



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WELCOMES YOU



ST GEORGE, UTAH

GRACE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Grace Family,

We are embarking on our 2026 Stewardship Campaign. I wanted to begin by asking you to prayerfully consider the very important gifts of your time and talent. The time and talent you give to your church are invaluable gifts needed for us to continue our growth streak into 2027. I cannot express enough how grateful I am to you and all the good people of Grace for what we have accomplished in such a short time (3 years as of December 24th). We are definitely on a roll to extraordinary positive growth.

If you are reading this and already involved in our critical ministries my heartfelt thanks. If you are reading this and been pondering taking the opportunity to get more involved, please let me assure you....you are needed. Most of the ministries are very simple and very important. Let me attempt to list a few of the simple ministries first.

1- The Acolyte. A very fancy name for a very important task. You will learn how to dress in a white garment called an Alb and bind it at your waist with a belt called a cincture. Then you will learn how to carry either the processional cross (the cross that leads me into and out of church) or a candle that walks along side the cross. Three movements in the celebration 1-the entrance 2- the Gospel procession 3- the recession to lead me out. Easy Peasy. We need help with this.

2- The Lector.

Slightly more difficult but still pretty simple. The task: Reading in public...slowly...deliberately...audibly. Confidence really being in front of people is a gift that can be trained.

3- The Chalice. These helpers assist with the distribution of the chalice (cup) at Holy Communion. This role can be simply assisting with the cup or can be advanced to a more sophisticated assistance of setting the Altar Table and more. All of these, easy time commitment easy to learn. Easy

The more involved possibilities:

1- The Bell Choir.

We need ringers. It's fun. It's important. It's beautiful. And all good things. It involves a bit more of your gift of time. See Dr. Wiens for details.

2- The Altar Guild.

This wonderful group of helpers prepare all that is needed for our Saturday and Sunday Worship. Again, a bit more of a time commitment but very easy.

3- The Vestry.

This group is elected at the Annual Meeting in January but winning that election is easy. The Vestry constitutes the Leadership of this Parish working with The Rector (me) in managing the temporal matters of the parish. The Vestry works to maintain the church house and its grounds and its finances. The Vestry meets monthly on the third Tuesday at noon. Being on the Vestry means you represent the larger parish membership in important matters.

4- The various committees of our parish. The committee's each have a special focus to foster growth in our parish. Details consult Larry Hansen our parish administrator.

5- The Sunday School.

Child Care and Sunday School always need helpful hands. Children's ministries are a wonderful and rather recent addition to our parish. Nota bene: formal background checks are an absolute requirement for anyone working with children.

6- The Parish Grounds.

Our Rose Garden will soon be showing new signs of augmented beauty. Help is always needed to keep it up. The Junior Warden and the Parish Administrator know how volunteer helpers to maintain the beauty of our grounds can be best utilized.

7- Prayers constant prayers for our growth as a beacon of light to St. George. Grace stands as a unique presence in this community. We are Catholic in many ways including worship but unique in that all are truly welcome here in the door and at communion at the Lord's Table.

If I missed a ministry I will update this via email.

I need you. I'm asking you to help me (Fr. Rob+) to continue and expand the many good things happening here.

God Bless You.

Me+

The Rector

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SENIOR WARDEN

Katy Peterson

Even with our heat, I feel as if fall is in the air, and if you're like me, you think of it as the beginning of a new year. I guess that comes from our education system, where we always start a new school year in the fall. Growing up, fall was exciting: new school clothes and supplies. I loved picking out my new lunchbox; I don't know if they're used anymore. There was a new teacher, a new classroom, maybe even a new school, and new friends. It was always exciting and a little scary. Change always is.

