

Pray Grow Serve 2020

How We're Staying Involved at Grace Cathedral in the time of the Covid pandemic

Altar Guild -- Altar Guild volunteers work with and care for the linens and vessels used in the Sunday Eucharist. Most volunteers serve either one Saturday or Sunday a month. Others come in during the week to iron linens. Our group has been dormant during the quarantine; Verger Charles Shipley handles requirements for our current live-stream service. When regular services resume, interested persons may **contact** [Michael Hendron](#) or [Charles Shipley](#).

Bayview Mission — [Bayview Mission](#) is a Special Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of California with strong support from Grace Cathedral. It provides much-needed services, food and supplies to residents of the Bayview/Hunters Point neighborhoods.

We've been focused on being a pillar of support both for our community at large and for our volunteers during this difficult time. We find solace in continuing to do what we do best: serving the families with infants and toddlers along with our senior community of Bayview Mission. We also started connecting to volunteers through Zoom to help them participate socially while remaining safe at their homes.

Bayview Mission modified to be Covid-compliant by practicing social distancing, donning masks, and working outside as we prepare care bags for the community. We place the bag on a table and the family and/or senior in need comes and grabs the bag from a safe distance. We have created a mask-making volunteer crew under [St. Veronica's Guild](#).

For those who wish to donate, we are accepting:

- Recycled grocery bags
- Gently used, clean clothing
- Unused/unopened toiletries
- Gently used, clean towels
- New socks
- Canned food
- Dental supplies

Contact: The [Ven. Canon Nina Pickerrell](#) and/or outreach@gracecathedral.org.

Bible Study — The Thursday Bible Study is alive and well. We are a clergy and laity-led group that meets every Thursday at 11 to spend an hour reading and discussing Biblical texts; we are currently reading the Acts of the Apostles, and we welcome any and all interested people to our weekly Zoom classes (details on website).

Contact: [Peter Grace](#)

4:30 Book Study -- The 4:30 Sunday Book Study group meets regularly to discuss our weekly readings of books about Christian Spirituality and God. When in session, the group convenes weekly on Sundays at 4:30 pm for one hour. We typically take five to seven weeks per book, with comfortable breaks between each series. The meetings lend themselves well for a book study in addition to providing a sense of community during the pandemic.

Prior to the Covid outbreak, we read and discussed *Jesus Through the Centuries* by Jaroslav Pelikan and *The Orthodox Way* by Kallistos Ware. Since then, we have read *Listening For the Heartbeat Of God* by J. Philip Newell, *That All Shall Be Saved* by David Bentley Hart, and *God Christ Church: A Practical Guide to Process Theology* by Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki.

Announcements will be made through the cathedral website, under Classes for Adults, as well as in the website calendar. We also have an email list, and notifications go out at least three weeks ahead of a planned book series with dates, times, and book titles. To join the list, **contact** [Bob White](#).

Bread Bakers Guild — Bread bakers make the sacramental loaves for Holy Eucharist used on Sunday and in special celebrations. People involved in this ministry usually bake one loaf per month. The bakers are on hiatus until we can gather at the Cathedral once again. **Contact:** [Kirsten Tucker](#)

Carillion Ministry -- We are musicians, and we ring the bells to give the larger community an opportunity to pause, listen, and hear. We can't operate at this time because our ministry requires us to be physically in the cathedral. A documentary by congregation members John and Alex Dickerman explains the role of the carillon in the church service and community. View it on YouTube [here](#). **Contact:** [Charlotte Gaylord](#) or [John D. Poynter](#)

Children, Youth and Family Ministry — Grace Cathedral is a house of prayer for all people, and that means all ages! We've moved online with Sunday morning programs for children at 11 a.m. -- Zoom Time! Zoom Time is fun time: Montessori-based Godly Play, for pre-K through third grade, and Grace Quest, for older children. Both encourage familiarity with faith, worship and conversations about life's big questions. Lessons resemble what children might recognize from their experience in Grace's Godly Play classrooms. (Some are taped there, while others are told live from teachers' homes.) The children have also been creating a special online portal, built on the architecture of the cathedral. To join Zoom Time, click [here](#). **Contact:** [The Rev. Mary Carter Greene](#)

Congregation Council — The Congregation Council meets monthly to promote community, social justice and congregation needs and concerns. Our mission is to support and strengthen congregational life. We do this through programs that benefit and grow the congregation, and by sharing congregational concerns and interests with clergy, staff and trustees.

