

Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

July 1, 2016

Spotlight on Grace: The Future Starts Here



Grace Church in Providence is moving forward with a vision to serve as a cultural and spiritual epicenter of our downtown neighborhood's ongoing renewal trend. We want Grace to glisten as a vibrant downtown center for worship, fellowship, outreach and the arts.

Central to this vision is the construction of a gorgeous new gathering space. Our new 'Great Hall' will provide a spectacular setting for all manner of church gatherings and events; and serve

as a terrific downtown venue for wedding receptions, arts-related functions, and other community events. Gracefully combining modern and Gothic architectural elements with purposeful landscaping, this new building will enhance the beauty and character of our church campus and surrounding neighborhood.

The arrival this week of a construction fence around our parking lot means that this exciting new chapter in the life of our church is about to take shape right before our eyes. As with any construction project, there are bound to be some adjustments along the way. For this Sunday, July 3, please feel free to park inside the unlocked construction fence, and we will leave an opening to walk (or wheel) through on the Westminster Street side to access the front entrance. Thereafter, please make use of the parking lot on the northwest corner of Westminster and Snow Streets (diagonally across from The Malted Barley). To ensure there is space for all, thank you for parking carefully within marked spots.



Wheelchair Access and Accessible Parking:

A temporary ramp will soon appear that will provide wheelchair access from the sidewalk on Westminster Street into the church, and a new parking spot for people with disabilities has been posted for Sundays on Mathewson Street near Westminster. For this Sunday, July 3, wheelchair access will still be possible from the Grace Church lot.

Coffee Hour:

This Sunday, July 3, we will gather outdoors in the parking lot for coffee hour. As mentioned above, we'll leave an opening in the fence to walk through. Then, beginning the following Sunday, July 10, coffee hour will move back indoors for the remainder of the season. We'll place fans in the church beginning this Sunday.

This Week at Grace

Worship services:

Sunday 8:00am Holy Eucharist

Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist with Baptism

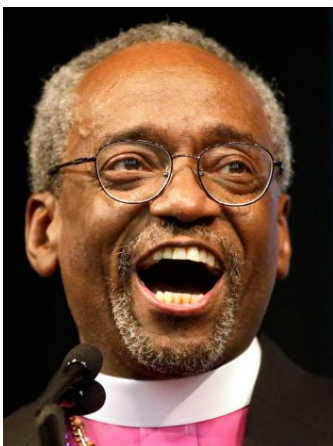
Wednesday Noon Holy Eucharist

Open Doors Ministry The Open Doors Ministry will be on break next week (July 4 - 8). The Wednesday Noon Eucharist will proceed as usual, but the Grace Church parking lot will not be available.

The nursery will not be available this Sunday, July 3. Families are encouraged to bring their little ones to the 10:00am service. The nursery will return the following Sunday, July 10.



A Letter to The Episcopal Church



The following is an excerpt from *A Letter to The Episcopal Church* by Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael Curry and President of the House of Deputies the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings. Please find the complete letter printed in this week's 10:00am Sunday Bulletin, or [click here to read it online](#).

"This is not the first time that the segregation of bathrooms and public facilities has been used to discriminate unjustly against minority groups. And just as in our painful racial past, it is even being claimed that the "bathroom bills," as they are sometimes called, ensure the safety of women and children-the same reason so often given to justify Jim Crow racial segregation.

But we believe that, as the New Testament says, "perfect love casts out fear." On June 10, the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church stood against fear and for God's love by passing a resolution that reaffirms the Episcopal Church's support of local, state and federal laws that prevent discrimination based on gender identity

or gender expression and voices our opposition to all legislation that seeks to deny the God-given dignity, the legal equality, and the civil rights of transgender people."

July 3, 2016 - Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (C): Independence Day

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.



- Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

Remembering Sissieretta Jones



The following is from a recent blog post by the author of a biography on Sissieretta Jones (1868-1933), the renowned African American singer who was laid to rest in Grace Church Cemetery in 1933. To read the full article, [please click here](#).

"Eighty-three years ago [on June 24, 1933] the great soprano Sissieretta Joyner Jones died of cancer at Providence's Rhode Island Hospital. Those who cared for the 65-year-old singer during her final days in the hospital likely did not know about her famous and glorious past when she was billed as the "greatest singer of her race," and called Madame Sissieretta Jones or "Black Patti," a sobriquet created by the press to compare her to the world-famous European prima donna

Adeline Patti (1843-1919)."

YES! A Workshop Series by the Episcopal Diocese of RI



EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE
of Rhode Island

The Commission on Ministry will again offer the Yes! curriculum beginning on September 21 through November 9, 2016. The 7 session course will be facilitated by our Archdeacon, The Venerable Janice Grinnell, and will be held at St. Columba's Chapel in Middletown, RI. This

program is in direct response to lay people who are seeking ways to discern and understand their God given purpose. Cost for the entire series is \$100. [Please click here](#) for a listing of all 7 session times.

[Please click here to Register Online](#)

For more information, contact Canon Betsy Fornal, 401-274-4500, ext. 225, [or by e-mail](#).

Music at Grace

An exciting new program for Fall 2016: The Grace Church Choristers

- A choir for boys and girls, grades 2 through 12
- Learn healthy vocal technique, music-reading skills, and history of music & the church!
- Sing the world's greatest sacred music, spanning 500 years!
- Perform alongside the Choir of Grace Church in our splendid landmark building!
- Attend a 5-day Choir Camp at Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, CT
- Free piano lessons offered to the first 10 choristers who join the program!



[Please click here for the full Choristers program brochure.](#) Musical interviews may be held at any time, but choristers must be registered for the program by July 1 to be able to attend the August 15-19 Choir Camp.

For more information, or to schedule a Musical Interview, please contact Vince Edwards, Director of Music at Grace Church: vdedwards@gracepvd.org or 401-331-3225, ext 4

Your Priest-in-Charge: The Reverend Lavonne Seifert

During the period of Jonathan's sabbatical, through the end of August, please direct all pastoral questions, inquiries, and/or conversations to Mother Lavonne Seifert.

Lavonne will serve as Priest-in-Charge of Grace Church, and is already well known to this congregation as both a longtime parishioner and as our current Associate Rector. To speak with Lavonne, or to make an appointment to visit with her, you may reach her by telephone at 401-331-3225 (ext. 6), or via email: lseifert@gracepvd.org.



Connect with Grace

[Grace Church Website](#)

[This Sunday's Readings](#)

[Listen to Recent Sermons](#)

[Like us on Facebook](#)

[Follow us on twitter](#)

[View on Instagram](#)



**Support Grace Church
While You Shop**

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazonsmile

Sincerely,



Your Grace Church Clergy & Staff
401-331-3225

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.