

Outreach News

The Outreach Ministry invites you join “Team Grace Episcopal Church” as we continue our support of Children’s Friend at the agency’s annual walk and run on Saturday June 16. Sign up online at cfsri.org or at church (a sign-up sheet is located at the back of the church).

If you are not able or choose not to walk or run, please consider volunteering to help in another capacity (registration, handing out drinks to runners/walkers, etc). This is a family friendly event held at Roger Williams Park Carousel Village. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the walk/run begins at 10 a.m. Entertainment, family activities and refreshments from Panera Bread will make this a day for all to enjoy!

Contact Elaine Gabellieri at jefffoster1@cox.net or Joshua Klemp at jklemp@ccri.edu for more information.

Bishop Elected June 2

The 13th Bishop of Rhode Island will be elected on Saturday, June 2, by clergy and lay delegates at a special Diocesan Convention. The convention will be held at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Pawtucket. Check the transition blog at www.episcopalresearch.org or the diocesan site at www.episcopalri.org throughout the day and afterward for up-to-date information about this important event. Please keep the diocese and the five nominees in your prayers.

Stewardship

This is just a gentle reminder that wherever you summer plans take you, your Grace Church family will be here. At Grace Church, our vision is that every single member of our congregation joyfully makes a commitment to give whatever he or she can give to help fulfill our mission and build God’s kingdom. Please make sure to keep your pledge up to date. This might be a good time to request information on electronic funds transfer! If by chance you have not yet made your pledge,

why not fill out the card you can find in your pew or visit our website and fill out the one you can find here: <http://www.gracechurch-providence.org/support-grace-church/stewardship-pledging/>

Our stewardship team members will be asking many of you for help during the next few weeks. If you feel God calling you to serve before you have been asked, do not hesitate to talk with our rector, our senior warden or me (ptroscla@yahoo.com). You will surely develop a deeper relationship with God. And you will be enriched in every way for your generosity!

– Pat Trosclair, chair, stewardship committee

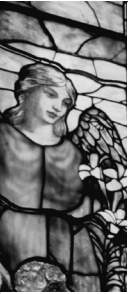
Newsletter Deadline

The deadline date for June’s Newsletter is Friday, June 15.
Send submissions to Carolina Boyle at: cboyle@gracechurchprovidence.org.



GRACE *In The City*

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE



From The Rector

Friends,

As most of you know by now, my wife and I lost our daughter at birth on May 4. What we expected would be one of the happiest days of our life tuned into the very worst. As I write these words, I have not yet returned to Grace Church since that awful day. I have yet to greet you all face to face and embrace you and thank you for all your love, prayers and support. I have yet to climb into the pulpit and preach the Good News of Jesus Christ. I have yet to ascend to the high altar to celebrate the Holy Eucharist (“eucharist” being the Greek word for “thanksgiving.”) And I have yet to baptize any babies (though, as you’re reading this, I will have just baptized, God willing, two infant girls on Pentecost).

Over the past two years, I have had the privilege of writing a letter to you all in our monthly parish newsletter. I have shared with you reflections on our faith in God and Christ as we travel through the church year. I have shared with you news and ideas and plans about our common life together as a parish. I have even shared with you some personal experiences as they touch upon my understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. But I have never had to write to you about a personal experience as painful as this. As both a father and a priest, I am in uncharted territory.

I want to tell you all that within hours of receiving the terrible news that our baby had no heartbeat, I could already feel your prayers and love surrounding our family. I felt it proactively, even before the senior warden had shared our sad news with you via email. It wasn’t until the next day that I began reading your deeply felt and deeply moving words of compassion that many of you sent via email or cards, but already in those first difficult hours, I knew that so many of you were standing by our bedside in the hospital, embracing us, and praying that Annie and I might make it through that valley of the shadow of death with our souls and bodies intact. I have personally never prayed so hard, my wife and I have never prayed so hard together, and neither of us have ever felt so prayed for and so loved by so many as on that day. We knew despair in a way we never have, but we also felt love in a way we never have.

It is a uniquely strange thing to lose a child at birth. It is incredibly sad, and yet, when you get home, everything looks the same. Everyone who was sitting around the table the week before is still there. It’s as if nothing has changed, but, of course, so much has changed. And what has changed the most is not that things look different or even that you have to rearrange your life in any meaningful way because of the loss. What is different, what is gone, is the hope we’d had for nine months. What does it mean to have experienced joyful hope for almost a year and then learn that that hope was in vain? Does it mean that the hope wasn’t real? That the hope we experienced as joyful was, in fact, bitter? This must not be the case. While we certainly try to predict and plan for the future,

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May was a very eventful Eastertide. The Sunday after the Ascension was musically commemorated on Sunday, May 20. The feast of Pentecost included two baptisms and was sung on May 27. June 3 is Trinity Sunday.

GRACE CHURCH
CALENDAR

Sundays in June
8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. – Adult Christian Formation: Chafee
10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

Sunday, June 3
10:00 a.m. – Healing Prayer: Messiah Chapel
11:30 a.m. – Health & Wellness: Front pews

Sunday, June 10
5:00 p.m. – “Sundays at 5” service

Friday, June 15
Deadline for submission for the July newsletter

Saturday, June 16
8:30 a.m. – Children’s Friend walk/run: Roger Williams Park

Sunday, June 24
11:30 a.m. – Shrink the Temple: Chafee

Saturday, June 30
9:00 a.m. – Vestry meeting: offsite

The Grace Church Choir will sing during the 10 a.m. liturgy that day.

