

Grace Notes

Grace United Methodist Church

5407 North Charles Street., Baltimore, Maryland 21210 • 410-433-6650



www.GraceUnitedMethodist.org

--To Act so that God's Love is Felt by All--

Volume 28, No. 1

December 2019/January 2020

SERVICES OF WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

December 22 Advent IV

8:30 a.m. - typical service - Rev. Amy McCullough preaching

10:00 a.m. - **Traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**, fashioned after the King's College service with nine scripture lessons followed by either an anthem by one of the choirs or a congregational hymn

December 24 Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Family Service

with music by the Youth and Children's Choirs

9:00 p.m. **Candlelight Communion Service**

Music by the Chancel Choir accompanied by string quartet

December 25 Christmas Day worship at 10:00 a.m.

December 29 One Service 10:00 a.m. - Pastor Dane Wood preaching

January 5 - Epiphany

January 12 - Baptism of the Lord

[see E-Notes or the website for details]



The Music at Grace Concert Series presents:



FOUR HAND PIANO CONCERT

Saturday, January 25th at 4:00 p.m.

Artists: Kathryn Locke and Chris Schroeder

Hear some fun and exciting four-hand piano music on the beautiful Steinway in our sanctuary!

No admission charge - free will offering

Program includes: *Dolly Suite* by Gabriel Fauré; selected movement from *Jeux d'Enfants (Children's Games)* by Georges Bizet; *Fantasia in F Minor* by Franz Schubert, and *Ma Mère l'Oye! (Mother Goose)* by Ravel.



YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS PER AUDITORS: One of the 2019 goals of Grace's Finance Committee was to conduct a financial audit. Undergoing a regular review of financial records and procedures is a best practice of any organization. An audit that focused on internal controls within our financial policies and procedures was conducted several years ago, but an audit examining our financial receipts and disbursements had not happened in many years. So earlier in the year, Grace's Finance Committee contracted with the firm Katz, Absoch, Windesheim, Gershman & Freedman, P.A. to conduct an audit of Grace's year-end financial statement for 2018. Katz Absoch completed the majority of its work by October, met with members of the Finance Committee, along with the Chair of the Trustees, and then submitted its final report in early November. In addition to affirming our financial records, the auditors offered some recommendations to improve our financial system, which are being carefully reviewed by the Finance Committee for implementation in 2020. One of the recommendations involves the timely recording of member year-end contributions. We encourage members to have year-end contributions into the church office by or before December 30, 2019. Per IRS standards, any contributions by mail postmarked December 31, 2019 or earlier will be considered a 2019 contribution.

“Love God. Do Good. Grow in Grace”
*We celebrate those who have pledged in support of
 our 2020 operating budget*

Thank you to all members and friends of Grace Church who have made a pledge to our 2020 Operating Budget. Your faithfulness and commitment glorifies God and makes ministries of Christian growth, nurture and mercy possible.. As of December 3, 2019, we have received 98 commitment cards, totaling \$306,010 toward our 2020 budget.

Joseph & Mary Aikins-Afful
 Kitty Allen
 Janet Ander
 Patsy Andrews
 Elaine Baruwa & Chiadi Onyike
 Carolyn Benfer
 Jane Benson
 Linda Benson & Sue Williams
 Nancy Blackstone
 Francette Boling
 Barbara Bond
 Pat Boughter
 David Brock
 Catherine Buffington
 John Casey & Marie Yeh
 Ed & Bonnie Caster
 Bud & Susan Clark
 Nancy Cornbrooks
 Mimi Corry
 Kathleen Cosgrove
 Ann Dahl
 Joseph Dandy
 Jack & Maureen Danz
 Bruce Eicher
 Burt & Linda English
 Todd English
 Norma Faby
 Frank Fiske
 Jim Fitzgerald
 John Ford
 Richard Frank
 Doris Franklin
 Ed & Anna Mae Frederick
 Dick Fulton
 John & Judy Gillan
 Marcia Gleckler
 Lee Gough
 Amanda Graham & Thomas Gaeng
 Walter & Claire Greenhouse
 Larry & Anne Griffith
 James Heckman
 Carl Hickey
 Casey Humbyrd & Kent Grasso
 Wendy Iglehart

