



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

June 1, 2018

Spotlight on Grace: Know Thy Vestry

Most of you reading this likely know at least one or two members of the vestry, but you may not know that they're ON the vestry, and some of you may even be asking, "What's a vestry?" After all, it's not a term we use in our daily lives very much! Throughout the summer, we'll be running in the weekly eNews a series we're calling, "Know Thy Vestry," with a photo of a vestry member and a short bio. This week, we begin by describing what the role of the vestry actually is.

The term "vestry" originally meant the room right off the chancel of the church where the clergy "vested" (i.e., put on their vestments, or robes) before worship. (Here at Grace, unlike most Episcopal churches, we actually have such a room, which we indeed call "the vestry"!)

In colonial times, the elected lay leaders of the parish would meet in the vestry (sometimes just once a year!), and, eventually, that group of leaders simply came to be known as "the vestry."

According to the website of the Episcopal Church, "The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances." While there are some clearly defined roles for the rector (such as responsibility for worship services) and the vestry (such as budgeting and financial decisions) much of the leadership of the parish is shared by rector and vestry, in keeping with the Episcopal commitment to the equality and partnership of lay and ordained leadership.



Here at Grace, we have 12 vestry members that are elected for a three-year term (with the possibility of re-election once before needing to rotate off the vestry). A nominating committee named by the vestry each fall (and made up of both vestry and non-vestry parishioners) selects a slate of new vestry members that is formally elected each February at the parish's annual meeting. Following that meeting, the vestry elects four officers (Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Secretary/Clerk) to serve for that year. The vestry meets monthly, usually on the last Wednesday of the month, and any parishioner who would like to receive the minutes of the vestry meetings is welcome to call or [email the parish office](#) and ask to be placed on that emailing list.

I hope anyone at Grace Church feels free to approach their rector about anything that's on their mind, but parishioners should also know that they can talk to anyone on the vestry at any time about ideas or concerns or questions they might have about the life of the parish. We also hope that this summer series in our weekly eNews will help you get to know these parishioners who give of themselves in this ministry of leadership here at Grace.

God's Peace,
Jonathan+

The 150th Anniversary of Sissieretta Jones: America's First Black Diva

Sissieretta Jones grew up in Providence, toured the world as a first rate soprano, broke racial barriers, and was the highest paid Black performer of her day.

For 85 years, she has rested in an unmarked grave in Grace Cemetery. At the conclusion of the celebration, a headstone will be dedicated at her gravesite in Grace Cemetery (at the confluence of Broad Street and Elmwood Ave.).

On Thursday, June 7, please join us in The Pavilion at Grace for a FREE presentation of "The Sun is Shining: Sissieretta Jones", a one-woman play. The performance will begin at 7:00pm.

[Please click here](#) to visit the Sissieretta Jones web page within the [Stages of Freedom website](#).

Questions: (401) 421-0606

Mark your calendar for the many events listed at right, June 7-9th.


All Events are Free & Open to the Public. [Please](#)

STAGES
OF
Freedom

AMERICA'S FIRST BLACK DIVA: SISSIERETTA JONES AT 150

The following events comprise a three day national celebration

- 1) Thursday, June 7, 5pm
Exhibit Opening - Sissieretta Jones: The Greatest Singer of Her Race
Stages of Freedom Museum, 10 Westminster Street, Providence
- 2) Thursday, June 7, 7pm
"The Sun is Shining: Sissieretta Jones" A One-Woman Play
Providence Site to be Announced
- 3) Friday, June 8, 10am
Gallery Talk & Tea - Finding Sissieretta: Creating the Exhibit
Stages of Freedom Museum, 10 West Minster Street, Providence
- 4) Friday, June 8, 5pm
Keynote - Author Maureen Lee & Archivist Gino Francesconi of Carnegie Hall
Providence Athenaeum, 251 Benefit Street, Providence
- 5) Saturday, June 9, 9am
Walking Tour of Sissieretta Jones Historic Sites
Point of Origin: Stages of Freedom, 10 Westminster Street, Providence
- 6) Saturday, June 9, 2pm
Concert: Sissieretta Jones and Her Music
Congdon Street Baptist Church, 17 Congdon Street, Providence
- 7) Saturday, June 9, 5pm
The Last Rose of Summer: Headstone Ceremony for Sissieretta's Unmarked Grave
Reception: Southside Cultural Center, 393 Broad Street, Providence
Procession to Grace Church Cemetery, Broad St. & Elmwood Ave., Providence



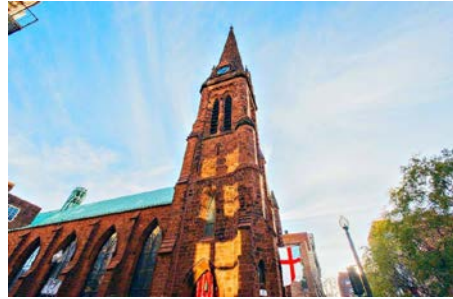
[click here](#) to register for the Keynote at Providence Athenaeum on Friday, June 8.

