



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

October 27, 2016

Spotlight on Grace: Let's Stock the Shelves at PICA

Please help local families in need this holiday season by supporting the Grace Church Outreach Ministry's food drive to stock the shelves at the [PICA](#) Food Pantry in downtown Providence. Items of particular interest include: canned vegetables and fruit, stuffing mix, turkey gravy, rice, coffee, oatmeal, healthy breakfast cereals, and especially peanut butter.

Please bring your food donations to Grace Church no later than Sunday, November 13. If you have a spare cardboard box to carry them in, that is helpful, but not crucial. Let us strive to gather ample supplies for this year's drive, as the need is truly great, and by living generously in this way we can "walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us" [Ephesians 5:2].

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive
for the PICA Food Pantry

Sponsored by the
Grace Church Outreach Ministry

Please bring items to Grace Church by
November 13, 2016

PICA

Hope and Support for Those in Need



PICA (formerly the Providence In-town Churches Association) will host a special Drink & Dabble fundraiser event Friday, November 4, 6:30pm, at B. Pinelli's, 736 N. Broadway, East Providence. Tickets are \$50, and include entertainment, art supplies, and light food buffet. Cash bar. Contact PICA at 401-454-7422 to reserve your tickets, or purchase online at drinkanddabble.com. [Click here to enlarge event flyer.](#)

Ask Those Transforming Questions

Can you question your faith? We'll do it this year in Small Groups. "Whether we are new Christians or long-time Christians, wrestling with our faith is part of the journey," say the Rev. Scott Gunn and the Rev. Melody Wilson Shobe, authors of a study series called [*Transforming Questions*](#).



Small Groups at Grace will use Transforming Questions this year for their study and discussion. The course consists of 10 sessions - five this fall and five more in the late winter-early spring.

If you have questions about your faith - and would like a chance to wrestle with them within a community of Christian friends - consider being part of Small Groups at Grace this year. Even if you're just curious, come and see what's in store for you. Your clergy are excited about this offering, and we hope you will be too!

Stewardship 2017: Living Generously

LIVING
GENEROUSLY

Grace Church in Providence
Stewardship 2017



Zacchaeus the tax collector is not the ancient equivalent of modern day IRS or Canada Revenue Agency employees. He was not a civil servant. Ancient Roman tax collectors were individuals who bid for the right to collect taxes in a certain geographic area. This bid represented the tax Rome expected from a given geographic area. The tax collector would then collect funds to pay himself back. Any amount collected above that amount was pure profit, with few limitations. So they not only represented the Roman occupation, but they also profited through abusing and defrauding others.

But Jesus came to bring salvation to all, even the hated tax collector. Through Jesus, this one tax collector, Zacchaeus, experiences a remarkable moment of redemption. Jesus calls him out of the tree he had climbed. Jesus invites himself to Zacchaeus's home, and Zacchaeus is transformed. He immediately offers to give away half of what he has to the poor, and to repay anyone he has defrauded by a factor of four.

To me, the story of Zacchaeus is a story of learning to live generously. He had far more than he needed. He had much he could share with others. And he recognized that much of that had been earned through fraudulent means.

I believe this story challenges us to consider how we live in our capitalist society. Capitalism isn't bad. The free market has allowed for much good. But how do we exist within it? Do we hoard all we earn? Are we driven solely by the motivation for our own profit? Or do we seek that balance where we maximize profits, make the world a better place, and share what we have with others?

Stewardship isn't a euphemism for fundraising in the Church, nor is it restricted to six to eight weeks each fall in the Church year. Stewardship is how we live our lives as Christians, recognizing that this life isn't ours, but rather God's. To be a steward is to use this life for the building up of God's kingdom, one brick at a time. How and what we give to God through the Church is a part of this, but really merely the beginning. How we live our lives is the real heart of stewardship. That might be in a for-profit industry, or not. It might be as a government employee, or a contractor. That might be a soldier, or as an officer. Whatever the setting, let us seek a motivation that isn't about personal gain and wealth, but rather about making the world a better place.

