

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WELCOMES YOU

ST GEORGE, UTAH

GRACE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026

Greetings to all in our wonderful Grace Parish Family!

Who would have guessed our dry desert climate would see such downpours? The prayed for rain has at last come to us in abundance but…. Our church roof is leaking. It needs replacing so we can all stay dry and happy. Larry Hansen, Pete Hogan and our wonderful Vestry have been working on what has become a developing project. First the roof over the kitchen and classrooms failed. We had it replaced. Then the roof over the offices failed… that's on the schedule to replace. Now the main church roof is failing so we are working diligently to replace that. All the more reason your wonderful generosity is so needed for this year's Stewardship Campaign! Please be as generous to support our Parish as possible.

So much good is happening here. New people continue to arrive. I've been having meetings weekly with new individuals and families that want to be a part of our Grace Family. Your help in crossing the room at the Sign of Peace and greeting and welcoming new faces is having a tremendously positive impact. Thank you!

As we continue to grow my workload is rapidly increasing. I have to be careful to keep myself in good rest and physical health to serve you all as you want. To that end I'm going to make some gentle adjustments to preserve my health but also keep providing you with a parish that serves you as you need.

I am moving myself back to The Letter Of Agreement signed by your Vestry, Bishop Phyllis and myself at the beginning of my pastorate in 2023. That letter had me here two Sundays a month and then two Sunday's a month at St. Jude. I need at this time to be careful not to wear out. I am also happy that I will be able to be with you for an additional coffee hour the first and third Sundays of the month since I will no longer have to rush off to St. Jude's on those Sunday's.

On the second and fourth Sunday's of the month Fr. Kwan has graciously agreed to help. Our seminarian, Clifford Gravette will preach the sermon on those Sunday's to increase his experience. I will maintain my presence every Saturday 4pm Eucharist and every Wednesday noon Eucharist. So you can count on me there every weekend. I will also be available in the office on

most Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Appointments are recommended as emergencies and other unforeseen events arise.

I am also going to move our Men's group and combine it with our Women's group luncheon the last Wednesday of each month at 1pm at Black Bear Diner in Washington. It will be called "The Grace Men's and Women's Monthly Luncheon." Adult Education will continue as planned.

I wish to mention Mr. Larry HHansen, our Parish Administrator. Larry is literally donating many many hours to us keeping this House of God dry during these torrential rains. His work in all matters is proving to be a tremendous blessing to our Grace Parish Family.

Asking God's blessing on us all, I remain,

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Robert Willmann+

Rector of Grace Episcopal Church.

Happenings at the Diocese Convention

By Katy Peterson
Senior Warden

Mark, Fr. Rob, and I represented Grace Church at our first Diocesan Convention in mid-October. I served as the Senior Warden, and Mark was a delegate. We found the weekend to be a time of learning, full of beautiful Grace, the theme, and openness to opening our hearts and doors to all people. Although we all know this, we can sometimes forget: the church must be a place where everyone feels welcome and safe, and is loved, valued, and accepted. That seems so elementary, but it must not be, because many people shared stories about feeling accepted in their parish for the first time.

I hope those who walk through the doors at Grace Parish also feel this way, open to being who they are, created individually by God and loved for their uniqueness. I hope this feeling, this act of acceptance, extends beyond Grace to our community, our workplaces, our schools, and, most of all, our families. This idea of acceptance, welcoming, and loving is especially important as the holidays enter our lives, whether we like it or not. I believe the strongest reason someone feels alone is that they feel unseen. So, this holiday season, both Thanksgiving and the Advent Season, let us look for the stranger or the neighbor we might not truly see. Let us sing the song and pray, Open My Eyes, Lord.

We can begin this right in our own parish as we prepare to host a post-Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, November 29th. Is there someone—a neighbor, a friend, a co-worker, or a schoolmate—who might not have had a place to go and be with others on Thanksgiving whom you could invite? Or maybe it is just each of us attending the dinner so that we can build community within our parish. And we can look within our own walls: is there someone I could reach out to, inviting them to come, sit with, and see?

On the business side of the convention, we voted on eight resolutions; a couple were simply wording changes to the original text. Two resolutions could not be agreed upon and were tabled for next year: one on the number of delegates each parish could have, and the other on the formula for

assessing each parish. The ones moving forward, in my layperson's words, include creating a temporary task force to research why the Standing Committee and the Diocese Council are separate entities. They're also creating a discernment committee to research the needs of Armed Service personnel, Veterans, and family members within our Episcopal parishes and to determine whether to form a ministry to provide more assistance. A new Diocese Commission on the Environment will be established, and an official Camp Tuttle Sunday will be established. To read the resolutions in more detail, go to www.episcopal-ut.org.

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COMMON CENTS

Pete Hogan

We are approaching the end of the year, and hopefully everyone is close to having paid their pledges for this year. As you can see, around the church we have a lot of leaks. We have already repaired the one above the kitchen, and we are scheduled to have the leaks above the office done on November 3, 2026. The cost to repair both sections of the roof is $23,000. The roof above the main part of the building will cost $32,000. So that will wipe out the church reserve funds. We have requested the Diocese provide us with a loan for the $32,000. The loan from my understanding will be interest free. We have not heard from Diocese on the loan yet, but they have the information for less than a month as of today. As far as operation goes as of October 22, 2026, we have collected $175,736 which included $18,243 of self-funded revenue. We have spent $165,085, including self-funded cost of $22,016. This Is an operating profit of $10,651. We have a little more to go before October is complete. The budget expenses through the month of October were expected to be $154,476, actual budget expenses are expected to be $147,000, so far as the budget expense we are about $6,000 to the good.

