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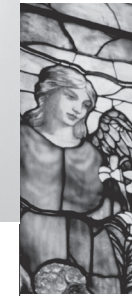
*Newsletter Deadline*

The deadline date for January's newsletter is Friday, December 14th. Send submissions to Andy Shapiro-Zysk at [azysk@cox.net](mailto: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*

Happy New Year! If you're reading this newsletter early in December, then I mean "Happy New Year" in the religious sense (Advent being the start of the "church year"), but if you're reading this at the end of December, then I mean it, of course, in the secular sense. In either case, this time of year is a time for new beginnings, and that is true here at Grace as well. For instance, we have just hired our new Parish Administrator, Veda Bucko. We are thrilled to have Veda on our staff, and you can read more about her on page 3 of this month's newsletter. We have also begun the public phase of discerning what space we would all like to see here at Grace in any future building project. Last month, the 3rd Build Committee (so named after the first building project at Grace in 1846 and the second in 1912) held open forums to gather parishioners' ideas and answer questions.

We've also begun offering a children's music class on Sundays after church, when Sunday School is in session. Our hope is that this will be an opportunity for young children here at Grace to begin to enjoy singing in church and to possibly desire to join the choir when they get older. Also this fall, a group of singers under the leadership of our organist/choir master, Mark Johnson, has begun singing the service of Compline at 8 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month. Compline is the last service in what's called the Daily Office in the Book of Common Prayer. The Daily Office – Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline – came out of the medieval monastic hours (prayer services) when the Protestant Reformation arrived in England in the mid-16th century, and the Church of England wanted daily worship for the laity as well as the clergy. If you come down to Grace on a first Sunday at 8 p.m. for Compline, I promise you that you will feel as though you are, in fact, in the Gothic chapel of some English monastery in the Middle Ages!

Christmas is often a time of nostalgia, when we make foods or sing songs that come from an earlier time. December can seem like a month when we celebrate old things. And for most of us, myself included, we wouldn't change that for the world. Traditions give life meaning, and there is something about the cold and the dark that encourage us to gather together and remember days gone by.

It's worth remembering, though, that in December, 2,000 years ago, God did

*– cont. on pg 2*

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a new thing. When Christ was born in Bethlehem, God was present in this world in a totally novel way. And so this month, we may celebrate much that is old, including an event that happened millennia ago, but we remember what the Lord said in the book of the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am doing a new thing!”

As Christians, we remember and celebrate old things – the birth of Jesus, the lives of the

saints, the hymns that we’ve sung since our youth and that our parents and grandparents sung before us. We also celebrate what is new - new life and new ministries in our church, new ways to proclaim the Gospel and serve others in Christ, new chapters in the story of our community of faith. Let us, as the community of Christ gathered here at the corner of Westminster and Mathewson Streets in the heart of our capital city, re-

member and celebrate the Faith that has been passed down to us and meet with joy the new beginnings that are already here as well as those that are just around the corner.

Advent Blessings,

Jonathan+

## December Music Notes



choir sang the annual sequence of Readings and Music for All Saints/Souls, which included a remembrance of veterans.

A large contingent from our choir participated in the ordination service for our new Bishop with rehearsals in Newport on November 16th and the morning of the 17th, followed by the liturgy that afternoon. The following day, on Sunday, November 18th, was the Stewardship ingathering. At 10 a.m., the choir sang music which included anthems by Bruckner and Tye.

Sunday, November 25th, was “Christ the King” Sunday. The choir sang music from the Bohm Bruder and an anthem to a text by George Herbert, “King of glory, king of peace.”

The new church year begins on Advent Sunday, December 2nd, with the singing of the Bach Chorale “Wachet auf” at the 10 a.m. service. The same evening, the men of the choir will sing Compline at 8 p.m.

Throughout the Advent season, we will have a chance to sing some of the most memorable hymns of the entire year, starting with “Sleepers Wake!” and winding up with “Come thou long expected Jesus” on Advent 4. During the month, we will also change our Eucharistic music to further accentuate the change of season.

November was a very eventful month for our music program.

The first Sunday in November, this year the 4th, as always, was the annual commemoration of All Saints Day. At 8 p.m. that same evening, the men of the choir sang Compline in the candlelit church.

On Saturday, November 10th, the choir sang for the funeral of Judy Brown, a much loved member of our parish. Judy picked the music for the service herself. The liturgy concluded with a setting of the Nunc dimittis for soprano and clarinet, which was poignantly rendered by Ellen Minor and Pattie Marshall. The following day, on Sunday, November 11th, the Grace Church Singers led the music at the 10 a.m. Eucharist. That same afternoon, as part of the “Sundays at 5” series, the

Commitment Sunday on November 18th was once again a wonderfully moving experience, as members of our congregation joyfully demonstrated not only our thanksgiving for God’s blessings but also our faith and our trust in God by bringing our pledges forward to place on the altar. Many of us were nearly moved to tears as we processed behind the cross. How excellent to see people joining in who had never pledged before! The results of our new focus on joyful giving have been outstanding!

As of this writing, the Stewardship Committee is delighted to report that Grace Church has received 97 pledges for a total of approximately \$172,000! At this time last year, we had received only 79 pledges, totaling \$165,000. By the end of the season, we received about 120 pledges totaling more than \$180,000. The Stewardship Committee ex-

tends our deepest appreciation to those who have submitted their pledge thus far. It is the prayers, support, and participation of each of our parishioners that enables our church “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.”

