

More Grace News!

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GraceChurchProvidence.org

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline date for December's
Newsletter is **Saturday, November 12.**
Send submissions to Carolina Boyle at:
cboyle@gracechurchprovidence.org.



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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GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

175 Mathewson Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3499
(401) 331-3225
www.GraceChurchProvidence.org



From The Rector

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” – Hebrews 13:2

As many of you know, earlier this year Grace Church launched its “Open Doors Ministry.” Committed parishioners serve as volunteer docents and welcome anyone and everyone through the doors of Grace Church from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. During those open hours, our docents have greeted visitors from around the country and, indeed, the world. In fact, as I passed through the church a couple of weeks ago, I met a couple from Berlin and was able to offer them a hearty “Wilkommen!” I’m just sorry I wasn’t there when the Russian opera singer visited and sang an aria in our nave!

I’ve also been able to meet with folks who come through our doors for spiritual reasons. Many come simply to pray in our beautiful church, but some wish to talk with a priest, and I am happy to do so whenever I can. This summer, I met with a young man in his mid-20’s from California who was staying at the Hotel Providence, right across the street. His wife had been in Providence on business when she took ill and spent several weeks in an area hospital. This young man and his wife’s mother – both Orthodox Christians – came into Grace Church to pray during the week and to worship with us on Sundays. Then, a few weeks ago, I received this email from the young man:

“Dear Rev. Jonathan, I’d like to thank you and the Grace Church community for welcoming and supporting me, my wife, and my mother-in-law this summer when we found ourselves stranded in Providence (at the hotel across the street) due to my wife’s illness and hospitalization. We returned safely to California in the middle of August and her condition has stabilized significantly. Although it was a difficult time, the thing we remember most fondly from the summer are the bells and the sense of calm in this great cathedral.”

What a blessing it is that our church can serve as a place of prayer, calm, warmth and peace here in downtown Providence. As you’ve probably heard me say before, Grace is the only church in downtown Providence that is open to the public during the week, so we have a unique ministry here in the heart of our capital city.

I want you all to know that your church is just such a beacon of welcome and care. If any of you have been asking yourselves in this stewardship season, “I wonder if pledging my hard-earned money to Grace so that they can keep that huge church heated and well-lit makes sense,” I hope the letter above provides a

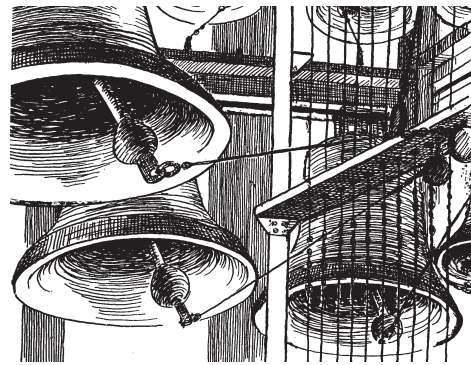
– *Cont. on pg 2*

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GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

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October was a busy month for our music program. On Sunday, October 2, both the Grace Church Choir and the Grace Church Singers sang for the annual "Blessing of the Animals" service. On Sunday, October 16, the Singers sang at the 10 a.m. service, which included the kickoff of the annual Stewardship Campaign, and the Choir sang Even-song, including music of Gibbons and Tallis as part of the "Sundays at 5" series.

From The Rector – Cont from pg. 1

good answer. Supporting Grace is supporting people just like that young man who wrote the kind words of appreciation I've shared with you here. And we're open not just for visitors from thousands of miles away, but for our own parishioners, too! I encourage any of you who are downtown during the week to

stop in to the church. And just as I'm happy to meet with visitors whenever I'm in my office, I'm happy to meet with any of you, as well, whether you've made an appointment or just walked by, as visitors do.

In this month of Thanksgiving, I give thanks to God for this unique ministry of welcome

Silent Auction Testimonial: Treasures for All Ages

Here's a story from Paula Keogh about the ways that the Grace Church Silent Auction brings joy to her family.

"I eagerly await the annual silent auction because of the enticing number of items each year – especially gifts that Rick and I can share with our grandchildren.

This past year, granddaughter MacKenzie celebrated her fifth birthday with a fantastic party at Aim High Academy gymnastics school, thanks to the birthday party donated to last year's auction by parishioners Wendy and Bob Nelson!

Big sister Lexi wasn't left out, though, as she spotted the "West Side Story" tickets at the

auction and urged me to bid on them for her. The result was a dress-up night at the theatre with her then-boyfriend.

Successful bidding at a previous year's auction resulted in MacKenzie also taking a trip to PPAC to see "101 Dalmations" take to the stage. That winning bid also brought a new leash and dog collar for another family member, Bruiser, our beloved "morkie" (maltese/yorkie)!

