

Grace Values notes from October 22, 2018:

Grace congregation members reflected on the question of “What do you love most about Grace” and “What brings you to Grace”. Their contributions on sticky notes are typed up below. The number in parenthesis is the number of “dots” participants placed to indicate agreement with that comment.

I love that Grace celebrates the traditional liturgy with a very open attitude and a very inclusive, welcoming approach. (12)

A car brought us here like most other parish members. Having parking at Grace allows us to attend. Lost parking will result in Grace closing its doors. (9)

I love that Grace is a parish for all people (and all means all!). (9)

Community outreach efforts. Diversity of individuals; background and past experiences; values and politics of parishioners. Ability to welcome a wide variety of people to the parish. (8)

Diversity of the parish community. (8)

I love the stained glass windows – any building that reduces the natural light flooding color into the sanctuary is not acceptable. Maintaining the church and Parish Hall, along with onsite parking for the parish. (7)

Provocative sermons. (6)

Music. (5)

We are an accepting and welcoming community (however I do not believe that all programs make good neighbors—e.g. a children’s camp does not go well with a needle exchange). (5)

We value thoughtful and reasoned engagement with our faith. (4)

Sanctuary is touched with the numinous. (4)

Preserving chapel, bring in other neutral voices, asking for donations for roof / repairs/ loan? Memories. Caring about our history. Do not shut out light. (4)

We are here to help those who are in need. Our faith is called to action. (4)

I was drawn to Grace by its beautiful classic architecture, the services, and the wonderful people in the parish. With respect to the architecture, I hope the property will become listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This designation reflects the importance of the building as a work of a Master (i.e., Lawrence & Holford), and the contributions the church has made to the community. (4)

I love how much people have invested personally in Grace Memorial. We want to have it thrive and grow. (4)

I love our beautiful sanctuary – new project needs to be beautiful! (4)

We celebrate Creativity, all of us: church, Grace Institute, and PHAME. (4)

Community. (4)

I enjoy being with others who love God and worshipping with them. (3)

The Christ lives here. (3)

Shared values about service to the community. (3)

The sanctuary is a timeless place ...where I feel the presence of those who have come before us. (3)

I choose Grace because of the people, the willingness of priest and congregation to speak truth and tackle issues that I am passionate about. The history. The beauty of the building. (3)

I come here to worship in a beautiful restful church as I have for over 58 years. It feels like I have a second home with fellowship of Christians. We are stewards of this place as the parishioners of the past were for us. If needs come up for repair it is our responsibility to deal with them. As far as outreach is concerned we are very blessed by a former parishioner with funds to help in many ways to achieve the Art Camp and other projects. (3)

Welcoming. (3)

Commitment to feeding the hungry. (3)

Community, music, trust. (3)

We have an enduring commitment to the arts. (2)

Of course, everyon'e not this way, but what attracts me more than anything is that so very many people make an effort to smile to other people and say nice things, welcome me as a human being even if they have no idea of what the other person's name is and who they are trying to me. Dr. James Meade, Jr. (2)

Feeds the spiritual side of my life. (2)

Grace is a great place to raise a family and learn about what it means to be a part of a faith community. (2)

Government housing subsidy to build our church. (2)

I love the emphasis on music and the arts. (2)

Separation of church and politics. (2)

Community of worship and defined community of outreach. (2)

What brings me to Grace each week is the sense of open welcome. I find a steadying away from the hurly burly and a possibility to ground myself in meaning. (2)

I love learning about the many ministries of our people. (2)

Child care; church school. (2)

Courtyard (2)

Holy Week (2)

I love the attention and encouragement the Grace community gives to the arts. (2)

Beautiful worship space. (2)

Sense of community. (2)

The promise of coming together in reverence, humility and workshop. (2)

The diversity of people we have as parishioners. I especially delight in the presence of Africans. (2)

Culture of Welcoming. (1)

A beautiful space in which to worship in community. (1)

The love and beauty here sort of “wipes the slate clean;” strength for the weak. (1)

A place of holy community. (1)

Shared believe about the importance of the arts. (1)

Server our community. (1)

I appreciate the artistic expressions that are made manifest here. (1)

Listening and getting votes from pledging members – not putting outsiders or renters first. Making art camp more affordable for community. (1)

We like to celebrate/ have fun. (1)

I come because Grace is my home and my family. (1)

Doing other work in the community that is God’s work. Establishing an outreach group – working in affordable housing with other faiths. (1)

Excellent priest and sermons with outstanding programs for parishioners and community. (1)

Art camp for kids. (1)

Grace helps me do God’s work. (1)

A place you always want to be a part of all activities. (1)

It is a community of unconditional love. (1)

I love that Grace really lives the Gospel where Jesus said “whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do to me.” (1)

A welcoming community for all people. (1)

Everyone come together in peace to worship. (1)

We honor collaboration. We work together --- we may not agree totally, but we still work together. (1)

Friends/ community. (1)

It’s a place where all can sing. (1)

I love the different expressions of faith, opinion, community that Grace supports.

Habit, beauty, family, tradition, music, sanctuary, shared ideals, art, food, diversity, sermons. Culture of acceptance.

Grace is an easy-going, accepting, friendly sort of place (friendship).

Friendship.

Grace is our spiritual home.

People are friendly – encouraging, kind to one another. Informative, sermons, be flexible, work together, scripture, (need to confirm).

Creativity

There are a lots of people helping the standard definition of homeless. What I like is that we don't forget the disenfranchised in rural Oregon.

Spiritual refreshment.

Church community support and activities

Outreach: Friday dinners, Grace Institute, lunch program, personal activism among parishioners.

I started coming because people were so wonderful in caring about my mother.

Serving the homeless.

Diversity

Outreach activities

Clean and beautiful space to worship.

Activism and advocacy.

Prayer, power, house.

Outreach programs.

A place that makes the Gospel manifest in food, justice, and beauty.

It is as (or more) diverse than the street outside.

It is busy all the time – the building is a gift to the city.

Full of people who love to serve Jesus.

Big heart for social justice/ God's kingdom.

The prayers and thanksgiving are sprit-filled.

We are good at Christian welcome.

Were grounded in tradition but not "stuck" – looking for God's preferred future.

Grace is Holy. It is a place where I feel the Holy Spirit move among us.

Walking distance from home.

Quiet repose.

The feeling of community. The historical background of the church dating back to the 1920s. I know many of the early members of the church who are now gone – Jane Hewitt etc. It was an important part of their lives to be here.

Openness to many hands and minds.

A hard-working and caring community.