event turned into a feast for 150 people. This year they vow that it will be even better. So come, enjoy a hearty feast and fellowship with your entire Grace Church family.

Shrove Tuesday is the church’s version of Mardi Gras. Coming just before the beginning of Lent, it serves as a reminder that we are about to enter a penitential season in preparation for Easter. The word “shrove” is the past tense of the word “shrive,” meaning to confess and seek forgiveness – certainly a theme of Lent. The early Church knew that fast days were magnified by feast days, so it developed Shrove Tuesday to feast and eat up all the fats in preparation for Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent and a fast day. Eating pancakes is a great way to use up fats such as pancakes with all the toppings you can imagine, baked French Toast, quiches, bacon, sausage, milk, orange juice, and coffee.

Gathering for fun to eat pancakes and all things fattening on Shrove Tuesday has been a Christian tradition since the 16th century. It combines repentance and preparing for the Lenten season with a festive spirit.

On Shrove Tuesday in England, pancake races are held in towns across the country. A story is told that the custom of pancake races began when a woman was so busy making pancakes that she forgot all about the church service until she heard the church bells ringing. She ran out of her house with the pan still flipping pancakes! As a result, many towns and villages still signal the beginning of their pancake race by ringing a bell. The town of Olney in Buckinghamshire, England still honors her memory each year. Competitors must be local housewives. They wear aprons and scarves and run with a pancake in a pan.



Come join us for a pancake supper!
Tuesday, February 25 between 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM
COST: \$5 per person



Ash
Wednesday



Ash Wednesday, observed this year on **February 26, 2020**, marks the beginning of Lent – a spiritual journey of some six weeks, and a time in which we intentionally turn our hearts to God to contemplate the gift of our salvation. We will offer the imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive them. The ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance and a reminder of our mortality. On this day, as an appropriate beginning for a season of repentance and reflection, we will confess our sins to God and thus begin the preparation for the Feast of all Feasts: the Resurrection.

12:00 PM - Ash Wednesday liturgy, Holy Eucharist, and the Imposition of Ashes
(The service will be held in the chapel.)

7:30 PM - Ash Wednesday liturgy, Choral Holy Communion, and the Imposition of Ashes.
(The service will be held in the main church.)

Glendora Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 ~ 7:00 AM – 8:30 AM

Every year, the Glendora Ministerial Association hosts our Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at the Glendora Country Club. It is a wonderful opportunity to gather together to pray for our community, hear a good speaker, and listen to beautiful music. *Sounds of Grace Handbell Choir* has been invited back to perform, this year with guest trumpeter Lori Sandona. Additionally the Charter Oak High School Choir will perform. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased in the church office or online at glendoramayorspb.com.



This year, the new president of Azusa Pacific University, Paul W. Ferguson, Ph.D., DABT, will be our speaker, focusing on this year's theme: *Pride in the Past, Faith in the Future*.

A Southern California native, Paul W. Ferguson, Ph.D., DABT, has enjoyed a 30-year career in public higher education as a professor in the field of toxicology/public health and as a university administrator. Dr. Ferguson has served in leadership roles at five universities, including as president of Ball State University, president of the University of Maine, provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, vice president for research and graduate studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and vice provost and dean of graduate studies and research at the University of Louisiana Monroe. Prior to becoming the 17th president at Azusa Pacific University, he served as the founding dean of the School of Science, Technology and Health at Biola University.

President Ferguson began his academic career as an assistant professor of toxicology in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at the University of Louisiana Monroe, eventually rising to professor and chair of the Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology before assuming senior leadership responsibilities. Commensurate with advancing in the administrative arena, he served in joint faculty appointments, including professor of biology and toxicology at UNLV, professor of toxicology and environmental sciences at SIUE, and professor of biomedical sciences at the University of Maine. He has also served in the corporate sector as a research biologist for Pennwalt Corporation and as senior toxicologist for Unocal Corporation.