Over the past couple of weeks at church, I have begun to feel the newness of fall at Grace. Friends and familiar faces are returning from their travels, and I have also noticed new faces in the crowds. I wonder if some of them feel a little excited to be praying among all of us, but maybe also a little scared. Let us remember not only to welcome new faces at the sign of peace, but also to invite them to coffee hour and to ask if they have any questions; they might not be familiar with the Episcopal Liturgy. To help new visitors, and maybe even us, better understand what it means to be an Episcopal parish, we ordered new information cards for people to take home. A small stand will be at each church entrance. I hope they will be helpful; sometimes we know what we believe or what we do because we have always done it, but it can be hard to articulate our faith to another person, and it can also be a little scary—are we saying the right thing? We are also hoping to hold an Episcopal 101 class in the new year. Let us continue to do all we can to help people feel welcome and loved in our beautiful parish.

Along with helping new people feel welcome, we also want all our parishioners to know they are part of the Grace family. To help us organize our “family” more effectively, we are moving into the 21st century with our communications. We are reorganizing our parish with a new parish data system that will better enable all of us to work within each committee and ministry, provide an easier giving system, and allow you to sign up to volunteer with just the tap of your phone. Our communications will be easy and convenient, helping us connect with each other and, in doing so, grow together. In the coming months, as each new component goes live, we will share with you how you can easily take part in this new culture of our parish life. As I said, the new school year is exciting and can be a little scary, but once things get rolling, it all becomes part of who we are. Pray for us as we work to implement this new system, and if there are any “techy” people out there, I welcome your assistance.

Lastly, as you have seen in the last two newsletters, at the end of September I will attend a Creation Care conference at the SLC Diocese, led by Provenance VIII, to help us learn how to bring the work of renewing, repairing, and restoring our relations with God's creation back to our parishes. My hope is to help lead a Creation Care ministry at Grace. If this catches your eye and heart, look for more to come. If you're interested in attending, there are still spots available, including full scholarships. We would love to have you. Many blessings and all Good to each of you.

Katy Peterson

Katypeterson3@gmail.com

COMMON CENTS

Pete Hogan

As the old saying goes, when it rains it pours. Well, that is very true for the month of August. We had a very serious leak in the Kitchen area this month. As a result of the hard work of our parish administrator Larry Hansen most of you did not see anything. But we are now at the point where it must be fixed. The vestry obtain two bids and authorized the repair to the roof above just the Kitchen which will cost our parish \$11,500. We have those funds and the work will be done. The vestry voted to try to get loan from the Diocese to complete the repairs to the roof. The loan if secured will not bear any interest and it is estimated that it will be in area of \$43,000 and be repaid in several years. That is enough about that for now, when I know you will be informed. As of July, the Parish collected \$115,009 and we spent \$104,549. Expenses are approximately \$3,950 below the amount budgeted. I am in my office on Tuesday and Thursday morning if I can answer any questions.

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Parish Committee Report

Jean Goode

Book Club

Our book club will be meeting again on October 14, at 10:30 am at the church.. We will be discussing "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi. Please consider reading the book and join us for the discussion. We will also be taking recommendations for other books you think would have general appeal to others in the book club.

To sign up for book club please contact Jean Goode or Katy Petersen.

Music Program

There is interest in forming a Church Choir to sing at the Eucharist on Sundays. As the church grows this is an objective of Father Rob and Dr. Paul Wiens. Look for recruitment of members in the future, and see Dr. Wiens if you might be interested. There are also 3 openings in the Bell Choir at present, please talk with Dr. Wiens if interested in joining a fun and satisfying group.

Come Away for a While . . .

Sometimes we simply need a quiet place to be with God.

The Little Sanctuary is available for anyone who would like a few moments—or longer—for **private prayer, meditation, spiritual reading, or simply resting in the presence of God.**

Come in. Be still. Pray. Read. Ask. Listen.

A small library of devotional books is available for use in the Little Sanctuary or to take home. Books may be checked out by simply adding your name and the date to the checkout sheet, and recording the date when the book is returned.

