



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

December 8, 2016

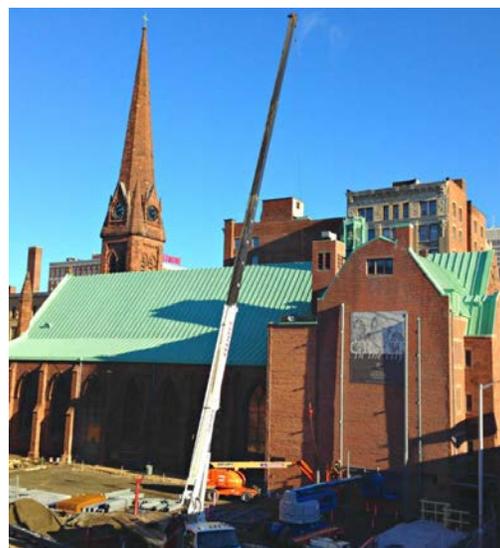
Spotlight on Grace: Celebrating the Ground-Floor Pour



As this week's issue of Grace Abounds hits the wires, a giant pump truck has just finished pouring the entire concrete floor for The Pavilion at Grace. With a crew of workers leveling the material as it pours, and a well-timed sequence of trucks supplying concrete to the hopped of the

pump truck, the entire operation was something to behold.

Over the past week, the steel structure for the new building's stairtower quickly climbed into place -- with the help of a large crane and welders in basket trucks -- along the large brick wall of the West facade. As you can appreciate from the photograph below, it makes for a rather dramatic scene when a crane reaches nearly the same height of our 206-foot spire.



As the next few weeks unfold, watch for the masonry walls to rise up from the ground floor for the portion of the building that's in the foreground above, while framers get to work on the site beginning with installation of the stairtower roof.

Fabrication of the large structural steel elements for the principal gathering space is nearing completion, and their impending arrival and installation will mark the next major milestone in this exciting project that is fascinating to watch unfold.

This Week at Grace

Worship Services:

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

Caroling on the Steps December 17: Please join us Saturday, December 17 at 3:30pm on the front steps of Grace Church for [an old fashioned Christmas Carol Sing!](#) Led by members of the Grace Church Choir, we will sing a variety of carols -- sacred and secular -- which is sure to include your favorites. Grace Church will be open for visitors, and Hot Cider and Donuts will be served. Please invite your family and friends to this festive and fun occasion!

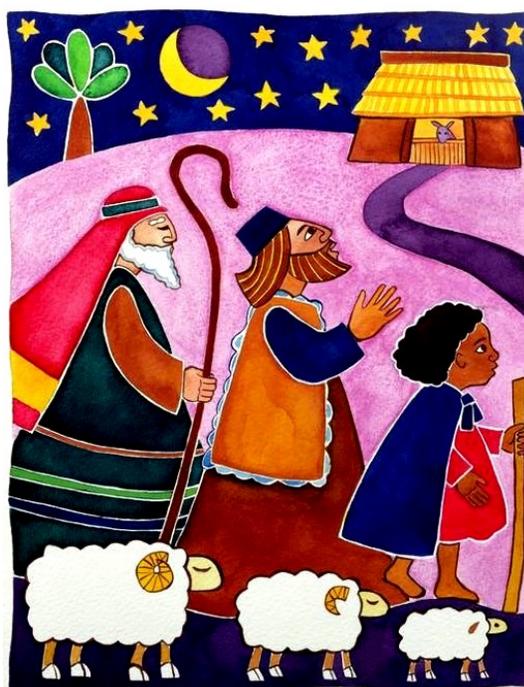


Christmas Pageant and Eucharist December 18:

The children and youth of the parish will present the Christmas story with song, dance, and joyful energy during the 10:00am worship service on Dec 18. Please come! If you have a child or know a child who would like to participate but is not already signed up, please contact Ann Huyck (anniehuyck@gmail.com or 401-573-9802).

Christmas Worship Schedule:

Christmas Eve Musical Prelude at 4:30pm
Christmas Eve Service at 5:00pm
Christmas Eve Musical Prelude at 9:30pm
Christmas Eve Service at 10:00pm
Christmas Day Service at 10:00am
*** Please note:** We will not have an 8:00am Sunday service on Christmas Day



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.

Final Week: Advent Giving Tree for Children's Friend



Thank you for claiming your gift request tags from the Advent Giving Tree! Please return your gifts to church no later than Sunday, December 11th. Wrapping supplies, including wrapping paper, ribbon, tape and gift tags are also welcome gifts. Volunteers are also needed after the 10:00am service this Sunday to help organize gifts for delivery to Children's Friend.

Please email Nicholas Halar at nlaroche85@gmail.com if you have any questions. Thank you for supporting

Children's Friend during the Christmas Season.

