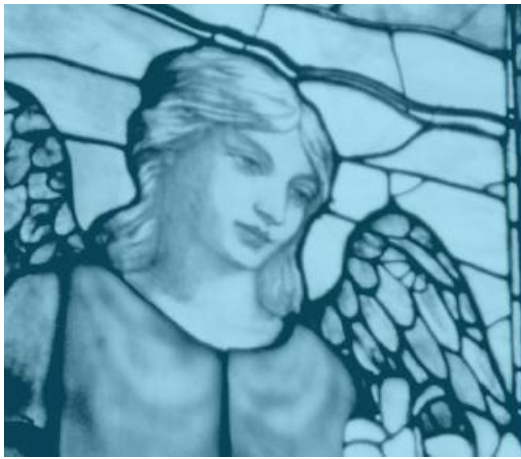


From: Grace Episcopal Church <news@gracechurchprovidence.org>

Subject: January News from Grace Church



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 - Christmas Edition

January, 2015

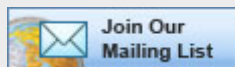
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Rector's Letter

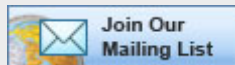
Christmas Services at Grace

Pledge for 2015

Music Director Search Update



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Deadline: February E-News

Please [forward](#) any content for February's e-news by Friday, January 16th.

Grace Church Calendar

Sundays in January

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

Wednesdays in January

12:00 p.m. Noonday

Eucharist

12:20 p.m. Intercessory

Prayer

Saturdays

January 10th & 24th

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

-

Rector's Letter



From the Rector:

Twenty-three years ago, at the very end of the Soviet era, I found myself in Moscow for a few months. That December, as Christmas approached, I happened to walk past what was then one of the very few bars in the city: an Irish pub, nestled next to a Finnish supermarket. I was planning on returning home in time for Christmas, but it occurred to me that there were likely going to be expats in that pub on Christmas Day, to share the holiday with people who might be complete strangers, but at least spoke their language. Many years later, I found myself spending six Christmases in a row in a foreign country, as a priest on the staff of the American Cathedral in Paris. And on those Christmases, although I was with my family, many people who came to worship with us were alone, far from home, wanting to celebrate the birth of Christ and be with, in a sense, people who knew them, who spoke their language.

This being known, it seems to me, is at the very heart of what Christmas is about: that we are known because God himself has come down to earth at the birth of Jesus. At that first Christmas, God showed that he knows us as well as we know ourselves, because, as John's Gospel says, "The word became flesh and lived among us." (John 1:14)

For some of us, home is a place to which we are happy to

return. For others, it's a complicated or even hard place. There's an old magazine ad that used to say, "Home is where you find it," but, in fact, home is where God finds you. That may be in a house with your blood relations on Christmas Eve, or it may be with friends, or in your local church, in a church in a foreign land, or even in an Irish pub in Moscow surrounded by people you've never met.

Wherever you are, whoever you're with, may you find home, where God knows and loves you. That could be just about any place.

Merry Christmas,

Jonathan+

Christmas Services at Grace



Christmas Eve at 5 & 10 p.m. -
Holy Eucharist with Choir
(Child care available at 5)

Christmas Day at 10 a.m. -
Holy Eucharist

Pledge for 2015



If you haven't made a pledge to Grace Church for 2015, there's still time! You can download a pledge card here: http://www.gracechurchprovidence.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/GraceChurch_PledgeCard.pdf.

Music Director Search Update

The Search Committee for the next Director of Music for Grace Church continues to meet and to make progress in our intentional search. Over the past month we have met with members of the choir and congregants of Grace to gather from them their hopes for our music program. Our Interim Organist and Choir Director, Christian Lane, has been very helpful in this process.

The committee will meet right after Christmas to pull together our language in a mission statement for the search and construct a job description for the full-time position. Right after that we will advertise the position and begin to have contact with potential candidates. Please keep us in your prayers!

Grace Church e-letter Administrators
Grace Episcopal Church

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