



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

August 4, 2016

Spotlight on Grace: Settling into Construction



The first few weeks of construction work on the new building at Grace Church were a bit of an adjustment, but we're now settling in nicely. The temporary wheelchair ramp from the Westminster Street sidewalk is being completed as I write, and together with the pair of handicapped parking spots on Mathewson Street near Westminster, Grace Church is again wheelchair accessible. We would like to thank all who make use of ramp access for their patience over these past weeks.

We're also pleased to report the return of some limited parking availability on our own lot, along an inset section of the construction fence facing Snow Street. If we work together and create two rows on Sundays, with those in the inside row willing to be blocked in, we have space for a dozen or so cars there. This parking capacity is also a blessing during the week, as it permits us to re-start our Open Doors ministry effective immediately. We are proud to be the only church in downtown Providence to open its doors in this way, and we've been eager to keep this recent hiatus as brief as possible. Please note there will likely be some additional moments during construction when these spaces are temporarily sacrificed anew, and we thank you in advance for your understanding.



Just one important piece of housekeeping, if we may. For everyone's safety, please do not venture inside the construction fence at any time. With its freshly laid asphalt, it's possible to mistake an open gate along Chapel Street during weekday construction hours as an invitation to enter, but we thank you for understanding that for important safety reasons the area inside the fence perimeter is strictly for authorized construction personnel only.

This Week at Grace

Worship Services:

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

Parking for Worship: During construction, parking for Sunday worship is provided in the lot diagonally across Westminster Street, on the NW corner of Westminster and Snow Streets. 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.

Wheelchair Access and Accessible Parking:

A temporary wheelchair ramp is now complete, providing wheelchair access from the sidewalk on Westminster Street into the church. Handicapped parking spaces have been posted for Sundays on Mathewson Street near Westminster.



The Royal School of Church Music has gathered over 150 choristers to study, rehearse, play and perform in Rhode Island this week. Vince Edwards, our Director of Music, will be on the faculty overseeing the services of Morning Prayer and Compline. On Friday, August 5, the course's "Providence Day" culminates with Evensong here at Grace Church at 5 PM. This promises to be a magnificent service with a choir of 150! Please plan to join us, invite a friend... and by all means please wear cool and comfortable clothing!

August 6, 2016 - Feast of the Transfiguration

August 6 is the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which commemorates Jesus' unveiling as the Son of God, and his radical change of appearance while in the presence of Peter, James and John on a mountaintop.

The Gospel of Matthew records that Jesus "was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light." At this moment Moses and Elijah appeared, and they were talking with Jesus. Peter, misunderstanding the meaning of this manifestation, offered to make three "booths" (or "dwellings") for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. A bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice from the cloud stated, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." The disciples fell on their faces in awe, but Jesus encouraged them to arise and "have no fear." When the disciples looked up, they saw only Jesus (Matthew 17:1-8).



The Transfiguration is a pivotal moment because it revealed Christ's glory prior to the

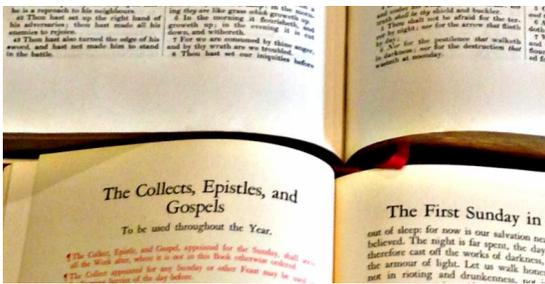
crucifixion, and it anticipated his resurrection and ascension. It also prefigures the glorification of human nature in Christ. Some think that the setting on the mountain is significant because it becomes the point where human nature meets God, with Jesus acting as a point of connection between heaven and earth.

The above text courtesy of The Episcopal Church. For more detail, [please click here](#).

Collect for the Transfiguration

O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the King in his beauty; who with you, O Father, and you, O Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 243).

August 7, 2016 - Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; 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](#):

Genesis 15:1-6 Psalm 33:12-22 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40

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.

Outreach Ministry - Back to School Supply Drive

YOU can help send a vulnerable child to school ready to learn!

Please Support the Grace Church Outreach Ministry's Back to School Supply Drive for [Children's Friend](#).

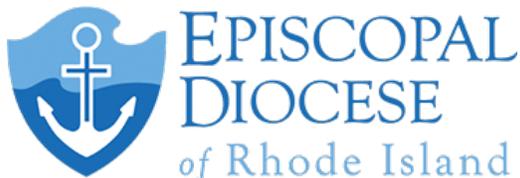
The following items are needed:

construction paper, children's books (ages 3-5), writing paper, glue sticks/craft glue, crayons, popsicle sticks, pencils, small backpacks, washable markers, glitter, tempera paints, watercolor paint sets, paint brushes, preschool size scissors, etc.



Donations will be collected each Sunday through September 11th, and can be left in the collection box at the back of the church. Thank you for supporting this important ministry!

YES! A Workshop Series by the Episcopal Diocese of RI



The Commission on Ministry will again offer the Yes! curriculum beginning on September 21 through November 9, 2016. The 7 session course will be facilitated by our Archdeacon, The Venerable Janice Grinnell, and will be held at St. Columba's Chapel in Middletown, RI. This

program is in direct response to lay people who are seeking ways to discern and understand their God given purpose. Cost for the entire series is \$100. [Please click here](#) for a listing of all 7 session times.

[Please click here to Register Online](#)

For more information, contact Canon Betsy Fornal, 401-274-4500, ext. 225, [or by e-mail](#).

Your Priest-in-Charge: The Reverend Lavonne Seifert

During the period of Jonathan's sabbatical, through the end of August, please direct all pastoral questions, inquiries, and/or conversations to Mother Lavonne Seifert.



Lavonne will serve as Priest-in-Charge of Grace Church, and is already well known to this congregation as both a longtime parishioner and as our current Associate Rector. To speak with Lavonne, or to make an appointment to visit with her, you may reach her by telephone at 401-331-3225 (ext. 6), or via email: lseifert@gracepvd.org.

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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.