

Trinity Gateway Project at Grace Church Cemetery

In 1834, Grace Church purchased more than four acres of pasture land on the southern outskirts of Providence at the intersection of what was then known as Greenwich and Pawtuxet Roads for the use as a community burial ground. Two years later additional acreage was purchased to complete the approximately 9 acre triangular-shaped cemetery at the intersection of what today are Elmwood Avenue and Broad Streets. Between 1859 and 1860, a cottage in the Greek revival style was built at 1 Trinity Square on what is now referred to as the prow of the cemetery and the Gateway to South Providence.

Fall Cemetery Clean-up – Saturday November 7th

Cemetery Clean-ups – to supplement the efforts of our summer maintenance crew – are scheduled twice a year, in the Spring and the Fall, to gather and dispose of trash and leaves.

The participation of community and parish members is critical to the success of these endeavors.

To honor the many veterans of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars as well as World Wars I and II, this year's Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday November 7th, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. with a 1 hour break for lunch. Please mark your calendars accordingly. Bring your family and friends. This is a non-ageist, non-sexist, All Parish event!

A cookout will be provided with music by our own DJ Champ Cooley!

All necessary tools, trash bags and gloves will be provided.

Caretaker's Cottage

With the assistance of the expertise of the Providence Preservation Revolving Fund, the exterior of the Caretakers Cottage was restored in the Spring of 2008. The work included a new cedar shake roof, new galvanized flashing, gutters and downspouts and substantial replacement of custom milled clapboards and wood trim and a new paint

job in historically researched colors. Still to be completed is the installation of new historically approved storm windows – which will allow for the removal and repair of the existing interior wooden double hung windows – and the subsequent repair, painting and re-installation of the original functional exterior wood shutters. Interior restoration is planned for a future date.

During the Spring of 2009, Phase I of the rehabilitation of the landscape surrounding the Caretakers Cottage as researched and designed by Historical Landscape Architect Martha Lyons was completed. Please feel free to visit and enjoy! Still to be completed is the installation of new fencing along Elmwood Avenue, the redevelopment of the parking area as a tree and fence enclosed motor court and the recreation of the missing iron Grace Church Cemetery entrance archway with lamp.

Cypress Avenue Walkway

Design and Construction Drawings and budgeting have been completed for the completion of the Cypress Avenue Walkway linking Elmwood Avenue with Broad Street. The project has been carefully value engineered but still remains over budget. Efforts are being undertaken by members of the Steering Committee to secure some of the work as pro-bono.

The design as developed by Historical Landscape Architect Martha Lyons would remove the previously installed granite curbing – to be stockpiled on site for future projects – narrow the walkway to a more pedestrian and historically appropriate scale, and create two transition points or 'foyers' at Elmwood Avenue and Broad Street as required to accommodate transitions in grade from the cemetery interior to the side walk. Granite columns and steel bollards would demarcate the two entrances. The installation of historically appropriate bus shelters adjacent to the new Elmwood Avenue and Broad Street cemetery entrances is being reviewed with RIDOT, RIPTA and the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission.

It is intended that donated memorial benches be located in the future along the Cypress Avenue Walkway for the enjoyment of this green urban oasis.

Future Projects

Future projects include the development – in cooperation with Women & Infants Hospital – of a Garden of Innocence on the site of what has historically been called Cemetery Square for the scattering of 'pre-natal and neo-natal' cremains. In addition RIDOT has scheduled a reconstruction of Elmwood Avenue from Roger Williams Park through Broad Street to Route 95. While at the very least the scope of work will include new wider handicap accessible sidewalks along the Elmwood Avenue perimeter of the cemetery, the work may affect the existing stone retaining wall and fence. It is hoped the state will have sufficient funds to upgrade the existing street lighting to a design that is more historically in keeping with the cemetery and surrounding residential neighborhood.

How Can I Learn More? How Can I Become Involved?

Contact Christopher Utter at ajax-golden@cox.net or at 401 351 6510 or Stephen Haskell at steweh@hotmail.com or 508 252 3029. Or visit our website at TrinityGateway.org.

Participate in the Spring and Fall Annual Cemetery Clean-ups. Become a member of the Trinity Gateway Project Steering Committee which meets the last Thursday of each month or become a Friend of Grace Church Cemetery.

Hospitality Is Everyone's Job

A smile and a warm greeting from just one person made Grace Church stand out from other churches that my husband, Dave, and I visited after moving to the area three years ago. Grace Church of course has many wonderful attributes that set it apart, including the stunning architecture, extraordinary music, commitment to outreach and the diversity of the community. But it was that one person's interest and words of welcome that made us feel comfortable and brought us back.

