



# 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

The Episcopal Church in Summerlin



## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

SUNDAY JANUARY 29, 2017

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# **Official Acts and Attendance Figures Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church - 2016**

|                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Baptisms                   | <b>16</b> |
| Confirmations & Receptions | <b>17</b> |
| Marriages                  | <b>0</b>  |
| Burials                    | <b>6</b>  |

# **Attendance for Holy Eucharist Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church - 2016**

|                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Sunday & Weekday          | <b>14,115</b> |
| Average Sunday Attendance | <b>271</b>    |

# **2016 Clergy Members**

|   |
|---|
| THE REVEREND SHANNON LEACH, RECTOR        |
| THE REVEREND JOANN LEACH, ASSOCIATE       |
| THE REVEREND DEACON BARBARA LEWIS         |
| THE REVEREND DEACON BARBARA PREAS         |
| THE REVEREND NICHOLAS NEUBAUER, DEACON    |
| THE REVEREND MARY BREDLAU, ASSOCIATE      |
| THE REVEREND SHERMAN FREDERICK, ASSOCIATE |
| THE REVEREND DR. JIM WALLIS, ASSOCIATE    |
| ANGELA ANDERSON, CANDIDATE                |
| MARGO SMITH, POSTULANT                    |

# **Parish Vestry & Officers**

## **Class of 2016**

LARRY HOLMES (FILLING REMAINDER OF JOSEPH ODDO)

PATRICIA HOLBROOK SEAY, JR. WARDEN

JOHNNY WILSON

## **Class of 2017**

PAUL TURNER, SENIOR WARDEN

BILL TERRY

ROBERT CROWDER

## **Class of 2018**

KENT RISING

MAUREEN AUGUSTINE

VACANT (RESIGNATION OF JIM HOBART)

HOPE LEACH, TREASURER – EX OFFICIO

LUCILLE BIDDLE, CLERK – EX OFFICIO

THE REVEREND SHANNON LEACH – EX OFFICIO

## **NECROLOGY**

BARBARA CLAIRE WHITE McDONALD LOWE

JUDY RYLMAN KNOWLES

DONALD GIFFORD CARTER

JEANNITH ELLEN LAWRENCE

SABRINA MARIE VOLKE

CATHERINE MARIE GEFFERT

*May the Souls of the Faithful, through the Mercy of Christ, Rest in Peace.*

## **Senior Warden's Report:**

PAUL TURNER

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This has been a very significant year for Grace. The congregation's sacrificial giving has not only funded the church's operation for the coming year but, through the "I Choose" campaign, facilitated the restructuring of our loan and the anticipated elimination of our mortgage debt within three years. Such strengthening of our financial means will enable important growth in facilities and programs, greatly increasing Grace's ability to achieve its vision "[t]o make a society in which all persons can love fully, joyfully, peacefully and justly."

Our parishioners' offering of their time and talents to serve the Lord is equally inspiring. The call for volunteers has always been answered, whether for choristers and acolytes, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, greeters and ushers, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teachers, Altar Guild members, Foyer Group participants, hospitality providers, buildings and grounds cleaning and maintenance workers, blood donors, food distributors and turkey basket preparers, Treasure House volunteers, Angel Tree providers, Helping Hands, Nevadans for the Common Good supporters, Family Promise hosts and the many other projects and outreach programs that Grace supports.

While humbly thanking God for such abundant resources in time and treasure, we ask: "Are we using these resources to the best of our ability to glorify God and honor his expectations for us in the Gospel teachings?" Father Shannon's recent preaching about the homeless man who came to us for comfort and assistance because he heard we were a church that helps people in need and who then brought another needy person to us for help and has remained in contact with us poignantly reminded me how essential kindness, compassion and service to others is to us individually and to Grace as a corporate body in Christ. It is amazing that your acts of kindness and compassion have reached even to the streets, underpasses and tunnels of Las Vegas, places where homeless people huddle and lives are at risk daily. As this church year unfolds, we give thanks for our increased resources and new opportunities to serve those in need, whoever they are and wherever they may be found. As Jesus said, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." Luke 12:48. I look forward with great excitement to working with all of you as we respond to Jesus' clear admonition.