Reflection Questions:

Have there been times in your life when you felt the need to hold on tightly to all you had? How did you let go?

by The Rev. J.R. Lander

We continue to explore the idea of Living Generously as the focus of [our Stewardship campaign for 2017](#), which will culminate with Commitment Sunday on November 13. Please watch for your pledge cards in the mail. If you've had a recent change of address, or you do not receive your stewardship mailing by Wednesday, October 26, [please let us know](#).

This Week at Grace

Worship Services:

Sunday 8:00am Holy Eucharist
Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist with Music
Wednesday Noon Holy Eucharist

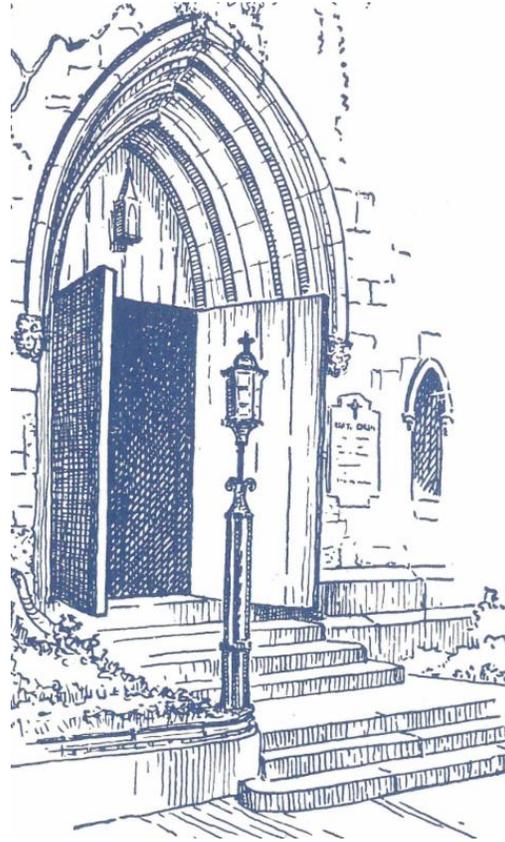
Thursday Noon Concerts: Our popular free concert series continues, featuring Wendy van Orden, Soprano, on November 3. Thank you for encouraging friends, family, co-workers and/or visitors to join you.

A Service of Choral Evensong: Sunday, November 6, 5:00pm. Please see details under *Music at Grace* below.

Parking for Worship: Parking for Sunday worship is provided in the lot diagonally across Westminster Street, on the NW corner of Westminster and Snow. A small number of spaces are available on the portion of the Grace Church lot facing Snow Street, along an inset section of the construction fence. For all other times, please [check with the parish administrator](#) for availability.

Wheelchair Access and Accessible Parking:

Please find wheelchair access from the sidewalk on Westminster Street into the church. Handicapped parking spaces have been posted for Sundays on Mathewson Street near Westminster.



Music at Grace

Please join us for
CHORAL EVENSONG
Featuring Cathedral Greats!



Mundy ♦ Howells ♦ Parry

*Sung by the choirs of Grace Church in Providence and
St. Luke's Church in East Greenwich*

Sunday, November 6 at 5 PM

Grace Church in Providence
Mathewson and Westminster Streets
www.gracechurchprovidence.org

Service of Choral Evensong, Sunday, November 6, 5:00pm at Grace Church. On All Saints' Sunday, November 6, please join us here at Grace Church for Choral Evensong with combined choirs from Grace and from St. Luke's in East Greenwich, featuring Cathedral Greats - Music of Wood, Howells and Parry.

Music Class / Training Choir for children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade, Thursdays an 4:00pm at Grace Church. There is no fee for this program, and membership at Grace Church (or any church for that matter!) is not required. The 45 minute classes will cover basics of vocal production, sight-reading skills, and music history; and will use games and movement to ensure a fun experience! This music class / training choir will serve as a training program for the Grace Church Choristers, but participation does not obligate anyone to continue in the

Chorister Program. For more information, or to register your child, email Vince Edwards or call 401-331-3225, ext 4.