And the welcoming didn't end there. Once we had decided this was our new church home, we were encouraged to get involved. Many people made an effort to get to know us, to hear "our story," what brought us here from Kansas (our daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren), where we lived (Uxbridge, MA) and what was important to us. Within the first year, we were invited to join a committee, attend or organize a class and come to dinner at the homes of new friends. In short, we realized that we truly had found a new family. Grace Church is "home" for us.

The Bible tells many stories of people who were strangers in need of welcome and friendship. The Hebrew Scriptures record

how God's people were strangers in a foreign land. And offering hospitality is one of the major teachings in the Gospel: "Love one another," we are taught, and "Welcome the stranger."

As a member of the Welcoming Committee, I have a ribbon attached to my name tag that says "Ask me." Saying hello to visitors and answering their questions is one of my jobs at Grace. But it's really up to all of us to greet our visitors and let them know we're glad they're with us. So I encourage you to reach out to newcomers. By showing hospitality, we can strengthen our community and grow in our ministry.

Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Each time a visitor comes through the doors of Grace Church, that person represents Christ for us. It's an opportunity to serve our Lord. Will you join this ministry of hospitality – to greet newcomers and help people make connections?

We also invite you to be part of the Welcome Committee. Or, if you don't want to be on the committee, maybe you'd like to occasionally conduct a church tour or attend a brunch for newcomers. To find out more, contact

Cathy Iacobucci cgi1002@cox.net or 401-942-2179) or me (lavonne.seifert@gmail.com or 508-779-0073). Let's all practice the art of hospitality!

– Lavonne Seifert

Hospitality Team News

The Hospitality Team plans and organizes a trio of hosts each Sunday morning to graciously provide and serve refreshments to parishioners after the 10 o'clock worship service. We currently have twenty-three individuals who serve as hosts, allowing seven – eight weeks between each scheduled hosting opportunity. We would like to grow the number of people serving in this ministry.

For more information on the details of hosting please speak to any one of the hosts on a Sunday morning. Or contact Cathy Iacobucci at cgi1002@cox.net.

The Hospitality Team meets on second Sundays. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 11 at 11:30 a.m.. Please come and share your ideas regarding the efforts of this team.

Flower Guild: Volunteers and Benefactors Needed

The Grace Church Flower Guild traditionally coordinates the Sunday Altar Flowers in cooperation with our florist Jephrey Floral Studio. In Addition the Flower Guild coordinates the decorating of the church on special occasions such as Easter Week and Advent. Easter week involves the installation of palms supplemented by seasonal woody plants such as forsythia, cherry or apple blossoms for Palm Sunday, the creation of a fragrant garden in the Messiah Chapel for the Chapel of Repose on Maundy Thursday, and the decoration of the Pascal Candle, Baptismal Font and installation of Easter Lilies and Spring Flowers to welcome the Risen Lord at the Vigil and on Easter Sunday. Weather permitting the urns at the Westminster Street entrance are also planted with floral offerings. Advent Begins with the traditional Gathering of the Greens. The Greening of the Church follows in phases to include the installation of the wreaths and garlands inside the church

– artificial as required by fire code – the fabrication of wreaths and garlands for the outside of the church – from the white pine previously gathered in Exeter, and immediately prior to Christmas Eve, the placement of poinsettias and the installation of the crèche – discovered in the undercroft in 1999 and restored by parishioner Alice Tingley in 2000.

2009 brings additional opportunities for Flower Guild volunteers – to assist with bulb planting at the cemetery within the new planting beds adjacent to the Caretakers Cottage and around the Church as well as to assist with the re-landscaping of the exterior of Grace Church and the future creation of a Biblical Garden along Mathewson Street.

The work of the Flower Guild, however, is dependant upon the generosity of the parishioners and friends of Grace Church. While at one time there was an endowment for the Flower Guild, that has long since been

exhausted. Sunday Flowers – whether for the high or low altar - typically cost \$100.00. Any extra resources are placed in the Flower Fund to cover past or future deficits. In general there is an ebb and flow of resources between Christmas, Easter and Ordinary time.

However, despite these difficult financial times, any gifts – financial or in-kind – or any information regarding potential gifting opportunities – to help support the work of the Flower Guild will be greatly appreciated.

Should you wish to know more about how you can help the Grace Church Flower Guild please contact Christopher Utter at ajaxgolden@cox.net or 401 351 6510.

Come get your hands dirty. It's not too soon to start planning for Christmas!