Finally, I want to thank Father Shannon for his constantly inspiring leadership this past year. It has been a distinct privilege and joy to work with him and with our dedicated clergy, staff, junior warden, vestry and you, my fellow parishioners. I am especially grateful for The Rev. JoAnn Leach's offering of her considerable skills, experience and enthusiasm to our children's and youth ministry. The difference her work this year has made for our children and parents is immeasurable. I urge you to make a special effort this year to thank Father Shannon and all our clergy for their devotion to Grace and to ease their workload whenever and however the opportunity arises.

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## **Finance Committee Report:**

GARY CHERNAY, HOPE LEACH, JAY LIFTER, SHANNON LEACH, BILL TERRY, PAUL TURNER

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The Finance Committee, chaired by Jay Lifter consists of parishioners Gary Chernay and Bill Terry, Treasurer Hope Leach, Sr. Warden Paul Turner and Fr. Shannon Leach. Meetings are held six times a year prior to Vestry Meetings to review the financial position of the Church and to make recommendations to the Vestry that identify opportunities and insure overall best practices.

2016 ends the three year tenure of Gary Chernay. We sincerely appreciate the time and contributions Gary has made to the growth and success of Grace In The Desert.

In July of 2016 an internal audit was conducted of the Business Office by Sue Pickell and Don LeHeup. The overall results of this audit verified that procedures and practices follow audit guide lines.

A major focus this year for the committee members was to strategize and develop a plan to eliminate the existing mortgage on our two buildings. With the gracious support of Michael and Renee Yackira and working with our Bank a capital champagne was designed and rolled out in June titled "I Choose" which is a three year pledge designed to pay off the mortgage. To date we have seventy two families participating in this important effort.

Fiscal 2016 financial results remain favorable. Working with a tight budget and focusing on expense controls provided a positive budget result. The Finance Committee feels confident that Grace is positioned for an exciting and rewarding year ahead.

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## **Children's and Youth Ministry Report:**

REVEREND JOANN LEACH

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There has been growth and new programs offered in Christian Education this past year. We have greatly expanded the Godly Play Program in our Sunday School curriculum. The Rev. JoAnn Leach attended Godly Play training and integrated it into our Sunday School curriculum. The Godly Play program is for 4 years old to 2nd grade and we focused on the Old Testament stories this fall. Each of these is told through play with resources relevant to the story (Noah's Ark, the Ark of the Covenant, the fish in the story of Jonah) and we appreciate the work Duane Schaffer has done in creating these beautiful wooden pieces. Come visit the Sunday School room and see them! We continue to use the **Feasting on the Word** curriculum for 3rd through 12th grade. This curriculum uses the same Scriptures that we hear in Church on Sunday and then chooses one of the readings to focus upon.

Our youth group has grown and the teenagers are becoming friends. With the help of parents, we have offered bowling, hiking, swim party, a trip to the LINQ, Christmas game party and various service projects including helping with the Thanksgiving bags and serving a meal for Family Promise. Many of the youth have joined the acolytes, while some are also currently in Confirmation classes.

We offered SURF SHACK as our **Vacation Bible School** (VBS) program this summer to our church and the surrounding community. It was a longer daily session from 9am to 3pm each day. We had 34 students with a wait list of eight. It was a powerful week for all of us. It could not have happened without the leadership of the teachers in each area and the numerous folks who came to help on different projects throughout the week. This year our VBS will be offered June 19-26 and our theme is JUNGLE SAFARI, sign up early so you are not on the wait list.

The Christmas pageant, an **Innkeepers Dream**, was offered to the congregation 3rd Advent at the 10:30am service. We had 32 children and youth participating with a tremendous amount of assistance from parents, Sunday School teachers and staff (Fr. Shannon and Heather). Other activities this year have included the Trunk-R-Treat Halloween party, Easter Egg Hunt and an Epiphany party.

We are so blessed to have parishioners who have taken an interest in our children and youth and given their time, talents and energy. Marjorie Turner assisted on many of these activities and organized me in a very supportive manner. Additionally, Paul Biddle and Gwen Baccus gave of their musical talents to VBS and liturgical dance. Our Sunday School teachers not only teach they also took on VBS, the Christmas pageant and other events. Our teachers include, Paul Turner, Hope Wilson, Hope Leach, Susan Cooper, Tara Tucker, Maureen Augustine, Larry Holmes, Tim Parker, Jessica Jay, Katherine Larson, Pam Moore, Wendy Stoll, Kate Newman, Phillip Hooper and Tiffany O'Connell. Our nursery has been supervised by Erica Beatty and assisted by Sarah James and they are lovely with our little ones.

