From the Bishop’s Warden

It is that time, again. Here we are almost in March and ready for the snow to be gone. (At least, I am.)

We have started this new year strongly. At our annual meeting, we elected two new members to the Bishop’s Committee (BC) and two delegates and two alternates to Diocesan convention in October. Welcome to Kathy Murray and Michele Moore to the BC. We met on February 15 and it was a pleasure to have these two ladies there. Our delegates to convention will be Aimee Quinn and Michele Moore. Thank you both for standing for election and serving.

On a sadder note, Ann McLeod resigned from the BC because of health concerns. Please keep her in your prayers.

Bill Barber has been elected to the Bishop’s Committee to fill the vacancy, per our By-Laws; Bill received the third highest votes at the Annual Meeting election. Thank you Bill for agreeing to serve Grace in this capacity.

Reverend Andrea was rushed to Seattle due to a bowel blockage. She was able to avoid further surgery and is now home again. Please keep her in your prayers also.

At B.C. meetings these last two months we have begun the discernment process for where we want Grace Church to be in 5 years. We are looking at all kinds of ideas to make Grace Church a viable and attractive place for all people. How do we attract younger families? How do we serve the college community? How do we support our neighbors, here in town and in the valley? These and many more questions are being raised and considered. If you have input you would like to have considered, take it up with one of the B.C. members.

Peace and God’s love to us all,
Jim Hawley
Bishop’s Committee Notes

• Work continued on **Creating and/or Defining a Vision for Grace Church.**
• Jim Hawley has been appointed by Bishop Gretchen as Bishop’s Warden of Grace.
• Due to illness Ann McLeod has submitted her resignation as a member of the Bishop’s Committee. It was accepted with regrets and thanks for her 2 years of service. Bill Barber will be serving-out her term on the Bishop’s Committee.
• Newly elected Bishop’s Committee members Kathy Murray and Michele Moore were welcomed.
• Victoria Perkis will serve as Assistant to the Treasurer.
• Elected by the Bishop’s Committee: Charlie Hubbard, Junior Warden; Ruth Ann Stacy, Treasurer; Mary Hubbard, Clerk
• Dates are being considered for Lay Leaders Training and Safeguarding God’s People/Children.
• Aimee Quinn presented information in regard to her two projects required by the College of Congregational Development.
• Aimee Quinn is working on an Organizational Chart to be completed as part of a Disaster Plan for Grace.
• Coleen Renee has designed some postcard size pictures that will be printed with information about Grace Church.
• New choir attire was discussed.
• The 2018 Parochial Report was approved.
• The sink cabinet and sink have been removed from the proposed new kitchen space.
• A small portable sound system has been purchased; it will be used after a training session for “users”.
• Presenters for the Lenten Study will be Jim Hawley and Michele Moore.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hubbard, Clerk

Evening Prayer

March 7th

Evening Prayer continues following the Altar Guild meeting. The meeting this month will be on January 10th at 4:45 lasting 30 - 60 minutes. So if you’re coming for Evening Prayer (and you are most welcome) note that the time flexes depending on the meeting.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer meets on Sunday, March 17 following Grace’s service.

"We know God by participation in God, not by trying to please God from afar."
~ Richard Rohr

Altar Guild

We are gearing up for Lent and Easter, which will be here before we know it! For Easter we have planned on tulip, daffodil and pansy plants with one lily in the hopes that we cut down on the uncomfortable allergy reactions many experienced last year. If these plants will cause you a problem, please notify me at 509-962-3410.

Praying you all stay safe and warm as we await the coming of Spring which I’m positive is “just around the corner”!

May God continue to Bless us all here at Grace. Prayerfully, Sharon Frazzini
Where, Oh Where, Does Our Money Go?

As donors, you should know how our church spends your donated money for general expenses. General expenses are the bills we must pay to keep the church operating. I’ll spend this newsletter going over a few of the recurring monthly expenses and will complete this list in the next newsletter.

