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Subject: June News from Grace Church
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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

June, 2015

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Deadline: July E-News

Please [forward](#) any content for July's e-news by Friday, **June 15th**.

Grace Church Calendar

Sundays in June
8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Eucharist

Saturdays, June 13th & 27th
9:30 a.m. Women's Prayer and Bible Study: Chafee Room

Rector's Letter

Friends,

This is one of those years when Pentecost and Memorial Day overlap. Because Pentecost is a moveable feast (meaning it falls on different dates in different years) there's nothing intentional about the Pentecost/Memorial Day overlap, but it has caused me to wonder this year if there is something of Pentecost in Memorial Day.

Pentecost was the day on which the Holy Spirit descended on and galvanized the apostles to go out into the world and do the work of God. Many of them lost their lives in that sacred but dangerous work all those years ago. This spring is the anniversary of two American wars. 150 years ago this April, the United States finally succeeded in restoring the unity of the country and ending the brutal institution of slavery. Like the apostles, many U.S. soldiers lost their lives in that sacred work. 70 years ago this May, peace returned to Europe after a war in which millions of U.S. and allied soldiers and sailors and marines gave up their lives to free Europe from Nazi tyranny. That work to liberate Europe and restore peace to the world was also both sacred and dangerous work.

So, as you might suspect, I do see a connection between these two holidays - one secular and one religious, one American and one global. We give thanks for the holy work of the Spirit-blessed apostles, and we give thanks for the brave service of those who gave their lives for the unity and freedom of our nation and all its people. Our own church is home to memorials of those at Grace who have served the Gospel and those who have served our nation. To appreciate that latter group, take a look at all the names on the WW I Memorial (on the wall behind the lectern) and the WW II Memorial (on the wall by where we have coffee hour). I have even looked for a Civil War Memorial for the men of the parish who served in that war but haven't yet found anything. Perhaps we can create one someday (there must have been dozens of parishioners who served in that war), but even now, we can give thanks for them and others who have served at the risk of their own well-being and remember the words of our Lord, who said, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13) And we can be inspired to do God's work in the world today through their example.

-Jonathan+

Renovations and Summer Schedule at Grace



It's said that there are two seasons in Chicago: winter and construction. Having made it past our brutal winter, we're now in construction season here at Grace, or at least restoration season.

Because of the renovations, the Wednesday noon eucharist is on hiatus until September, and our Open Doors Ministry (where volunteer docents from the parish welcome people to visit our historic church from 11 to 2 on weekdays) will also be on a break while the renovations are in process. Of course, our doors will be open for worship every Sunday...and we'll pray for cool weather!

In Honor of PICA's 40th Anniversary



We are collecting a minimum of 40 cans of tuna for the month of June to be donated to the PICA food pantry. We are calling it the "40 Protein Items Food Challenge!" You can bring your cans of tuna to church on Sunday and place them in the food basket for offerings. Thank you for participating in this month's food challenge!

Restore, Renew, Reach, Rejoice



The Restore, Renew, Reach, Rejoice campaign at Grace Church seeks to raise funds to help repair and renovate our current building to better suit our needs and ensure that Grace will be here for generations to come. Just two weeks ago, we reached the incredible benchmark of \$1 million! We're now more than 80% of the way to our campaign goal of \$1,250,000! This is an incredible accomplishment for a parish that has not conducted a capital campaign in 25 years. Indeed, it may well

be the case that this is the first time in history that Grace Church has raised a million dollars. But we've still got a ways to go, so if you haven't yet made a pledge to the campaign, please consider doing so. You can get a pledge form and accompanying materials from the parish office by calling 331-3225. If you have questions, feel free to talk to anyone on the campaign committee: Peter Bond, Polly Daly, Christine Pulciani, Marc Schrank, Patricia Trosclair, and Elizabeth Wheeler. Thank you for your support and keep us in your prayers!

Grace Church e-letter Administrators
Grace Episcopal Church

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