We've encouraged community-building initiatives including the Homebound But Not Alone phone tree, weekly coffee hour and, of course, Congregation Sunday. We also support Social Justice initiatives such as the recent documentary screening of Thirteenth. We would love to hear your comments, questions or suggestions. **Contact:** [Steph McNally and Sarah Benjamin](#), council co-chairs.

Deanery -- The principal objectives of the Deanery are the development and implementation of the policies and plans of the Diocesan Convention and the Executive Council; education and participation in the governance of the diocese; leadership training and development; communication between the diocese and congregations and institutions; and support of ministries located in the Deanery. San Francisco Deanery meetings transitioned online early in the year. The San Francisco Deanery will hold a diocesan-wide convention in October, which will include deaneries from all of the Bay Area churches. The annual convention is the time when the diocese conducts all the business related to the governance of our church. **Contact:** [Regina Walton](#).

Dinner With Grace — Dinner With Grace builds community, engenders empathy and combats loneliness through volunteer-prepared healthy meals shared with individuals transitioning out of homelessness.

While we can't gather to cook or serve and visit with the residents of the Mentone and Crosby hotels, we have been able to provide them with tangible reminders of our concern and support. Earlier this summer, we contracted with a socially conscious caterer to prepare and deliver individually boxed meals to each SRO, and we hope to do this again. A small group of us recently got together on Zoom for a catch-up chat, and we were still in the room an hour later. We can't wait to get back to the kitchen again! Come join us when we resume! **Contact:** [Nicole Stahl](#).

Docents — The Cathedral Docents (The Guild of St. Martin) give tours of the cathedral, telling people about the history, art, and architecture of Grace. Since the building closed, we haven't been giving tours. We stay in touch generally by email. Until the building reopens, we don't anticipate any immediate needs. Please stay tuned for updates as the cathedral reopens. **Contact:** [Joe Garity](#).

Education for Ministry (EfM) — Education for Ministry is group spiritual development in a small group format, using worship, study and reflection in weekly meetings. Our program normally meets September to June, with a summer series in July and August. We met successfully to finish our 2019-20 year. We hope to begin our next program year in January. To keep the group in touch, we are meeting monthly on Zoom for social interaction. A book discussion group will begin Wednesday, Oct. 6, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., for six weeks. **Contact:** [Roberta Sautter](#)

Fill-a-Need – The Fill-a-Need initiative is currently focused on making and distributing masks to the cathedral community and those in need. In August, in conjunction with Bayview Mission, we provided 60 volunteer-sewn masks to formerly homeless people now living in the Crosby hotel in the Tenderloin and we're working on filling a request from the Mentone. Please let us know if you need a mask or would like to sew for us! **Contact:** fill-a-need@gracecathedral.org or gracecathedral.org/fill-a-need/

Garden Guild — Those who love to garden and love Grace Cathedral continue to weed, prune, replant and maintain the landscaping and gardens around the cathedral. We do our cheery work when we can. At this point we are not organized, have no specific agenda, but will continue to help make the gardens at Grace neat and loved as best as we can. **Contact:** [Julia Held](#)

Healing Prayer — The Healing Prayer Ministry exists to offer individual healing prayer at our 11 a.m., Sunday Eucharist and at the monthly Labyrinth Walk, although current circumstances render this impossible. Within that absence, our members have been praying for the entire congregation every day in our individual devotions and ask that during this time everyone also keep the spiritual, material and emotional needs of everyone in the congregation in their prayers. **Contact:** [Peter Grace](#)

Jail Ministry: Stories from Mom and Dad — Prior to the pandemic, volunteers visited San Francisco's jails to make recordings of incarcerated parents reading books to their children. The tapes, along with the books, were then mailed to the families. We are working with the sheriff's department to continue sending books on behalf of prisoners. **Contact:** [Tom Leffler](#)

Jail Ministry: Evening Prayer — Due to Covid, our volunteers are unable to visit inmates in county jails for prayer and meditation. Please stay tuned for updates. **Contact:** jailministry@gracecathedral.org.

Men of Grace — The Men of Grace has been a part of the Cathedral community for 34 years and is dedicated to faith in and service to Christ. We enjoy fellowship with one another and host a variety of activities each year to deepen spiritual faith and provide service to the greater Cathedral community.

In usual times, we visit The Bishop's Ranch in beautiful Wine Country twice a year to help with service projects and enjoy wonderful food, fellowship with each other and the beautiful surroundings. We also bring treats and help serve coffee to the cathedral community following the 11 a.m. service once a month, followed by a monthly meeting (when we are able to gather in person).

