



# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

175 MATTHEWSON STREET PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903 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 and to downtown Providence.*

## Grace Episcopal Church E-News

*Grace Abounds*

December,

2015

### In This Issue

Rector's Letter

From the Director of Music

Holiday Celebration

Gathering of the Greens

Christmas Services



Like us on Facebook 

### Quick Links

[Grace Church Website](#)

[Directions](#)

[Visitor's Guide](#)

### Deadline: January E-News

Please [forward](#) any content for January's e-news by **Friday, December 18th.**

### Rector's Letter

#### ***Happy Thanksgiving!***

If you visited a Nordstroms in the last week or two, you may have seen a sign in the window saying, "We won't be decking our halls until Friday, November 27. Why? Well, we just like the idea of celebrating one holiday at a time." For the Church, we tend to wait even a bit longer for Christmas (though I commend Nordstrom on their patience), calling this period of expectation "Advent," which is Latin for "coming." In other words, we are expectantly waiting the annual celebration of the coming of the messiah.

This Advent, we're inviting everyone to participate in a program called AdventWord which is the Anglican Communion's Global Advent Calendar. By signing up at [adventword.org](http://adventword.org), you'll receive daily, two-minute video meditations from the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, an Episcopal order of monks just an hour north of us in Cambridge. For those of you who are up on social media, you'll also have the opportunity through AdventWord to share with other Anglicans across the globe (and with other parishioners on Grace's own Facebook page).



I hope you all will be moved this month to take part in this Advent discipline, as well as the many activities at Grace listed below.

Advent Blessings!

**Sundays in December**

8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Eucharist

**Wednesdays in December**

12:00 p.m. Noonday Eucharist

12:20 p.m. Intercessory Prayer

**Saturday, December 12**

9:30 a.m. Women's Prayer and Bible Study: Chafee Room

**Children's Pageant**

Please join us for our annual children's Christmas pageant at the 10 AM Sunday service on **December 13th**.

**From the Director of Music****Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas****December 13 at 5 PM**

Join the Grace Church Choir for a moving service of lessons and carols in the candle-lit splendor of Grace Church! The choir will sing anthems and carols in various locations around the nave of the church, moving from place to place, as they and the congregation sing hymns and carols together. Music of Palestrina, Ireland, Wood, Lehman, Hallock and Willcocks will be included. **A reception follows the service.**

**Christmas Eve Music****December 24 at 5 PM and 10 PM**

The Grace Church Choir and Soloists will present a half-hour musical prelude before the 5 and 10 PM services on Christmas Eve. Traditional favorites as well as some new gems will be included in this musical time of preparation.

**Thursday at Noon Concerts**

Thursdays at Noon organ concerts continue on **December 3, 10, and 17**. Organ music for the Advent and Christmas seasons will be featured. *Please join us and invite a friend to join you!*

~ Vince Edwards

**Director of Music at Grace Church****Grace Church Holiday Celebration**

Grace Church will be participating in Downcity's Holiday Celebration on **Saturday, the 5th**. The church will be open from **10 AM to 5 PM**, with hot cider and donuts available throughout the day. Church tours will be offered at 1 and 3 PM. ***We especially hope you will join us for caroling on the front steps of the church at 4 PM!***

**Gathering of the Greens**

Join us as we cut beautiful greens for church and home and enjoy hot cider and home-made cookies ***this coming Saturday, November 28 at 10:00 am until Noon***. Please bring your own saw, clippers, and warm gloves. If you wish to cut your own Christmas



tree, please don't forget rope and appropriate tie-downs. Bags for greens will be provided. The farm is located at 380 Tripps Corner Road in Exeter. If you have trouble finding it, please call Patty Birkes at 401-529-6332.

## Christmas Services



***Christmas Eve* ~ Services at 5 PM and 10 PM**

***Christmas Day* ~ Service at 10 AM**

Grace Church e-letter Administrators  
Grace Episcopal Church