As our Sunday School grows, we need more volunteers so please contact JoAnn if you would like to teach Sunday School, help with VBS or other events that we organize.

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## **Treasurer's Report:**

**HOPE LEACH**

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2016 was a very good year for Grace in the Desert. As you can see below, our General Operating Fund revenue exceeded our expenses by \$1,600. We closed out the year with approximately \$450,000 in cash. Of this amount, \$12,000 is in our General Operating Fund and \$383,000 is in our Capital Campaign Fund. The remainder of our cash is set aside for Restricted Funds, such as our Parish Priest Fund and our Outreach Fund. The mortgage on our building remains our greatest liability and the largest monthly cash outlay we have (approximately \$8,500 per month.)

All in all, 2016 was another good year for Grace's financial health. The people of this parish gave a total of \$825,000 in 2016 to all categories of giving (General Fund, Capital Campaign, Outreach, Hospitality, etc.) I am confident that 2017 will be another outstanding year as we continue to grow. To that end, the Stewardship Committee would like to thank all families who have made pledges for 2017.

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# Stewardship Report:

TIFFANY O'CONNELL, BILL TERRY

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This year the Stewardship Committee, chaired by Tiffany O'Connell, consisted of parishioners Bill Terry, Kathy Enos, Hope Leach and Paul Turner. An eight-week program was designed to worship "Living Generously As God's Beloved". For eight weeks we studied and contemplated the writings of religious Icons. Through the Icons and meditation we recognized and honored the spirituality of our stewardship.

To date we have one hundred and forty-four families supporting our church operations through their pledges.

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## WE THANK AND GIVE BLESSING FOR THE FAMILIES LISTED BELOW FOR THEIR SUPPORT

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| Adams, Elizabeth                          | DeRoth, George & Janet                        |
| Adams, Mr. Wayne                          | Dipietro, Tony & Theresa                      |
| Adelaja, Dayo & Evelyn                    | Doyle, Candace                                |
| Albert, Ms. Darlene                       | Enos, Kathy                                   |
| Aldrich, Helena                           | Erwin, Frank & Alicia                         |
| Alexander, Bethany                        | Falstad, Hank                                 |
| Alfonso, Ms. Mia                          | Felmann, Maria                                |
| Anderson, Angela                          | Fink, David & Lisa                            |
| Ashe, Joseph & Jane                       | Fiore, John & Ashley                          |
| Audley, Bill & Barbara                    | Franco, David                                 |
| Augustin, The Rev'd & Mrs. Dale & Maureen | Franklin-Dillon, Tory                         |
| Baccus, Gwendolyn                         | Frederick, The Rev'd & Mrs. Sherm & Christina |
| Beatty, Bert & Janice                     | Gilchrist, Richard                            |
| Becker, Dave & Marge                      | Goforth, Steven                               |
| Bell (Leciej), Marianne                   | Gregorka, Bill                                |
| Benzinger, Sue                            | Guidotti-Barowitz, Karen & Barry              |
| Biddle, Paul & Lucille                    | Hamell, Frank                                 |
| Bossart, Ms. Caryl                        | Hechter, Marc & Mamie                         |
| Boyd, Sandra                              | Heintz, Jeff & Kitty                          |
| Bredlau, Rev'd Mary                       | Hobart, James & Laura L.                      |
| Bridel, Robert                            | Holmes, Larry & Gerrie                        |
| Buer, Tim & Barbara                       | Hopson, Charlotte                             |
| Carter, Dan                               | Hummel, Bill & Susan                          |
| Carter, Deborah                           | James, David & Beth                           |
| Carter, Barbara                           | James, Linda                                  |
| Casey, Larry                              | Jan McDermott                                 |
| Cesario, Glen & Celeste Post              | Johnson, Arlene                               |
| Chernay, Gary & Tracey                    | Jordan, Mrs. Marilyn                          |
| Cohen, Sandra                             | Kepler, Jean                                  |
| Cooper, Susan                             | Kiley, Monika                                 |
| Cournoyer, James & Renee                  | Leach, James & Hope                           |
| Crowder, Sr., Robert & Liz                | Leach, The Rev's Shannon & JoAnn              |
| Danzak, Dick & Dorothy                    | Lee, Greg & Dana                              |
| Demos, Kelly & Marshall                   | LeHeup, Don & Beth                            |
| Leo, Lionel & Veronica                    | Rising, Kent                                  |