We invite you to be a part of a fellowship of men who share in our spiritual faith together and develop close friendships with one another that last a lifetime. **Contact:** [Marc Fredson](#), convener

Seniors With Grace — The cathedral's seniors are a diverse, stimulating community of seasoned people who are aging with grace. We gather to learn, grow, stay healthy and enjoy each other's company – and everyone is welcome at our gatherings. We remain resilient while also acknowledging the emotional loss of being physically apart.

Prioritizing the health and safety of our especially vulnerable community, we use both traditional and innovative ways to creatively connect. We aim for physical distancing while staying socially connected. We immediately started making calls to each Senior with Grace in our records and established an email list for those connected to the internet and/or with smartphones. We've offered free, lovingly made facemasks to our seniors (through St. Veronica's Guild and Fill-A- Need). If someone is in need or community support (even groceries, etc.), we do our best to assist.

We have a casual newsletter that includes lighthearted stories and cathedral updates in addition to useful information regarding available resources during the crisis. We just had our first Zoom Senior Community Day and will continue Senior Zoom Tuesdays every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, from 11 am until 12:30 pm, for the duration of the crisis. These meetings are accessible to those with internet access and those with landlines. We are brainstorming ways to help people participate, such as crafting letters and/or cards to our seniors, making calls, helping deliver groceries and more.

Contact: [The Rev. Heather Erickson](#), director of Senior Ministry and Outreach, by email or at (415) 749-6364; [Tracee Zyla](#), program coordinator, by email or at (415) 749-6351.

Stitching Ministry -- We knit and crochet for those who need the warmth and comfort of a lovingly handmade blanket or garment. Since March 17 we have made and distributed 175 baby hats, 207 masks, 13 lap robes, 50 adult hats and scarves to the Homeless Prenatal Program, Bayview Mission, and the San Francisco Night Ministry. We meet on Zoom the first and third Sunday of every month, from 1:30 pm. to 3 p.m. **Contact** [Fran Rounds](#)

Visitors Center — Visitors center volunteers (the Guild of St. James) formerly welcomed guests with a personal greeting and information on experiencing the glories of Grace Cathedral. With the cathedral closed due to Covid, our ministry is on hiatus. Please stay tuned for updates as the cathedral reopens. **Contact:** [Doehee Kimm](#)

Women in Community — Women in Community brings together women from all corners of the cathedral to celebrate our friendships, sharing light refreshments and great conversation in a gracious home setting. Lately, we have been gathering through periodic Zoom meetings and staying in touch with each other individually. Leader Joanne Compean schedules and hosts the Zooms. **Contact** her at joannecompean@gmail.com to attend.

Ushers — Prior to the pandemic, the Ushers Guild was responsible for helping to greet guests, hand out leaflets, take head counts, organize the collection for most services and help congregants to receive communion in an organized manner. We opened the Great Doors for special services and took many other actions to help ensure that the service ran smoothly. We were the Cathedral's front line for interaction with guests. We were there to answer questions and to make sure they had a positive experience while at Grace Cathedral. Our duties will certainly change when the Cathedral re-opens, but we are all anxious to re-engage in a helpful manner. The Ushers Guild meets about every three weeks via Zoom. It's a nice get-together. There has been no usher activity at the church since the pandemic. People interested in becoming an usher once we re-open should **contact** [Bill Quinn](#).

Worship ministries -- Worship ministries include Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Thurifers, Acolytes, and others who lead - and are part of - the worshipping assembly. Together we embody our love of God and one another, making our worship at once personal, noble, and beautiful.

As you know, Grace Cathedral is closed for in-person worship to support our health as a congregation and community. We cannot predict when we might begin to gather again for in-person worship, but any return to our pre-Covid custom will be gradual, and we'll need to re-learn how to lead worship together.

Meanwhile, our love for God and one another finds expression in live-streamed, Zoom-based, and other online services: Sunday 11 a.m. Choral Eucharist and 6 p.m. Vesper Light; The Vine at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays; Choral Evensong at 5:15 p.m. on Thursdays; and Weekday Morning Prayer at 9 a.m.

When we do resume in-person worship, we'll be delighted to welcome veteran and new volunteers in the many ministries that support our worship. For the moment, subscribe to the Congregation Updates list on our homepage to receive "Light and Peace," a weekly email which will provide insight and updates on our liturgical life.

Contact: Canon Precentor [Jeffrey Hookom](#)