Kelly Jackson
 George Kahl
 John & Francie Keenan
 Brian & Sandy Kick
 Cath LaCosta
 Michael & Amy Madsen
 Amy & Chris McCullough
 Mike & Kristen McGuire
 Bob & Sharon McIntire
 Kathie Metz
 Thomas Moore
 Irene Moses
 Helen Mosher
 Stephen & Kathryn Mullan
 Nila Murray
 Sara Mullan Navarro
 Priscilla Newton
 Patrick Onley
 Steve & Kelly Painter
 June Peterson
 Ryan & Michelle Riddle
 Gregory Ruff
 Al & Vicki Saxon
 Bob & Elaine Schaefer
 Doug & Allegra Schmidt
 Wayne & Shannon Schmidt
 Chris Schroeder
 Alan & Nancy Seitz
 Kevin & Biz Shaner
 Lynne & Norman Sharpe
 Dorothy Shindle
 Jack & Jean Smith
 Ron & Tanya Spedalere
 Chuck & Barbara Starkey
 Lee & Wilma Starkey
 Gordon & Joanie Stetz
 Scott & Suzanne Stevens
 Gil Streeks
 Walter & Hyesun Stuart
 Walt & Marguerite Stucki
 Andrew Trofatter
 Rex & Kristin Turner
 Pat Volker
 Susan Wallace

Nancy Webb
 Tom & Lois Wellener
 Jeaneen Wingate
 Dane & Megan Wood
 Marilyn Workman
 6 Unnamed pledges

SPECIAL GIFTS

We acknowledge with gratitude
 the following special gifts
 made
 in memory of
**ELEANOR “ELLIE”
 MEGRAW**
 by
 Dick Frank (Endowment Fund)
 Ed Caster
 Kitty Allen (Altar Guild Fund)

to celebrate
CLAIRE GREENHOUSE
 as a 5-year cancer survivor by
 Ed Caster

ALTAR FLOWERS
 for January

1st Sunday - Doris Franklin* and
 Janet Ander

2nd Sunday - Lee Gough* (1 or 2)
 and -----

3rd Sunday - Susan Wallace (2)

4th Sunday - -----
 and -----

Please contact Claire Greenhouse
 if you are interested in
 remembering someone by
 sponsoring an altar flower
 arrangement - 410-337-7407 or
 aschoolrn@verizon.net



Church Conference 2019
REV. AMY P. MCCULLOUGH
Grace United Methodist Church
October 29, 2019

Over the past year my pastoral work at Grace has focused on discipleship, the church's administration and structure, and long-term visioning. A sub-committee of the Trustees has conducted a facility study with the guidance of Waldon Studio Architects in order to cast a vision of the best way to use our building for continued ministry and growth. This study spanned from the late spring through the fall, and has offered some inspiring possibilities for the future of Grace's facility. In the area of staffing, I have worked closely with SPRC to implement a new staffing plan, and then recruit new staff members for the open positions. We are pleased to now be fully staffed, including a newly hired Director of Children's Ministries, a Communications Coordinator, and the Associate's role becoming a full-time position. Currently, we are recruiting for a new Preschool Director, as the long-standing director will retire in June, 2020. The Church Council is beginning an exploration of how to best align our committee structure with our mission and ministry, a process which will continue in 2020. We are also in the process of updating our membership and financial data system.

In the area of discipleship, I have taught in small group settings, worked with church committees to incorporate scriptural reflection into all of our meetings and gatherings, and am supervising the good work of the Associate Pastor and Children's Director to provide a strong discipleship pathway for children, youth, and families. Financial stewardship has been addressed through a newly formed sub-committee to work on the stewardship campaign and a program of year-round stewardship events overseen by the Finance Committee. Through the Church Council the pastors have worked to organize regular fellowship events that gather the entire congregation. Grace is also blessed this year with a Theologian-in-Residence, Dr. Arthur Sutherland from Loyola University.

