

*More Grace News!*

For more Grace Church news,  
sign up for the Grace Church e-letter at:  
[GraceChurchProvidence.org](http://GraceChurchProvidence.org)

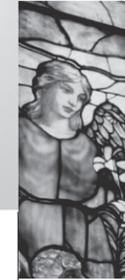
*Newsletter Deadline*

The deadline date for February's  
Newsletter is **Sunday, February 12.**  
Send submissions to Carolina Boyle at:  
[cboyle@gracechurchprovidence.org](mailto:cboyle@gracechurchprovidence.org).



GRACE *In The City*

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE



*From The Rector*

As many of you know, I've been serving as a member of the Bishop Search & Nomination Committee for our diocese for the last six months, and each phase the committee has gone through has been like a new chapter. As I write this, members of the committee are fanning out across the country (yes, just the country – no one has to fly to Paris!) to visit our remaining candidates (see more in article on page 5) in their home churches and to meet with the people with whom they work closely. At the same time as these visits, we've also gone further than the initial three recommendations the candidates initially submitted and are engaging in what we on the committee call "deep referencing." We're speaking one-on-one with the candidates' current and former associate rectors, former rectors, current and former bishops, etc. We know that nothing can tell us more about how someone would act as a bishop in the future than how they've been as a priest in the past. How did they treat that associate rector they supervised in the '90s? How helpful were they to their rectors when these candidates were themselves associate rectors in the '80s?

While we are trying to learn all we can about these candidates by talking with current and former colleagues, they are themselves in deep discernment. It may be easy enough to put in an application, but when the chances are 50-50 that you'll actually end up on the slate for election to be the Bishop of Rhode Island, you start to discern a little harder! I have no doubt that our "quarterfinalists" are doing their own prayerful reflection as well as even deeper research into who we are here in Rhode Island and whether our diocese would be a good fit for their skills and interests.

If you're wondering where it was that I went on my visit, the answer is that I went nowhere. Nowhere, because just two weeks before I was to fly west for an interview, the candidate in question withdrew from the race. And then there were nine. This happens often in bishop searches, and is, in fact, a sign of the deep discernment our candidates are doing just as we do our "deep referencing." Although I was disappointed to see a strong candidate go (they're all strong, at this point), I'm glad he had the wisdom to see now rather than later that he was not called to be the Bishop of Rhode Island at this time.

This stage is hard work, but it's also great fun. We are getting to know some wonderful priests across the country, but what's more, we're getting to know each other on the committee in a more meaningful way. As one of our members said recently, "This is the most fun I've had in the diocese in years!" As someone still relatively new to the diocese (18 months), it has been wonderful for me to get to know my fellow Episcopalians – both lay and ordained – through this intensive process. There is a palpable excitement within our committee, and a spirit of cooperation and mutual affection that augurs well (I rarely get to say "augur") for the future of our diocese, we hope with a wonderful bishop to channel that positive energy for the building up of the Kingdom of God here in Rhode Island!

– The Rector

*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.*

IN THIS ISSUE

- *From The Rector FC*
- *Music Notes 2*
- *Annual Meeting 2*
- *Changes to the News 2*
- *Parish Profile: Judy Brown 3*
- *God's Love 4*
- *Stewardship Campaign 5*
- *Outreach 6*
- *Teens Brunch and Dinner 6*
- *General Convention 7*

GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

175 Mathewson Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3499  
(401) 331-3225  
[www.GraceChurchProvidence.org](http://www.GraceChurchProvidence.org)

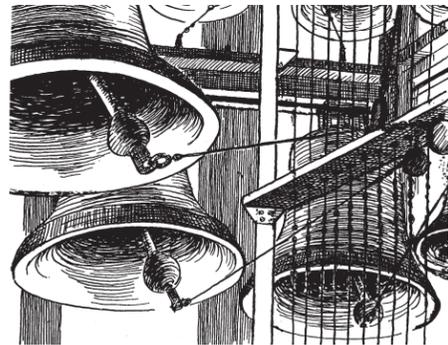


RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

175 Mathewson Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3499

GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

Non-profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Providence, RI  
Permit No. 746



As always, the Advent and Christmas seasons have been very busy for our Grace Church music program. On the heels of providing music for the Advent Carol Service, Christmas Pageant, two services on Christmas Eve, and a Christmas Day service (with a full choir), the New Year began with the choir singing at the 10 a.m. Eucharist and the

Grace Church Singers singing the annual Lessons and Carols Service as part of the "Sunday at 5" series.