He and his wife, Grace, have been married for 44 years. They have three married children and a grandchild. President Ferguson grew up in Hacienda Heights and now resides in Azusa.



Surprise! The Bishop is Coming!

After having just enjoyed the visit of Assisting Bishop Sammy Azariah a few months ago, indeed I was pleasantly surprised to hear that Bishop Suffragan Diane Bruce would be visiting us. Bishop Bruce informed me that the bishops of the Diocese of Los Angeles would like to visit each congregation every year instead of every two to three years. With that said, Bishop Bruce will be with us on Sunday, March 29. We will have one combined service at 10:00 AM so that all may enjoy the bishop.

Bishop Bruce is very much a friend of Grace Church, having both visited here and spent time with the vestry on a walk-about. Be sure that you point out to her the hedge that was cut in half, and share the fabulous results of moving the Blessing of the Animals to Finkbiner Park.

On March 29, Bishop Bruce will preach, celebrate, and offer the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our seven confirmands are Sandra Collins, Patty Hess, Karen Huss, Nathaniel Olmos, Hannah Palpant, Garrett Patterson, and Stephen Rice. Following the service, we will host a luncheon in honor of Bishop Bruce and the confirmands. Please plan to attend this special celebration.

Boy Scout Sunday Celebrates nearly 65 Years of our Sponsorship of Troop 486 ~ Sunday, February 23 at 10:00 AM



On my honor, I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country and
to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all time;
To keep myself physically strong, mentally
awake, and morally straight.

(Boy Scout Oath)

On May 5, 1955, Boy Scout Troop 486 was founded through the sponsorship of Grace Episcopal Church. For nearly 65 years, we have had the privilege of being in a relationship with a very special Boy Scout Troop. Fondly known as the "High Adventure" troop, this group of scouts are known to be very active and focused on hiking and biking in the outdoors. Over the years, nearly 70 of their members have attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Grace Church has been the grateful recipient of three such projects in the last year alone. We have had our chapel exit and steps redone, complete with a new railing, cement work, and landscaping thanks to Jayden Krosevic. Julian Schubert took on the massive project of re-landscaping the rental house yard, making our home look spectacular. Adam Prinkki recently cleaned and renovated the area and added caps to the existing brick wall next to the east driveway.

On Sunday, February 23, members of Boy Scout Troop 486 will be with us for worship as we honor them and pledge to continue our relationship with them for years to come. They are going to help us prepare for Lent by hosting our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 25 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Tickets are only \$5 for an all-you-can-eat meal. Please come support the scouts and eat your fill before the fasting begins on Ash Wednesday.

As scouting is an important program, we will be honoring scouts of all time, and so all scouts, both past and present, boys and girls, from the congregation are invited to dress in uniform for this service. Let's see how many Eagle Scouts and Girl Scout Gold Award winners are part of the worshipping congregation on Scout Sunday.

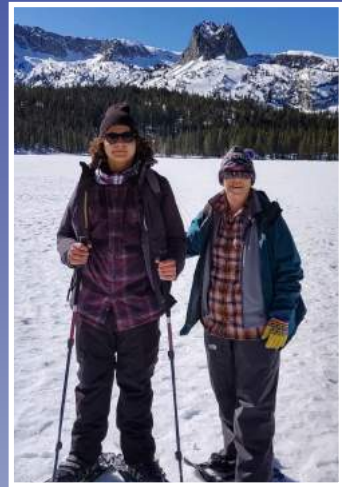
Teddy is Looking for a New Home



Teddy is a sweet male dog who has lived with us for about 4 years. We are moving to Alabama soon (probably late March) and will drive cross country. We do not think that the move will be good for Teddy so we are looking for a new home for him. He is an elderly Lhasa Apso. We think that he is about 14 years old, and have been told by the veterinarian that he may live to 16 or 17 years. The only health problem of which we are aware is cataracts which are not bothering him. He needs grooming every 8 weeks or so and we are happy to provide funds to help with his care. If you would like to meet Teddy and possibly give him a loving home, or if you have any questions, please contact Karleen Killen at (626)354-8282 or karleen_k@hotmail.com



Grace Youth Group hits Mammoth Mountain!