In the area of missions to the community, Grace has provided a summer meal ministry in the nearby Wilson Park neighborhood for three years. While Pastor Dane works with other aspects of Grace's missions endeavors, I led this project. In 2019, we partnered with Wilson Park Christian Community Church, serving a weekday meal to anyone under 18 years of age. Although the number of children who participated in dinner was small, the impact of being a presence in the neighborhood, and building a relationship with a sister congregation, was great.

I provide pastoral care through regular visitation of church members, hospital visits, and a monthly service at a nearby retirement community. We are beginning to develop a ministry to older adults, filling a need to our congregation. Grace works hard to provide excellent weekly worship, and I am the primary preacher and worship leader. I taught a class on Forgiveness last spring and am leading a monthly discussion group, "Building the Beloved Community." I am the primary administrative pastor and head of staff. I continue to work closely with the Church Council, Trustees, Finance, SPRC, Lay Leadership and Nominations, and the Worship Committee, and in this work to identify, lift up, and empower lay leaders in the congregation.

The congregation measures its impact through the quality of worship, the number of church members involved in Christian formation and service beyond worship, the number of outreach ministries we support or lead, and through our advocacy efforts on behalf of those who struggle to have a voice in their lives or the world. Grace also regularly monitors our worship attendance, our giving patterns, our building usage - as we have many ministries that come through our building that are beyond the scope of the congregation - and the monies we provide to church and non-church related outreach programs throughout the city and the world.

The 2019 Pastoral Goals were:

- 1) Implement a newly-designed Staffing Plan
- 2) Complete the Master Plan Study for the Facility,
- 3) Be a pastoral presence in the midst of change at Grace and in the UMC,
- 4) Serve as an resource and advocate for Grace's ministries to address injustice, and
- 5) Increase Grace's ministries of hospitality, fellowship and community.

[continued on next page]

Goal 1: I, in conjunction with SPRC, have implemented a new staffing plan and Grace is now fully staffed. With a mix of old and new members Grace's staff continues to grow in relationships with one another. We will have a staff retreat, led by Rev. Stacey Cole-Wilson, in November.

Goal 2: The Master Plan for the Facility was conducted by a subcommittee of the Trustees and Waldon Studio Architects, and concluded its work in September, 2019. The Master Plan was presented to the congregation on Sunday, October 6 and was met with a favorable response.

Goal 3: I have sought to intentionally visit those who have been most affected by changes in the Grace staff, the wider issues within the UMC in the wake of General Conference 2019, and the larger cultural and national issues within our world. Grace's Church Council discerned together a desire to respond publicly to the 2019 General Conference's ruling through a published letter in the Baltimore Sun. More recently, I held a Pastoral "Lunch and Listen" with Grace members, as a safe space for conversation.

Goal 4: Grace has a newly formed Social Justice and Advocacy Committee, who have delved into the issues of homelessness, racial injustice, and immigration. A small group of lay persons organized a letter-writing campaign to elected officials about the separation of families and child detentions at the U.S. - Mexico border. and also a clothing drive to support of The Inn Project, a ministry of the Desert Southwest Conference. I have begun a monthly group entitled "Building a Beloved Community," which is reading a series of books about race, white privilege, and issues in Baltimore. The group has been well-attended and the books selected have been read by others in the congregation. Our books include: Just Mercy, The Underground Railroad, The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates, I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness, and White Fragility.

Goal 5: Associate Pastor Dane and I had a goal of offering one congregational-wide event each quarter, whose primary purpose was simply to bring the community together for conversation and relationship building. We have had some success with a few of the events. An ice-cream social was held after the Patriotic Concert this summer. The fall brings the annual Fall Picnic and Homecoming Sunday. But a few events, namely a post-worship cookout in August and a Lenten series of art reflections, were not as well-received. One hurdle in this goal was a lack of lay leadership. The Nominations Committee has identified and recruited a strong Hospitality Committee, who will work on these events in 2020.

Looking forward to 2020, I have discerned these areas for growth, reflection and work.