|                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Lewis, The Rev'd Barbara      | Romero, Mark & Oggie                 |
| Lifter, Jay. & Barbara        | Roth, Neil & Claire                  |
| Llewellyn, Tom & Sally        | Rowell, Jan                          |
| Lowe, David                   | Ryhter, Barbara                      |
| Magruder-Levin, Mary & Jeff   | Schwartz, Matthew                    |
| Mangold, Sanford              | Seay, Patricia A. H.                 |
| Mayberry, Toni                | Senn, Carroll & Melissa              |
| McDonald, Norvel              | Smith, George & Kristy               |
| McFadden, Marion              | Stalnaker, Bill & Barbara            |
| Lowe, David                   | States, Edna                         |
| Meade, Shirley & Stanley      | Stell, Victor & Marilyn              |
| Miller, Karmen La'Shawn       | Stevens/Lafar, Ellen & Anne          |
| Moore, William & Pam          | Strong, Larry & Dotti                |
| Morgan, Judy                  | Tarver, James                        |
| Morgan, Paula                 | Tedesko, Dave & Barbara              |
| Moran, Thomas & Candice       | Terry/Simmons Bill & Ra              |
| Murphy, Lisa & Shawn          | Thierry, Winnie                      |
| Newman, Kate                  | Tonelete, Robert and Fletcher, Chloe |
| Nourse, Autumn & David        | Turner, Paul & Margie                |
| O'Connell, Tim & Tiffany      | Wallace, Charles & Marie             |
| Ondo, Louise                  | Warren, Dianne                       |
| Owens, Anniett                | Waters, Chris                        |
| Palenske, Francis             | Watson, Adam                         |
| Park, Margaret                | Wegner, Jennifer                     |
| Parker, Tim                   | West III, George                     |
| Pecoraro, Martin              | Wilson, Johnny                       |
| Pickell, Don & Sue            | Winters, Steve & Cynthia             |
| Pinnock, Derek                | Wittmann, Carola & Charlie           |
| Preas, Rhine & The Rev Barb   | Wong, Tim & Shari                    |
| Pridham, Bert & Susan         | Woodward, Woody & ShaRon             |
| Quidilla, Russell & Michellei | Wooster, Stephanie                   |
| Reilly III, Robert & Suzanne  | Yackira, Michael & Renee             |
| Reynolds, Jim & Dotty         |                                      |

## Altar Guild Report:

MARJORIE TURNER AND TONI MAYBERRY

The Altar Guild is made up of a very active team of volunteers preparing the altar for numerous services held at Grace. Our duties are to set up and clean up for many services weekly and seasonally. This year we started adding a choice of wine or grape juice for the Eucharistic meal. During the coming year we will continue with the grape juice as a choice.

Grace continues to be blessed by Wayne Adam and Patricia Holbrook-Seay coordinating the flowers for the sanctuary. We are sad to lose several members due to health or moving: Phil Hooper, Sarah Echelbarger, Marilyn Jordan and June Ann Hahn. We are blessed with Susan Lanham joining us in 2016.

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## **Acolyte Report:**

JAMES HOBART AND ELLEN STEVENS

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The Acolytes are true servants – serving God, the church and assisting the Rector, Priest Associates and Deacons. We volunteer to serve at three primary weekly services; Saturday Contemporary Service at 5:00pm and the two Eucharistic Services on Sunday at 8:00am and 10:30am.

Acolytes were recruited in 2016, giving us a total of 20 Acolytes, which includes several members of the youth group. Many thanks go to Ellen Stevens for assisting in the recruitment process at the last Kickoff reception at the church. Father Shannon and Reverend JoAnn headed the training session in late 2016 and we are in the process of creating an Acolyte Manual.

We learned a tremendous amount and will continue to faithfully serve God and the Church.