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Stewardship Season

In a close-knit church family like Grace, every household plays a vital role. We are so grateful for the unique ways each person and family brings life, warmth, and faith to our community.

We recently celebrated our Commitment Sunday, and we are deeply moved by the energy and generosity of so many. As our vestry and leadership begin the important work of planning our ministries, budget, and outreach for 2027, we want to ensure every household is included.

If you have simply been busy or haven't had a chance to return your pledge card yet, please take a moment this week to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to our shared home, Grace Church. You can return your card by dropping it in the offering plate this coming Sunday, or by mailing it or dropping it off at the church office. If you did not receive a pledge packet in the mail, there are extras in a box on the table near the entrance doors. You can always ask a greeter where to find them.

If you choose not to make a pledge, or if your family is going through a difficult financial season and you are unable to make a financial pledge at this time, simply leave the pledge portion blank or write "prayers" on the card. We are updating our database and will use the information on the card to ensure our contact information is accurate and up to date.

Always know that your presence in our pews matters most to us, and all submissions remain completely confidential.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel and for being an essential part of Grace Parish.

With peace and blessings,
The Stewardship Committee

Parish Committee Report

Jean Goode

The Parish Committee met on October 27 and are looking forward to a number of events coming to Grace Episcopal Church. First of all, the Crop Walk is November 14, to raise funds for food in this country and around the world. Sign up for this six mile walk for a good cause.

On November 29 Grace Episcopal Church is sponsoring a post Thanksgiving dinner following the worship service and everyone who is not traveling is invited and encouraged to bring a friend. Send in your RSVP and sign up for something to bring to share—see sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board.
We will be taking donations for Christmas gifts for the Shivwits tribe.

Christmas tree decorating at the church is on December 11 at 4:00. This is a community event for Episcopalians and Unitarians—adults and children. We will have pizza and punch for all participants.

A Christmas Eve Service will be on December 24 at 4:00. St. Jude's members as well as Unitarian Universalists are invited to share in this holy service.

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Interfaith Council News

Jill Persichetti

Saturday, November 14 - Annual CROP Walk

The CROP Walk begins at Larkspur Park in Bloomington at 10 AM; participants start getting ready at 9:45 AM. Gather with interfaith friends and neighbors and walk the full 6 miles or just one! Enjoy refreshment stops along the way. Join interfaith friends from many local churches and communities of faith to help support feeding the hungry in our own community and the world. Pick up a packet for yourself or help support those who are walking. This year, organizers are asking that cash be given, rather than checks to avoid complications. See Jill or Luigi Persichetti for more information.

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.

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God's Good Earth

Deb Ormsbee

During this time of harvest from nature's bounty we pause to notice the gifts to us from God's Good Earth. Also, at this time of year we pause to especially offer thanks to God for all he has and continues to give to us.

At a Sunday service I was at in late September, during The Season of Creation, at the Cathedral Church of St. Mark in Salt Lake City, following the first Province VIII Creation Care Conference, there were verses, music lyrics and a prayer that continue to resonate during this harvest and Thanksgiving time I share here with you:

Offertory Music: *Chief Seattle's Psalm*

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.
We are part of the earth and it is part of us.
The perfumed flowers are our sisters;
The deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers.
Every part of this earth is sacred to my people,
Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore,
Every mist in the dark woods,
Every clearing and humming insect is holy
In the memory and experience of my people.
Holy in the memory of my people.
The earth is the Lord's, all things are connected,
The rivers are our brothers, the earth is our mother,
All things are connected, and holy is the fullness of the earth.

Hymn 380, Doxology, Verse 1:

From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise!
Let the Redeemer's Name be sung through every land, by every tongue!

And Prayer,

Holy God: No sparrow falls without your attention; nothing dies that is lost to you; nothing comes into being without your love. Give us just and compassionate hearts, that we may serve the earth and all its creatures, holding fast to the vision of your peaceable reign in which all will live with you eternally; through the Risen one, Christ our Savior. *Amen*

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.

The roof is in the process of being replaced. The ***Sunday School/ Community / kitchen Wing*** has already been replaced, rather discreetly I might add😊, as will be the rest hopefully. The ***Office / Sacristy Wing*** is on the schedule to be replaced the week of Nov 3 (*may be small delay from rain*).

As You may have seen, the ***Sanctuary*** has visible modifications to handle its current leaks as well. Rest Assured, The ***Sanctuary*** also of course, is being addressed and will be slated Immediately as Emergency loan processing with The Diocese is complete, as The Vestry has already approved all roof repairs.

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:

Tuesdays Men,s Group **to join *Womens Luncheon*** for Now and the foreseeable future😊

The New Womens' And Mens' Luncheon will be held on the original ***Womens' Luncheon*** time slot of the **Last Wednesday of each month** @ the **Black Bear Dinner** in Washington @ **1pm**

NEXT DATE: *November 25th*

Let us join together for a

Grace and Gratitude Harvest Potluck

Where we come together to enjoy the spirit of Thanksgiving !

November 29 // 11:30 AM

Parish Hall
Grace Episcopal Church

Bring a friend or neighbor who might enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner among our parish community.

You are welcome to bring a dish to share, sign up sheet is next to the parish board.

We will be collecting donations for the Shivwits Scholarship Fund and Christmas TOY DRIVE if you wish to contribute.
Make checks payable to Grace Church.



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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.

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