

*More Grace News!*

For more Grace Church news,  
sign up for the Grace Church e-letter at:  
GraceChurchProvidence.org

*Newsletter Deadline*

The deadline date for June's newsletter is  
Wednesday, May 15. Send submissions to  
Andy Shapiro-Zysk at azysk@cox.net.



GRACE *In The City*

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE



*The Mission of Grace Church is to  
build, by the grace of God, a loving  
and joyful community which lives the  
gospel through worship, proclamation,  
and service to each other, to downtown  
Providence, and beyond.*

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*From The Rector*

I've heard it said that every rector dreams of ripping out the pews in his church and replacing them with chairs, in order to allow for a more flexible worship space. I've even been told that a predecessor of mine here at Grace Church had this dream himself a couple decades back!

Let me begin by stating up front and categorically that I do not share this dream and hope that the pews of Grace Church are here 150 years from now, just as they were 150 years ago. But I do understand the impulse. The great debate of pews versus chairs is an example of a greater tension in the Church at large: How to retain what we value from the past while speaking to people who are living in the present? Living too much in the past turns a church into a museum, while changing constantly to suit the mood of the moment takes from the Church what it most has to offer: a community that lives across the generations and teaches timeless truths. If all one wants is the latest thing, it's easier just to click on YouTube than to step foot in a church.

In favor of change, Jesus himself – who was the very incarnation of timelessness, the Word of God existing even before the creation – knew that change was the way forward into God's future. In John 12:24, Jesus says, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." In his 2nd Letter to the Corinthians (5:17), the Apostle Paul writes that change is simply part of life for a Christian: "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" In his Letter to the Philippians (3:13), he says that he conducts his spiritual life, "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead."

I could also quote scripture about holding fast to traditions and teachings we have received from our ancestors. And so, in the Church, we strive, with God's blessing, to be rooted in our past and also focused on the future, that we might best reach out to those in our community – so that they might know Christ and God's blessing in their lives.

So we'll keep the pews...but we've made a small change to two of them. Take a look. For the first time in its history, Grace Church has two pews – one on each side of the church – that can accommodate wheelchairs. We know that it will directly affect only a very small percentage of our parish, but we hope the change will send a message to everyone: Grace Church is a place that values where we have been and seeks to open up our doors to everyone in our future.

Peace,  
Jonathan+

GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

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GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE



## GRACE CHURCH CALENDAR

### *Sundays in May*

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist  
9:00 a.m. – Sunday Forum: Chafee  
9:45 a.m. – Sunday School  
10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

### *Wednesdays in May*

Noon – Holy Eucharist  
12:30 – Intercessory Prayer Group

### *2nd and 4th Saturdays in May*

10:00 a.m. – Women's Prayer and Bible Study

### *Sunday, May 5*

10:00 a.m. – Healing Prayer: Messiah Chapel  
11:15 a.m. – Outreach Ministry Meeting  
8:00 p.m. – Compline

### *Wednesday, May 8*

Deadline for submissions for the May 15 e-news

### *Sunday, May 12*

5:00 p.m. – Evensong (“Sundays at Five”)

### *Wednesday, May 15*

Deadline for submissions for the  
June Newsletter

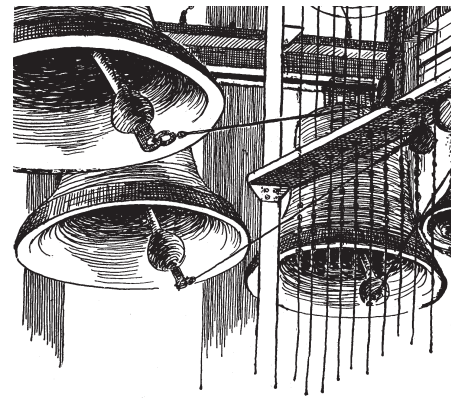
### *Wednesday, May 22*

Deadline for submissions for the May 30 e-news

### *Tuesday, May 28*

6:30 p.m. – Vestry Meeting: Chafee

## May Music Notes



April was a lovely month, beginning with Easter Week. On Sunday, April 7, we sang music remembering Jesus' visit to the disciples and Doubting Thomas, and Compline was sung by the men of the Choir later that evening at 8 p.m. The following Sunday, April 14, the music recalled Jesus by the Sea of Tiberius. The Choir replaced one of the anthems scheduled for the day with “Blessed Be the God and Father” by S.S. Wesley, in memory of Eric Croll, Joan and Gordon Martin's son-in-law. On Friday, April 19, eleven members of our choir gathered together to sing at an “Order of Worship for the Evening” at St. Michael's Church in Bristol, Rhode Island, to commemorate the Boston Marathon Tragedy. On “Good Shepherd Sunday,” April 21, younger members of our choir sang a setting of Psalm 23 by Bobby McFerrin, as part of the Youth Sunday Service. On Sunday, April

28, the Grace Church Singers led the worship at the 10 a.m. Eucharist, and, at 5 p.m. that same day, the Choir sang a service of “Eastertide Readings and Music,” as part of the “Sundays at Five” series.

Through the first part of May, we will continue basking in the glow of the Resurrection. The Choir will sing at the 10 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, May 5, and the men of the Choir will sing Compline that same evening at 8 p.m. On Sunday, May 12 (the Sunday after Ascension Day), the Grace Church Singers will lead the worship at the 10 a.m. Eucharist, and at 5 p.m. that same day, the Choir will sing Evensong as part of the “Sundays at Five” series. On Sunday, May 19, the Great 50 Days of Easter ends with the Feast of Pentecost. The music at 10 a.m. that morning will include motets by Tallis and Palestrina. On Sunday, May 26, we celebrate Trinity Sunday, singing music by Tallis and Allegri, as well as commemorating Memorial Day (which falls on the 27th).

We are always eager to welcome new participants to our choirs. Information about these opportunities or any other aspect of the Grace Church Music Program is available from Mark Johnson at 401-330-6787 or [mjohnson@gracechurchprovidence.org](mailto:mjohnson@gracechurchprovidence.org).

## Baptisms, Weddings, & Funerals at Grace

Congratulations to Adaeze Chidimma Ozokwelu, daughter of Sunday Obidi Ozokwelu and Lilian Anulike Nwabulue, who was baptized at Grace Church at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 30!

## Easter Egg Hunt!



Annabel and Briella Weimer decorate their Easter Egg bags after church on Easter Day in preparation for the first (hopefully annual!) Easter Egg hunt at Grace Church!

## United Thank Offering Event

You are invited to attend the United Thank Offering Spring Ingathering for the Diocese of Rhode Island on Saturday, May 11, at St. Mark's Church, 111 West Shore Road, Warwick, at 10:00 a.m. Bishop Knisely will celebrate the Eucharist, and the Rev. Susan Wrathall will be the guest speaker. She will share her experiences from her pilgrimage to Turkey. Lunch will be provided for a donation of \$10. Please RSVP for lunch and mail checks payable to “ECW, Diocese of RI” to Virginia Chase, 355 Blackstone Blvd., #104, Providence, RI 02906. If you cannot attend the event but would like to make a contribution to UTO, checks can be sent to the same address, also made payable to “ECW, Diocese of RI,” with “UTO” on the designation line. The United Thank Offering goes to support the mission of the Church through grants which improve the lives of women and children throughout the world.