



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

April 21, 2016

Spotlight on Grace: *An Elegant New Addition to the Chancel*



Have you spotted the beautiful new credence table that now adorns the steps to the chancel at Grace? Because it is always safest to have access to a railing be continuous, we wanted a credence table that would fit inside the chancel railing, allowing parishioners to hold onto the railing all the way up the chancel steps. And because of its prominent location at the foot of the pulpit, -- adjacent to the "Grass" Church Stone (itself masterfully inscribed by the famed Newport stone carver John Howard Benson) -- the credence table needed to match the surrounding standard for beauty and craftsmanship.

We commissioned Jonathan Brower, a highly skilled furniture maker with ties to Grace Church, to build the new table. Jonathan was married at Grace in 2007. His wife is The Rev. Meaghan Brower, director of the ECC, founder of the Church of the Beloved in Pascoag, and recent guest preacher here at Grace for our Good Friday service.

Jonathan Brower describes the key design elements and the construction process as follows: "I designed and built the table with traditional joinery techniques that offer a strong construction and have visually engaging components. The shelf, lower stretcher, and upper rails supporting the top, all have tenon ends that extend just proud of the sides. These mortise and tenon joints are robust and are aesthetic elements you can touch. Also on the sides are pairs of quatrefoils that extend through the wood to create a fitting cross motif. We selected quarter-sawn white oak for the wood; as it offers strength, consistency with the woodwork in the church, and the lovely figure that comes out in the grain. For the finish, we chose a color that would be in harmony with the existing woodwork of the choir chancel."

Liturgical items like a credence table are often given as memorial gifts; as for example, a Grace Church parishioner has recently made a gracious donation of the new choir stall candles pictured at right. So if anyone would like to make a gift of this new credence table to Grace Church in memory or honor of a loved one, that would be a great blessing to the church! A memorial plaque could sit perfectly on the lower shelf. If Spirit moves you thusly, the rector would love to hear from you at 331-3225 anytime. And if you're wondering, we have plans to place a bronze railing on the other side of the chancel steps, where there currently is none. This, too, could be a memorial gift to the parish!



To learn more about the exceptional work of furniture maker Jonathan Brower, please visit www.jonathanbrower.com.

This Week at Grace

Worship services:

Sunday 8:00am Holy Eucharist
Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist w/ music
Wednesday Noon Holy Eucharist

Spring Road Races in Providence have begun, including events this Sunday and next (May 1). Please plan accordingly.



Sunday Forum: Join us this Sunday (April 24) at 9:00am in the Chafee Room for a discussion of Contemporary Issues and the Future of the Church. Absolutely all are welcome!

New Building Presentation: Following the 10 a.m. service this Sunday, Sunday, April 24th, there will be a presentation of the building plans for the new parish hall (and related facilities) to the congregation. The vestry unanimously approved this project at its April meeting, and after some changes over the past six months or so, we're excited to share the plans with the parish this Sunday!

Providence College Choir Concert: This Sunday, April 24, 4:00pm. The Providence College Choir under the direction of Dr. TJ Harper will perform here at Grace. The concert is called Traction and will feature Salve Regina by Arvo Pärt and Fern Hill by John Corigliano. Works of Brahms, Paulus and Rutter will be included. The concert is free and all are welcome!

Grace Church presents Candlesong: *Reflective music for the city and the soul.* Discover a new evening musical service combining the immersive sensory experiences of gleaming candlelight, sublime Gregorian chant, and fragrant incense; all within the stunning surroundings of Grace Church. Candlesong is just 20 minutes in duration, and continues **this week** with a performance this Saturday, April 23. Please make a point to join us!

Children's Friend 5K Walk & Run: This is the final week to register and raise funds for Children's Friend by participating in the 5K Walk & Run event at Roger Williams Park on April 30 as a member of the Grace Church team. [Please click here](#) to register for the event, select "Join a Team", choose

Grace Church as your team, and then encourage those you know to sponsor your participation by donating. Grace Church is proud to sponsor this event with a \$1,500 donation.

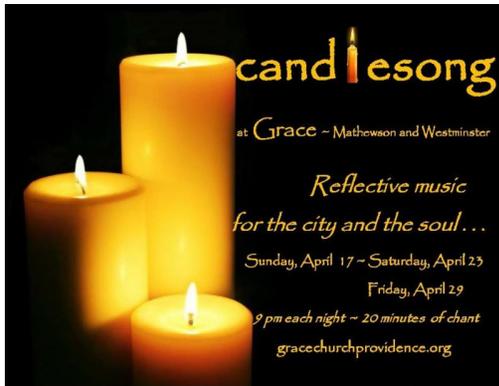
Women's Prayer and Bible Study:

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

Grace Church is OPEN to the Public each weekday from 11:00am until 2:00pm. Please tell your friends, co-workers, and visitors to stop by and explore this beautiful historic church. Our friendly docents will greet you with a smile.

