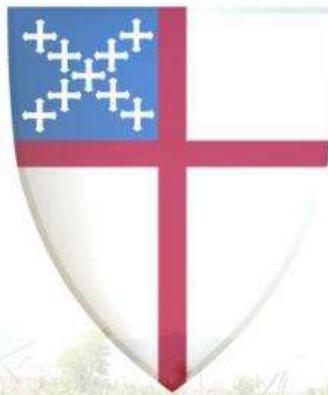


# *Grace in the Desert* Episcopal Church



**December 29, 2021**

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Las Vegas, NV 89134

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Fr John Agbaje  
Interim Rector



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## **Happy New Year!!**



## **The Second Sunday of Christmas**

**There will be only one combined service this weekend at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, January 2, 2022**

### **Link to Register for the Combined Service - January 2 at 9:30**

Due to the ongoing number of reported COVID cases in our area we will continue to observe the recommendations of the Clark County Health Department and the mandates set in place by our Diocese which remain in place. These mandates include the following:

Everyone attending either the three services must wear face masks and register their intention to attend a service by signing up on the Eventbrite link (above) in order to maintain COVID contact tracing records.

Please feel free to sing joyously during the service but masks continue to be required at all times during the service.

The congregation will not gather around the Altar to receive communion but will instead form a single line (row-by-row) in the center aisle leaving a space between each person to maintain a safe social distance.

The birthday and anniversary acknowledgements and blessings will be conducted with people standing at their seats for the prayer.

Unfortunately, we will have to continue these measures until the COVID positivity rate decreases in the valley and we receive permission from the Diocesan Chancellor that we may resume our normal procedures. The Vestry believes that these measures continue to be necessary for the health and safety of the Grace

community. You will all be kept informed as the situation improves.

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## **COVID ALERT**

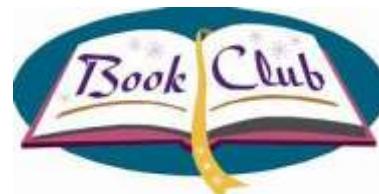
Grace has been informed that someone who attended the 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service has tested positive for COVID. This communication is part of our protocol which includes notification of the congregation in attendance, as well as the Diocese and the Southern Nevada Health District.

We strongly recommend that if you attended the 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service you get tested to determine if you have COVID. Please do not attend church if you have any upper respiratory symptoms, even if you do not suspect you have COVID, until you have had a negative test. If the test is positive, please do not attend church until you have had a negative test.

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## ***Reading with Grace -- Book Club selection for January***

Our selection for January 13th is: "A walk in the woods: Re-discovering America on the Appalachian trail" by Bill Bryson.



After our discussion, we'll review suggestions for spring reading.....bring your recommendations and join the group via Zoom at 7:00 pm.

The Zoom link is located on the Grace in the Desert website in the left-hand panel.

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## **Monday Morning Coffee and Conversation**

Please come and join us in the fellowship and comradery of the Monday Morning Coffee and Conversation Group. Each Monday morning we gather at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall for casual conversation. There are no set topics or set agenda. Each week begins with a reading of a Psalm and ends with a prayer. In between there is a lot of sharing of our life experiences, family stories and things that have stuck us as interesting in the last week. There is a bit of laughing and there is a bit of supporting each other in times of need. New friends are made and old friendships deepened. We are pretty disciplined at holding each meeting to about an hour. It is a delightful way to start the week. We hope to see you this coming Monday!

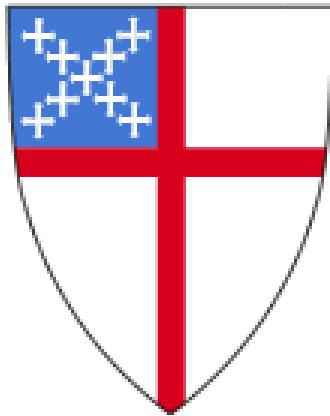
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### **Offering Envelopes Are Delayed**



If you requested offering envelopes when making your pledge, please know that the vendor that supplies our offering envelopes has advised us that they have not been able to fill our order for offering envelopes due to material delays and labor shortages. The vendor expressed their regrets at the delay and noted that they are not even able to provide us with a projected delivery date at this time.

With the delay in receiving the offering envelopes please remember to indicate on the memo line of your check, or on the envelope if you are giving cash, the purpose of your offering (pledge, flowers, refugees resettlement etc.) to ensure your gifts are properly recorded by the church office.