The two biggest monthly expenses are payroll and our diocesan pledge totaling 65% of expenses for January (72% if you add in the costs of guest priests). Since these items are fairly fixed costs, any cost cutting must come from other general expenses. One expense we have reduced significantly is our utility and Waste Management costs. Our due diligence at shutting off lights, keeping thermostat settings low and volunteering to take home recyclables to feed our own bins have given us a great cost savings. Six years ago this church was spending $1400 per month in utilities; our current monthly cost is $600. We hope to reduce expenses even further once we replace our aging furnaces for more efficient ones. Another example of cost savings is in our copier costs. Two years ago we replaced an old copier machine with a new one while negotiating a fairer contract with Canon. The old copier was costing us about $92 per month and the new copier with similar use is costing us 2/3rds less!

Bishop’s Committee members have fiduciary responsibility and their actions and decisions are reducing costs without affecting the mission of our church. Please thank these members for being good stewards of your donated funds.

Ruth Ann, Treasurer

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

We have been praying to bring more young people and young families to our Grace Community, so it’s important to create space for them in as many ways as we can, from right where we are.

We do have youth and young adults in our church - active ones, who serve as acolytes and as Eucharistic ministers. We almost always have youth at the Grace Healing Drum Circle. Our youth often participate in Diocesan Camps. Take a moment to ask David and Benjamin Njoroge how Winter Camp was 2 weeks ago.

We are in the process of writing a Congregational Development Grant to help us build structures necessary for children, youth and young adult programs. The Rev. John Pallarine is very enthusiastic about helping us identify our needs and build programs. Stay tuned.

If you are a youth, child or young adult at Grace and have input, please let us know!

Birthday Prayer

Watch over your children, O Lord as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they are. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace, which passes understanding, abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy God, guide your faithful people with your loving hands as we discern our future direction here at Grace. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.
FISH NEWS

Amazing Grace donated 35 lbs. of canned goods and 22 lbs. of pet food in January. In February we donated 29 lbs. of canned goods. We sponsored lunch on January 28th serving Mac and cheese along with little BBQ smokies, salad, fruit cup and cake to 52 guests including our senior citizens lunch. February lunch took place on the 25th offering Tator Tot casserole, rolls, chopped salad, fruit cup and desert muffins to 75 guests. All leftovers are saved to feed the Cold Winter Shelter guests - an average of 20 guests per night.

Amazing Grace Team will be sponsoring lunch again on March 25. The menu is created by the FISH staff and we provide the main entrée. FISH has been very generous in providing most of the ingredients for the dish. There are a lot of dedicated staff members and members from Elmview that do most of the setting up, and serving but our help is appreciated in doing the clean up starting at 1 pm.

Grace Church also donated $200 to the FISH Food bank.

Lots of changes are in the works for the FISH program. The major change is that they have outgrown their space at the Mercer Creek campus. Mercer Creek is also expanding their own programs and would like their space back. Currently the FISH board is looking at the old Elmview recycling facility adjacent to Bower’s Field and is talking with the Kit-

STEWARDSHIP

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

As we prepare to go through Lent we have possibly taken up those resolutions that we have let slide since January and or have given up something such as chocolate or some other desirable thing. However, I have another suggestion.

I suggest that during Lent we look at our personal budgets. When you look at your budget, you discover quickly what is important to you based on how you spend your money. It is surprising to see what expenses dominate as well as what is missing in your budget. The budget lets you see just where your heart is, or is not.

In this exercise, we are able to focus once again on the treasures we have received from God and hopefully we will adjust our budgets to reflect our thanksgiving to God.

Charlie Hubbard, Stewardship Chair

Hospitality & Greeters

“Don’t forget to be kind to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it.” Hebrews 13:2

Hospitality is Caring, Sharing, Connecting, and extending Love to one another. There are many examples of hospitality in the Bible. Here at our church, hospitality is a part of our ministry and reminds us “Stewardship is a Way of Life at Grace.”

We have an opportunity to practice this biblical example. Each Sunday, following the 10:00 AM service, we share a Coffee Hour that allows for everyone to participate in the STEWARDSHIP of HOSPITALITY.

Please consider volunteering to host this special time we all enjoy. There is a sign-up sheet on the table by the church office. Partnering with someone to Co-Host is a way to share in this ministry.