January was another busy month for the Grace Church Choir and the Grace Church Singers, with music for the baptism of Jesus; music that commemorated the witness of Dr. Martin Luther King; and the annual Epiphany Carol Service.

On February 5, the Christmas season of music will conclude. The Grace Church Singers will sing at the morning Eucharist; at 5 p.m., as part of the "Sundays at 5" program, the choir will sing a series of readings and music, "Annunciation to the Presentation."

Sunday, February 19, is the last Sunday in the Epiphany season this year and the music

will focus on the Transfiguration. The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, and the choir will sing for the 7 p.m. liturgy that evening.

A debt of gratitude is owed to members of the choir and singers for their very generous contribution of time and talent that make these musical offerings possible.

We are eager to add new members to our Grace Church Singers. The time commitment begins at 9 a.m. on the Sundays when the group sings at the 10 a.m. Eucharist. We are also looking for new choir members for our choir. Information about these opportunities or any other aspect of the Grace Church Music Program is available from Mark Johnson at 401-330-6787.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### • ANNUAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 12

Early each year, every Episcopal Church holds an Annual Meeting to conduct parish business, including election of vestry members and delegates to Diocesan Conventions. At Grace Church, the 2012 Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 12, during and immediately following the 10 a.m. service.

Bill Galligan, one of the leaders of our Teens in Action group, and David Stender, a member of the Grace Church Choir and Outreach Committee, have been nominated for three-year terms on the vestry. Current vestry members Melody Ennis and Dwayne Keys have been nominated to serve a second three-year term.

Former vestry members Mary Kesson and Jim Mahoney have been nominated to serve as delegates to the two 2012 Diocesan Conventions, along with the 2012 senior warden and junior warden (specified in our bylaws). Liz Richards and Dave Seifert have been nominated as alternates.

### • CHANGES COMING FOR NEWSLETTERS

As part of ongoing efforts to improve communication with parishioners, you will see some changes next month to our print and electronic newsletters.

the newsletter mailed to your home, contact the parish administrator at 401-331-3225 or [cboyle@gracechurchprovidence.org](mailto:cboyle@gracechurchprovidence.org).

Most importantly, we are going to stop mailing our print newsletter except to parishioners who request that it be mailed to them. This will save money on printing and postage and it is environmentally responsible. You can access the newsletter through a link to the parish website that will be included in each edition of the e-news. You also will be able to pick up a printed copy at the back of the church. If you want to continue to have

Along with this change, we are making some minor timing changes. The e-news, which currently is sent on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, will now be sent on the 15th and last day of each month. The print newsletter will be posted to the website (and mailed to those who request it) on the last day of the month.

The changes will be put into place beginning with the March print newsletter. So, it will be

posted to the website and the link included in an e-news that goes out on February 29.

With these changes, the deadlines for submitting content also are changing. Submit content for the print newsletter by the 15th of the preceding month. Submit content for the e-news one week in advance.

If you have questions, contact Dave Seifert at [daveandlavonne@yahoo.com](mailto:daveandlavonne@yahoo.com).

## February Birthdays

In our celebration of January birthdays, friends and members of Grace Church include:

Ricky Birkes (1), Pauline Talbott (1), Barbara Girard (1), David Wilder (2), Patty Birkes (2), Kristen Matteson (4), Millicent Saleh (4), Lucila Torres (4), Gracie Hogan (6), Austin Andrews (6), Marguerite Hemond (6), William Xavier Chase (6), Edgar F. Staff (7), Sandra Read (7), Sandra Dionne (8), Evelyn Campbell (9), Rev. Edwin Sunderland (11), Carol Holmquist (11), George Simmons (12), Rita Bentz (13), Robert William Daly (13), Robert S. Nelson (14), Kelly Coelho (14), Thomas Guilmette (14), Lynn Hosford (16), Michael Herbert-Williams (16), Alexander Marcus Colón (17), Susana Glass (19), Caroline Mary Izzo (19), Robert Donahue (20), Robert Jackson (20), MacKenzie Roeder (21), Dave Stender (21), Arthur Butler (22), J. Scott Oberacker (22), Audrey S. Soper (22), Conner Jonathan DiMuro (22), Crystle Vieira (23), Courtney Kurban (23), Gloria Atkinson (25), Henry Diamond (25), Redsemaj House (26), Kayla Iacobucci (26), Corey Coelho (27).

