

*More Grace News!*

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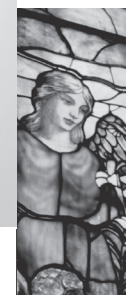
*Newsletter Deadline*

The deadline date for February's  
Newsletter is **Thursday, January 12.**  
Send submissions to Carolina Boyle at:  
[cboyle@gracechurchprovidence.org](mailto: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

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*From The Rector*

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a joyous Christmas. While Christmas Day has passed, though, we are still in the Christmas season. It's not a long season – only 12 days. As seasons of the Church year go (Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost), Christmas is the shortest. Some years, there's only one Sunday in Christmas, so we really have to pack in those Christmas carols on that one day!

What concludes the Christmas season is the Feast of the Epiphany, which most of us associate with the arrival of the magi in Bethlehem 12 days after the birth of our Lord. In the Eastern churches (Russia, Greece, Ethiopia, etc.), the Epiphany is more closely associated with Christ's baptism, and the traditions in those churches reflect that. For instance, in many Eastern Orthodox Christian countries, on the Feast of the Epiphany, a priest will bless a local body of water, such as a lake or river, by tossing a cross into the water to be retrieved by one of the faithful. (This is decidedly more fun for Christians in, say, Cyprus than in Russia, one has to imagine, given the time of year.) Perhaps if our local waterways are clean enough someday, we can all process down to the Providence River at the foot of Westminster Street and take on this ancient tradition!

In the Episcopal Church, January 6 celebrates the arrival of the Wise Men in Bethlehem, and the Sunday following January 6 celebrates Christ's baptism. On years when January 6 is a Sunday, things can a bit murky! You might be asking, "What do these two events have to do with each other?" Both are celebrations of the revelation of Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah, to the world. When the magi, who traditionally are said to have come from Persia, arrived in Bethlehem, it was the first time that gentiles (non-Jews) acknowledged Jesus as the Son of God. From that time, Jesus was Lord not just for his own people, but was revealed as such to anyone, no matter who they were. Years later, when John baptized Jesus in the Jordan and the Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove, Christ was revealed to all who were there as the Son of God. In both cases, the Epiphany is a celebration of the revelation of who Jesus truly is.

If the birth of Jesus was the start of something that changed the world, the Epiphany made that wonderful new reality known to the world, so that all could truly hear and see who Jesus is. That's worth celebrating. Happy Epiphany!

– The Rector

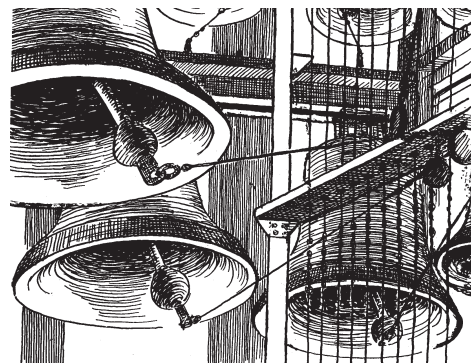
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In December the choir sang music commemorating the appearance of John the Baptist on December 4. On December 11 at the 10 a.m. service, the Grace Church Singers sang from the nave of the church in support of the resurrected Christmas Pageant. At 5 p.m. that afternoon, the choir sang its annual "Advent Lessons and Carols" service by candlelight.

Christmas Eve/Day provided a rare opportunity this year for us to expand our choral contributions on Christmas Day because it was a Sunday morning.

**Coming in January:**

- On New Year's Day the choir will sing in the new year at the 10 a.m. Eucharist, and the Grace Church Singers will hold its annual Christmastide Lessons and Carols service at 5 p.m. as part of the "Sundays at 5" series.
- On Sunday, January 8, the choir will sing for the 10 a.m. service, which will commemorate the baptism of Jesus.
- On Sunday, January 22, at the Grace Church Singers will lead the music at the 10 a.m. service.

- Later on the 22nd the choir will sing the annual service of "Readings and Music for Epiphany." This service will incorporate themes around the Magi, the Miracle at Cana and the Baptism of Jesus as part of the "Sundays at 5" series.

Epiphany is a green (liturgical color symbolizing growth) season. Might it be a good time to lend your voice and help us grow the musical ministry at Grace Church? Information about our variety of opportunities is available from Mark Johnson at 401-330-6787 or [mjohnson@gracechurchprovidence.org](mailto:mjohnson@gracechurchprovidence.org).