Coleen4Grace “No Gains, No Losses - Only Trades”

As we discern our future direction at Grace this year, I am reminded of a teaching from Marco Bicchierrri, one of my favorite CWU anthropology professors. He would often tell us, “There are no gains, no losses - only trades.” He said this to help us get out of our own cultural biases. It’s a teaching I continue to work with.
I remember Marco showed us a movie where high winds were literally blowing the roofs and walls off of grass huts in a desert village. Someone asked why they didn’t just build houses out of concrete blocks - it was both cheap and durable. Marco explained they would be trading the ability of the grass huts to breathe, which was beneficial during the hot season when little or no breeze could be found. “There are no gains no losses - only trades,” he reminded us.

The question is how beneficial the trade is. The high winds of the earlier movie were somewhat rare, but the heat of the annual hot season was certain. Grass huts were made with local materials, easily gathered. Concrete blocks were shipped in and cost money.

We cannot always see every aspect of a trade, of course. That’s what makes life interesting. Experience tells us whether what we’ve chosen has led us (or will continue to lead us) where we want to go.

Whenever I’m facing a change in my life, I hear Marco’s words, “no gains, no losses - only trades.” It moves me out of fear because instead of thinking about losing something, I am now considering the trade.

Change can be inconvenient and challenging – it always requires a letting go and an opening up to the new. Seeing it as a trade, rather than as gains and losses, smooths out the edges for me. I don’t hold on so tightly to what has been and I am able to stay more easily in wonder and out of fear around the uncertainty that comes with anything new. I pay close attention to my dreams (literal and figurative) and to where Spirit is guiding me – and I trust. There are moments when I waiver, when I doubt. In those moments I return to Spirit, and am reminded to trust.

Spirit often leads me to places that are in transition, places like Grace Church. I’ve learned that I have a gift for holding a group during transition. I am an employee here at Grace. I am not a member and I do not make decisions for the congregation. I am part of the community and so, I offer my gifts in its interest. God inspires me to write an article or tell a story. He gifts me with conversations and information, gently urging me to encourage, inspire, question … I don’t always know why, but I’ve learned to trust the process and follow Spirit’s lead. Sometimes I’m led to simply offer a grounding presence. I feel deeply honored to share my gifts here at Grace and to be in service to this congregation.

Every single person in a community has some unique gift and/or perspective to offer. I believe the Way of Love invites us to both offer and receive. You will have noticed several calls for input in this newsletter. Please consider your input a sacred offering to the future of Grace Church. We need you. We thank you.

Blessings and Joy, Coleen
We have some extra room here, over in the sidebar, so I thought it would be nice to extend some gratitude:

* Although she’s retired, Wendy Katz continues to serve Grace Church by proofing the bulletins each week and proofing the calendars and Grace Notes every month. This week, she’s coming in twice! She makes my job so much easier. Thank you.

* Also, a big thank you to Jim Hawley and Charlie Hubbard. I mentioned my eyes were bothering me because of the glare from all the windows and it might be helpful to move my desk around. They took their coats off and started moving furniture!

* Victoria Perkis has given a lot of time bringing us monthly newsletters for the last few years. Thank you for your time Victoria and for modeling so joyfully, following one’s heart!

A lot happens behind the scenes here at Grace, these are just a few examples. Thanks to each of you for all you do!
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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
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| 3   | 8:30 Choir Practice  
10 Holy Eucharist  
 w/The Rev.Christianne McKee  
1st Sunday Stewardship Lunch | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   |
| 10  | 9 Men’s prayer group  
10:30 Scripture Discussion  
9:30 Prayer Service  
6:30 Lenten Study | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |
| 31  | 8:30 Choir Practice  
10 Sunday Service TBA  
11:15 Centering Prayer | 10:30 FISH Lunch (anytime) | 10 Men’s prayer group  
10:30 Scripture Discussion  
6:30 Lenten Study | 10:45 Hearthstone service  
2 Stephen Ministry  
4:45 Altar Guild followed by Evening Prayer | 2 Healing Drum Circle |

**Helpful Links**

- Daily Prayer from Forward Movement  
- The Lectionary Page  
  [www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)

**Also check out our Facebook page and Like us.**

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
[GraceEllensburg.com](http://GraceEllensburg.com)