***All Parishioners Invited  
Mark Your Calendar for these Important  
Parish Meetings!***

***January 23 following the 10:30 service***

Join us as we take our first step in our search for our next Rector. At this meeting we will discuss issues and concerns that might inhibit our work to build a vision for our future as a parish and complete our search process. Cannon Bob Nelson, who has considerable experience in leading such parish discussions, will lead the meeting using a process called Affirmative Inquiry.

***January 30 following the 10:30 service***

Join us for this important Annual Parish Meeting. At this meeting we will elect four of our fellow parishioners to the Vestry, approve our annual budget and receive reports from a number of our parish ministries. (See the article below for the details of the Vestry election nomination process.)

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***A MESSAGE FROM THE REFUGEE  
RESETTLEMENT COMMITTEE***

Thanks to the continuing generosity of parishioners, their family members and neighbors we've recently picked up, moved and stored many pieces of furniture appropriate for our refugee families, some of which have been already been moved into

refugee apartments. Unfortunately, in light of the current housing market, our partners at Catholic Charities are encountering major difficulties in locating apartments for the refugees. Apartment complexes with whom they have previously worked have become prohibitively expensive and, therefore, unavailable. We are also close to exhausting available storage space.

Many of the refugees arriving now are Afghans forced to flee their country earlier this year for their safety. If anyone owns, manages or knows of any properties that might be rented to these newly arriving refugees please notify one of us and we'll promptly get such information to Catholic Charities. Thank you so much for your help!

PEACE AND JOY,  
Margie and Paul Turner  
Co-Coordinators, Refugee Resettlement Committee

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**No Labyrinth Walks & Meditation in December**



There will not be any Labyrinth Walks in December. The next walk will be on January 9. Guided Labyrinth Walks and Meditations normally take place on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m.

Everyone is welcome and those who are new to labyrinths are encouraged to come and learn about the benefits of walking meditation and prayer. If you have concerns with mobility issues, please don't let this deter you. The meditation may be used by everyone whether they walk the labyrinth or not, and the use of finger labyrinth tool which can be used while sitting will be available and explained.

Coffee and Fellowship to follow.

Please call Cheryl Bruni for more information at 702-353-4381.

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***In memory of  
Charles "Woody" Woodward***

The memorial service for Woody has been scheduled for Saturday, January 15 at 1:00 p.m.



Please continue to lift Sharon and the entire Woodward family in prayer to sustain them and bring them some measure of comfort during this difficult time.

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***DISCUSSION CIRCLE ON ZOOM  
MONDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00 pm***

The Discussion Circle meets on Mondays at 7pm and is discussing Richard Rohr's, *What the Mystics Know: Seven Pathways to your Deeper Self*. This is a group, facilitated by Susan Cooper, that encourages lively conversation and self-expression.

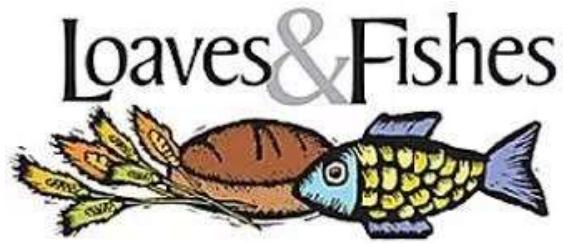
The Discussion Circle will be hosted weekly on Zoom, breaking when necessary for holidays and church conflicts. If you are unable to attend every Zoom meeting, the weekly guide will walk you through the readings, and you can join us on Zoom when it is convenient. If you want to receive the guides and the Zoom link for the meetings, please email Susan Cooper at

[susan@recooper.com.](mailto:susan@recooper.com)

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For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in...  
Matthew 25:35



### ***Loaves and Fishes Ministry***

Hunger is an ongoing problem in our community. Our Loaves and Fishes Ministry supports the Epicenter on the Parkway Food Bank located behind Christ Episcopal Church on Maryland Parkway to help feed those in need of nutritious food.

We support this important ministry through our weekly donations and our periodic Super Stock Events that are announced in this Enews and other publications. The need is great the need is continuous.

Please bring your nonperishable and nutritious food contributions to church when you come to worship each week and place them in the basket in the Narthex on the right as you enter the church.