Grace is in the midst of transition as a congregation, amid a denomination discerning its future amid the Special General Conference held in May 2019. The decisions of the 2019 Special General Conference impacted Grace, a Reconciling congregation that also values tradition, history and its United Methodist identity. As I discern my role as the Lead Pastor, the pastoral vision I hold for the year ahead is to continue to guide Grace through a time of honoring its past and preparing for its future, while witnessing to God's faithfulness in a climate of anxiety, fear, division, and change. To that end, the missional goals being developed between myself, the SPRC and the Church Council are:

- 1) Implement 4 congregational-wide events that provide hospitality and community-building spaces.
- 2) As we seek to grow Christian disciples, the pastors and Church Council will discern a new Sunday Morning Schedule, which will provide increased time for Sunday school and other formational classes for all ages.
- 3) As we seek to deploy Christian disciples in ministry to the world, the pastors and the Mission-Outreach team together will assess, adapt, and implement meal ministries in our community that provide both needed nourishment and essential space for recreation.
- 4) Evaluate the committee structure at Grace and discern the best structure of governance for the future. A study group has been formed to explore other models of congregational leadership and will make recommendations to the Church Council by September, 2020.
- 5) Work with the Trustees to accomplish several of the short-term needs for the facility identified in the recent Facility Study.

On a personal note, I continue my education and spiritual growth by attending the "Stepping Up to Supervision" workshop led by Susan Beaumont in November, 2018, and the Baltimore Washington Conference's Professional Boundaries training in January, 2019. Through my work with the Board of Ordained Ministry, I took the Intercultural Development Inventory this past year and participated in a day-long workshop for the Board led by Ms. Gonzales on Intercultural Competency. I was selected as a participant in the "Mapping the Geography of Grace" Writing Workshop offered by the Collegeville Institute in September, 2019. My spiritual disciplines include daily prayer, regular worship, a covenant group, a Sabbath day, and regular exercise.

It is a joy and privilege to serve as the Lead Pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, and I am proud to share in ministry with the congregation and the wider community.

Nominations for Lay Leadership 2020 (approved by Church Conference)

Church Council

Chair: Marie Yeh

Vice-Chairperson: *to be determined by the Council*

Secretary: Lyn Phelps

Lay Leader: Jean Smith

Finance Chair: Jane Benson

SPRC Chair: Michelle Riddle

Trustee Chair: [elected by the Trustees]

Missions and Outreach: Wayne Schmidt

Worship Chair: David Brock

Children's Ministry Rep: Amy Madsen

Reconciling Chair: George Kahl

Youth Representative: Kelly Topper

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Doug Schmidt

At large members: Mary Aikens Afful, Allison Ferguson, Thomas Gaeng, Amanda Graham, Claire Greenhouse, George Kim, Irene Moses, Karl Schillinger

Staff-Parish Relations

2020

Michelle Riddle, chair

Chuck Starkey

Gordon Stetz

Lay Leader: Jean Smith

2021

Valerie Adams

Suzanne Stevens

David Haile

AC Rep: Doug Schmidt

2022

Elizabeth Shaner

Wendy Iglehart

Becky Farace

Board of Trustees

2020

Scott Stevens

Linda Cameron

Ed Caster

2021

Barbara Bond

Curtis Adams

Barbara Starkey

2022

Patrick Onley

Ashley Davidson

Finance Committee

2020

John Gillan

Mike McGuire

Jane Benson, chair

Marie Yeh, Church Council chair

2021

Sue Williams

Larry Griffith

Jim Heckman

Michelle Riddle, SPRC chair

2022

Burt English

Al Saxon

Carolyn Benfer

Nominations and Lay Leadership

Lay Leader: Jean Smith

2020

Lynne Sharpe

Wendy Iglehart

Carl Hickey

2021

Heather Grandsire

Glenn Simmons

Barbara Bond

2022

Amy Maden

Andy Trofatter

Diane Topper

Investment Advisory Board

Michael Madsen

Gordon Stetz (chair)

Robert McIntire

Mike McGuire

Katherine Allen

Charles Starkey

Linda Cameron

Dave Beachler

The Trustees

Adult Education Coordinators: Amanda Graham and Kristen Turner

Hospitality Committee

Vicki Saxon, chair
Steve Danz
Katie Spearman

Diane Topper
Diana Gause
Matt Sinfield

Janet Ander
Sue Williams

Worship Committee

Chair: David Brock
Claire Greenhouse (Altar Guild) Barb Starkey (Chancel Choir)
Amanda Graham Kevin Shaner
Burt English (Ushers) Jean Smith
Deborah English (Communion Stewards)
Staff: Chris Schroeder, Amy McCullough, Dane Wood