## General Convention Taking Place This Summer

A church event occurs this summer that happens only once every three years: General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

As explained on the Episcopal Church website ([www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org)), "General Convention is the governing body of the Episcopal Church. The Convention is a bicameral legislature that includes the House of Deputies, which has more than 800 members, and the House of Bishops, which includes nearly 300 active and retired bishops. The Convention meets every three years to do things such as: adopt legislation; amend the Book of Common Prayer, the Constitution, and canons; adopt a three-year budget for the Episcopal Church; and elect candidates to offices and committees for the next three years."

The first General Convention met in 1785 with a single legislative body and adopted a constitution to remove references to British royalty; it also sent an appeal to England for parliamentary action to allow the consecration of American bishops. In 1789, the second General Convention established the current structure with two legislative houses — one for bishops and one for clergy and laypeople.

This year, General Convention will be held July 5 – 12 in Indianapolis, Indiana. One of the items that will be considered is a proposal to approve a three-year trial use of a liturgical rite for the blessing of same-sex unions. The Episcopal Church has been addressing issues of homosexuality and same-sex blessings since the 1976 General Convention: 35 years.

Check future newsletters for more about the 2012 General Convention. If you have specific questions or would be interested in a discussion of what will occur at General Convention, let the rector know.

## GRACE CHURCH CALENDAR

### Sundays in February

8 a.m. – Holy Eucharist  
9 a.m. – Adult Christian Formation: Chafee  
9:45 a.m. – Sunday School: Gammell Hall  
10 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

### Sunday, February 5

10 a.m. – Healing Prayer: Messiah Chapel  
11:30 a.m. – Outreach Comm Meeting: Chafee  
11:30 a.m. – Health & Wellness Committee:  
front pews  
5 p.m. – “Sundays at 5”: Annunciation to the  
Presentation Readings & Music

### Tuesday, February 7

1 p.m. – Communications Team: Chafee

### Sunday, February 12

10 a.m. – Grace Church 183rd Annual Meeting  
Noon – Teens in Action Valentine’s Day brunch:  
Gammell Hall

### Wednesday, February 15

Content deadline for March newsletter

### Tuesday, February 21

5:30 p.m. – Teens in Action Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper: Gammell Hall

### Wednesday, February 22

Noon – Ash Wednesday Eucharist and  
imposition of ashes  
7 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Eucharist and  
imposition of ashes (with choir)

### Sunday, February 26

11:30 a.m. – Finance Team: Chafee Room

### Tuesday, February 28

6:30 p.m. – Vestry: Chafee Room

## Outreach at Grace Church



Many individuals are expressing their ministry through participation in Outreach Committee projects. Our current project is the annual Sandwich Brigade. Everyone is invited to join in the fun at 10 a.m. every Saturday in February in Gammell Hall – for less than an hour. We have developed an assembly line approach, beginning with bread and ending with a brown-bag lunch that includes sandwiches of bologna, turkey or ham with cheese; condiments; napkin and cookies. The 300 lunches are packed and delivered to Crossroads each week for people who do not have a meal on Sundays. No need to sign up – just show up. We also welcome homemade cookies or contributions of money. Please consider where your concerns are and join us as we plan and execute work in the name of Grace Church. The next meeting of the Outreach Committee will be on February 5 in the

Chafee Room at the conclusion of the 10 a.m. service. – Faith Goepfert

The Providence In-town Church Association (PICA) is a faith-based nonprofit agency that provides Providence residents with services and/or programs to those in need through advocacy and direct service. PICA ([www.ripica.org](http://www.ripica.org)) operates a Food Pantry, where clients who have housing (a place to cook) may shop once a month from a variety of food (meat or fish, fresh produce, bread and canned goods). On a client’s first visit, he or she must provide a photo ID, awards letter and proof of residence in Providence. This is the largest food pantry largest in the state and feeds approximately 6,300 clients each month, nearly half of whom are children. The clients either work full-time jobs at minimum wage or are elderly and disabled. By the time they pay for rent, they have little left for utilities, food, transportation and medical bills. Please continue to provide support with either food or monetary donations. Our donations increase the opportunity for PICA to continue to serve Providence clients in need. – Debbie L. Robinson, Grace Church PICA Board Member

