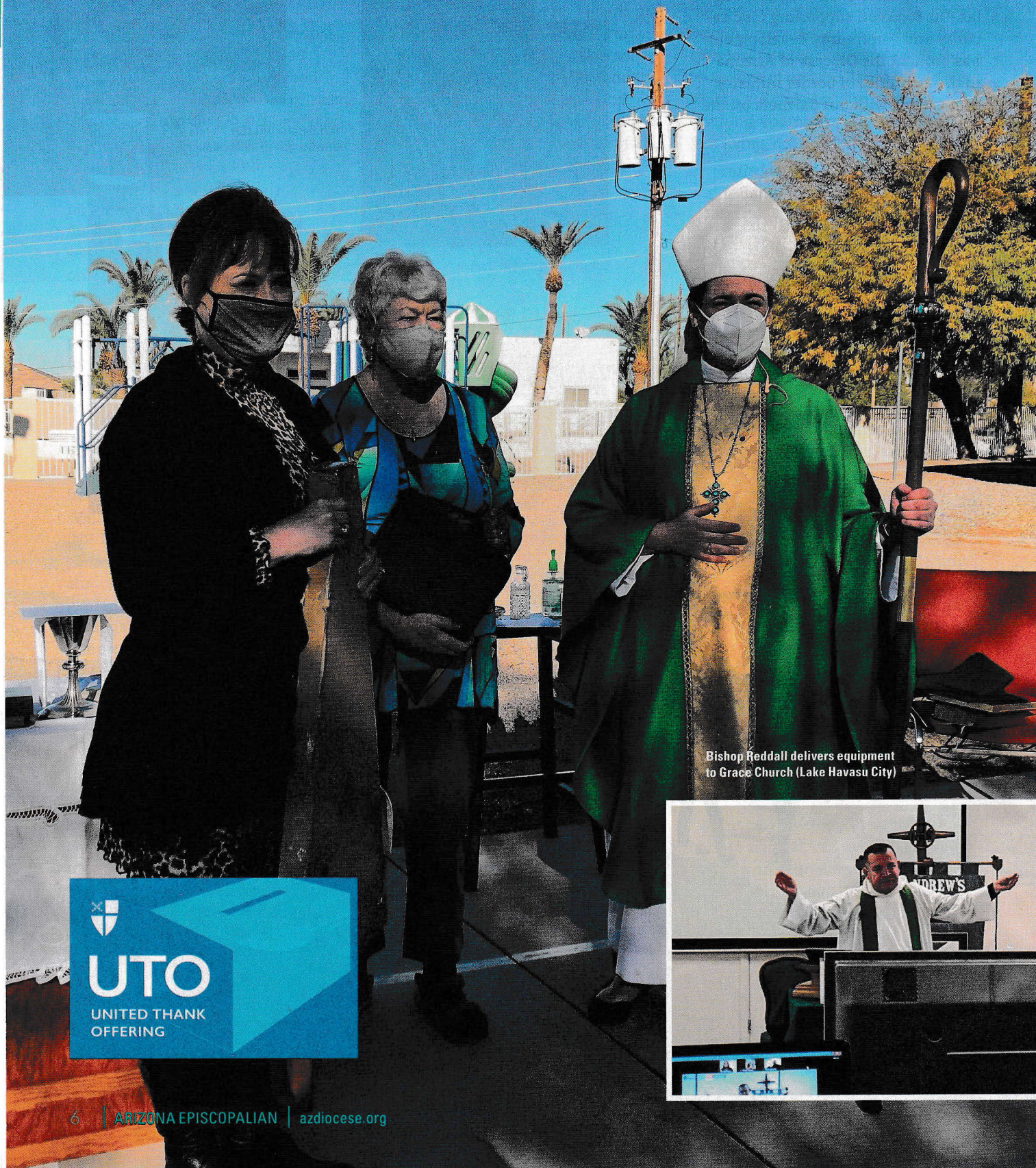


COMMUNITY DRIVEN STREAMING & DIGITAL MINISTRY IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 | 2021 UPDATE OF THE UTO GRANT



Bishop Reddall delivers equipment to Grace Church (Lake Havasu City)



BY MARY HOVDEN,
ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE (TEMPE)
UTO GRANT PROJECT LEAD

Since our last article in the Winter 2021 issue, there has been a great deal of progress in moving the implementation of our United Thank Offering (UTO) grant funds of \$24,873 forward. After ordering streaming hardware for the first 13 congregations participating in the grant, we found that we could add additional congregations because of efficient ordering and cost savings. So with the blessing of UTO and Bishop Reddall, we added the following five congregations to the scope of our grant:

Congregations added to the UTO Grant in 2021:

ST. ANDREW'S, NOGALES
GRACE CHURCH, LAKE HAVASU CITY
ST. ANDREW'S, GLENDALE
CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, MESA
ST. MICHAEL'S, COOLIDGE

As of submission of this article, all 18 participating congregations have received their streaming hardware and over 2/3 have used the equipment to stream their services. The UTO Grant User's Group meets via Zoom on a regular basis and in these meetings, we share best practices, tips and techniques, how to get started, things to avoid, etc. Even though we're meeting virtually, the collaboration, support, goodwill and spirit of the Lord is present at each of our meetings. We know

how blessed we all are to be a part of this impactful effort!

The implementation project team also developed a website so that all project information, installation resources, photos, etc. can be shared with the UTO Grant User's Group and also with other congregations who are struggling to find technology tools to better reach congregants during COVID-19. Each participating congregation has their own page in order to chronicle their streaming journey and it's amazing to see the progress from receipt of hardware to implementation!

For those recipients that have started streaming their services, we've received many positive comments:

"In addition to live streaming our Sunday worship services, we now stream Evening Prayer and Noonday Prayer. Our new streaming installation makes the services available to the largest number of our parishioners who have varying degrees of tech savviness."

"Our new streaming hardware was super easy to set-up and use. We've heard from our parishioners how much better the sound and picture are; it's been a neat experience!"

"The new camera (Mevo Start) was very easy to set-up and use and I loved the support from St. James and the UTO grant user's group!"

"Congregants like the enhanced video and sound; the new equipment allows people to be more engaged and promotes a 'liturgy of presence'."

"The new equipment keeps me from 'burning up my phone' which I previously used to record our worship services!"

The United Thank Offering (UTO) has been amazing in their support of our effort. The following is from their website:

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute the 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion. For more info, go to the UTO website at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/united-thank-offering>.

IMAGES BELOW

Left: Canon Vasquez preaches at St. Andrew's (Glendale)

Left/Center: A reader at St. James the Apostle (Tempe)

Right/Center: Bishop Reddall gets ready for service at St. Alban's (Wickenburg)

Right: Deacon Gillespie and parishioners set up their equipment at SS Philip & James (Morenci)