HOUSING + EMPLOYMENT + LIFE SKILLS

LENTEN OUTREACH PROJECT "Welcome Home Baskets"

*"Oh, that quilt is so beautiful!" "May I have this one?"
"Something new! I've never received anything new. Thank you."*



Such were some of the comments offered by recipients of the Welcome Home Baskets we prepared last year. Through your generosity, we were able to deliver 17 baskets filled with household items and topped off with a beautiful quilt, courtesy of Karen Huss and her quilting group. The success was marvelous and the gratitude infectious. So, once again, our Lenten Project will be to provide as many baskets as possible.

Union Station Homeless Services' Welcome Home Baskets help provide people moving in or out of one of Union Station's transitional or permanent housing facilities with a laundry basket full of items such as laundry soap, towels, twin sheets, plates, utensils, pots, pans, cleaning sprays, sponges, can openers, a lamp, extension cords, placemats, and anything else you think might be gratefully received. This important program assists Union Station in meeting the basic needs of the people we serve as they rebuild their lives and escape homelessness. The need is great. Debbie Pullen was told by Union Station officials that they could use 900 baskets a year. We probably cannot do 900 baskets, but perhaps we can do 20.

There will be numerous opportunities for you to participate in this Lenten Project. Mite Boxes will be available beginning on Shrove Tuesday, February 25. You can use the mite box as a Lenten discipline, filling the box daily and turning it in on Easter Sunday, April 12. On Sunday, March 8, following the 10:00 AM service in Baxter Hall, the youth group and our GFS group will be hosting a "Basket Market place," where you may offer money for specific basket items, or you may select items that you are going to purchase, or you may promise to make an entire basket. Specific directions will be given for all baskets, and Union Station asks that we remember the apartments are one-person and one-family units and small in size. Thus, it is requested that we have no super-sized items. Last year we had a lot of fun with the baskets. Several ministry groups decided to do the baskets themselves, and with the money we received, the youth group went shopping after Easter.

This special Lenten Outreach Program will take place during Lent, with donations of all sizes accepted from February 25 through Easter Sunday, April 12.

Thank you in advance for your enthusiasm for this project.
Rev. Susan +

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 January was held on January 20, 2020.

The January 20 vestry meeting opened with prayer.

Heard oral reports from the Rector and the Wardens.

Stewardship Pledge Report for 2019: Rev. Susan reported the following regarding 2019 year-end pledge fulfillment: Of the 78 total pledges, 33 pledgers fulfilled their pledges exactly; 26 pledgers gave an additional \$12,688; 19 pledgers gave \$6,603 less than they pledged.

Stewardship Pledge report for 2020: We received a total of \$240,040 in pledges, including restricted ones, coming from 74 pledgers. This represents a gain of \$4,680 over last year's total. The concern is that despite the total increase, the money is coming from four fewer pledgers.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Cleland presented the December 2019 financial statements, including the Income and Expense Sheet, Balance Sheet, and Fund Summary Report. She noted that the scrip report was incomplete because of missing information. Such will be completed shortly.

Budget 2020: Vestry approved the new budget, which will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Vestry Leadership 2020: Laurel McKenzie, Pat McAlmond, and Hannah Palpant have submitted their names in nomination for Vestry 2020. Kathi Ferris and Miles Bresee have submitted their names in nomination to serve as Diocesan Convention delegates. Vestry appointed Kathi Ferris to serve as our vestry delegate (the diocese requires that at least one convention delegate be a member of the vestry). Elections for both vestry and convention delegates and alternates will take place at the Annual Meeting.

Upcoming Events: Annual Meeting — January 26; Youth trip to Mammoth — February 7-10; Scout Sunday — February 23; Shrove Tuesday pancake supper — February 25; Glendora Mayor's Prayer Breakfast — February 26; Ash Wednesday — February 26; Bishop's Visit — March 29.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer.