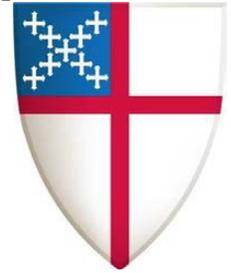


**Our Vision:** As a welcoming congregation, we share the transformational grace of God through worship and spiritual growth; we glorify God by building up each other and community through love, care, and outreach.



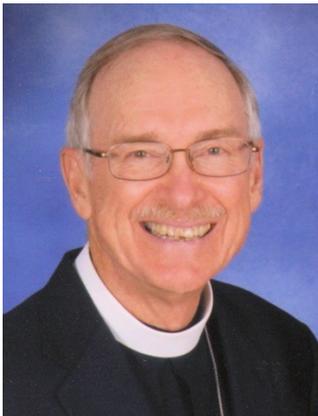
## SHARING GRACE March

2018A Christian Newsletter of Community Caring

of Grace Episcopal

### ***FROM OUR INTERIM RECTOR***

Dear Friends-in-Christ,



The month of March is a transition month. We move from Pacific Standard Time to Daylight Savings Time on March 11<sup>th</sup> - Spring ahead! We move from Lent to Holy Week. We move from colder winter temperatures to a warmer spring. Our Vestry will move to Executive Sessions to work on the search process. Perhaps, I said, perhaps, by April they will be interviewing candidates for our full-time Priest-in-Charge.

Our Holy Week activities are taking shape. Palm/Passion Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> will begin outside in the Courtyard for our Palm Sunday procession at both services, and we transition from the celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to the Passion story from Mark's Gospel. On Wednesday evening at 7PM, the 28<sup>th</sup>, the service is Tenebrae, the service of shadows. If you've not been to a Tenebrae service, I commend it to you. It is a dark, contemplative service, of course, much of Holy Week is dark and contemplative. Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> at 7PM, we celebrate Maundy Thursday with a re-enactment of three major events in Jesus last week -foot washing, the Lord's Supper, and stripping of the Altar. In the stripping we symbolically prepare ourselves for Good Friday and the death of Jesus on the cross. Our major Good Friday service will be at Noon on the 30<sup>th</sup>. At 7PM we'll move with Jesus on the Way of the Cross. Then Holy Saturday in the Chapel we'll have a short, but meaningful service at Noon.

This year our Easter Vigil, the first celebration of a joyous Easter, will be with Ascension in Vallejo. Bayani Rico+, the Rector, has invited us to join their congregation. As you may recall, they have joined us for the last two years. If you need to car pool to Vallejo, just let me know.

Then on Easter Sunday, April 1st, at both services we'll have a great celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord.

Meanwhile, our Lenten Thursday evenings have been going well. We begin at 5:30 for Evening Prayer, move to our Dinner and by around 6:20, we begin our Study of the book *Inwardly Digest*. Even if you don't have the book, I commend the discussion to you. Basically we looking at Anglican Liturgical Spirituality, that is, how we as Anglican's express and learn our spirituality using the Book of Common Prayer. The English Reformers 450 years ago created a unique way to practice Christian spirituality, and we still use it - modernized, of course

Elsewhere in this issue of Sharing Grace, you'll see the current status of our finances. After a terrific pledge campaign, we are a bit mystified about why our giving has fallen off the first two months. We have enough cash to protect our cash flow from month to month, but we'd really like our giving to equal or exceed our expenses.

Our Pastors Forum between the services is going well. You should join us if you've not been there. We are using another quarter of the Study Guides of the Lectionary produced by a group of lay people at St. Clements, Rancho Cordova. This is time tested material and our discussions of the scriptures have been deep and meaningful.

Upcoming in May and June are two opportunities to attend a Cursillo weekend. Cursillo changed so many lives in our congregation that we think the experience will provide even more energy and enthusiasm for the work of Christ in this outpost of His Body. Sylvia and I attended a Cursillo in 1988, and we still cherish the experience. Cursillo is a weekend primer on Christianity. It is not a secret society, and it's open to all who want to know more about our faith. Hidden in our congregation is one who will be the Rectora at a Cursillo, that is, she will run it. She's really dedicated to the movement because it fundamentally changed her life. At one time a few years ago, I counted 17 parishioners who had been to a Cursillo. If you are interested, tell me. It won't cost you a cent, just a weekend of your time. Those who have gone before you have already paid for you. You'll look back and say "why didn't I go before!"

Perry+

From the Senior Warden:

While I was on vacation in Disney World, three were elected to the Vestry, James Fulmer, Suzie Peterson and Ellie Kulseng. At our vestry retreat, I was elected Senior Warden, James Fulmer, Junior Warden, and Kim Worthen was elected Clerk of the Vestry. We bonded well and see the responsibilities ahead as daunting but very doable. Our commitment to our church is strong.

At our first vestry meeting, we elected Gretchen Smith to be our treasurer, and I am pleased to have her on the team. The work she does is so valuable to us. The vestry took an important step by setting goals for the next three years: First priority is to find a Priest-in-Charge and to repair the roof above the office. These are goals we

hope to complete this year. Next year we want to improve the appearance of the front of the Church and possibly the courtyard. We also recognize we have a serious plumbing problem, and we hope to address that in the third year.

We realize our facility has been ignored for a long time and band aid fixes are only temporary. We must address each item not as a temporary fix just to get us by, but we must repair and maintain our precious house of worship.

James Fulmer is in the process of changing the latches on the doors and rekeying the church. Lynn Thomas is organizing our campus monitors, and Linda Chandler is organizing a new "Hospitality Committee". Your participation in any of these projects will be greatly appreciated.

Your Senior Warden,

Jim Klopstock

### **Campus Monitors**

We need more to volunteer to be Campus Monitors. There are two shifts. The first person comes on duty around 7:45AM and stays till relieved by the second shift. The second shift arrives about 9:15AM and stays until the last person leaves the campus around Noon. You'll lock up, unless someone else plans to stay will lock up.

The task is simple. You monitor the flow of people coming through the gate the entire time you're on duty. If you see a stranger, you welcome them and assess whether they need directions to the services or need to move along somewhere else. The presence of a person approaching and speaking to a stranger usually scares the person off if they are up to no good. It welcomes a person who doesn't know our campus, and where our services are occurring.

We are particularly concerned about the time we are in services and our gate is open. We have people working in the kitchen, teaching Sunday School, in the Forum. These are vulnerable times for everyone. A Campus Monitor changes the equation as someone is on duty outside watching.

We currently have about eight volunteers, mostly from our Vestry. More people volunteering will mean that your shift will come around later than earlier. We'd like to have a list of about two months of volunteers, in other words, about 16 people. You don't have to be 6'6" and weigh 250 pounds like a body guard. You'll be a welcomer, not a cop.

Lynn Thomas is the Campus Monitor Coordinator.



**FROM GEM**

**The next GEM Fellowship Breakfast meeting will be Saturday, March 3, 2018 at Huckleberry's Restaurant, 7:30AM meeting start time.**

The GEM February 3<sup>rd</sup> Fellowship Breakfast was exciting and effervescent with concepts for change with the upcoming Health and Wellness Fair and a very new concept for the GEM fundraiser. The Health and Wellness Fair will be incorporated with the City of Fairfield's, Earth Day and Kid's Day of Fishing event. To tell the truth, the fundraiser will be the resurgence of the corn beef and cabbage dinner. The fund-raiser is scheduled for Saturday evening May 19, 2018. The dinner will start at 5:30PM and the ticket cost is \$12.00 per person. More information to come as the event date gets closer.

Another event for the church congregation will be Faith and Family Night on Saturday, August 11, 2018 at Raley Field. This is a Sacramento River Cats baseball game. More information to come.

Rumor has it, that information on what is scheduled for Year 2018 should be posted. Well, attached are the proposed outreach events for the remainder of Year 2018.

**Please see the below listed calendar event information for Year 2018.**

<b>Grace Episcopal Church Year 2018 Outreach Program.</b>	<b>Activity Plan</b>
January thru March	St Brigid's Children's Clothing Exchange, January 27 <sup>th</sup> at the D.H.White Elementary School. Fun On The Run. Friday afternoons, at the church parking lot, during the school year. Calendar Drive for the Port of Stockton Mariners. Crab feed assist, Saturday Feb 10 <sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM.
April thru June	Grace Episcopal Church Health and Wellness Fair. April 21, 2018. Location = Fairfield City Hall Park. GEM fundraiser. May 19, 2018. Corn beef and cabbage dinner. Cost = \$12.00/person, start at 5:30PM. Memorial Day Cards for wounded

	soldiers at TAFB, David Grant Hospital, issue/drop off cards during the week of May 20 <sup>th</sup> to the TAFB Visitors Center.
July thru September	Sacramento River Cats Faith and Family Night. August 11 <sup>th</sup> . Raley Field. Ticket cost = \$20.00 each. Yountville BBQ for the facility residents, during the month of August 2018. St. Brigid's Children's Clothing Exchange. (Aug 25 <sup>th</sup> ) Donation of school supplies to Fairview Elementary School. Coordinate the date with the Fairview Principal.
October thru December	Flu shot drive. Solano County Health. Coat collection drive for the students, Kindergarten through 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade, at Fairview Elementary School. GEM, ECW and Congregation. Christmas Cards for wounded soldiers at TAFB, David Grant Hospital. Heather House Holiday Donation. (GEM).