Now comes the scary part, as our 2013 Stewardship Campaign moves from the initial commitment phase into the follow-up phase. Over the next few weeks, our Commitment Team will be calling those who have not yet made a commitment for 2013. Our church leadership has a vision of every single member of our congregation joyfully giving whatever they can to help fulfill our mission. We hope and pray that we will increase participation by at least 10% and the amount

pledged by 4% over last year. That means at least 35 more pledges and only \$15,200 more. We have faith that we will achieve this goal by December 31st or even sooner.

We are grateful to those who have already made a pledge, and we hope that you are as excited about this update as we are! For those of you who have not yet turned in your pledge card, you may download a pledge card at: [www.gracechurchprovidence.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/gracestewardship\\_pledgecard.pdf](http://www.gracechurchprovidence.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/gracestewardship_pledgecard.pdf)

*“You will be enriched in every way for your generosity.” - 2 Corinthians 9:11*

Patricia Rollins Trosclair, Chair

– Grace Church Stewardship Committee



## GRACE CHURCH CALENDAR

*Please Note: The list of Christmas services at Grace follows on the next page.*

### **Sundays in December**

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 December**

Noon – Holy Eucharist  
12:30 p.m. – Intercessory Prayer Group

### **1st and 3rd Saturdays in December**

10:00 a.m. – Women's Centering Prayer Group

### **Sunday, December 2**

10:00 a.m. – Healing Prayer: Messiah Chapel  
8:00 p.m. – Compline

### **Friday, December 7**

Deadline for submissions for the December 15 e-news

### **Sunday, December 9**

5:00 p.m. – Choral Service

### **Friday, December 14**

Deadline for submissions for the January Newsletter

### **Tuesday, December 18**

6:30 p.m. – Vestry Meeting: Chafee

### **Saturday, December 22**

Deadline for submissions for the December 30 e-news

### **Sunday, December 30**

5:00 p.m. – Choral Service

## Outreach Ministry News & Events



### **Advent Giving Tree**

The Outreach Ministry invites you to make a vulnerable child's holiday dreams come true!

Please help Grace Church support the mission of Children's Friend to improve the well-being and healthy development of Rhode Island's most vulnerable young children by purchasing one or more Christmas gifts for children in need this year. All gifts collected will be donated to families served by Children's Friend.

The Advent Giving Tree is displayed in the back of the church. Ornaments on the tree will be available until December 12th for parishioners to choose, take home, and then shop for a gift or two (or more!) for a child/children in need. All UNWRAPPED gifts must be returned to the church with the tag (which includes the child's name and family number) securely attached to it no later than Sunday, December 16th. Children's Friend has also requested donations of wrapping supplies (wrapping paper, scotch tape, gift tags, ribbon, etc.) so that parents/caregivers can participate in the joy of preparing the gifts for their children. Most of these children would not receive ANY gifts at Christmas were it not for the generosity of someone like YOU! For questions or more information please contact Elaine Gabellieri at [jefffoster1@cox.net](mailto:jefffoster1@cox.net) or Joshua Klemp at [jklemp@ccri.edu](mailto:jklemp@ccri.edu).

### **Thank You!**

The Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the Providence In-Town Churches Association (PICA) was a huge success. The PICA food pantry is the largest in the state; is the only pantry in downtown among eight units of subsidized housing; and also serves all of Providence. The Outreach Team walked into the PICA pantry on the Sunday afternoon before Thanksgiving to find the shelves mostly empty. By the time we had left, though, they were FILLED! Diana Burdett, PICA's Executive Director, said it was the largest Thanksgiving food drive donation ever made by Grace Church. Thank you for your generosity!

Please contact Elaine Gabellieri at [jefffoster1@cox.net](mailto:jefffoster1@cox.net) or Joshua Klemp at [jklemp@ccri.edu](mailto:jklemp@ccri.edu) for more information or to become involved in any aspect of the Grace Church Outreach Ministry.

## Welcome to our new Parish Administrator! \_\_\_\_\_

As rector, I'm thrilled to welcome Veda Bucko to the staff of Grace Church. Veda came to Grace in a temporary capacity over the summer and, since then, has done great work for us. So much so that, after a thorough search for our new Parish Administrator, we felt she was the strongest candidate, and we offered her the job. Luckily, she accepted! Veda grew up as a naval brat all over the country and has been in Providence for 12 years now, most recently working in the insurance business. Veda writes, "Working at Grace Church is the culmination of all my years of experience and education. Providence has brought me many new adventures; but none have been more entertaining than being your interim administrator since late July. With grace and faith, the challenge continues to excite my working life and adds to my spiritual growth." Some of you have already gotten to know Veda. For the rest of you, feel free to stop by and introduce yourself! Welcome, Veda!

# CHRISTMAS AT GRACE



- ❄ DECEMBER 2ND AT 8 P.M. – COMPLINE
- ❄ DECEMBER 9TH AT 10 A.M. – CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
- ❄ DECEMBER 9TH AT 5 P.M. – READINGS & MUSIC FOR ADVENT
- ❄ CHRISTMAS EVE AT 5 P.M. AND 10 P.M. – HOLY EUCHARIST
- ❄ CHRISTMAS DAY AT 10 A.M. – HOLY EUCHARIST
- ❄ DECEMBER 30TH AT 5 P.M. – CHRISTMASTIDE LESSONS & CAROLS
- ❄ EPIPHANY, JANUARY 6TH AT 8 P.M. – COMPLINE