



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

October 13, 2016

Spotlight on Grace: Ask Those Transforming Questions

Can you question your faith? We'll do it this year in Small Groups. Yes, you can question your faith - and you should! "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*. They continue, "If we don't have big questions, it's usually because we are not taking our faith seriously. Or perhaps we are not taking our brain seriously."



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.

We will wrestle with some of the most basic questions of our faith:

- Why did Jesus have to die?
- Does God answer prayer?
- Why do bad things happen?
- Where do we go when we die?



**Forward
Movement**
inspire disciples. empower evangelists.

Come and learn more at our Small Groups Kickoff after the 10 o'clock service Sunday, October 23! You can enjoy coffee and refreshments in the Chafee Room while you hear a brief overview of the course. Sign-up sheets will be available that day and Sunday, October 30. Groups will begin meeting on Friday evening, November 4. (Some groups may use a different schedule if it fits their needs better - we're in favor of flexibility!)

This exciting adult formation course is designed to help both new Christians and long-time

churchgoers move into a deeper life in Christ. Over the course of the 10 sessions, participants will engage the basic questions of the Christian faith through a combination of teaching and conversation. We will gather to share a meal, then a leader will give a presentation about a central question of faith. Participants are invited into deeper reflection on and engagement with the topic through discussion questions.

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!

Peace and Blessings,
Mother Lavonne+

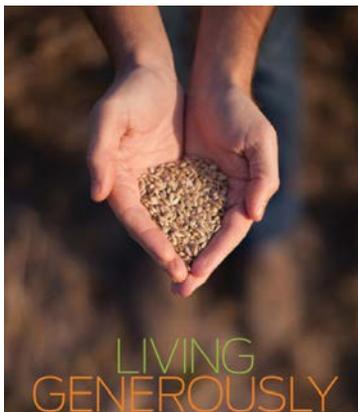
Stewardship 2017: Living Generously

Haven't we all been told that perseverance, along with resilience, are the keys to adult success?

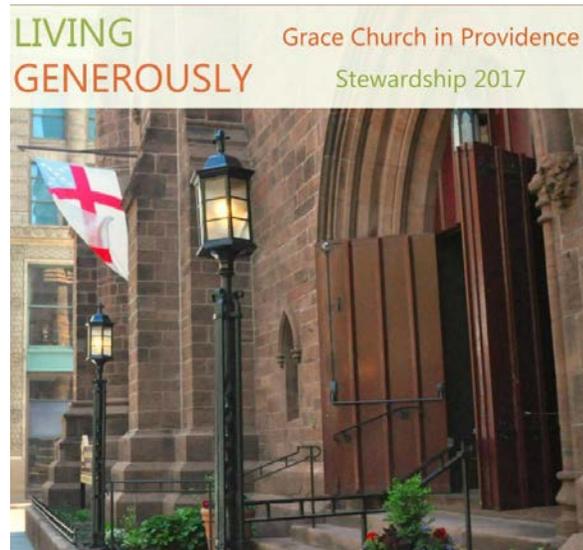
In Luke's gospel this coming Sunday we will see perseverance in action as the determined woman, most probably at an extreme social and economic disadvantage from the judge, perseveres until she wears him down and receives justice and compensation for her grievance. Probably a minor miracle in that biblical setting!

So, could this woman's perseverance teach us something not only about justice, but also about our understanding of stewardship?

One of the most valuable lessons I have learned over the years is that to be successful as a steward, I need to persevere as I approach charitable giving, just as I need to persevere in the many other facets of my life.



If I am serious about my religious stewardship, it's helpful to remember this woman and the judge. Taking one stab at my annual pledge amount, or making a pledge to begin proportional giving, won't get me to the goal of being generous with the gifts God has given me unless I stick with the goal I have set and persevere when I encounter hardship and difficulty in reaching that goal.



Jesus tells us it is important to persevere and that spiritual rewards await those who are consistent and constant in their relationship to God. What that tells me is that God will indeed help me reach my spiritual goals if I commit myself to persevering when the going gets tough.... As I know it will.

Reflection Questions:

Think of a time you pledged time or money to the church. Were there obstacles that got in the way of your commitment?

How did you react to those obstacles? Did you persevere in fulfilling the promise(s) you had made? If not, does that make it harder for you now to pledge time or talent or treasure?

by The Rev. Cristine V. Rockwell

Over the next several weeks, we will explore the idea of Living Generously as the focus of [our Stewardship campaign for 2017](#). The campaign will officially kickoff this Sunday, October 16, and continue through Commitment Sunday on November 13. **Please watch for your pledge cards in the mail next week**, and if you've had a recent change of address, [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. Thank you for encouraging friends, family, co-workers and/or visitors to join you.