The 1829 Society - Special Workshop: November 13

The 1829 Society is sponsoring a workshop that will help you prepare a notebook of your wishes and preferences regarding issues that arise at life's end. This brief workshop -- which many Grace Church parishioners have found quite helpful -- will follow the 10:00am Sunday service on November 13th. We hope you will join us! Please call or [e-mail the church office](#) if you plan to attend.

Members of The 1829 Society have remembered Grace Church in their wills, and we hope many of you will consider supporting Grace in this way.

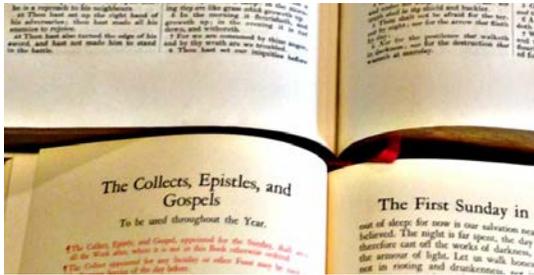
The 1829 Society of Grace Church was created to encourage giving to God, to invite you to give witness to God's abundance in your life, and to



EACH ONE MUST GIVE
AS HE OR SHE
HAS DECIDED
IN THEIR HEART...
— FOR —
GOD LOVES
A CHEERFUL
G I V E R
2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

honor the loving faithful who assure and sustain the ministries of Grace Church. The Society's purpose is to encourage, support, and celebrate gifts made to our endowment. With a gift of any size, you may direct the income to an area of specific interest to you.

October 30, 2016 - Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost



Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For the text of this Sunday's readings, [please click here](#):

Isaiah 1:10-18 Psalm 32:1-8 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10

Would you like to add someone to the prayer list? [Please click here](#) to submit a name, or call the church office at (401) 331-3225. Names are kept on the list for a month, and can be renewed at any time. Those received by Wednesday will appear in the same week's bulletin.

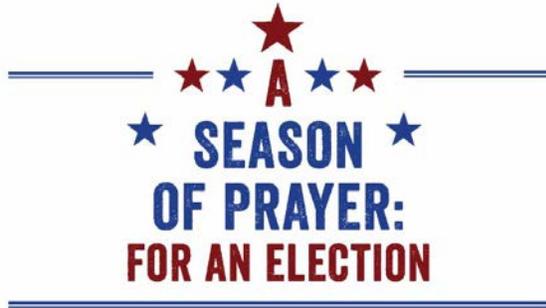
Episcopal Church Women of Rhode Island Annual Meeting & United Thank Offering

The Episcopal Church Women of Rhode Island will hold its Annual Meeting and United Thank Offering Collection on November 10, 2016 at St. Mary's Home for



Children, 420 Fruit Hill Ave., North Providence, RI. The meeting will begin at 10:00am, followed by a presentation about St. Mary's Home. Noonday Eucharist with Bishop Knisely, followed by a catered luncheon. Prior to the morning meeting, coffee will be served during registration, beginning at 9:30am. This event offers a great opportunity to learn more about the work of your local ECW, and perhaps get involved! Reservations for the catered luncheon are required. The cost is \$10 per person, and the deadline for registration is November 3. Please mail your reservation, with check made payable to ECW-Diocese of RI, to: Mrs. Carol Blackinton, 20 Judy Terrace, West Warwick, RI 02893.

A Season of Prayer for an Election



Forward Movement is calling Episcopalians and all others to [join with us in A Season of Prayer: For an Election](#). This is a 30-day season, in which we will pray each day with a particular intention for this time in our national life. Each day includes a suggested intention and a collect.

Join us on Forward Movement's social media channels ([Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)) in offering or sharing each day's prayer. You also can download weekly bulletin inserts or a list of all the prayers at www.forwardmovement.org/election. The resources are available in English or Spanish. Please encourage your congregation and your friends to get involved.

OCT 27 **Pray for the nation**

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OCT 28 **Pray for guidance**

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Beacon Hospice Seeks Volunteers

Beacon Hospice, which provides end-of-life care to terminally ill patients, is looking for caring and compassionate volunteers to spend time with patients. [Please click here for more information](#). Please contact volunteer coordinator Ashley Toste ([click here to e-mail](#), or dial (401)438-0008), or [visit beaconhospice.com](http://visit.beaconhospice.com).

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[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.