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## **Adult Education Report:**

REVEREND SHANNON LEACH

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The Anglican (Episcopal) principle of authority is described as a three-legged stool, the equal legs being scripture, reason and tradition. The second leg that of reason, calls us to embrace an attitude of lifelong learning and formation, of continuing in the Apostles teaching and fellowship, along our faith journey.

The Adult Education offerings in 2016 have been many and varied. Our Sunday mornings have included segments on prayer, Bible, ethics, liturgics, history and Episcopal Church polity. The Lenten soup suppers were well attended as we studied the Gospel of Love (John), with the Cowley Fathers. Please commit to joining us joining us and equipping yourself for ministry.

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## **Music Ministry Report:**

PAUL BIDDLE, HEATHER RAMPTON

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Music at the weekly Saturday 5:00 PM service provided by Bare Bones & Friends is comprised of traditional hymns, contemporary praise and worship songs, rearranged blues, standards and gospels and some original compositions.

Throughout the year at Grace, we accompanied the choir for various services, as well as playing for the annual Blessing of the Animals, memorial services and a few outside private events, such as weddings. Additionally, we performed at the Mardi Gras party, held in Grace's Parish Hall and this past summer's Vacation Bible School, which continues to grow in attendance.

The members of the Group are Gwen Baccus, Bert Beatty, Jim Geffert, Paul Biddle and a variety of visiting vocalists and musicians. As Grace continues to grow, we welcome your participation in the Saturday 5:00 PM service, and always remember the Message in the music.

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The choirs of Grace – The Chancel Choir, Bare Bones and Children's choir have served the parish with distinction. Creating an environment of praise and reflection comes because of careful preparation in rehearsal and the Choristers claiming their voice as their ministry. Two thousand sixteen has been a year of transition for our Director of Music. Heather Rampton began serving as Minister of Music during the Easter season, and Travis

Lohmann continued as our talented organist and pianist. Paul Biddle, Gwen Baccus, Bert Beatty and "friends" continue to serve on Saturday evening as they have for the past thirteen years. Together, with our choirs, we look forward to 2017 being filled with music and joy.

I am especially thankful for all who participate in the music program and for their hard work in making our worship to God beautiful.

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## **Outreach Committee Report:**

**JIM HOBART, CHAIR**

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The Outreach Committee includes the following ministries with the respective chairpersons:

**Family Promise**

Darlene Albert - Chair)

Patricia A Holbrook Seay - Co-Chair

**NCG (Nevadans for the Common Good)**

Rev. Deacon Barbara Lewis

**Clark High School (Charger Closet)**

Wayne Adams - Men's Group (Delivery of items only)

Kathy Enos - Women's Group (Collection only)

**Angel Tree**

Gwen Baccus - Organizer of names for gifts

Gary Chernay - Chair

Dick Danzak - Co-Chair)

**Thanksgiving Bags**

Gwen Baccus - Organizer for number of families in need of dinners

Darlene Albert

Patricia Holbrook-Seay

**Christ Church Thrift Store /Epic Center (Food Bank)**

Ra Simmons

**Bread Ministry**

Patricia Holbrook Seay

**Health Bridges International (HBI)**

Tracy Chernay

The Outreach Committee assisted in the preparation of over one hundred and fifteen (115) Thanksgiving baskets, facilitated with four(4) Family Promise Visits and provided Christmas gifts for over seventy-five(75) children through the Angel Tree. Additionally, donations were made to Health Bridges International, to J's Rise and Shine in Africa, as well as contributing many hours toward the Thrift Store, Bread Ministry, Charger Closet and Nevadans for the Common Good.

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For more information, please contact James Hobart, Chair, at [j.hobart@earthlink.net](mailto:j.hobart@earthlink.net) or (937) 725-7681.

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## Pastoral Care Report:

REVEREND DEACONS BARBARA LEWIS & BARBARA PREAS

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The Pastoral Care Ministry of Grace In the Desert serves those who are sick or homebound. When the church office or Clergy is notified that a parishioner, relative or friend is ill, their name is communicated via email to "Prayer Partners", Vestry and Clergy. Updates, progress, hospital location and requests are also communicated in the same way.

There are approximately twenty prayer persons for this ministry. These individuals are asked to pray for those in need, daily and some of them voluntarily make home and hospital visits. Additionally, the names of the sick and shut-ins are included during the "Prayers for the People" during the Eucharistic services.

