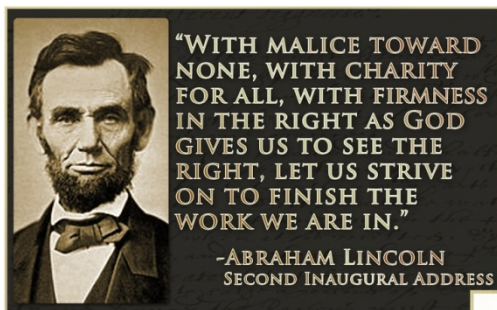




Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

February 3, 2017

## Spotlight on Grace: A Message from the Rector



In his address at the annual National Prayer Breakfast yesterday, the president said, "I will get rid of and totally destroy the Johnson Amendment and allow our representatives of faith to speak freely and without fear of retribution."

What the heck is the Johnson Amendment, you ask? It's a law dating to 1954 (named for then-Senator Lyndon Johnson) saying that churches and other tax-exempt charities are prohibited from

endorsing political candidates. Most of us have not spent a lot of time thinking about the Johnson Amendment over the years, but the fact that it's gaining prominence now may cause us to reflect (if we haven't already) on the role churches should play in the political realm. To be clear, the Johnson Amendment relates only to the endorsing of specific candidates. Churches are, and always have been, totally within their rights to advocate for various causes, such as welcoming refugees into our country. In fact, our own bishop and other faith leaders in Rhode Island [signed an open letter](#) last week calling on government leaders to "demonstrate moral leadership and affirm their support for the resettlement of refugees from all over the world to the United States." Of course, other faith leaders would be within their rights to call for the polar opposite!

[In his Second Inaugural Address](#), Abraham Lincoln spoke of the great issue of his day and the bafflement that Christians who opposed slavery felt towards those who supported it: "Both



read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not, that we be not judged." As Americans, we are free to advocate however we are so moved. As Christians, we are called on by Jesus to advocate for and care for those in need. Just as anti-slavery Christians had a hard time understanding the religious rationales of pro-slavery Christians in the 1860s, we should follow Lincoln's example of advocating for and fighting for our beliefs while trying not to judge or condemn others. No one can claim that President Lincoln shied away from the great moral cause of his day, indeed, he paid for that commitment with his own life. And yet, in his last, great speech, he called on Americans not to judge each other, and perhaps, by extension, to seek to understand each other.

We can and should do everything in our power to speak out for just causes and condemn unjust actions. As any constitutional lawyer can tell you, we don't need to get rid of the Johnson Amendment to do that. And as we seek justice, let us also seek understanding. They are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they are both spiritually necessary.

God's Peace,  
Jonathan+

---

## This Week at Grace

### Worship Schedule:

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

### Collegium Ancora Concert:

Sunday, February 12 at 5:00pm  
Collegium Ancora presents: *A Little Night Music*, featuring the sumptuous Serenade to Music of Vaughan Williams, as well as works of Brahms, Barber, Sondheim and more! \$10 suggested donation.



### Prayer and Scripture Group:

2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30am in the Chafee Room.

**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.

---

## Save the Dates: Winter and Spring Musical Events at Grace

### Collegium Ancora, February 12 at 5PM

Collegium Ancora presents A Little Night Music, featuring the sumptuous Serenade to Music of Vaughan Williams, as well as works of Brahms, Barber, Sondheim and more!  
\$10 suggested donation.

### Thursdays at Noon beginning March 9 (through May 25)

Please join us on Thursdays at Noon (September 15 through November 17; and March 9 through May 25) for informal half-hour organ, vocal or instrumental concerts. Feel free to stay for a portion of the concert or the entire concert if your schedule will allow.

### Choral Evensong: Sunday, March 26 at 5PM

The Grace Church Choir offers  
Choral Evensong for Lent  
Music of Vierne, Blair, and Finzi

### St. Matthew Passion: Friday, April 7 at 7:30PM

Museum Concerts of Rhode Island  
50th Anniversary Gala Concert  
Performed by the Brown University Chorus and Schola Cantorum of Boston,  
For tickets, visit [www.museumconcerts.org](http://www.museumconcerts.org) or call 401-274-5073.

### Music of Praise and Glory: Sunday, April 30 at 5PM

The Grace Church Choir and Choristers join with Collegium Ancora to present Vivaldi's beloved Gloria and Purcell's Te Deum and Jubilate with Chamber Ensemble.  
\$10 suggested donation

---

**A Little Night Music:**  
Songs of Shadow and Starlight

<b>FEB 12</b>	5pm - Grace Episcopal 175 Mathewson St, Providence Open Admission (\$10 suggested donation)
<b>FEB 19</b>	4pm - St. Columba's Chapel 55 Vaucluse Avenue, Middletown, RI \$10 Admission

 CollegiumAncora |  @CollegiumAncora



# Morning Monastic Meditation

Weekdays mornings from 8:30 - 9:00am  
Grace Church in Providence



Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Grace Church will open for half an hour each weekday morning from 8:30 to 9:00 for silent meditation and prayer to the sounds of monastic chant from across the centuries. If you work or live downtown, stop into our historic 1846 church for a moment of peace before you begin your day.