Please note potential traffic implications:

Sunday, Oct. 16: Making Strides against Breast

Cancer Walk. Event starts at 9 AM. [Click for details](#)

. RIPTA route detours will be in effect 5:00am-1:30pm, [affected routes and details here](#).

Sections of Memorial Boulevard, Francis, Dyer and Eddy Streets will be closed during this time.



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

Music Class / Training Choir for children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade, Thursdays at 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 be led by Grace's Director of Music Vince Edwards. The children will learn the 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](mailto:vedwards@gracepvd.org) or call 401-331-3225, ext 4.

Music Class/Training Choir at Grace!

*Do you know a young child who loves to sing?
Or just loves music?*



Grace Church is offering a fun learning experience for boys and girls currently in Kindergarten through 2nd grade . . .

Join us on Thursdays at 4 PM to learn vocal production, music theory skills, some music history, and more . . .

Membership at Grace Church is not required nor is any particular religious affiliation necessary or expected . . .

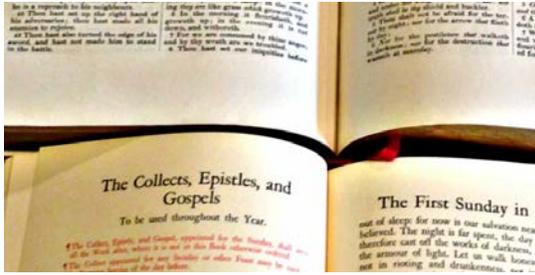


**For more information or to register a child, please contact
Vince Edwards, Director of Music at Grace –
vedwards@gracepvd.org or 401-331-3225 x4**

Grace Church – 125 Mathewson Street – Providence RI
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.

**October 16, 2016 - Twenty-second Sunday
after Pentecost**



Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 121 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8

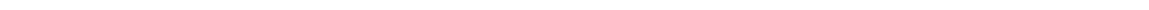
Would you like to add someone to the prayer list? [Please click here](#) to submit a name, or call the church office at (401) 331-3225. Names are kept on the list for a month, and can be renewed at any time. Those received by Wednesday will appear in the same week's bulletin.

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!

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 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.



Please Support PICA and Children's Friend



Please consider attending one or both of these upcoming fundraiser events for two terrific local organizations. The outreach ministry at Grace Church, with your kind participation throughout the year, is proud to support both PICA and Children's Friend.

[Children's Friend](#) will hold its 14th annual Investing in our Children Luncheon this coming Tuesday, October 18, from 12:00pm - 1:30pm at the Omni Providence Hotel, 1 Exchange Street. Registration and auction begin 11:00am. Details here:

<http://www.cfsri.org/luncheon.html> The outreach ministry has a couple of tickets available to parishioners who wish to attend (please contact the church office to inquire: 401-331-3225). To purchase tickets and/or donate, contact Maryellen O'Mahony, 401-752-7624.

[PICA](#) (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](#).



From Scott Gunn of Forward Movement: A Season of Prayer for an Election

Dear friends in Christ,

This week, I am writing with a request. I hope you will join Forward Movement and me in a season of prayer for the upcoming election.

In the United States, we are in the midst of a contentious election season. Potential voters are discerning how to vote, but observers inside and outside the country are also watching the candidates closely. Opinions are sharply divided. What kind of leaders do we need? What is the best way forward for our nation? Indeed, what are the challenges we must solve together?

I've heard people say, again and again, "I'm not sure what to do." For Christians, there is



always one thing we can do, every one of us. We can pray. We can pray for wisdom, for grace, for patience, for courage, for hope. We can and must pray for those with whom we disagree. Whatever else we do, [we must pray](#). We might use our own words, or we might like some language to give voice to our concerns and hopes. We Anglicans are blessed with riches of common prayer.

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. We also suggest the use of a brief litany every day. The season of prayer begins Sunday, October 9, and continues through the day after the election. We have used prayers from The Book of Common Prayer.

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.

At a time when nearly everyone agrees that we are being consumed by fear and division, here is a chance to change the conversation. While we will certainly differ in our politics, we can surely join together in prayer. I hope you will join in this season of prayer. God knows, our country, our leaders, those who seek public office, and those who are voting need all the help we can get. Let us pray.

Yours faithfully,

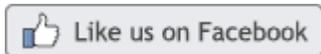
Scott Gunn
Executive Director, Forward Movement

Connect with Grace

[Grace Church Website](#)

[This Sunday's Readings](#)

[Listen to Recent Sermons](#)



**Support Grace Church
While You Shop**
When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.
[Go to smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)
amazon smile

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.