



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

May 26, 2017

## Spotlight on Grace: Thank You, Champ!

After more than a quarter of a century on the staff of Grace Church, Meredith "Champ" Cooley is retiring next month. We will celebrate his ministry here at Grace at the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, June 25th.

Our Facilities Manager since the early 1990's, Champ has spent decades maintaining, cleaning, and repairing the "antique," and often complicated, building systems here in this church that we call home. You don't have to walk far on this campus to find equipment or systems that Champ designed and installed.

Champ and his wife, Gail, were married here at Grace by the Rev. Bob Brooks just prior to Bob's retirement, and he and Gail worship here at Grace as well. As some of you know, Champ and Gail have, for years, spent their summers at a campground in Connecticut, but we hope to see them both here on Sundays again in the fall!

In keeping with church practice for the retirement of long-serving staff members, we will be taking up a "purse" for Champ, in thanksgiving for his many years of service to Grace. If you would like to contribute to this gift for Champ, please send a check (of whatever amount you are moved to give) to the parish office (300 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903), and write "Champ gift" in the memo line. We will collect all these checks into one check from the church to present to Champ on June 25th in church. Thank you in advance for your gift to Champ... and thanks to Champ for his years of service to Grace!



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## This Week at Grace

**Weekly Worship Schedule:**

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

**Open Doors:**

Your friendly docents are here to greet you every weekday from 11:00am - 2:00pm.

**Prayer Group:** Meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30am, Chafee Room.

**Honoring a Grace Church wedding from 1946:** This week please welcome visiting family of Shirley and Joseph Csiznesia, who were married in the side chapel of Grace Church February 16, 1946. The family will join us Sunday for worship, and for fellowship at coffee hour. Shirley Laurie, daughter of Shirley and Joseph, dedicated the altar flowers this week and organized this family event. She was unfortunately unable to make the trip from Florida, and we pray for her recovery.



The side chapel at Grace, where Shirley & Joseph Csiznesia were married Feb. 16, 1946

**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.

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## Join a Global Wave of Prayer - Thy Kingdom Come

**May 25 - June 4** The Episcopal Church [has joined](#) the worldwide Anglican Communion in [Thy Kingdom Come](#), a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension Day (May 25) and Pentecost (June 4) for more people to come to know Jesus.

The campaign has been initiated by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, who said, "I cannot remember in my life anything I've been involved in where I sensed so clearly the work of the Spirit."

A wide selection of resources and information are available including prayers and resources to

help you pray [as an individual](#), with your [family](#) and as a [church](#). You can also [search all resources](#).

If you're going to participate, you can "Pledge2Pray." Pledge2Pray kicked off May 5; sign up to participate [here](#) and see how promises to pray are spanning the globe. After pledging to pray, be a part of the "Let the Light" shine social media campaign by posting a photo or video holding a candle or tealight with the campaign hashtags, and pledging to pray. There are daily prayer prompts available. [Information available here](#). Inspirational videos will be presented on each of the 11 campaign days - starting with one from Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry on May 25.



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## May 28, 2017 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**



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

[Acts 1:6-14 ~ Psalm 68:1-10,33-36 ~ 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 ~ John 17:1-11](#)

This week from the Episcopal Church: [Ascension Day](#). [Click here](#) for the latest from the Episcopal News Service. And for current news from the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, [please click here](#).

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.

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## Ascension Day

The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ is celebrated 40 days after Easter Day, marking the conclusion of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances and his ascension into heaven. Although Ascension Day occurred on May 25 on this year's liturgical calendar, many parishes will observe it the following Sunday.

Celebration of this holy day dates back at least to the late fourth century, and scriptural references to Jesus' ascension occur in both The Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel of Mark:

"So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven'" (Acts 1: 6-11, NRSV).

"So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19, NRSV).

The Ascension of Jesus is also professed in the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed: "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father" (Book of Common Prayer, pp.120, 358).



The Ascension, John Singleton Copley, 1775, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA.

[May 28 bulletin insert](#) from [Episcopal Digital Network](#), by Christopher Sikkema.

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