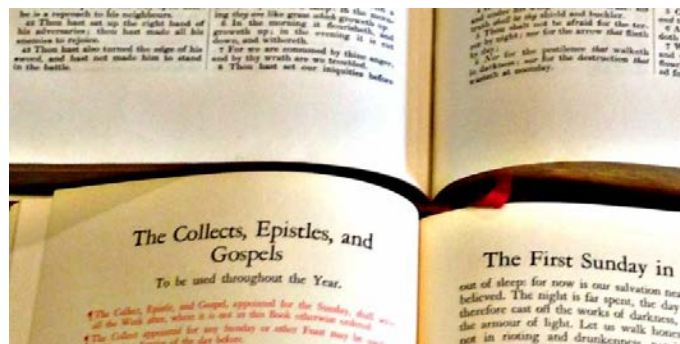
Grace Church in Providence

300 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903

(401) 331-3225 info@gracepvd.org www.gracechurchprovidence.org

## February 5, 2017 - Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



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

[Isaiah 58:1-9a](#)   [Psalm 112:1-9](#)   [1 Corinthians 2:1-12](#)   [Matthew 5:13-20](#)

This week from the Episcopal Church: [Feast of the Presentation](#)

Also, [click here](#) for the latest from the Episcopal News Service.

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.

---

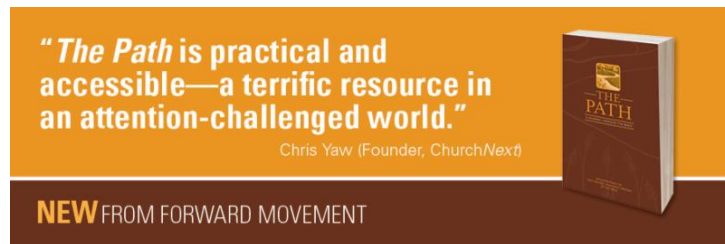
## Take a Journey Through the Bible

The Prayer and Scripture Group at Grace will meet every Saturday during Lent in the Chafee Room at 9:30am to explore the exciting new book from Forward Movement: [The Path: A Journey through the Bible](#). "With

informative trail signs to help you see how each piece of the narrative fits together, The Path is an experience unlike any other: an amazing 360-degree overview of the vast, sweeping story of God's extraordinary love for ordinary people." To take part, [please contact Louise](#).

The Prayer and Scripture Group meets regularly on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30am in the Chafee Room at Grace Church. The group's next meeting scheduled for January 28. During Lent, the group will shift to a weekly schedule for this shared journey through the Bible. Because the doors to the church are not open on Saturday mornings, we recommend [coordinating with Louise](#) before attending for the first time.

---



## Learn & Lead 2017: Register by February 18 and Save!

Saturday, March 18, 2017  
9:00am - 3:00pm  
St. Mary's Church, Portsmouth

### *But We've Never Done it that Way Before...* Understanding Generational Differences in our Churches

Within our churches at this moment in time are potentially five different generations of members, each operating with distinctly different expectations in such important areas as communicating, giving, learning, attending and participating. Come learn the basic ways of looking at different aspects of life - especially life in the church - through the eyes of the different generations. Learn how these differences may become either a stumbling block to church growth or a catalyst to new ways of living life together. [Click here to register early and save!](#) With questions, email [info@episcopalri.org](mailto:info@episcopalri.org).

Ticket prices include the cost of a boxed lunch.  
Early bird ticket ([now - Feb. 18](#)) - \$8.50/person  
General ticket (Feb 19 - March 12) - \$10/person



## Register Now for ECC Winter Camp 2017

Come experience a totally different kind of camp at ECC - in the middle of winter! Spend time warm and inside the house playing games, doing crafts, and enjoying good company. Then mix it up and go outside to play in the snow, walk across the frozen frog pond, and take in the sights around our beautiful property. This fun camp is a wonderful way to spend your February vacation!



**February 17, 3:00 PM through February 20, 2:00pm.** \$150 per person. Open to those in Grades 7-11. The session has openings for males and females. **Registration deadline:** February 11, 2017. [Click here to register today.](#) With questions, call 401-568-4055, or [e-mail admin@eccri.org](mailto:admin@eccri.org).

---

## A Prayer Shawl Ministry

Want to keep some time for knitting or crocheting a prayer shawl this winter?

Prayer shawls are created with prayer and given out to those who are going through difficult times in body, mind or spirit.



Not to mention, knitting is good for you! See the Healthy Hobbies section of [our ENews from December 8.](#)

If you're interested in learning more or exploring this ministry, please speak to Anne McCarthy after a Sunday service, [or e-mail her here.](#)

*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...*

---

---

## 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](https://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.*