The diversity and quality of the auction items is a testament to the work of the committee and the many thoughtful donors, which is why I'm looking forward to some lively bidding competition again this year!

November will be just as busy — or perhaps even busier. Here is our schedule for this month:

Sunday, November 6. We will celebrate the solemnity of All Saints with music that includes the traditional hymns as well as motets by Byrd and Victoria.

Sunday, November 13. The Singers will sing at the 10 a.m. service, and at 5 p.m. the Choir will sing a sequence of readings and music for All Saints/Souls, including a remembrance of veterans (Veterans Day is November 11).

Sunday, November 20. The Choir will sing music for "Christ the King," the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year, and an anthem to mark Commitment Sunday and the conclusion of the Stewardship Campaign.

Sunday, November 27. We begin the church year anew with traditional Advent hymns and anthems.

We have had a good response to starting an Evening Choir and hope to begin singing during November.

We are hoping to add members to all of our choirs. Contact Mark Johnson at 401-330-6787 or mjohnson@gracechurchprovidence.org for information about this or any aspect of our music program.

that Grace Church provides, and I give thanks to God that I am able to call Grace my church home. I know you feel the same way.

– Jonathan

More importantly, it feels good to not only bid on beautiful gifts, but also to know that the auction's proceeds benefit two very worthy charities: the George Hunt HELP Center and the Rhode Island Free Clinic.

– Paula Keogh

Be sure to make plans now to be with us for the 2011 Silent Auction, on Saturday evening, December 3. Tell us your Silent Auction story by contacting Patty Birkes (401-433-0417 or pattybirkes@yahoo.com) or Josh Klemp (401-641-4477 or jklemp@ccli.edu).

November Birthdays

In our celebration of November birthdays, friends and members of Grace Church include:

Anne Moulton (1), Jeff Tingley (1), Lori Croll (2), Ava Jaulin (2), Anne McCarthy (3), Christopher Sumo (4), Patricia Trosclair (6), Joyce Baker (6), Grace Banspach (7), Christopher Cox (8), Josephine O. Chase (10), Mitchell Diamond (13), Joanne Ramirez (14), Mary Guilmette (15), Diane D'Errico (15), Handy Jean-Gilles (16), Lavonne Seifert (16), Charles Furey (18), Haley Britto (18), Sarah Howe (18), Adam Tingley (19), Sarah Herbert (20), Damian Almada (21), Clement Jean-Gilles (21), Alice Tingley (22), M. "Champ" Cooley (23), Ramona Souza (23), Julian S. Bradford II (23), Kaitlyn Cerra (25), Stephen Haskell (25), George Dionne (26), David Egelhofer (26), Molly Kitiyakara (26), Owen Bruce (27), Barbara Dagesi (27), James D. Kirtlink (28), Cody Poder (29), Flora Watt (30), Nathan Gomes (30), Mary E. Thorpe (30), Steve Iacobucci (30), Patricia Newman (30).

We Have a New Website!

Be sure to check out the new Grace Church website (www.gracechurchprovidence.org) when you have a chance. Our friends upstairs at Ninedot did some great work refreshing and updating our site, which had been in place for several years.

You will see some striking new pictures of our beautiful stained-glass windows as well as new content and a new approach to organizing the content. We have tried to make the site as user-friendly as possible. It also uses new technology, which will make it easier for our

parish administrator to keep the information up to date.

If you have any questions or comments about the site, contact Dave Seifert at daveand-lavonne@yahoo.com.

Bishop Search Committee To Begin Review of Candidates

Later this month, the Search & Nomination Committee for the diocese will begin reviewing and interviewing candidates to become the 13th Bishop of Rhode Island. Nominations were accepted throughout the month of October, and nominees must submit their application forms and all supporting materials by November 18.

Once the committee has all the necessary information in place, they will review each

candidate's background and qualifications, focusing on the key skills and characteristics published in the Diocesan Profile (www.episcopalresearch.org/profile/). Once they identify the candidates who most closely match what we are seeking in our next bishop, they will begin interviews using Skype computer-based video technology.

You can follow progress throughout the transition at www.episcopalresearch.org. News

updates are posted at the end of each month, and reflections from members of the Search & Nomination Committee and Transition Committee appear at mid-month.