Christmas is Coming: Please Submit your Dedications

Please be sure submit your Christmas Poinsettias and Music dedications this week or next. You'll find the dedication cards pictured here located in the pews, on the back table near the baptismal font, and in the Narthex literature rack. Thank you for printing your dedications legibly, and using the green flower envelopes. Submit dedications along with your gift in the collections plate, or mail to the church office by December 21.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AND MUSIC



_____ I wish to make a gift of \$ _____ for Christmas flowers at Grace (minimum \$20).

_____ I wish to support special Christmas music with my gift of \$ _____.

_____ I wish to make an additional Christmas offering of \$ _____.

Total gift enclosed: \$ _____. Thank you!



Please dedicate my gift (circle one):

in honor of in memory of or in thanksgiving for (please print legibly):

Please place card with your gift in the green flower envelopes provided, before Dec. 21.

Meditations, Devotions and Resources for Advent



AdventWord Grace Church will participate in #AdventWord, featuring daily meditations highlighting a one-word theme. During Advent, you may see related images -- like the one at right -- created by Teens in Action during 2015. Please stay tuned to Grace's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds for related content. If you feel inspired, please [submit an image](#) that speaks to you about any given Advent word, and we may post yours too. Please take a moment to [sign up here](#) to receive your daily AdventWord meditations, and take part in this spiritual journey with us.

Liberated by God's Grace

Please watch for weekly Sunday inserts that we will place at the back of the church, as part of an Advent series called [Liberated by God's Grace](#). This week's issue for the Third Sunday of Advent comes to us from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

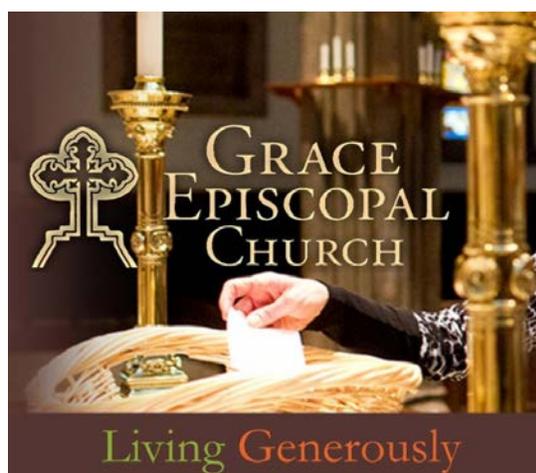
Make Ready the Feast

The Episcopal Church's Advent campaign will focus on daily themes highlighting cultural practices and traditions around planning, preparing, and enjoying food special to the holiday season. Each day of Advent, recipes will be posted to a new blog: [Make Ready the Feast](#).

Pledge Envelopes for You

Please make a point of visiting the folding table in the back of the church this Sunday, where Stewardship Chair Diane Stamp will be distributing pledge envelopes. **Please note:** Parishioners may have pledge envelope sets assigned and not be aware of it. Thank you for checking, and retrieving your set this Sunday if you are able. A limited number of additional sets are available by request using the sign-up sheet at the envelope distribution table.

Thank you to all who have submitted their annual pledges. If you have not yet submitted yours, please mail your pledge form at your earliest opportunity. Thank you also for ensuring completion of your 2016 pledge payments before year-end. For information on balances



remaining, please [contact Chris in the office](#).

Your Health and Wellness Minute: Healthy Hobbies



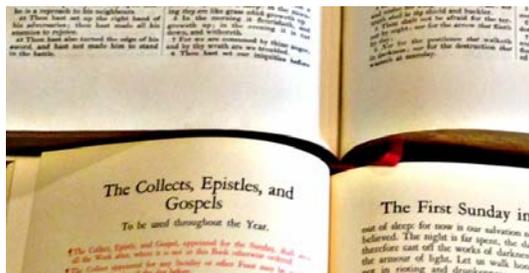
With its calming repetitive motions and satisfyingly tangible results, knitting has long been hailed as a healthy hobby. Its effects on mood are overwhelmingly positive: one 2013 survey found that it boosted happiness in 81.5% of the more than 3,500 knitters who participated. It can reduce stress, increase focus, and cause feelings of pride and security in people who are anxious. Knitting can have physical benefits as well, such as lowered blood pressure and a decreased heart rate. So...knit on for a healthier outlook!!

Merry Christmas from your Health and Wellness Ministry

Colossians 2:2 That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ...

December 11, 2016 - The Third Sunday of Advent

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**



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

Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:4-9 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

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.

Calling All Shutterbugs



Do you have a talent and a passion for photography that you would like to offer as an occasional ministry to Grace Church? Do you own a good digital camera? Grace is looking to assemble a short list of potential volunteers to help to highlight some of the many wonderful and memorable moments that we share here.

For select special musical events, holiday services, or other noteworthy happenings, we look forward to reaching out to members of our photography ministry to cover an event or service that they plan to attend. If you would like to be involved in this effort, please contact parish administrator Chris Barker at 401-331-3225 or [e-mail cbarker@gracepvd.org](mailto:cbarker@gracepvd.org).

Connect with Grace

[Grace Church Website](#)

[This Sunday's Readings](#)

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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.