● **SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!** ●

Grace Church is re-launching its children's Sunday School on January 15. Sunday School will meet from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. There will be two classes (age 3-7 and 8-12), both meeting in Gammell Hall.

Registration will take place on January 1 and 8 after the 10 a.m. service.

For more questions, contact the Sunday School Coordinator, Rose Phildor at [rphildor@gracechurchprovidence.org](mailto:rphildor@gracechurchprovidence.org).

*January Birthdays*

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

Christian Beck (1), Alison Biondi (1), Harry Blanchard Jr. (1), Deborah Gomes (1), Dylan Marshall (1), Noah Nguyen (1), Breck Wagner (2), Carrie LaPolla (2), Andrew Murphy (2), David Olsen (3), Sidney Clifford Jr. (3), Inge Chafee (4), Ellen Minor (6), Leonard Flood (6), Mary Hohenhaus (7), Laura Goforth (8), Christopher Cox (8), Nicole Cianci (9), Stuart Leathers (11), Rachel Nguyen (11), Brenda Lee Kearns (11), Leona Eastman (12), Cooper Tobin (12), Raymond Finelli (13), Ernest Saleh (13), Lola Sabina Davis (13), Melanie Monteiro (15), Diane Simmons (15), Kevin Ennis (15), Euphemia Davis (16), Kyle Beck (16), Maxwell Oberacker (16), William T. Murphy (16), Madeleine Young (17), Dave Seifert (18) Khrystian Gonzalez (20), Elfreda Thorpe (20), Elizabeth Rock (22), Leona Eastman (27), Patricia Sullivan (28), Priscilla Pitters (28).

*Gathering of the Greens*

A look at Grace Church's traditional event, held in early December, to gather the greens which so beautifully bedecked the church for Christmas.





## GRACE CHURCH CALENDAR

### Sundays in January

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

9:00 a.m. – Christian Formation: Chafee

**9:45 a.m. – Sunday School: Gammell Hall**

(starting January 15)

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

### Sunday, January 1

10:00 a.m. – Healing Prayer: Messiah Chapel

11:30 a.m. – Building & Parish Life Tour:  
Baptismal font

11:30 a.m. – Health & Wellness Committee:  
front pews

5:00 p.m. – “Sundays at 5”: Christmastide  
Lessons and Carols

### Tuesday, January 3

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

### Sunday, January 8

11:30 a.m. – Outreach Committee: Chafee

11:30 a.m. – Teens in Action: Teen Room

### Thursday, January 12

Deadline for submission for the  
February Newsletter

### Sunday, January 15

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School resumes:  
Gammell Hall

### Sunday, January 22

11:30 a.m. – Finance Team: Chafee

11:30 a.m. – Teens in Action: Teen Room

5:00 pm. – “Sundays at 5”: Readings and Music  
for Epiphany

### Tuesday, January 24

6:30 p.m. – Vestry: Chafee

### Sunday, January 29

11:30 a.m. – Teens in Action: Teen Room

## Outreach at Grace Church



The Outreach Committee has happily ended 2011 by giving Christmas gifts from the people of Grace Church to the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless (RICH), designated to support one issue of the “Street Sights” publication and winter emergency shelter; to Episcopal Relief & Development; and to the Providence In-Town Churches Association (PICA) for continuation of its good work.

Our first project in 2012 is preparing for the February Sandwich Brigade. Please plan ahead to be with us in Gammell Hall each Saturday in February at 10 a.m. to create 300 sandwich lunches. If you cannot join in on Saturday mornings, please consider making a gift of any amount to help defray the expenses for bread, cold cuts and cheese. Checks (made payable to Grace Church with memo:

sandwiches) may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays. The lunches we put together are used at Crossroads ([www.crossroadsri.org](http://www.crossroadsri.org)), the leading homeless service organization in Rhode Island, on Sundays when no other meal is available.

The Outreach Committee meets on the second Sunday every month. Please consider joining us. For more information, contact Faith Goepfert at [fmg2@cox.net](mailto:fmg2@cox.net)

## Silent Auction Report

The 5th Annual Silent Auction was bigger and better than ever! More than 100 parishioners and new friends came to bid on approximately 60 items that ranged from a sailboat ride with Ed Wing to homemade beer from John Totter. With your help we were able to raise a total of \$7,500 through bidding, sponsorships and donations. Our charities this year will be the Rhode Island Free Clinic and George Hunt HELP Center.