GRACE CHURCH CALENDAR

Sundays in November

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. – Christian Formation for Adults: Chafee
10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
11:00 a.m. – Teens in Action: Teen Room (upstairs)
11:15 a.m. – Christmas Pageant preparation: Gammell Hall

Tuesday, November 1

1:00 p.m. – Communications Team: Chafee

Sunday, November 6

10:00 a.m. – Healing Prayer: Messiah Chapel
11:30 a.m. – Health & Wellness Committee Meeting: front pews

Saturday, November 12

Deadline for submission for the December Newsletter

Sunday, November 13

11:30 a.m. – Outreach Committee: Chafee
11:30 a.m. – Silent Auction Committee: Gammell Hall
5:00 p.m. – Sundays at 5: Choral Evensong

Sunday, November 20

Stewardship Commitment Sunday (bring pledge cards)

Sunday, November 27

11:30 a.m. – Finance Team: Chafee

Tuesday, November 29

6:30 p.m. – Vestry: Chafee

Outreach at Grace Church



SEASONAL ACTIVITIES

The Outreach Committee has made plans for the new season. Starting on Sunday, October 30, you can pick up baskets and bags for your contributions to PICA for Thanksgiving. The committee hopes you will begin to stock up on your gifts that will enhance Thanksgiving dinners. The baskets will be collected on November 20, the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Starting on Sunday, November 27, check out will the Advent Giving Tree at the back of the church. Choose a tag for a gift to bring on Sunday, December 18.

The Outreach Committee is pleased to be able to contribute monetarily to PICA, the HELP Center and Tanner House on behalf of our parish for the good and necessary work these agencies do for the homeless and those who are in need of some support.

THE GEORGE HUNT HELP CENTER

The HELP Center has reached a difficult point in its finances. In order to serve its guests as a homeless drop-in facility, the center is in need of financial contributions. If you can offer a financial gift, please speak to Marty Ames or Faith Goepfert, or just place your gift in the offering plate at church. Make checks payable to the George Hunt HELP Center. If you are not in a position to make a gift of money, we are welcoming offerings of personal toiletries or good, usable clothing. If you wish to give clothing, speak to Marty or Faith.

– Thank you, Marty Ames

PICA

In the October newsletter, we shared information about the food pantry that's maintained by the Providence In-Town Churches Association (PICA). Here are descriptions of two other ongoing PICA programs:

The Friday evening meal site serves approximately 200 people every week at the Mathewson Street United Methodist Church. Guests include the homeless, residents of downtown subsidized housing, teen runaways and recently children with families.

SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach and Recovery) assists eligible homeless clients in accessing Social Security (SSI) benefits in an expedited timeframe (3 – 4 months instead of 2 – 3 years). SOAR serves as the client's personal representative by gathering all necessary medical, school and work information. The SSI benefit includes a monthly payment, and access to subsidized housing and health care.

– Debbie L. Robinson

Parish Profile: Patricia and John Trosclair

by Raymond Finelli

In 2005, only a year after Patricia and John Trosclair became members of Grace Church, Pat preached a homily. She and six other parishioners had been invited to speak at the Good Friday service, one on each of the "Seven Last Words." Pat had No. 7: I Thirst. In her homily Pat brought to mind the terrible abuse and agony our Lord endured. She told of her childhood and growing up in the Church of the Epiphany and how every Friday in Lent they would gather after school to walk the Stations of the Cross singing

"From pain to pain from woe to woe
With a loving heart and footsteps slow
To Calvary with Christ we go ..."

Pat continued ... "Jesus said 'I thirst.' Such a simple statement. But oh so deep. With those words he told us that he was feeling the most basic human need in its most extreme form. He showed us that he was fully human and could understand our weaknesses and frailties. As I look back on Jesus' suffering on the cross, and his words 'I am thirsty,' I now know – how could it be otherwise, this was what it was about, what Christ's ministry was all about. As he stretched out his arms on the cross, he embraced each one of us in order to take us to his Father."

Pat, a chalice bearer, intercessor and lector, is also chairing the Grace Church Stewardship Committee this year. Commitment Sunday comes in November and Pat has been busy gearing up for the campaign, a formidable task for anyone who accepts the task of encouraging parishioners to increase their pledges without seeming to be too aggressive in the name of the church's financial health.

Pat and John came to Grace Church in 2004. They originally came to Rhode Island from New York and went to the Church of Ascension in Pawtucket but were attracted to Grace Church by what they called the Midnight Mass (the 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service), their increasing awareness of greater involvement of the people at Grace and the opportunity to serve. Says Pat, "We love Grace Church for its people and its music."

That involvement with people finds expression for Pat in her profession. She runs the Intercultural Center at Johnson & Wales



Jesus said 'I thirst.' With those words he told us that he was feeling the most basic human need in its most extreme form. He showed us that he was fully human...

University, helping people learn about their cultures – both their own and others, including Native Americans. Last year the focus was on India – including Diwali and other religious holidays, which figure prominently in India's cultural life.

Pat was born in Providence; John came from Gulfport, Mississippi. Before coming to Rhode Island, Pat and John worked at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York. Pat ran the Intercultural Center and was the Assistant Dean of Students. John worked in housekeeping and was responsible for caring for the college president's suite. They left Skidmore and came to Providence in 2002 when Pat accepted a similar position at Johnson & Wales. John now works in maintenance at Housing Opportunities Corporation in Providence, a not-for-profit enterprise for low-income housing. Pat received her Master of Arts in Psychology at the University of Rhode Island in 1988. She has completed all the requirements for a PhD except her dissertation.