You are also invited to leave a prayer request. A prayer board with Post-it notes is available for requests that may be signed with your name or initials—or left completely anonymous. The guest book also provides a place to sign your name, leave a comment, or share a prayer request if you wish.

The Little Sanctuary is open when the office is open. (*Usually Tuesday thru Friday Between 10am and 1pm. However, hours are variable and times can vary. Please call ahead for availability 😊*).

It is located at the East end of the South hallway of the Church.

Please enter the church through the **red door** and let **Larry in the church office** know that you are there to use the Little Sanctuary. The door will be unlocked and ready to welcome you.

An **ecumenical prayer group** also meets in the Little Sanctuary from **1:00 to 2:30 p.m. during the first three weeks of each month.** During that time the room is set aside for the prayer group, and **all are warmly welcome to join us.**

Whether you come carrying joy, weariness, questions, gratitude, grief—or simply a longing for quiet—you are welcome.

Come and be still in the presence of God.

Mother Dolores+

God's Good Earth

Deb Ormsbee

Around God's Good Earth this past month especially, because of the many wildfires throughout, I thought more about the air. When the air quality index was high, gauged as "unhealthy", it felt more difficult to take a deep breath. Because it smelled smoky and it felt less comfortable to breathe more naturally, I found myself not being outdoors as I wanted to be. Visibly, you couldn't see clear sky or distinguish clouds or mountain ridgelines. Daytime was grayer, the light was flat, there were no shadows. At nighttime, the rising moon was obscured. Conversations with friends around the community shared unsettled feelings.

Then the wind changed, some rain came and the air cleared. We were very thankful to have clear skies and grateful to breathe fresh air. I thought back to times when travelling in other places in the world where the skies are obscured by smoke or pollution and are hardly if ever clear. I was always very thankful and grateful to be able to be in a place where there was clear fresh air.

As I recently read more scriptures about air and its connection with the breath of life as a direct gift from God, I share here several related references noted in The Green Bible:

(Job 33:4): God's Spirit made us. The breath of the Almighty gives us life.

(Job 27:3): As long as we have breath in us and God's breath is in our nose, we will not speak evil.

(Daniel 5:23): God holds your breath of life and all your ways in His hand.

(Psalm 150:6): Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

(Job 32:8): The spirit is in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding.

I'll close with a prayer offered in The Green Bible Devotional, A Book of Daily Readings, under the section related to Air:

Gracious God, we are so often blind to your Spirit, immune to your presence. Help us to be people who see the mark of your creation in the wind and in the rain, in the air and in the clouds, in the life and in the light that surrounds us.

Parish Administrator's Notes

Larry Hansen

Greetings to all at Grace Parish. 😊

I am very much enjoying being your Parish Administrator. 😊

As we go forward in our faith at Grace, If I can be of **Help, Service or Direction**. Please feel free to E-mail me at office@gracestgeorge.org or call me (435)-628-1181 and leave a message if I'm not available.

Below are a couple of announcements:

As a Parish Administrator I will be taking on all administrative tasks of a Sexton/JW, as well as any building administration as is part of the job being a Parish Administrator.

I am continuing donating my time as a ¼ time Maintenance Sexton now and for the coming months, collecting info to give the vestry and congregation an idea of what even just a ¼ time maintenance sexton could provide. As we go forward, If there are any repairs or items that need attention, please let me or our Junior Warden, Mike Labrecque know, so we can see that it is attended to.

Any announcements for the weekly program need to be in by Wednesday evening. Call, leave a message, or send and email to the office, Thankyou 😊

Also note that I am Usually in the office 10am to 1pm Tuesday-Friday. However my hours are variable as I have many tasks and may distribute my time through the day and even Mondays.

Calling ahead is always the best bet if you wish to meet with me, Thankyou All 😊

Readings Ahead

For those of you who wish to read the Lessons ahead of time there is a really easy website called: <https://www.lectionarypage.net> . Click on the date you wish to use, then choose the readings under **Track 2**. Voila, the Proper for the day.