Looking Ahead

Cinco de Mayo on Uno de Mayo: The Grace Church Teens in Action will be hosting a celebration of "Cinco de Mayo" on Uno de Mayo (Sunday May 1st). Right after church, come down to Gammel Hall for a meal of tacos, homemade salsa and build-your-own burritos. We'll also provide lemonade and limeade, which is just one BYOB step away from being a margarita! All TIA events are pay as you can (including nothing at all). Recommended donation is \$10 for adults, and \$5 for kids.



Music at Grace

Grace Church presents *Candlesong: Reflective music for the city and the soul*. The two remaining 20-minute performances in this inaugural series of *Candlesong* will take place at 9:00pm on Saturday, April 23, and also Friday, April 29.

Music Notes for this Sunday's 10am service: During communion this morning, we hear an excerpt from

Cantata 82 "Ich habe genug" by Johann Sebastian Bach. This moving and heartfelt cantata is not a biblical text, but is loosely based on the story of Simeon who saw the child Jesus presented in the temple. This past Thursday, baritone (and Grace parishioner) Nicholas Laroche presented the entire cantata, which is scored for solo baritone, oboe and strings. We are grateful to Nick for giving us a taste of this lovely cantata this morning.

The Thursday Noon concert series: Please don't miss a special concert by Nick Laroche, Baritone and Cheryl Bishkoff, Oboe, performing Bach's Cantata 82 "Ich habe genug", Thursday, April 21 at Noon.

Save the Dates: May 1 at 5:00pm: A Service of Choral Evensong featuring the Choristers and Choir of Calvary Episcopal Church in Stonington, CT. **May 15 at 5:00pm:** The Grace Church Choir and Soloists perform Dvořák's Mass in D Major.

The Grace Church Choristers is open to boys and girls in grades 2 through 12. The choir rehearses twice weekly, and sings twice per month at the Sunday Holy Eucharist at Grace. Please spread the word to families with youngsters who may have an interest in singing. Contact [Director of Music Vince Edwards](#) with questions.

Your Health & Wellness Minute

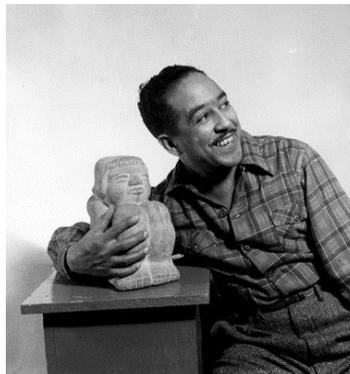
***"So the king said to me, "Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart..."
Nehemiah 2:2***



On March 3, an article in *Well* -- a New York Times blog -- detailed why doctors need not only care about the health of their patients, but also about their happiness. Danielle Ofri, MD, said that mood can drive health, meaning happy people are more likely to make healthy life choices such as eating a better diet and exercising more. She also noted that health may be the instigator of mood. If you are healthy, you tend to feel better and have more energy which allows a person to do the things they enjoy. What causes the other though is not as relevant as the fact that both health and happiness are important.

If a patient in poor health is also depressed, it's not enough to only address the medical problem. The patient's emotions need to be acknowledged and explored. Ofri encouraged healthcare professionals to notice and ask about happiness the same way they do with regards to other aspects of their patients' lives. Please [read more](#).

Grace Parishioner in the Projo



**Langston Hughes, 1943.
Photo by Gordon Parks.**

A Life in the Arts: Anne Edmonds Clanton keeps poetry of Langston Hughes alive

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - In her sunlit Doyle Avenue apartment, Anne Edmonds Clanton struggles to pick her favorite Langston Hughes poem.

"I like everything he does," the founder and executive director of the former Langston Hughes Center for the Arts and Education, in Providence, proclaims about the late poet's body of work. Much of it airs black struggles in America, but also showcases the resilience of black people and their vast contributions to society.

[Please click here to read the full article at providencejournal.com.](http://providencejournal.com)



You Are Invited: Diocesan Listening Sessions

The Program and Budget Committee of the Diocese is inviting you to attend this year's Listening Sessions. These sessions offer you the opportunity to hear from major ministries of the Diocese about plans, goals, and needs for the coming year. We hope you will join us and weigh in about where the Diocese should focus its efforts and resources.

This year, representatives from the Episcopal Conference Center, Episcopal Charities and the Jonathan Daniels House will be presenting. Your feedback and participation will be helpful and extremely important as we prepare the Diocesan budget each year.

Listening Session I

Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Time: 7-9 p.m.

Location: Sts. Matthew and Mark Church
5 Chapel Road
Barrington, RI 02806

[Register for Session I](#)

Listening Session II

Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Time: 7-9 p.m.

Location: St. Luke's Church
99 Peirce Street
East Greenwich, RI 02818

[Register for Session II](#)

Connect with Grace

[Grace Church Website](#)

[This Sunday's Readings](#)

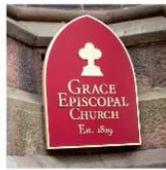
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Your Grace Church Clergy & Staff
401-331-3225

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.