## Teens In Action Offer Brunch and Dinner

Remember to enjoy the Teens in Action Valentine’s Day brunch in Gammell Hall on Sunday, February 12, following the 10 a.m. service and the parish annual meeting. It will feature Italian cuisine with homemade sauces and garlic bread, tossed salad, and scrumptious dessert. Prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

Also, join us on from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Shrove Tuesday (February 21) in Gammell Hall for our annual pancake dinner, also sponsored by Teens in Action. This event is free, but donations are graciously accepted. )

## Parish Profile: Judy Brown

by Raymond Finelli

Judy Brown is a dedicated and faithful Grace Church parishioner of many years. Sixty to be exact, but her family had a much earlier connection to Grace Church that preceded her own longevity. Her parents, Morris and Dorothy Beals Brown, were married at Grace Church in 1923 when the Rev. Philemon F. Sturgis was rector. Her uncle, A. Chester Beals, was a member of the Grace Church Boys Choir and became the soprano soloist when the young Nelson Eddy’s voice changed and he had to leave the choir. It was a time shortly after subscription rights for pews were abolished, and soon after the new parish house (the addition of rooms and the choir loft) had been completed.

Judy served two terms on the vestry (1993 to 1999) when Stephen Haskell was senior warden and Dan Warren was the rector. She has been active for the past five or six years helping with the Saturday sandwich-making in February, and is a member of the cookie brigade. Asked to express her feelings that have developed through her decades with Grace Church, Judy says: “It is the source of many close friends, and yes, ‘home away from home,’ that’s true. That’s the best way I can express it.”

Judy grew up in the Washington Park section of Providence, attended Church of the Transfiguration and came to Grace Church in 1952. She almost immediately joined the Altar Guild where she has served ever since. She was assistant directress for approximately eight years and subsequently served for 12 years as directress. In the early days of her association with the Guild, Judy reminisces, “there were as many as 50 women enrolled.” Today, even with only eight to 10 people involved, she asserts, “Without the Altar Guild there would be no service. The responsibilities of the Altar Guild include changing the hangings according to the season; selecting hangings appropriate for weddings and funerals; re-ordering Communion wafers, wine and other supplies, and seeing to the timely introduction of the elements ready for the service.”

Judy today is a Grace Church docent, welcoming visitors on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. She says Grace Church is the only church in downtown Providence that is



We get tourists from Germany, Italy, Portugal ... People come in to sit, to pray or to take in the beauty of our stained glass windows.

open in the daytime. “We get tourists from Germany, Italy, Portugal – some times as many as 35 people in a single day, depending on the weather. The average per day is about 10 to 12. People come in to sit, to pray or to take in the beauty of our stained glass windows.”

She graduated from Classical High School and received a Bachelor of Arts in American History at Brown University. Her business career has been as interesting and dedicated as her devotion to her church. Her last position was as a legal assistant at Hinckley, Allen & Snyder. Before that she was secretary to the late Alfred Buckley Jr., then president of Smith-Holden, Inc., a dental supply company with six branches in New England. Mr. Buckley established a Grace Church connection with the small stained-glass window in the narthex restroom that was installed in memory of his great uncle, Arthur Henius. After that she was executive secretary to the president, Thomas Dimeo, of Dimeo Construction Company. Dimeo did the rebuilding of Grace Church when the church

building was damaged during razing of the Albee Theater next door.

Judy volunteers at the Rochambeau library branch one day a week, and also in the office of Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island. Her activities include reading and travel. She has been on cruises that have included a trip on the Danube from Bratislava to Amsterdam, and on the Baltic Sea. She’s also been to England, Tuscany, Norway, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and Germany, often in company with a Brown alumni group. She does the

daily crossword puzzle in Providence Journal and the weekly one in the Friday edition of the Wall Street Journal. She is an American history buff, and especially enjoys reading about President Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War.

She has an older brother, a nephew, two nieces, a great nephew, and a great niece, and she owns a two-family house on the East Side of Providence.

