

Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

September 1, 2016

## Spotlight on Grace: Note from the Rector

Friends,

First of all, I'm thrilled to be back with you all at Grace Church! I suspect I would have felt this way whenever I'd returned to Grace after three months away, but this year is an especially exciting period in the life of our parish. The biggest (literally) thing happening at Grace this year is, of course, the construction of the new building. A project like this happens roughly once a century, and I feel (as I suspect you do) blessed to be a part of both the construction itself and the new possibilities for ministry here in downtown Providence that our new building will enable.



As I said to you all before leaving on my sabbatical, I want to tell you again: thank you for giving me this gift of three months in a different rhythm of life. This summer I've made an initial attempt to learn Spanish. In fact, the program I've been using - Duolingo - tells me that I'm now 29% fluent, though if I were to wake up tomorrow in Havana, I suspect I'd understand much less than 29% of what's being said around me! But I've begun to get a feel for the language and hope to keep working on it in the future. The sabbatical also gave me a chance to read books which have until now sat lonely on my shelf, and I had much more family time and time with old friends from far away than I normally do. Another opportunity that my sabbatical afforded me was the chance to worship in different churches. I went to a Quaker meeting and several Episcopal churches in various locations this summer. In the span of three weeks on Cape Cod, I heard sermons (all excellent) from two cathedral deans and a bishop!

There is no one intended effect of a clergy sabbatical, nor is there one universal outcome. Some ministers, while on sabbatical, envision a new direction for the ministry of their parish or for their own ministry. Some seek new skills or experiences. Some return to their parish having become convinced that the time away was so refreshing that it's time to retire! I still have almost 20 years before my pension vests, so that last one's not in the cards.



For me, perhaps more than anything, the effect of my sabbatical is best illustrated by the old saying, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." My absence from Grace (and from our home and city and state) has instilled in me in a renewed sense of how blessed I am to be in this place...and with all of you.

I thank you all for the time away, and I thank God for having sent me to Grace. I look forward to this "new year", and to the exciting work we will do together in this place with God's blessing.

Many thanks,  
Jonathan+

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## This Week at Grace

### **Worship Services:**

Sunday 8:00am Holy Eucharist

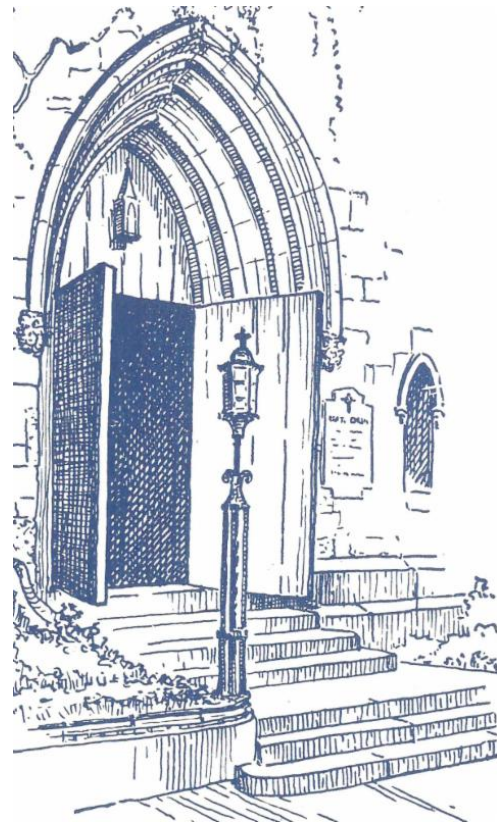
Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist with Music