*Please submit prayer requests to Rev. Deacon Barbara Lewis - [babalew@netzero.net](mailto:babalew@netzero.net).*

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My husband, Rhine Preas and I are in charge of the Eucharist Visitors Ministry, those who take the Eucharist to parishioners who are unable to attend the service due to illness or unable to attend church for other reasons. We have a team of eleven trained individuals working in this ministry. These wonderful members of Grace are dedicated and never fail to make visits, when called upon. It is both a joy and a privilege to participate in this ministry. Please communicate the needs of parishioners that you may know, which are in need of this service to us by email or phone.

*Rev. Deacon Barbara & Rhine Preas: [rpreas@aol.com](mailto:rpreas@aol.com) or 702 767-1966*

*Father Shannon Leach: [sleach@graceofsummerlin.org](mailto:sleach@graceofsummerlin.org) or 702-838-7444*

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## Foyer Group Report:

MARJORIE TURNER

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Foyers Groups are a great way to build our Grace community. This year we started with a kick off potluck dinner in the Parish Center September 24, 2016. We had 56 parishioners sign up and 39 were able to attend the potluck to share a meal. We divided into 6 Foyer Groups of 8 – 10 people. Each small group made plans to meet 4 – 6 times during the upcoming year to share a meal or planned activity.

Grace has been hosting Foyer Groups since 2000. It has been a great way to meet new people, share our journeys and enjoy delicious food. During the year each group usually invites the clergy to attend one of their meals. At this point most groups have meet 2 or 3 times. One groups is meeting at the Cabaret Jazz, in the Smith Center. Plan to sign up to be in a group next fall for 2016-2017.

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## Communication Report:

SUSAN COOPER

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### Website:

The *Events Column* has grown and flanks the home page of the website in both the right and left columns. It provides immediate access to current happenings at Grace. Users are encouraged to go to [www.graceofsummerlin.org](http://www.graceofsummerlin.org) and view the columns on the home page. The website is always being up changed, reworked and improved. The wish list for the Website is endless. We continue to learn that the vast majority of our new members chose to visit Grace based on the Website.

### **Weekly E-News**

The Editor and chief, Angela Anderson sends 336 subscribers the E-News weekly. E-news is an-up-to-the-moment reporting that comes out each Wednesday of the week. It is an amalgam of conversations with our clergy, input from the communications team, and a good ear to the ground. Angela is quick to acknowledge corrections when timing errors occur after Wednesday's publication. That is in large measure, the reason that Desert Blasts were reduced from 43 in 2015 to 20 in 2016.

### **Desert Blast**

With the approval of the Rector, Desert Blasts are sent out occasionally when there is a change or immediacy in the Calendar that needs to be communicated.

### **Facebook**

At present there are 522 people who have liked and 493 of those regularly follow the Facebook page of Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church. If on Facebook, members of the congregation are encouraged to go and "LIKE" and "Follow" the church

### **Mission Statement**

The Communication mission at Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church is to keep the congregation informed through print and electronic means. It is important that updates flow in both directions, with the office as the hub. Dissemination comes via the weekly church bulletin and announcements, postings on bulletin boards, the weekly E-news, Facebook posts, and our website. The electronic calendar can be accessed on every page of the website.

Note to Parishioners: Questions and problems regarding the Grace website should be addressed to members of the committee immediately. Communication is good only if you can find what you need.

### **2017 Communication Priorities**

- ❖ Complete or fully revise sections of the Website
- ❖ Develop a system to record the 10:30 sermons
- ❖ Conduct a workshop on the use of the Grace Website
- ❖ Develop an accessible, interactive weekly service schedule for all those who plan the worship each week.  
Acolytes, Altar Guild, Lectors, Ushers and Greeters
- ❖ Photo access for the Parish
- ❖ Create a secure members only access portal - with password protection where we could place an electronic directory, photos and other materials

### **2017 Communication Team**

- ❖ **Helena Aldrich**, Parish Administrator and Keeper of the Calendar
- ❖ **Angela Anderson**, Editor and Chief of the weekly E-news
- ❖ **The Rev. Shannon Leach**, Rector
- ❖ **The Rev. JoAnn Leach**, Priest Associate
- ❖ **Robert Cooper**, Webmaster and Consultant  
His active participation includes innovation, gentle prodding and setting website deadlines
- ❖ **Susan Cooper**, Director of Communication  
Handles web content and design and is the liaison with webmaster