On Sunday, June 10, the Grace Church Singers will sing during the Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m., and the choir will sing the last of the “Sundays at 5” liturgies for the season. The service will include music by Palestrina, Tallis and Finzi.

Our summer choir season begins on Sunday, July 1, and runs through Sunday, September 2. On each of these weeks we will meet at 9 a.m. in the chancel (at the top of the stairs in the front of the church) to prepare music for the 10 a.m. liturgy. Occasional and new sing-

ers are welcome. It is a week-by-week, and not a seasonal commitment. The music will be chosen based upon the lectionary of the day and the people who come to sing. Please feel free to give us a try.

During the summer months we would like to try some singing with young people. If you know of a young person who might be interested, please call Mark Johnson at 401-330-6787 to discuss the possibilities. The regular 2012-2013 choir season begins September 9, 2012. Further information is available about the Grace Church music program from Mark Johnson.

From The Rector, cont.

we can only live in the present. We must only live in the present. And if that present offers us joyful expectation, we cannot turn that into worry. Jesus himself tells us in chapter 6 of Matthew’s Gospel, “Do not worry about tomorrow.” And St. Paul tells us in his First Letter to the Corinthians that hope is one of the great trinity of Christian virtues of faith, hope and love. Indeed, if we exchange joyful expectation for fear of what might be, we give up on hope entirely. It is incredibly hard to look back on a time of joyful expectation when what we were expecting did not, in the end, come to pass. But that doesn’t mean the joy wasn’t real, and it doesn’t mean we should reject hope in the future.

The Lebanese Christian writer Khalil Gibran wrote, “The deeper that sorrow carves into your being, the more joy you can contain.” Perhaps that’s true, though I suspect most of us would be happy to contain a bit less joy if it meant a little less carving into our being. For whatever reason, this world is not heaven, and in this world tragedies occur. In this most difficult time in our life

as a family, though, we managed to catch a glimpse of heaven – and it was the communion of saints, it was all of you, standing at the hospital bed and praying with and for us. In the depths of our despair, we could see that land described by St. John who writes in the book of Revelation: “Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the former things have passed away.”

We thank God for all of you and for the blessing you have been to us in these dark days. Being a follower of Jesus and a member of his church doesn’t mean that this life will be without pain and struggle. But it does mean that we will live more deeply, we will shoulder each other’s burdens, we will live with hope for tomorrow and with the faith that, in the end, we will all be together in that place where is no more crying or pain, but joys everlasting in the presence of our Lord. May God bless you all just as you all have blessed us.

– Jonathan

Parish Profile:James and Louise Clarke

by Raymond Finelli

Relatively newcomers to Grace Church, Jim and Louise Clarke have settled in as involved parishioners. Jim is chairman of the investment committee, replacing the former chairman, Gordon Borges. Louise attends the Wednesday noontime communion and the Saturday morning centering prayer sessions. She also is happy to help Marty Ames and Phyllis Noke count the money on Tuesday mornings. Says Louise, “We had been visiting churches in the area when we walked in to a very warm and comforting reception plus a kind of camaraderie of the people at Grace Church.”

Jim’s career in investments started with Laidlaw & Co., a private bank in New York City. He later was transferred to Toronto, and he and Louise lived there for 18 years and raised their four daughters. In Toronto he joined the Scudder Stevens and Clark investment firm, and later established his own company as James S. Clarke, Ltd. Back in the U.S. Jim was named Chief Investment Officer, managing the endowment for Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., from 1981 to 2002. From 1999 to 2008, Jim was a member of the investment committee of the national Episcopal Church, and in the final four years with the committee he was its chairman.

Jim is from New York City, and Louise comes from Chicago. They met on a blind date at Princeton University where Jim was majoring in economics with a minor in Latin and Greek. He received his Bachelor of Arts (BA) in 1958. Louise received her BA in English Literature from Columbia University in 1960. They married when they were both 21 in 1959 and celebrated their 52nd anniversary last September.

In 1982, Jim and Louise became members of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Ithaca. Jim was elected to membership in the vestry and was chair of the finance committee. Louise was a chalice bearer, lay Eucharistic visitor and helped serve in the St. John’s soup kitchen. Louise also spent 20 years as a Salvation Army Adoptive Families program leader, ministering to some 500 families who came to the Army for help. Though they ultimately became loyal parishioners to a church while in Ithaca, Jim and Louise noted that for some



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15 years and while raising their children they had no church affiliation. As a result, they said, their children today do not attend any church.

Jim and Louise’s four daughters are all in their 40s. Sarah, the eldest, is the in-house doctor for a television company in New York. Her husband also is a doctor. They have two children. Diana, the second-eldest, is a lawyer in New York City, and is working on a degree in forensic law. Jennifer Clarke-McGovern is an M.D. at Memorial Hospital here in Pawtucket. The youngest daughter, Elizabeth, is a student at the Art Students League in New York.

Jim and Louise have a small but nicely appointed condominium on West Exchange

Street, easily within walking distance of church and close to daughter Jennifer who lives on Federal Hill. Whereas everything has already been done and all apartment needs are provided for, when asked if they miss mowing, planting etc. (chores concomitant with a country cottage), Jim was decidedly affirmative in his response to the contrary.

Most winters Jim and Louise go to Florida, and they also frequently drive to visit their New York children. Jim enjoys reading light humor and about figures in American history. Louise likes mysteries. She also reads church history and spiritually oriented material, as well as G. K. Chesterton, an epigrammatic and provocative English poet. She likes sewing, knitting, quilting and crafts.