Finally, we have an “Only In Rhode Island” coincidence. In 1952 this author and his bride bought a house on Darrow Drive in Warwick from a Mrs. A. C. Beals. Years later it was discovered that the former owners, Mrs. Beals and her deceased husband, were none other than Judy’s grandparents. Judy told us how she had, through the years, spent many happy days in that house, and with swims in Apponaug Cove, a part of East Greenwich Bay. The house and gardens now belong to a gracious lady who has continued with improvements. More recently, pictures were given to Judy of the house today which, even with many years of change, still show the way it looked then.

## God's Love

† Let everything you do be done in love (true love to God and man as inspired by God's love for us).

*1 Corinthians 16:14*

† Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:8

† Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

*1 John 4:7*

† This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

*John 15:9*

Let the theme of love for one another inspire your stewardship in February, as these musicians have also inspired love for one another.

*Moon River* by Henri Mancini

*I'll Be There* by The Jackson Five

*You've Got A Friend* by Carole King

*All you Need is Love* by The Beatles

*Long and Winding Road* by The Beatles

*You Are The Sunshine of My Life* by Stevie Wonder

"You will be enriched in every way for your generosity."  
*2 Corinthians 9:11*

## DO ALL YOU CAN

"DO ALL THE GOOD YOU CAN,  
BY ALL THE MEANS YOU CAN,  
IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN,  
IN ALL THE PLACES YOU CAN,  
AT ALL THE TIMES YOU CAN,  
TO ALL THE PEOPLE YOU CAN,  
AS LONG AS EVER YOU CAN."

-JOHN WESLEY

## Stewardship Campaign Update

We have exciting news about our 2012 Stewardship campaign!

Our vision at Grace Church is that every single member of our congregation joyfully gives whatever he or she can to help fulfill our mission. Our church leadership set our goal at financial commitments of \$210,000 from 135 members of our congregation. We hope to increase participation and the amount pledged by at least 10 percent above last year.

I am delighted to report that - as of January 24 - we had commitments from 109 members of our congregation for \$178,523! We only need at least 26 more pledges and \$31,477 to reach this goal.

We are deeply grateful for your past support. Your gifts have helped nourish our glorious

worship services with rich and varied liturgical and musical experiences. Your support helped provide enriching programs that educated and built lifelong friendships for our children, teens and adults. We have also been able to sustain relationships with those in need- especially those who are fighting against poverty in our Downcity community.

We are thankful your life is linked with ours. We hope you will continue to share your life with us this year by giving of yourself in service as well as giving of your financial resources. Please feel free to call our rector or me (749-9876) if you have any questions or concerns. We really need your help.

Our volunteers have been working to wrap up this campaign with a phonathon the week of January 22. We want to let you know that

you still have time to send in your pledge.

*"You will be enriched in every way for your generosity."* 2 Cor. 9:11

- Patricia Rollins Trosclair, Chair,  
Grace Church Stewardship Committee

Help us reach our goal! If you have not yet pledged, contact the parish administrator at 401-331-3225 or [cboyle@gracechurch-providence.org](mailto:cboyle@gracechurch-providence.org), or download a pledge card at <http://www.gracechurchprovidence.org/support-grace-church/stewardship-pledging/>.

## Bishop Search Moves Forward

As noted in the rector's column, members of the diocese's Search & Nomination Committee have been visiting "quarterfinalist" candidates to become the next Bishop of Rhode Island. Once those visits are complete, the committee will meet in early February to select the semifinalists who will spend a weekend meeting, worshipping and praying with committee members here in Rhode Island in late February.

After that "discernment weekend," the committee will select a slate of three to five finalists that will be announced in March. At the same time, a period of time will open during which additional nominations can be made by petition.

Please keep the Search & Nomination Committee, the Transition Committee and the remaining candidates in your prayers as the process moves forward:

Prayer for the Calling of a Bishop for Rhode Island

Gracious God who sets the seas in their bounds and gives life to all your creatures,

who continually renews the face of the earth and is faithful to your covenant from generation to generation:

Lift up and guide the people of the Diocese of Rhode Island as we seek the next bishop to lead us;

renew our strength in the baptismal ministries to which you call us;

watch over and inspire the work of the committees entrusted with this task;

and, by the power of your Spirit, draw your people always toward the vision of your holy reign;

we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

If you have questions about the transition, feel free to contact the rector or Cathy Iacobucci ([cgi1002@cox.net](mailto:cgi1002@cox.net)).