



The Right Reverend Jennifer A. Reddall
BISHOP OF ARIZONA

July 18, 2019

To the People of Grace St. Paul's:

I write to give you a little background on a situation in your parish and the diocese which you may have heard about from the news this week.

The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona and Grace St. Paul's Episcopal Church have had a lawsuit brought against them by a man named Charles Taylor, who alleges that he was sexually abused by Father Richard Babcock at Grace Church in the early 1970s.

Grace St. Paul's, the Diocese and the Episcopal Church all take seriously every complaint of alleged misconduct by any church employee, regardless of how long ago the misconduct was alleged to have occurred. For decades the Diocese has required training for all church employees and volunteers to protect children against sexual abuse or misconduct. Our churches seek to be safe places for children and adults to worship, learn and serve.

We will be reviewing Mr. Taylor's complaint, and will take all appropriate steps to investigate and respond. I am grateful for our diocesan Chancellor, Don Bivens, your parish Chancellor, Rob Rauh, and to Church Insurance for their wise counsel and guidance.

Some of you may have heard of Mr. Taylor's allegations and actions against the Diocese and Grace St. Paul's in the past. He and his claims have been known to us for many years, but despite repeated legal action, we have never been able to come to satisfactory resolution. The court eventually provided us with an injunction preventing him from visiting or contacting Episcopal Churches after several incidents. I pray that this time we will be able to find a resolution that is faithful to our call as Christians, and mindful of our role as stewards of our churches.

I ask your prayers for Mr. Taylor; for all survivors of sexual abuse; for your clergy and lay leaders; and for our legal system.

Faithfully,

The Right Rev. Jennifer A. Reddall

Sixth Episcopal Bishop of Arizona