

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 February's newsletter is Tuesday, January 15. Send submissions to Andy Shapiro-Zysk at azysk@cox.net.

Outreach Ministry News

The Outreach Ministry thanks YOU for your overwhelming support of the Advent Giving Tree this December. Well over one hundred gifts were donated to children in need by generous Grace Church parishioners, and all gifts were distributed to families served by Children's Friend in time for Christmas! What a wonderful way to reach out to those most vulnerable in our community. God bless you all!

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

Stewardship 2013

The exciting news continues! As of this writing, 118 families have pledged their commitment to Grace Church. Thank you so much for your 2013 pledges totaling \$194,472. We have already surpassed last year's success. Last year, as of February 22, 2012, we had received 119 pledges totaling just over \$180,000. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!!!

We are ecstatic about your deep commitment and support of our church. We have a small but loving staff who care for us and work very hard every day. Our mission 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." Your support will help make it possible to continue the many ministries fulfilling that mission here at Grace Church and will help to keep our historic church building in good repair and open to anyone and everyone who is moved to come through its doors.

Our goal for the coming year is 135 pledges totaling \$211,000. We are only 17 pledges and \$16,528 away from our goal!!! That's less than \$20 a week. Thank you for your generous commitment. With your help, we know that we will far exceed the goal!

We are grateful to those who have already made a pledge, and we hope that everyone is as excited about this update as we are! For those of you who have not yet turned in your pledge, you may call the office or download a pledge card at: 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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3499

175 Mathewson Street

GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE



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

On the 7th of this month, exactly 100 years ago, Grace Church's new chancel (where the choir stalls and high altar are located) was dedicated. Designed by the illustrious architect Ralph Cram, this new chancel was built to accommodate the needs of the time, and the centennial history of Grace Church states that the consecration service "was marked by a dignity and impressiveness quite impossible in the old church."

That turn of phrase has stuck with me since I first read it two years ago: "...quite impossible in the old church." I have no doubt that the parishioners who first built Grace Church in the 1840s thought the chancel was just fine (thank you very much)! But not only do tastes change over time, needs change too. Just as Grace's parishioners built for their needs in 1846, their descendants did so again in 1912.

And here, a century later, we are looking at our own needs as a parish once again. Grace Church is growing. Some of you may have seen the statistic that came out a few months back saying that Rhode Island has 25% fewer Episcopalians than it did a decade ago. That may be true, but Grace Church has 50% more people worshipping here on Sunday mornings than we did a decade ago. Last month, at a newcomers' reception, members of our Welcome Ministry gathered with 20 newcomers after the Advent Lessons and Carols service. On one Sunday in November, there were so many people in church that, for the first time in years on a regular Sunday morning, we had a number of people sitting in the far west aisle! While a decade ago we were able to accommodate everyone coming to coffee hour in the Chafee Room, it's now getting challenging to have it in the church itself.

Our needs are not simply dictated by the fact that we have more people in church than we have in recent years. What matters just as much is how we are able to welcome anyone who comes to us. Accommodating more people is what you might call a nice problem to have. Accommodating people with specific needs is a Gospel imperative. Jesus tells us so when he says in Matthew's Gospel, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Unfortunately, most of our building isn't handicapped-accessible. When we know there are people who cannot take part in the full life of our parish, we should imagine Christ himself being in the same place.

GRACE CHURCH CALENDAR

Sundays in January

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. – Sunday Forum: Chafee (resumes on Sunday, Jan. 13)
9:45 a.m. – Sunday School (resumes on Sunday, Jan. 20)
10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays in January

Noon – Holy Eucharist
12:30 – Intercessory Prayer Group

1st and 3rd Saturdays in January

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

Sunday, January 6

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

Tuesday, January 8

Deadline for submissions for the January 15 e-news

Tuesday, January 15

Deadline for submissions for the February Newsletter

Sunday, January 20

9:45 a.m. -- Sunday School resumes
5:00 p.m. – Choral Evensong

Thursday, January 24

Deadline for submissions for the January 31 e-news

Sunday, January 27

11:15 a.m. – Stewardship Committee Meeting: Chafee

From The Rector – cont. from page 1

At its November meeting, the Vestry discussed renovating two pews in the church so that they will accommodate wheel chairs. We have spoken with a historical architect with a 40+ year history with Grace for recommendations on an architecturally-sensitive adjustment that will provide access for wheel chairs, while maintaining as much as possible the historical integrity of our pews. We hope this project will be a foretaste of renovations to the parish house that will make our meeting spaces accessible too.

With God's help, we'll meet these challenges, starting with something as simple and important as providing a worship space where everyone, no matter what their mobility, can feel fully integrated into our parish instead of being on the periphery. Making our whole campus fully accessible may sound like a Herculean task, but to quote again from Matthew's Gospel, "With God, all things are possible."

