



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WELCOMES YOU



ST GEORGE, UTAH

GRACE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026

Here's the happenings for October I'm leading:

Each Wednesday at 1pm will be an adult Ed class on basics of the church. The class will last one hour. All are welcome.

The same class will be offered on each Saturday at 3pm prior to the 4pm Eucharist. All are welcome. Note the convention which takes place the weekend of the 16th will preempt the class. We will figure that out.

The Bishop's visit will be Saturday October 24th and Sunday October 25th.

She will probably teach the adult Ed that Saturday.

Anyone who wishes to be Baptized, Confirmed or formally welcomed into the Church please contact me or the parish office.

The Men's Club continues to meet each second Tuesday at 11:30 in the Mike Smith Conference Room.

Please feel welcome to come and join us.

Stewardship program begins in October. Please help us as you can. Devote yourself to prayer intentions specifically for the success of this important work.

On the second Sunday of October we will bless pictures of your pets you bring on your phone. Please bring a picture of your beloved pets for this happy occasion. Birthdays and anniversaries will also be celebrated.

God Bless You All!

Fr. Rob+
Rector

MESSAGES FROM YOUR SENIOR WARDEN

Katy Peterson

Stewardship Sunday, October 24/25

As the stewardship committee looks ahead to the coming year, we will launch our annual stewardship campaign in October. This year's theme is:

Stewards of God's Grace

Using our gifts to serve others

The Book of Common Prayer calls us to follow Christ, gather week by week for corporate worship, and work, pray, and give to advance the kingdom of God (p. 856). Scripture teaches us that *"each of us should use whatever gift we have received to serve others as stewards of God's grace in its various forms"* (1 Peter 4:10).

We are not called to give out of obligation, but to give with joy, liberation, and the power of oneness with our Lord that comes from giving out of thankfulness and in response to love.

Pledge cards will be mailed the week of October 12th. When we receive our pledge cards, we should take time to pray. Reflect on our relationship with God and ask: Is God's lordship over all of my life? How can I express my gratitude for all that God gives me, both individually and as a member of the Grace parish community?

As a parish, we recognize that not all gifts are monetary. Your commitment to being part of Grace's community is the most important gift you can give to God, Grace, and yourself.

The weekend of October 24/25 is Stewardship Sunday. Please bring your completed stewardship commitment card to the Eucharist service, where we will gather our blessings and offer a prayer of gratitude. If you cannot attend in person, you can mail your card to the parish office or drop it off there, or place it in the offertory in the coming weeks.

If you do not receive a pledge package in the mail, please contact the office. Extra pledge commitment packages will be on the table near the entrance doors starting the weekend of October 18th. We hope all people of Grace will participate. We need you, big and small, as the body of Christ, to take an active part in the body of Grace Church.

With Peace and Gratitude, your 2027 Stewardship Committee includes Fr. Rob, Pete Hogan, Ed Blecksmith, Charles Pavia, Katy Peterson, and Berry Ormsbee

Senior Warden Thoughts

October is upon us... which means cooler air, the coloring of the leaves, a harvest of amazing vegetables, and everything pumpkin. In the church season, from October into the first couple of days of November, autumn is more than just a season of nature; it is the season of the soul. Some call October Autumn's Mini Holy Season, a time to renew and enrich your spiritual life. At the end of the month and into November, there is a traditional, ancient, three-day holy season called Allhallowtide. It starts on October 31st with All Hallows' Eve. Yes, today Halloween is a secular holiday, but our ancestors spent the day preparing for the solemnity of All Saints. All Saints' Day is on November 1st. On this day, we celebrate God's holy people, both famous and unrecorded. It is a day to remember that the saints were once earthly humans, as we are: people who faced the same challenges and temptations, whose lives were not always perfect, yet who nevertheless found a way to listen for God's voice and align their lives with his will.

All Souls' Day, celebrated on November 2, concludes this brief holy season of Allhallowtide by reinforcing our hope that we, ordinary people, are invited into an eternal union with God. It is a day of remembrance and prayer for all the departed, a day to remember your own loved ones who have gone before us and all those within the Body of Christ. Another thought is that, along with praying for those who have left this earth, we can also pray for our living loved ones who find themselves in some earthly purgatory—those suffering from loss, illness, despair, loneliness, guilt, and failing hope.

As you enjoy the shift from summer to fall, let us remember that this is a spiritual season, marked by themes of harvest, gratitude, reflection, and stewardship. As nature changes, so does our inner life, offering us an opportunity to pause, reflect on God's faithfulness, and prepare for future spiritual growth.

Covenant of Care Ministry

This past weekend, I, along with Deb and Barry Ormsbee, attended a Creation Care Network conference in SLC, organized by Province VIII. About 60 people from 15 dioceses in our province attended. Together, we prayed, networked, learned, and found inspiration, ideas, and hope to renew, repair, and restore our relationship with God's creation.

Just returning from the conference, I am still digesting what I learned and how we can apply it within our Grace community. One of my biggest takeaways was that we don't need a project with outcomes; we need a covenant with creation, just as God made a covenant with all creation. This led me to ask: What is creation? Isn't creation more than our mother earth? Isn't it all that God created, including us humans? That, in turn, led me to ponder the idea: let's not just start a Creation Care Ministry; let's start a Covenant of Care Ministry that would hold all of God's creation within it. For example, but not limited to: Creation Care (the environment), Social Justice Care (community outreach), and Parish Care (caring for those within our parish). I haven't figured out how to do this yet, but I was thinking we could create Caring Circles within a Covenant of Care Committee.