Wednesday Noon Holy Eucharist

**Parking for Worship:** 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.

### **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.

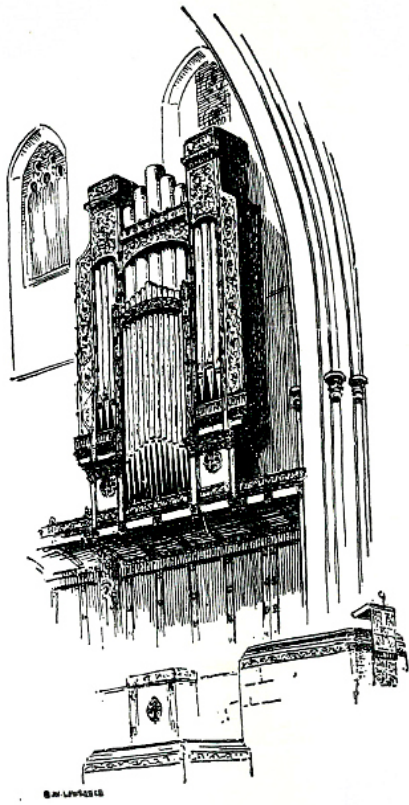


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## Music at Grace

The [Fall music program](#) at Grace gets underway Sunday, September 11 with the return of the full adult choir, and please join us in welcoming the Grace Church Choristers! We also look forward to the return of our informal half-hour concerts Thursdays at Noon, which for the Fall will run from September 14 through November 18. We are presently mailing out [the full music program schedule](#) through Spring 2017; so please keep an eye out in your mailbox.

It is with great excitement that I announce the formation of a new professional chamber choir



-- made up of talented singers from all over Rhode Island -- which will be our ensemble-in-residence here at Grace Church. The group will be called Collegium Ancora, which chosen for a several reasons. Collegium means "a group whose members pursue shared goals", and ancora is Latin for hope and anchor, both of which elements of the Rhode Island state seal.

While Collegium Ancora will focus on sacred a cappella music, the group will have quite a diverse repertoire. Tickets are not required in advance, though a \$10 per person donation is suggested at the door. Please watch for your copy of the [2016-2017 music program schedule](#) arriving shortly in the mail, or pick up a copy at church to take note of all the upcoming performances at Grace.

For more information, [contact Vince Edwards](#), or call 401-331-3225, ext 4.

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## Final Week of our Back to School Supply Drive

With just one more week remaining in our 2016 drive, this is our final call for school supply donations [for Children's Friend](#). Thank you for helping out collection to grow in this final week, and for your kind contribution to children in our communities.

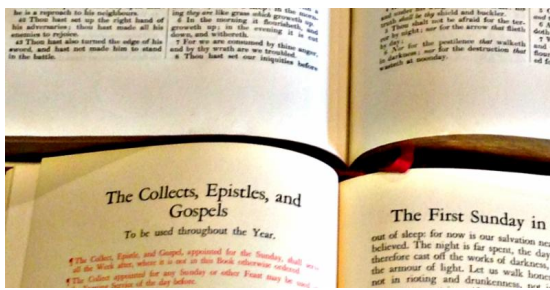
The following items are needed:  
construction paper, children's books (ages 3-5), writing paper, glue sticks/craft glue, crayons, popsicle sticks, pencils, small backpacks, washable markers, glitter, tempera paints, watercolor paint sets, paint brushes, preschool size scissors, etc.



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!

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## September 4, 2016 - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 1 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33

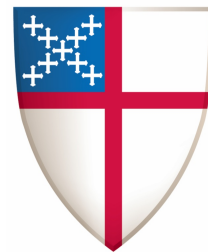
Would you like to add someone to the prayer list? [Please click here](#) to submit a name, or call the church office at (401) 331-3225. Names are kept on the list for a month, and can be renewed at any time. Those received by Wednesday will appear in the same week's bulletin.

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## From The Episcopal Church

Highlights for September 4, 2016 from the Episcopal Digital Network:

On Sunday, September 4, the Episcopal Church celebrates the life and legacy of notable saint, **the Reverend Alexander Crummell**. This day is also designated as Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) Sunday to commemorate the racial justice ministry of this organization which was an outgrowth of Crummell's advocacy.



As a young man, Crummell was driven out of an academy in New Hampshire, dismissed as a candidate for Holy Orders in New York, and rejected for admittance to General Seminary because of his race. He was eventually ordained in 1844 as a priest in the Diocese of Massachusetts, but left for England after being excluded from participating in diocesan convention.

Ever determined, Crummell studied at Queens' College, Cambridge and was the first officially black student recorded as graduating. Soon after, he traveled to Liberia as a missionary to convert native Africans to Christianity and educate them, as well as to persuade American black community of their duty to go to Africa to spread Christianity across the continent. Crummell lived and worked for 20 years in Liberia. Finally, political opposition, lack of funding, and the potential for life-threatening violence forced him to return to the United States.

To read the full Sunday Bulletin insert, [please click here](#).

[Click here](#) for the latest churchwide and worldwide news from the [Episcopal News Service](#).

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## 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



EPISCOPAL  
DIOCESE  
of Rhode Island

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](#).

## Connect with Grace

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[This Sunday's Readings](#)

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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.*