This Week at Grace

Weekly Worship Schedule:

Sunday 8:00am Holy Eucharist
Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist with Music
Wednesday 12:00 Noon Eucharist

Open Doors: Your friendly docents are here to greet you every weekday from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Please encourage your friends or guests to come and visit grace Church and see the new Pavilion at Grace.



Prayer Group: The prayer group meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 9:30am in the Chafee Room, which is accessed via Mathewson St.

20s/30s Group Potluck Dinner: The growing and active 20s/30s Group at Grace Church hosts a monthly potluck dinner on the first Thursday of each month in the beautiful Pavilion at Grace. Please contact Drake at 20s30s@gracepvd.org. **PLEASE NOTE:** On June 7, the group will instead gather at 7:00pm to attend the Sissieretta Jones play (please see above), and then find a nearby spot for refreshments.

Wheelchair Access and Accessible Parking: Please find convenient accessible in the Grace Church parking lot with access from Snow Street. The new wheelchair ramp connects directly from the lot, and you will enter through the new reception entrance of The Pavilion and into the church at ground level.

Parking for Worship: Free parking for Sunday worship is provided:

- 1.) in the lot diagonally across Westminster Street, on the NW corner of Westminster and Snow;
- 2.) On the **top level only** of the PPAC parking garage, for which the entrance is on Weybosset Street. A stairway from the top level leads right to Chapel Street across from the church; and
- 3.) In the Grace Church parking lot accessed via Snow Street. We ask your kind cooperation in reserving this lot, to the extent possible, for seniors and those with limited mobility.

Caregiver Support Group

Are You Caring for a Loved One at Home? A new caregiver support group will begin meeting monthly here at Grace this Wednesday, June 6th, from 1:00pm-2:00pm in the Chafee Room, and meeting again on the first Wednesday of each month. The core purpose of these meetings is to help caregivers feel heard, understood, and cared for.



This environment is intended to allow caregivers to safely express the struggles and trials of caregiving. Advice is offered, friendships are formed, and experiences are shared. We find support and identity in small groups. The best groups offer compassion, advice, humor and understanding. Join us on June 6th. We are here to help! For more information, contact Pam Stephanopoulos at health@gracepvd.org.

Come and Sing with the Summer Choir

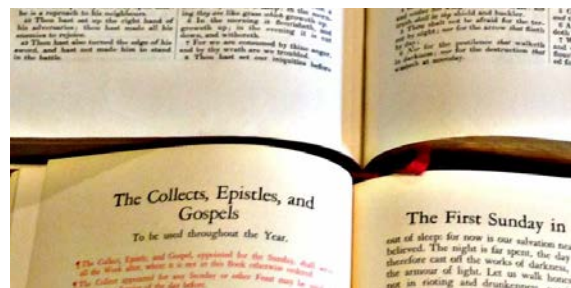
Trinity Sunday marks the last Sunday of the full Grace Choir until September. During the summer months, we are grateful to those who volunteer in our Summer Choir. While many of these folks are regular members of the Grace Church Choir, others are visitors for the summer, guests or relatives of parishioners, etc. Please consider joining us for one Sunday or many! We meet at 9 AM in Cronhimer Hall (lower level under the Chancel) and sing an anthem or two for the 10 AM service. If you are interested or have questions about Summer Choir, please contact Vince Edwards, Director of Music: vedwards@gracepvd.org or 331-3226, ext. 4.

Trans Views

This Sunday, June 3, at First Baptist Church at 7 p.m. (75 N. Main Street) - Trans Views. Presented by the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, this is FREE performance of a full length play based on the experiences of 6 transgender Rhode Islanders. These personal accounts illuminate individual journeys, help dispel fear and misunderstanding, and celebrate the courage and tenacity of people who are often maligned or misunderstood. The project is meant to affirm and celebrate, educate and create understanding and support. Future performances are on June 7 & 8 at the Paff Auditorium at 80 Washington Street.

June 3, 2018 Second Sunday after Pentecost

O God, your never-failing providence sets in order all things both in heaven and earth: Put away from us, we entreat you, all hurtful things, and give us those things which are profitable for us; 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](#):

This week from the Episcopal Church: [World Refugee 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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[This Sunday's Readings](#)

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**GRACE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

300 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 331-3225
info@gracepvd.org
www.gracechurchprovidence.org

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.