**PLEASE VISIT YOUR WEBSITE: graceofsummerlin.org**

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## Vestry Nominee Biographies

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### LARRY HOLMES

VESTRY CANDIDATE

*The Episcopal Church in Summerlin*



To me Grace is a spiritual home that enables me to deepen my relationship with God and in communion with fellow parishioners. I celebrate the diversity of our parish. Grace is a place to celebrate my joys and lighten the burden of my sorrows. Grace is a place that helps me grow closer to God. As a Vestry member I will work to grow Grace as a place that everyone may have similar experiences.

I currently serve as a Sunday School Teacher, as a Greeter and as a Family Promise overnight host. Previously I enjoyed serving as a Vestry member, a stewardship facilitator, the Chairman of the Parish Center Team to raise funds to construct the Parish Center and on the Janitorial team. At my previous parish I served as Senior Warden, Junior Warden, head usher, Lay Eucharistic Minister, and a member of the finance committee member. I am a graduate of the Education for Ministry program.

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### KATHY KLEIN

VESTRY CANDIDATE

*The Episcopal Church in Summerlin*



I have attended Grace in the Desert since 2007, when I moved here with an employer from Washington State. Due to my job, I was not a full time resident until very recently. I was baptized in a church my grandparents helped found, and am a lifelong Episcopalian. I've served on Vestry, Adult Education, Social Action, Worship, Search, and Retreat Committees. I've participated in events in the diocesan, provincial, and national church. The people and life at Grace in the Desert has been a

wonderful addition to my life, and a key part in why I'd like to make Las Vegas my permanent residence. I look forward to being more active at Grace in the Desert. I also enjoy music, reading, food, and travel.

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## PATRICIA HOLBROOK SEAY

JUNIOR WARDEN VESTRY CANDIDATE



I was born in Brownsville, Pennsylvania and raised in Chicago Illinois. I worked for Continental Bank for twenty-eight years in Chicago and eight years for Litl'e Scholar in Las Vegas.

I have been on the vestry for three years (2013-2016) and would like to continue for another three years (2017-2020). Currently I am serving as Junior Warden (2015-2016). I am a member of Nevadans for the Common Good –Galilee Board-Outreach committee.

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## STEPHANIE WOOSTER

VESTRY CANDIDATE



Originally from Grand Rapids, Michigan, I moved to Las Vegas in September 2015 for a law firm job. I am both a legal and an arts professional working at CGI as a contract legal assistant employee for the Department of Justice Immigration Court and as an artist from my home studio. My legal specialties are international and intellectual property law with a specialization in copyright law, and my art specialties are painting, collage, conceptual art, 19<sup>th</sup>-century and modern art. I was an art history professor and curator in a former life.

I was baptized Presbyterian, although I grew up in both the Congregational and Methodist churches. In 2008 I started regularly attending St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan where I became a member in 2009 and was confirmed in the Episcopal faith in 2010. I served on the Sunday breakfast for the homeless and ArtPrize Jury programs as part of St. Mark's community outreach programs.

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## **Diocesan Convention**

### **Please Nominate and Choose Ten (10) Delegates & Alternates**

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| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Delegate</b> | <b>Alternate</b> |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| SUSAN COOPER      | ✓               |                  |
| STEPHANIE WOOSTER | ✓               |                  |
| TIM PARKER        | ✓               |                  |
| ANGELA ANDERSON   | ✓               |                  |
| MARGO SMITH       | ✓               |                  |
| JIM HOBART        | ✓               |                  |
| CHRIS LoFRISCO    | ✓               |                  |
| MARJORIE TURNER   | ✓               |                  |
| JIM LEACH         | ✓               |                  |
| DIANNE WARREN     | ✓               |                  |
| KENT RISING       | ✓               |                  |
| DEBORAH CARTER    |                 | ✓                |

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# Minutes Of The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting:

LUCILLE BIDDLE, VESTRY CLERK

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The meeting was called to order by Father Shannon at 12:04pm, January 31, 2016.