**FROM ECW**

The ECW meeting was held Feb. 6, 2018 in room 6 at 11:30am. Marajean S., President, called the meeting to order and Pat M. gave the blessing and read the opening prayer from "Jesus Always". Refreshments were furnished by Anna K. and Millie C. and enjoyed by all. Thank You ladies.

Minutes were read and approved as corrected. The monthly donations to Heather House and the rector's discretionary fund were approved and distributed.

Old Business:

Women's bathroom- still working on

Rio Vista clothing exchange Anna K. and Debbie C. assisted. Thank you ladies.

Altar rail cushions Anna K. waiting for prices

Side Chapel roll down shade Heidi L. brought samples and prices. She will order and have the screen installed which will be much appreciated to cut down on the glare. Heidi offered to pay for the screen and ECW voted to pay for half.

New Business

Support GEM in their upcoming fundraiser at Mary's Pizza Shack in May  
Fundraiser for ECW June or Oct Tahoe Joe's

Heidi L. won the mystery drawing Congrats!

Marajeau S. closed the meeting by leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting will be March 6 at 11:30 am in room 6. All women of Grace are members of ECW. refreshments will be served. Come join the fun and service.

love and Belief

### **Hospitality Committee**

Our Vestry is in the process of forming a Hospitality Committee. The primary roles will be to staff our coffee hour preparations and clean up before and after both services and to be available to organize and conduct special receptions, such as, for funerals and weddings.

The idea is to have a group of people to lighten the load on those who do these tasks now. More hands are needed and the more we have the lighter the load on everyone.

Some people have taken on these task simply because it needs to be done and no one is doing it. With more people engaged, the job goes quicker and the feeling of “duty” is lessened.

Linda Chandler is the coordinator for the Hospitality Committee.

### **Safety Corner :**

Use of Ergonomics by: Workspace Inventory and Identifying Your Reach Zone.

Income Tax time is upon us. It is time to break out the file folders from the previous year and get to work. Remove the temporary storage items to their proper filing place, however, watch your back when removing the storage items and check for tripping hazards in your work area. Much better, now you are almost ready to begin working. Okay, so what is left? Inventory your work space and identify your reach zone.

### Inventory Your Workspace:

- Having your head tilted as much as a couple of degrees off of center can cause serious neck strain. Check out your workspace – is it set up so that you are facing your computer straight on?
- Is your chair depth short enough that your knees stick out from your chair, so that it does not put pressure on the nerves in your legs?
- Is your keyboard set up so that your wrists are in a neutral position? The neutral position of the wrists is considered to be approximately straight and not significantly bent to the side, up, or down. Choose a keyboard that is comfortable for you to use.

### Identify Your Reach Zones:

- Items directly in front of you and which you can reach without stretching your arm are in the “easy zone;” they are easy to reach. You should consider putting items you use constantly in this zone.
- Items that you can reach by extending your arm, but not moving are in the “awkward zone”. You should consider putting items you use often (but not routinely) into this zone.
- Anytime you have to both move and extend your arm to reach something, it is in the “avoid zone”. You should avoid putting anything you use with any regularity in these areas as regularly reaching for them can cause stress to your skeletal system, arms, neck and back.

Ron Cupid

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### Operating:

January Income	February Income	YTD Income
\$8,485	\$9,507	\$17,992
January Expenses	February Expenses	YTD Expenses
\$13,927	\$10,991	\$24,918
Net Income/Loss	Net Income/Loss	Net Income/Loss
\$(5,442)	\$(1,484)	\$(6,926)

## Coming Events



Thursday, March 1st, Lenten Study.  
Saturday, March 3, 2018, GEM Meeting, 7:30am at Huckleberry's in Fairfield.  
Tuesday, March 6, 2018, ECW Meeting, 11:30am in Room 6.  
Thursday, March 8th, Lenten Study.  
Thursday, March 15th, Lenten Study.  
Thursday, March 22nd, Lenten Study  
Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday services 8 and 10am  
Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, Tenebrae service at 7:00pm  
Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, Maundy Thursday service at 7:00pm  
Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday service at Noon  
Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, Way of the Cross service at 7:00pm  
Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, Holy Saturday service at Noon  
Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, Easter Vigil service at Ascension, Vallejo at 7pm  
Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, Easter Sunday 8 and 10am  
Easter Egg Hunt after the 10am service

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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Deborah Cupid 03/01  
Gretchen Smith 03/04  
Larry Lindsay 03/09  
Sue Pokorny 03/19  
Peter Minkel 03/22  
Pat Benacquista 03/23  
Joe Harper 03/24

Roel Rafael 04/01  
Carol Allen 04/04  
Angelo Garcia 04/12  
Asleain Hodges 04/15  
Wyatt Thomas 04/17  
Deni Hayslip 04/23  
David Cavanagh 04/26  
Frank Hull 04/29  
Linda Chandler 04/29

## The Living Compass Wellness Initiative February 23, 2018

### **Making a Difference**

*This week's column is written by Holly Hughes Stoner, my wife of 40 years. For the past thirty-five years, she has worked with youth as an elementary school teacher, a middle school teacher and as a high school teacher. Today she is a marriage and family therapist and serves as the Director of Teen and Parent Wellness for Living Compass. I call her the "teen whisperer" because of her love of teens and her ability to get them to talk about what is most on their minds and in their hearts. Normally she serves as the editor of this weekly column, but I have asked this week, in the light of the school shooting in Florida, if she could write this column to express her admiration and passion for our young people. Holly can be reached at [holly@livingcompass.org](mailto:holly@livingcompass.org).*

Over the last forty plus years, as a professional, I have had the distinct honor of spending most of my days with awesome, funny, hard-working, and for the most part, innocent young people, and thus have seen children of all ages do wonderful things for others.

I once arrived at school after the death of my grandmother to find my desk covered with condolence notes from my sweet second graders. They had seen me cry when I got the news over the phone in my classroom and wanted to make a difference.

I have seen teenagers work tirelessly to raise thousands of dollars for an orphanage in Guatemala. These children had been to the orphanage on a trip with their Spanish class, had seen the needs, and wanted to make a difference.

Thirty years ago a student at our local high school was diagnosed with cancer and the other students wanted to do something, to make a difference. So with the support of the teachers and the community, they developed something called the Shorewood Games, modeled after the Olympics, and

year after year new students continued the work and have now collectively raised four hundred thousand dollars to fight childhood cancer.

I have seen students work long hours to practice and create fabulous theater productions, hone skills as musicians and athletes, create and run clubs that bring awareness of social issues that matter to them, and speak out against injustices with youthful optimism. All in all, I come away from my years of being surrounded by young people feeling inspired and grateful for their energy, hopefulness, and presence.

Not all of my students, however, were in a place to give back. Some were struggling with challenging situations at home or in their neighborhoods. Some had learning struggles or were dealing with depression or anxiety and getting through each day was a challenge. These children needed our care and attention all the more. They needed us to make a difference in their lives.

With the horrific news coming out of Florida this past week I am reminded of all of my students, and I am again struggling with wondering what we can do to make a difference, to make the world better for our children of all ages. I know that there are things to be done on the policy level and that is extremely important, and we must also do things right in our very own neighborhoods, with the kids and the families who live nearby and are going to our local schools. We must let them know that they are valued, reaching out especially to those who are vulnerable and lost.

We might befriend a child by showing interest in their activities, maybe even going to their volleyball game or school concert. We might offer to sit for a family that can't afford a sitter, thus getting to know the kids better and helping out the parents. We might volunteer in a classroom, coach a team, or chaperone a field trip. We might offer to care for a child after school or on days when there is no school. The opportunities to do something meaningful to help a child are endless.

We can make a difference, one child, one teen at a time, and we must.

# THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Summary of spiritual inventory findings of RenewalWorks: A Ministry of Forward Movement



DATA FROM 2013-2017

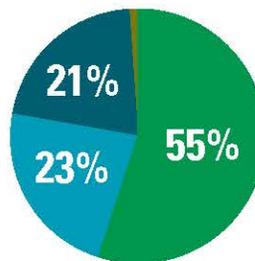
**200** RENEWALWORKS CONGREGATIONS

**12,000** EPISCOPALIANS

**47%** OF THESE CHURCHES HAVE 101-250 PARISHIONERS

**54%** OF RESPONDENTS HAVE ATTENDED THEIR CHURCH 10+ YEARS

## THREE PRIMARY CHURCH ARCHETYPES



**Troubled:** Restless and hungry for greater spiritual growth.

**Extroverted:** Committed to service, mission, and outreach; limited correlation between service and spiritual beliefs.

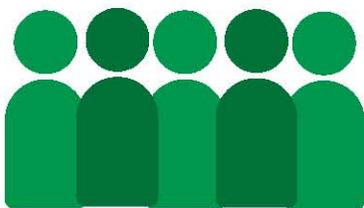
**Complacent:** Low expectations of transformation, and resistance to change and challenge.

## WHAT WE HEAR BY THE NUMBERS

**60%** want the church to help them develop a relationship with God in Christ.

**57%** percent want to be challenged to grow and take next steps spiritually.

Only **14%** of the 12,000 respondents say they reflect on scripture daily.



Only **42%** are extremely satisfied or very satisfied with the way their church helps them develop a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Only **38%** felt they were extremely or very satisfied with how the church challenged them to grow and take next steps.

**42%** have never met with members of their church clergy individually, and **48%** have never talked with a spiritual mentor.

## WHERE ARE WE SPIRITUALLY? THE FOUR STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### EXPLORING



### GROWING



### DEEPENING



### CENTERED

Affirmed belief in God, though not sure what faith claims they would make about Christ. Generally, faith is not significant in their day-to-day life.

They are committed to the Christian faith but still have many questions and have not developed a personal relationship with God in Christ.

Transition to value a personal relationship with God over their church membership. They feel close to Christ and depend on him daily for guidance.

A personal relationship with God in Christ is the most important relationship in their lives, but that doesn't mean their spiritual journey is over.

18%

55%

23%

4%

72%

Consider themselves to be at an early, less mature stage of spiritual growth. Parishioners that fall into the first two stages are highly dependent on the church—and specifically the clergy—to help teach, guide and mentor.

## FOUR CATALYSTS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. Engagement with scripture
2. Transforming power of the Eucharist
3. A deeper prayer life
4. The heart of the leader

RenewalWorks™  
A Ministry of Forward Movement

Download the full report:

**RenewalWorks:**  
**What We're Learning**

[www.RenewalWorks.org](http://www.RenewalWorks.org)

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### March 2018 Sunday Altar Schedule

Position	March 4 Lent 3	March 11 Lent 4	March 18 Lent 5	March 25 Palm Sunday
	8AM	8 AM	7 AM	8AM
EM	Gretchen Smith	Charles Karnopp	Evelyn Wickham	James Fulmer
Acolyte				
Lector	Ellie Kulseng	Gary McEachnie	Heidi Lindsay	Ron Cupid
Usher/Greeter	Gary McEachnie			Ron Cupid
Campus Monitor	Joe Harper	John Ryan	Larry Lindsay	Shane Tyler
	10AM	10 AM	7 PM	10AM
EM	Carolyn Sheldon	Janet Heise	Matt Thomas	Scotty Hodges
Acolyte		Marissa Grimes	Wyatt Thomas	Jack Flynn
Lector	Phyllis Riley	Joe Harper	Lynn Thomas	Tara Sutherland
Usher/Greeter	Peter Minkel	Nora Del Ross	Suzie Peterson	Tom and Mary Ann McKinney
Campus Monitor	Matt Thomas	Lynn Thomas	James Fulmer	Janet Heise
Altar Guild	Mar 3 – Mar 16		Mar 17 – March 30	
	Pat Minkel		Carol Allen	
	Marajean Scarfe			

## **GRACE CHURCH STAFF**

Interim Rector                      The Rev. Perry W. Polk  
Associate                            The Rev. David Cavanagh  
Organist                              Lynne Secrist  
Senior Warden -                    Jim Klopstock  
Junior Warden -                    James Fulmer  
Treasurer-                         Gretchen Smith  
Vestry—Linda Chandler, , Janet Heise, Scotty Hodges, Ellie Kulseng, Suzie Peterson, Lynn Thomas, and Shane Tyler  
Staff: Office Mgr./Bookkeeper:   Kim Worthen

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### *Our Mission:*

Welcome • Transform  
Build Up • Reach Out • Glorify God

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#### **PLEASE NOTE :**

Sharing Grace Articles are due by the **20TH OF EACH MONTH**. Please email submissions to [gracechurchff@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gracechurchff@sbcglobal.net) as the office staff is consolidating information for the rector.