John and Pat have a lovely daughter, Jennifer-Jean Rollins, who is a school nurse at Prospect Hill Academy in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and has a son Sejah, age 13. John is a serious roller-skater! His specialty is roller skate dancing, and one of John's fans created a Facebook page for him. He has some 900 followers on his fan page at the United Skates of America, a large skating rink in East Providence.

Pat's travels are pretty much limited to her work – trips for conferences in Santa Fe and New York sponsored by Johnson & Wales. She also travels to Dallas on occasion in connection with her own consulting business for Mary Kay products. Her current reading is by author Toni Morrison. Morrison takes some minor character or scene from one of her books and writes a whole new book based on that event or person. Pat has always been a prodigious reader. She says when she was a kid she read a book a day.

God wants us to live out our stewardship with Thankfulness.

† Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can **always be generous**. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. (2 Corinthians 9: 11)

*Are you always generous? It's not easy.
Look for opportunities to be generous and see what happens. You may be surprised.*

† Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5: 18)

*Do you give thanks to God in all circumstances?
We may remember to give thanks in good times but what about the not-so-good times?
Next time a situation is bleak, give thanks and see how things turn out.*

† I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who gave me strength, because he trusted me and gave me this work of serving him. (1 Timothy 1: 12)

*Does Jesus give you strength to serve him?
Have you ever wondered "Lord, I cannot do this, I am too tired, I am too foolish, I am too weak."
Give it a try – serve God – all that is needed will be given.*

Be generous! Give thanks always! Serve God!

At Grace Church we have much to be thankful for. This is just a small sampling.
serenity ~ inspirational music ~ teens who express love of one another in a broken world
~ breathtaking beauty of the worship space ~
warm and friendly atmosphere ~ magnificent organ ~ leadership ~ good works
What would you add?

DO ALL YOU CAN
"DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN,
BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN,
IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN,
AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN,
TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN,
AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN."
-JOHN WESLEY

Remember that the first Sunday this month (November 6) is All Saints, when we remember all the saints, both past and present. In keeping with our tradition of recent years, you might notice that the high altar has become increasingly crowded with pictures of loved ones who have gone before us to become part of the Church Triumphant. We bring pictures of our loved ones into church for All Saints to remind us that these saints from our lives are still with us even though

they are now with God. We also remember the good and the bad times we had with them, and our hope in the Resurrection. If you haven't already done so, you are invited to bring in pictures of deceased loved ones and place them on the high altar prior to the worship service you are attending. If you prefer, ask a greeter or the rector to help you. If you do not have a photo of someone you would like remembered, you can use one of

the name cards found on the high altar to remember that person. We also encourage you to place name cards in front of the picture(s) you bring in, to identify the people being remembered. Please collect your picture(s) during coffee hour after the 10 a.m. service.

Commitment Sunday is November 20

Our annual Stewardship Campaign is under way, with early pledges made by many lay leaders throughout the congregation. If you haven't already turned in your 2012 pledge card, join us on Sunday, November 20 for Commitment Sunday. During the 10:00 a.m. service, all Grace Church parishioners can joyfully demonstrate not only their thanksgiving but also their faith and trust in God by bringing their pledges forward to place on

the altar. Until then, pray for our parish and our stewardship efforts: Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded by the Psalmist that Yours is "the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it." We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have, and are, and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that You call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the

caretakers of all You have entrusted to us. Help us always to use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.
"You will be enriched in every way for your generosity." 2 Cor. 9:11

Got a Flamingo Infestation? Call the Teens in Action!



As part of our fall fundraising drive, the Teens in Action (TIA) received their official "De-Flocking" Certification, which permits them (and only them) to safely remove infestations of pink plastic lawn flamingos wherever they happen to roost. We received this certifica-

tion in anticipation of a rare phenomenon: huge flocks of pink flamingos landing on the lawns of members of Grace Church! If you find yourself in the very likely scenario of waking up to a lawn full of pink flamingos, don't despair: The Teens in Action are just a

phone call away. For the low-low cost of \$20, the TIA will de-flock your lawn and encourage the flamingos to land on the lawn of the parishioner of your choice. Should you be of the proactive persuasion, \$30 will buy you our Guaranteed Flamingo Repellent (patent pending), promising a flamingo-free lawn for the rest of 2011. According to scientists specializing in the flocking habits of pink flamingos, the birds are friendly, quiet, and unlikely to eat your shrubs. They arrive on your lawn in a spirit of good fun (and good fundraising) and carry no diseases (nor ill will) other than a case of extreme tackiness.