- ✚ New Parish directories were available for distribution in alphabetical order for parishioners.
- ✚ Fr. Shannon introduced the vestry members who were present. He also announced that Jenny Goth, Adam Corry and Sue Pickell have completed their terms.
- Fr. Shannon told Sue Pickell she was the salt of the earth and a profit. He presented her with a salt candle for all her work on the vestry.
- ✚ He also thanked Joe Oddo, Johnny Wilson, Bob Crowder and Bill Terry for all their contributions and help. The parishioners also applauded their work. He introduced Lucille Biddle as the Vestry Clerk and Hope Leach as the Treasurer.
- ✚ Barbara Audley was presented with a salt candle and thanked for her work as temporary treasurer. She filled in when Shannon Caparella had to resign.
- ✚ Fr. Shannon announced the election of the new vestry members and introduced them: Maureen Augustin, Kent Rising and James Hobart. A motion was **MSP**. All were in favor.
- ✚ A short meeting with the new members will immediately follow the parish meeting.

Paul Turner, the Sr. Warden thanked Fr. Shannon for all his work and said it was a pleasure to work with him this year. He said it was a very memorable opportunity that he appreciated. He thanked the clergy and the staff for all the work they do for other people. He also thanked Patricia Seay, Jr. Warden and said she makes his job "a piece of cake" because she does all the hard work. He thanked everyone who wrote an annual report and encouraged the parishioners to read them all. He thanked all the people who welcomed newcomers and for all their good works and that they were doing God's work. A special thanks to everyone for work with Family Promise. He said Angela Anderson has been the heart and soul even though she had a "slight detour" this year. The project was turned over to Darlene Albert who picked up the ball and carried it along he also thanked her and everyone else who participated in this venture.

He then called forth Fr. Shannon and JoAnn who have celebrated 30 years in the ministry since their ordination Jan. 18, 1986. He said they have helped people, changed lives and have made a 24/7 commitment to their ministries. He presented them with a statue of St. Francis for their garden. Fr. Shannon thanked everyone and said the "burden" was wonderful because he has a good Master.

He thanked all the clergy and the people in the music ministry. He said it is wonderful to work with JoAnn again thanks to the funding for the clergy. On a daily basis he thanked Louise Oddo his office administrator, who helps him with everything and makes sure he is "ok".

## **Financial Report**

Hope Leach introduced herself as treasurer and said it has been a very rewarding experience. She said 2015 has been a good year. The net income goal under expenses is \$27,000. A gift last year helped get our mortgage down. We also were able to get our interest rate lowered and save \$12,000 a year in mortgage expenses. She said have been doing wonderful things with outreach.

A motion was made to accept the 2016 budget **MSP**. All were in favor.

## **Nominations for Diocesan Convention**

The Diocesan Convention this year makes a difference in the number of delegates. The Asking is \$68,000 for next year. The entire budget for the diocese is \$660,000. We need the support wherever we can to lift the burden. The convention will be in October 10, 2016 at the Union Plaza Hotel. We need 10 people because of our size. Last year we had 20 names and there were 10 present at the convention. A ballot was cast and a motion received to accept all the delegates **MSP**. All were in favor.

Fr. Shannon opened the floor to members of the parish. Many came forward and thanked various people for their work and support in all areas of the parish. Barbara Schafer thanked everyone for their support of UTO this year.

Don LeHeup spoke on the E script program on ways to make money for the church by shopping at certain stores. Smith's Grocery has their own rewards program and they will contribute if you register on their website.

Tim Buer spoke on a program that H & R Block is offering this year. For every person who has their taxes done and provides a coupon (available in the parish office), the church receives \$20.00 per coupon.

- ⊕ A motion to receive these programs were **MSP**. All were in favor.
- ⊕ A short vestry meeting was held next to nominate Paul Turner as Sr. Warden. A motion was MSP. All in favor.
- ⊕ Motions were made to accept Lucille Biddle as Vestry Clerk and Hope Leach as Treasurer both were **MSP**.
- ⊕ The Bylaws require that the Jr. Warden will be elected at the next regular meeting Tuesday, February 16 in the Chapel at 7 pm.
- ⊕ A Vestry retreat will be at Paul Turner's home on March 19, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm. Fr. Shannon asked for special prayers for Fr. Dale Augustin who is hospitalized.