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### ***Grace in the Desert Vestry Member Candidacy***

We will be holding our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 30, 2022, after the 10:30 a.m. service. At that time, we will be electing parishioners to serve on our Vestry. The current Vestry is made up of the following individuals:

**Class of 2022** (the year the current term expires)

Darlene Albert (not standing for re-election)  
Walt Kadyk  
Michael Yackira (not standing for re-election)

### **Class of 2023**

Larry Davis  
Larry Holmes

Barbara Ryhter (Appointed by the Vestry in accordance with our By-Laws after Jan Rowell's passing; Barbara will stand for election and if elected will serve out the rest of Jan's term through the Annual Meeting of 2023)

### **Class of 2024**

Cheryl Bruni  
Myra Love  
Ra Simmons

In accordance with our By-Laws, the Vestry has formed a Nominating Committee composed of the current Vestry members who will not be standing for election. The Nominating Committee is Darlene Albert and Michael Yackira.

Therefore, the Vestry and Nominating Committee invite you to join us in this process of discernment. Please prayerfully consider either your own candidacy or your recommendation of someone whom you believe should be considered for the Vestry.

To help you in this process, please see the description below of qualifications, expectations, duties, and responsibilities of being a member of the Vestry. To aid the Nominating Committee in its discernment, please share your experience and insight regarding why you believe the individual you recommend, even if it is yourself, is being called to serve on the Vestry of Grace in the Desert. Please submit your recommendations including the reasons for the recommendations to Darlene ([dmgalbert@gmail.com](mailto:dmgalbert@gmail.com)) and Michael ([myackira@gmail.com](mailto:myackira@gmail.com)).  
**The deadline for submissions is January 4, 2022** and after that date, no nominations will be accepted including from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES**

Eligibility: Episcopal adult communicant members in good standing of Grace in the Desert.

- + Episcopal: Baptized, and either Confirmed or Received in the Episcopal Church
- + Communicant: Regularly participate in Eucharist services and receive Holy Communion
- + In good standing: have been faithful in working, praying, and financially supporting Grace as a consistent financial contributor to the parish.

### **Expectations of Vestry Members**

It is an honor and a privilege to serve on the Vestry. It is a ministry of lay leadership that entails work, study, and prayer. In order to stand for election to the Vestry, you are agreeing to accept the responsibility, if you are elected, of faithful service for a term of three years, unless otherwise stated, e.g., filling out the term of someone will no longer serve.

The Vestry meets the third Wednesday in the month at 7:00 p.m. and participates in an annual retreat. There are no fewer than 10 meetings each year. Additional special meetings may be called if the need arises. Newly elected members begin attending at the February meeting following their election. Attendance is imperative at each meeting and at the annual Vestry retreat.

### **Duties and Responsibilities of Vestry Members**

- Work with the Rector to promote the spiritual welfare of all of the clergy of Grace.
- Support the programs of the Parish and encourage the

members of the congregation to support those programs and give generously towards the support of those programs.

- Assure that all obligations of the church including the salaries and other obligations are paid timely.
- Support the Wardens in the execution of their duties.
- Be in charge of the property of the Church and to keep the property appropriately insured and maintained.
- Be responsible for all financial matters of the parish, specifically to:
  1. Approve an annual budget that is prepared by and approved for recommendation by the Finance Committee to the Vestry.
  2. Maintain adequate accounting records.
  3. Authorize purchases made in the name of the parish.
  4. Assure that an annual audit is conducted and reported to the Vestry.
  5. Assure that annual stewardship education and stewardship campaigns are undertaken in the congregation.
- Maintain full record of minutes of meetings.
- Call a Rector if the position is vacant, with the approval of the Diocesan Bishop, and to provide the new Rector financial support and spiritual maintenance.

## **Family Promise**

When you're doing your weekly shopping and preparing for the upcoming holidays, please remember the needs list provided by our friends at Family Promise. There is a separate basket in the Narthex for collection of items you may wish to donate to this ministry.

### **Family Promise Needs**

#### **For the home**

Cleaning supplies

Garbage bags (13 or 33 gallon)

#### **Personal needs**

(For men and women)

Deodorants

Shampoo and conditioner

Lotions

Body wash, bar soap

Diapers size 5 and 6

Baby wipes

Gift cards from Smith's Food King (in any amount) to supplement the families grocery budgets are also needed and always welcome.

## **Altar Flowers**



The signup sheet for altar flowers for 2022 is now posted in the Narthex to enable you to sign up to donate alta