On behalf of the Silent Auction team, thank you to all of the parishioners who contributed their time and talent to the Silent Auction. We especially want to thank the Rev. Canon Jonathan Huyck for his support, Champ Cooley for being our DJ and the following parishioners who sponsored our event.

### Silent Auction Sponsors:

Dick and Inge Chafee

Jerry Clifford

Polly Daly

James Mahoney

David Olson and Len Flood

John Wall

If you are interested in joining the team feel free to contact the event chair, Joshua Klemp at [jklemp@ccri.edu](mailto:jklemp@ccri.edu). Thank you again for ALL of your support.

## Parish Profile: Andrew Shapiro-Zysk

by Raymond Finelli

When Andy and his partner, David, decided to make Rhode Island their home (David was attending the University at Rhode Island), they asked their friend, the archdeacon at their home parish of St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral in Buffalo, New York, for a recommendation of a church in Providence. Andy said that, without pause, their friend enthusiastically recommended Grace Church.

Andy and David say that they love their adopted state of Rhode Island. They have taken many day trips throughout the state with an eye to identifying the attractions of their new home. As to a church, Andy says he feels that Grace Church is outstanding as a welcoming focal point. He says it started with a very warm reception by the Rev. Bob Brooks, our previous rector, and notably, at a time shortly after Grace Church’s celebrated merging with Church of the Messiah. “Bob made us feel at home,” says Andy. “Dave and I made more friends at Grace Church during our first three months than we did in seven years at our former parish.”

Andy is a network administrator under contract with the Legal Department of CVS Caremark in Woonsocket. As the administrator of the company’s legal case management and e-billing system, he manages the collection and storage of legal information and the submission of invoices by outside counsel firms.

Andy was born in Lewiston, New York (near Niagara Falls); attended a Lutheran elementary school and public high school; and obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1999 from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. While at Gettysburg, he studied in Seville, Spain, for a semester and was also a baritone in the chapel choir for four years, a relatively elusive bit of information not missed by Mark Johnson! After graduation, he worked for eight years as a paralegal at a U.S. immigration law firm in Buffalo. During this time, he decided to enroll in law school and obtained his JD in 2008 at the State University of New York at Buffalo. He was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar later that year.



“Dave and I made more friends at Grace Church during our first three months than we did in seven years at our former parish.”

At church, Andy is a lector, a member of the Altar Guild, a past member of the Welcoming Committee and Vestry, and served on the Search Committee for our current Rector. He is an occasional volunteer for the Mobile Loaves and Fishes program, a church-based charity run out of Barrington. The organization distributes food and clothing to the homeless and low-income families, filling the weekend gap in sustenance for the needy. Andy says that the beauty of volunteering for Loaves and Fishes is that you’re able to make a personal connection with those in need.

Andy’s most recent reading is “The Monuments Men” by Robert M. Edsel, a nonfic-

tion account of the recovery during World War II of European art and other cultural treasures stolen by Nazi Germany.

Andy and David met in 1998 and were married in 2001. They’ve been together for 13 years. David is a photographer and writer and teaches writing at Rhode Island College. Andy and David live in Edgewood in Cranston with a cat named Gracie.



## Annual Meeting

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Early each year, every Episcopal Church holds an Annual Meeting to conduct important business of the parish, including election of vestry members and delegates to Diocesan Conventions. At Grace Church, the 2012 Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 12, during and immediately following the 10 a.m. service.

### *Shrink the Temple, Build the House*

*“...your body is a temple\* of the Holy Spirit...”* – 1 Corinthians 6:19

St. Paul tells us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, many Americans have over-built their temples! To be able to serve God as well and for as long as we possibly can, Christians should take care of their health as best they can, and that includes maintaining a healthy weight. If you've “over-built” your “temple,” you are invited to join the rector in working toward reducing your weight to a healthy level in 2012.