I would really like to hear from all of you about your inspirations, desires, and needs. With this brief information, I am seeking to form a core Covenant of Care committee to meet monthly. Then, as inspiration or callings arise, Caring Circles could be put into action. If this idea tugs at your heart, please contact me. The harvest of this ministry is not mine to create; it is ours, for we are never called to walk alone. Drop me an email or catch me at church; your inquiry does not mean a commitment, just a sharing of thoughts. katypeterson3@gmail.com

Peace and all Good to your month of harvesting.

Katy

COMMON CENTS

Pete Hogan

Nine months of the current year are now done. This month was not a good month for the church. Not all the numbers are in yet for the current month, but I think when it is done the church will have spent \$5,000 more than we received in donations. That means for the current year we will be positive by maybe by only \$2,000. Our current collection of pledges is approximately \$8,000 under what we had budget at this point in the year. So hopefully all the pledges are collected we will still be in the black by end of the year. Well, that enough bad news, now for some good news. We are under budget on our expenses as of end of September by approximately \$4,000(right now that is just a guess because as write this article we are not at the end of September).

.....

Parish Committee Report

Jean Goode

Fall is here and the holidays are coming fast. The Bishop will be at our church on October 24-25. Volunteers are needed to bring refreshments on that day. There are some dietary restrictions, so check with me regarding those.

A post-Thanksgiving Potluck is planned for Sunday, November 29. If you are in town, mark the date. We are encouraged to invite friends to join us and celebrate this Thanksgiving holiday together. Meat will be provided. Sign up for the side dish or dessert you would like to bring.

Christmas is coming and it is not too early to mark your calendars.

A Christmas tree decorating party is planned for Friday, December 11, at the church. Refreshments will be available.

The Christmas Eve Service will be at 4:00 on December 24. In addition to the service Santa will make a visit!

Blessings to all,

Jean Goode

Book Club

Are you looking for new friends? Do you like to read? Grace Episcopal Church sponsors a book club for everyone who is interested in expanding friendships and learning about new things through books.

Book club is starting up again and will meet at the church on Wednesday, October 14, at 10:30 in the morning, before the Eucharist Service at noon.

We will discuss "Theo of Golden" and suggest other books to read over the next few months. Be prepared to talk about what you liked about this book or what you did not like, what surprised you, and anything else that comes to mind. Call Jean or Katy if you have questions.

Music Program

You are invited to join the Grace Ringers—our handbell choir. They rehearse Saturday mornings, 10:30-11:30a in the Sanctuary and play in Eucharist every third Sunday. We need additional ringers to complement our six ringers, pianist, and director. If you join, we would encourage you to be regular in attendance—but we have ways of covering for those are ill or leave town. While dedication is appreciated, flexibility is the watchword. For more information, please contact Paul Wiens, Director of music: text: 630-890.8342, email: paul.wiens@wheaton.edu.

Interfaith Council News

Jill Persichetti

Coming soon.... Save the date!

Saturday, November 14

St. George CROP Walk

God's Good Earth

Deb Ormsbee

I recently began learning more about the Season of Creation and would like to share some initial learnings, (which are new to me, may be well-known for others, and I hope serve to be of interest):

This past month through October 4 is observed as the Season of Creation. The Episcopal Church marks the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation each year on September 1, as the opening day of the Season of Creation (Sept 1–Oct 4). The day was instituted by Pope Francis in 2015 as a universal Church observance, inspired by the Eastern Christian tradition of September 1 as the symbolic date of God's act of creation. For the Episcopal Church, it is the first day of the Season of Creation, a liturgical and ecological season that runs through the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4). The season is a time to "renew, repair, and restore our relationship to God, one another, and all of Creation" (*Episcopal Diocese of Washington*).

In the scriptures, spiritual life is often compared to the ecology of trees and water. Jeremiah 17:8 says that those who trust in the Lord are "like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream." To stay stable and faithful in our calling, we must keep our roots anchored in God, allowing His grace to flow through us so that we can nourish the earth. Psalms 1:3 sings "He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers."

And Job 12:8 tells us to "Look to the earth, it will teach you."

The Season of Creation invites us to slow down and consider our footprint on God's earth. When we choose awareness over convenience in our everyday routines, we align ourselves with God's creative design. (*Care of Creation Ministry, Center for Benedictine Life at the Monastery of St. Gertrude*).

One of the ministries of The Episcopal Church is Creation Care. Having joined others at the inaugural Province VIII Creation Care Network Conference held September 25-27 hosted at the Episcopal Retreat & Conference Center in Salt Lake City, opened my eyes, ears and heart even more toward being of service for God's Good Earth. It feels heartening and hopeful to look ahead to continuing to do the good work of Creation Care joined together with many who are focused and committed to "care and give thanks for what the Book of Common Prayer calls "this fragile earth, our island home." (episcopalchurch.org/who-we-are/ministries/creation-care/)

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.

I Hope everyone is enjoying the newly Brightened-UP Sanctuary 😊. Please be sure to thank Savannah as she was a Great help installing the new lights with me.

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 know so we can see that it is put on the Schedule and attended to.

Any announcements for the weekly program need to be in by Wednesday evening. Call, leave a message, or send an 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 in person, Thankyou All 😊

Additional Announcements:

You are invited to join the *Grace Ringers*—our handbell choir. They rehearse Saturday mornings, 10:30-11:30a in the Sanctuary and play in Eucharist every third Sunday. We need additional ringers to complement our six ringers, pianist, and director. If you join, we would encourage you to be regular in attendance—but we have ways of covering for those whom are ill or leave town. While dedication is appreciated, flexibility is the watchword. For more information, please contact Paul Wiens, Director of music: text: 630-890.8342, email: paul.wiens@wheaton.edu.

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.