Children's Ministry Team

Linda English
Michelle Riddle
Staff: Carolyn Young

Jody Wiseman
Wayne Schmidt

Biz Shaner
Amy Madsen

Kristen McGuire

Outreach and Mission Committee

Chair: Wayne Schmidt
Lynn Beachler
Diane Topper
David Beachler
Wilma Starkey
Staff: Dane Wood

Jean Smith
Kristen McGuire
Deborah English
Maureen Danz

Kelly Jackson
Barbara Bond
Doris Franklin

Reconciling Committee

Chair: George Kahl
Kristen McGuire
Doris Franklin
Ellen Stokes
Andrew Trofatter
Staff: Dane Wood

Ann Dahl
Barb Starkey
Andrew Trofatter
Chris Schroeder

Michelle Riddle
Doug Schmidt
Anne Griffith
Diane Lesman

Shepherding Committee

Coordinator of Prayer Ministry: Janet Ander
Visitation: Jack Danz and Bill Stacey

Social Justice Committee

Chair: Thomas Gaeng
Priscilla Newton

Dianne Van Sciver

Chris Schroeder

Within the Family at Grace

DEATH: Eleanor Elizabeth Megraw - November 21, 2019

BIRTH: John Parks Stephen Navarro - November 22, 2019

Parents: Sara and Pedro Navarro; Grandparents: Kate and Steve Mullan; Aunts and Uncles: Kacey and Phil Thomas, Meghan Mullan; Cousin: Caroline Thomas

WEDDING: Juliet Morris and Matt Broczkowski - December 21, 2019

Grace United Methodist Church
5407 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21210-2024

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This issue mailed December 16
DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE RUSH

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Greetings to those of our church family
celebrating birthdays in January

- 1 Misako Fukushima, Kurt Hoffman
- 2 Hojoon Lee, Kelly Topper
- 3 Mary Jane Demarest, Elaine Schaefer, Lyla Schmidt
- 4 Riley Schmidt, Arlie Shaw
- 5 Tom Gause, Ian Murray, Leigh Thomas
- 6 Abbey Murphy, Benjamin Murphy
- 8 Ben Holt, Maxwell Wiseman
- 9 Christopher A'Hern, Janet Ander, Cianna Ferrante
- 10 Nathan Arnold, James Scouten
- 11 Marianne Corry, Frances Eger
- 12 Adrienne Hackley, Jacquelyn Meadors, Claire Stevens
- 15 Thomas Adolph, Wyatt Friar, Justin Hickey
- 16 Robyn McGowan, Matt Sinfield, Margaret Stuart, Kara Thorne
- 17 Bryan Howe, Samuel King, Milt Siglin
- 18 Edward Fields, Charles Starkey, John A. Tyler
- 19 Angus Everton
- 20 Michael A'Hern, Andrew Greenland
- 22 Carol Gamble, Cassandra Plitt
- 23 Jeane Santamaria, Trisha Wetzelberger
- 24 Carolyn Benfer, Eleanor Grasso

- 25 Wayne Schmidt, Alastair Valentine, Laird Wilhide
- 26 Tina Bathory, Barbara Daneker, Jeff Gamble, Mark Gruber
- 27 Ken McCabe, Walter Stucki
- 28 Phillip Kessell
- 29 Lucas Calderon
- 30 Natalie Riddle, Alan Seitz, Matthew Strobel
- 31 Walter Hudson, Marilyn Workman

Reminder to be Kind - Rewind

Parlor Kitchen supplies and dishes

Please remember that if any supplies or dishes are taken from the Parlor for use in the Main Kitchen that they are to be returned to the Parlor so they are available for hosts the next Sunday

– Kelly Jackson



GRACE BOOK GROUP

For its January 13 meeting the Book the group will be discussing is *The Woman in the Window* by A. J. Finn.
All are welcome - 7:00 p.m.