We're currently gathering together a group of parishioners who will join with Canon Huyck – whose goal is to lose 40 pounds, a very biblical number! – in setting a personal weight-loss goal. Once we know how many pounds we collectively hope to lose, we'll challenge everyone else to support us by making a “per pound pledge” to help build a house for Bishop Abraham Nhial, of the Diocese of Aweil in South Sudan. Bishop Nhial, formerly one of the “Lost Boys” of Sudan, spoke here at Grace Church in October and shared with us his amazing story and his dreams for the people of his diocese and country. He told us how he recently gave his house over to be the internet center for his village and so currently has no place to live.

You'll be able to help encourage your fellow parishioners and rector to get their “temples” in shape and, at the same time, you'll help build a house for our brother in Christ (who has given this unusual fund-raising effort his blessing).

## Teens In Action

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The Teens in Action group is sponsoring its annual Valentines Italian Luncheon on Sunday, February 12, right after church. On the Menu: Pasta with choice of marinara or meat sauce, freshly made garlic Italian bread, antipasto salad, sparkling water and lemon wedge. Dessert is a surprise! Cost will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 5 years old. Proceeds will bring the Teens In Action closer to our summer mission trip, where we will identify, travel to and assist a community in need during five days of community service. Thank you in advance for your support!

## A Special Thank You from Grace Church's Stewardship Committee

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Commitment Sunday (November 20) was a wonderfully moving experience for many of us at Grace Church, as members of the 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. Some people remarked that they saw people joining in who they “knew for a fact” had never pledged before. The results of our new focus on joyful giving have been outstanding!

As of December 2nd, the Stewardship Committee is delighted to report that Grace Church has received 79 pledges for a total of about \$165,000. At this time last year, we had received only 50 pledges, totaling \$70,793. The Stewardship Committee extends its deepest appreciation to those

who have submitted their pledge so far. It is the prayers, support, and participation of each one of our parishioners that enables our church “to worship and serve God to reflect and pass on the Light of Christ.”

Now comes the scary part. As you read this, the 2012 Stewardship Campaign will have moved from the initial commitment phase into the follow-up phase. During the next few weeks, our Commitment Team will be calling those who have not yet made a commitment for 2012. Our vision at Grace Church is that every single member of our congregation joyfully gives whatever he or she can to help fulfill our mission. To make progress toward that vision, we hope to increase participation and the amount pledged by at least 10 percent over last year. That means at least 56 more pledges, and \$45,500. We have prayed that we would have achieved this

goal by December 31 or sooner, so watch for updates in parish communication. But if you receive this message in January and have yet to make your pledge, it's not too late!

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 turned in a pledge card, you may download pledge card at: [www.gracechurchprovidence.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/GraceChurch\\_PledgeCard.pdf](http://www.gracechurchprovidence.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/GraceChurch_PledgeCard.pdf)

We will greatly appreciate it!

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

– Patricia Rollins Trosclair, Chair, Grace Church Stewardship Committee

## Latest News: Bishop Transition

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Early in 2012, the Search & Nomination Committee for the diocese will take a big step forward in the search for the 13th Bishop of Rhode Island. The committee will determine which candidates they will visit in their home churches to gain further insight about what God may have in mind for us as our next bishop here in the Diocese of Rhode Island.

In early December, the committee spent many hours in thoughtful discussion about the capabilities and experiences of the 40 talented individuals who completed the application process. From that original group, the committee selected 19 to move to the second phase of evaluation: Skype computer-to-computer video interviews.

While many of us were out Christmas shopping in December, Search & Nomination Committee members were participating in those interviews over a two-week period in mid month. And, in fact, some of those interviews were conducted here at Grace Church!

Throughout all of the evaluation steps, the committee is focusing on the priorities identified last summer in surveys and conversations with Rhode Island Episcopalians. The overriding priority is to identify candidates who are visionary leaders. Additional priorities include:

- Effective, compassionate pastor
- The ability to foster ministries and programs that create healthy, growing churches
- The ability to speak with clarity and to make the Gospel relevant in people's lives
- A strong communicator, who has deep integrity, relates well to others, and is deeply spiritual and prayerful.

Please keep the Search & Nomination Committee and the Transition Committee in your prayers as their work continues. If you have questions about the search process, feel free to ask the rector, who is a member of the Search & Nomination Committee. If you have questions about the transition — or would like to learn about ways to help with the special events being planned — contact Cathy Iacobucci at [cgi1002@cox.net](mailto:cgi1002@cox.net).