Peace,
Jonathan+

January Music Notes



As always, December was a busy month for the Choir. The season of Advent began on December 2nd with the singing of the Advent Responsory at the 10 a.m. service. That same evening at 8 p.m., Compline was sung by the Men's Choir.

On December 9th at 10 a.m., the Grace Church Singers sang from the nave of the church in support of the Christmas Pageant. The service was enhanced by traditional seasonal carols played on the harp by choir member Andrea Vaughan while the congregation received communion. At 5 p.m. that afternoon, the Choir sang the 23rd annual "Advent Lessons and Carols" service by candlelight.

On December 16th, "Gaudete Sunday," the music was altered to remember the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut.

On Sunday, December 23rd, there was music commemorating the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth and The Annunciation.

On Christmas Eve, the Choir sang at the 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. services, and, on Christmas Day, a subset of the Choir led the music, singing renaissance and medieval carols.

On December 30th, the first Sunday after Christmas, the Choir continued with Christmas music. Later that day, at 5 p.m., the Choir sang the annual "Christmastide Lessons and Carols" Service as part of the "Sundays at 5" series.

Looking ahead to this month...

This year, the Feast of the Epiphany falls on Sunday, January 6th, and the music will pay homage to Jesus' manifestation to the world. At 8 p.m. that evening, the men of the Choir will sing Compline by candlelight in the church.

On Sunday, January 13th, the Choir will commemorate the baptism of Jesus.

On Sunday, January 20th, the Grace Church Singers will lead the music at the 10 a.m. service. Later that day, the Choir will sing the annual service of "Readings and Music for Epiphany." The service will incorporate themes around the Magi, the Miracle at Cana, and the Baptism of Jesus as part of the "Sundays at 5" series.

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 – 401-330-6787 or mjohnson@gracechurchprovidence.org.

Parish Profile: Deborah Dunning

by Raymond Finelli

Deborah Dunning's dual contribution to conservation has flowed out of her earlier commitment to the work of the Providence Preservation Society and from the company she founded – Sphere-E. The company offers an improved product selection system called "buy smart" for businesses, educational institutions, and government agencies

The Providence Preservation Society (PPS) had long been recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, having established a reputation as one of the most forward thinking preservation organizations in the country. Deborah was inspired by this reputation and became a PPS volunteer in 1972. She organized a docent training program and was seen as the youngest board member to ask questions about PPS' mission and long range plans. She advocated for community renovation and economic development, and accepted the challenge of convincing banks and businesses in Providence to invest and take a leadership role in making PPS a sustainable and vibrant community entity. PPS was becoming pivotal for other communities nationally that had plans to revive older buildings in rundown areas.

When the PPS director retired, John Nicholas Brown invited Deborah to his office to ask if she would become the Executive Director. Says she, "I was honored, and somewhat daunted by this expression of confidence."

Excited by the opportunity to take a leadership role in this extraordinary organization, Deborah then proposed that PPS become a city-wide organization. With businesses investing in downtown and PPS's broadening its services, she played a major part in expanding the historic house and building marker program as well as preservation consulting services to neighborhoods like the Elmwood area and Federal Hill to support business and home owners in making those areas part of Providence's success story.

Toward the end of her tenure, Deborah proposed the creation of a PPS Revolving Loan Fund. The board's immediate response was that such a move would be the ruination of PPS but nevertheless agreed to conduct a study. Within one year, they had made a decision to create the fund. Deborah says it



I feel I am helping to preserve the Lord's greatest gift to us all – the Earth.

is gratifying to see the fund's great success under the leadership of Clark Schoettle and the remarkable restoration of hundreds of homes and properties.

Following her work with PPS, Deborah focused on another aspect of sustainability – making it easier for institutions and individuals to select and purchase those products and services that emit no toxic chemicals, use less energy and water, and produce less waste for local landfills. She founded Sphere-E, an innovative new business concept – a web-tool, she calls it – designed to empower "smart buying" by businesses, educational institutions, and government agencies.

Deborah has partnered with financial consultants, life-cycle management (LCA), attorneys, entrepreneurs, designers and educators, and network managers. "Sphere-E," Deborah says, "is the other side of the coin in that both philosophies – preservation of community land and buildings and the judi-

cial use of the nation's natural and developed resources – are maintained." Her company's contribution is that of providing industry an efficient and affective tool to support green procurement of all types of products and services.

The Providence Preservation Society today is directed by James Hall. Deborah admires his leadership work and sees opportunities for collaborating with preservationists on restoration of products that are both sustainable and in alignment with preservation principles.

Deborah's spiritual life, centered in Grace Church, is witness to the contributions of her earlier and current work. "I feel I am helping to preserve the Lord's greatest gift to us all – the Earth." As the prayer book calls us: "Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources in the service of others and to your honor and glory."