

Outreach News

April was an exciting and busy month for the Outreach Ministry of Grace Church. Julie Casimero, Vice President for Advancement at Children’s Friend, gave a presentation to the parish on April 15. We learned about the many ways that agency assists Rhode Island’s vulnerable and poverty-stricken children and their families. All of the gifts collected for the Giving Cross throughout Lent were donated to Children’s Friend; among those donations were 3,000 disposable diapers, many packages of baby wipes, 106 onesies, 30 infant blankets, more than \$200 in gift cards, 42 balls, 20 frisbees, 16 bats, 8 hula hoops, and countless other articles of clothing, toys and infant supplies! Thank you to all who contributed so generously! And thanks to all who helped make the presentation and reception such a fantastic event!

This note was received from Children’s Friend after our celebration on the 15th:

“Thank you hardly covers it. I am completely overwhelmed by this morning!! Besides the overwhelming generosity shown, I felt completely welcomed by the parish community. It truly was an inspiring morning!! Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to talk about Children’s Friend ... I just love the agency and the work we do! Thank you for all that you do on behalf of young, vulnerable children.”

– Julie Casimiro, Vice President for Advancement, Children’s Friend

Please consider joining “Team Grace Church” as we continue to support Children’s Friend at the agency’s annual walk and run on June 16, 2012. Sign up online at cfsri.org or at church (a signup sheet will be located

at the back of the church). 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. The next meeting of the Outreach Ministry is after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, May 20, in the Chafee Room.

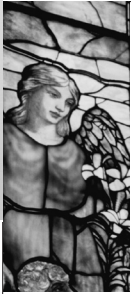
Newsletter Deadline

The deadline date for June’s Newsletter is **Saturday, May 12**. Send submissions to Carolina Boyle at: cboyle@gracechurchprovidence.org.



GRACE *In The City*

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE



From The Rector

On the 12th of this month, you will get the chance to meet our next bishop. You won’t actually know who that person is until June 2, which is when the delegates appointed by the parishes in our diocese (ours are James Poder, Elaine Gabellieri, Jim Mahoney and me) gather to elect the 13th bishop of our diocese. But on May 12, all five nominees for bishop will be at St. Andrew’s School in Barrington to meet with and answer questions from anyone who’d like to attend what’s traditionally called “the walkabout” (register for the event at <http://www.episcopalresearch.org/2012/04/registration-opens-for-walkabout-event/>). I’ve spoken with several of you who’ve looked at the profiles of our five nominees (<http://www.episcopalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Nominee-Profiles.pdf>), and you can certainly get to know them quite well through reading these materials. There’s no substitute, however, for actually meeting someone, looking them in the eye and hearing them speak, so I hope many of you will attend the walkabout on the 12th.

We all hope and pray that our next bishop will be a blessing to this diocese, but just as important as who that bishop is, is how we arrive at the selection. In the church, process and outcome are equally important. In chapter 18 of Matthew’s gospel, Jesus gives specific instructions or how conflicts are to be handled in the church: What matters is not just the outcome, but how we arrive at the outcome. It is certain that when the delegates gather on June 2 to elect our next bishop, the decision will not be unanimous. Someone will win a majority of the votes and will be elected. Indeed, as those of us on the Search & Nomination Committee went about our work during the last several months, we ourselves were not in total agreement over who should be on the final slate, but because we had listened deeply to everyone, we were able to reach our conclusions with respect and love for one another. Because of the integrity of the process, we were at peace with the outcome.

No bishop is perfect, and our next bishop – whoever he or she may be – will not be perfect, either. But hopefully, if he or she is practicing visionary leadership (which is what the people of our diocese said we most wanted in our next bishop), that individual will make the bold decisions that are necessary in our diocese while having listened deeply to people’s hopes, fears, concerns and dreams. We may not always like the bishop’s decisions, but we will be able to say, “The bishop listened to me and knew and cared how I felt.” Listening, loving, and boldly stepping forward from the past into the future – that will be an excellent recipe for our next bishop. With these five nominees, I feel very confident that that’s just what we’ll get.

– Jonathan

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April was an exciting month, beginning with services during the Triduum (the “great three days” leading up to Easter) and ending on April 29 with the Eastertide Readings and Music service.

Through the month of May we will continue basking in the glow of the Resurrection. The choir will sing at the 10 a.m. Sunday Eucharist on May 6 and 13. On Sunday, May 20 (the Sunday after Ascension Day), the Grace Church Singers will lead the worship at the 10 a.m. Eucharist; at 5 p.m. that same

day the choir will sing Evensong as part of the “Sundays at Five” series. The great 50 days of Easter ends on Sunday, May 27, with the feast of Pentecost. The music at 10 a.m. that morning will include motets by Tallis and Palestrina. We will also commemorate Memorial Day (which occurs the next day).

We are always eager to welcome new participants for our choirs. Further information concerning the Grace Church music program is available from Mark Johnson at 401-330-6787.

Meet Bishop Nominees at Walkabout

As described in the rector’s column on page 1, Grace Church’s elected diocesan delegates will be attending the “walkabout” public event May 12 at St. Andrew’s School in Barrington. But the event is open to anyone who’s interested in meeting the nominees.

All attendees must register in advance, however, and pay a \$10 fee; register by May 2 to avoid any late fees. You can register by going to the transition blog at www.episcopalresearch.org/2012/04/registration-opens-for-walkabout-event/ and clicking the “register” button or by going to the diocesan website at www.episcopalri.org/NewsEvents/TheWalkabout/tabid/410/Default.aspx.

You can also learn more about the nominees by reading a series of “letters to the people of Rhode Island” that were published on the transition blog (www.episcopalresearch.org) April 23 – 27.

Grace Church Apartments Sale

As announced April 10 in the e-news, the vestry voted at its March meeting to accept an offer from a Boston-based group called Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) to buy Grace Church Apartments for \$7 million. There is a mortgage on the building currently, so Grace Church will actually receive well less than half of that amount, with the remainder going to paying off the mortgage plus transaction fees. That’s still a significant sum, however, which will be used in a variety of ways to sustain our presence and further build God’s kingdom here in Providence. Although the offer has been accepted, there are a number of necessary details to be

worked out. We hope to close the sale by the end of this year.

Many parishioners may not know that Grace Church owns an apartment complex, so Jonathan used the e-news to answer some questions about the decision, in a question-and answer-format. If you did not receive the e-news and would like a copy of the questions and answers, contact the parish administrator at cboyle@grace-churchprovidence.org or 401-331-3225. If you have questions about the sale of the apartments, contact the rector at jhuyck@gracechurchprovidence.org.

Parish Profile:Joyce Gray Baker

by Raymond Finelli

Joyce Baker is an enthusiastic Christian. She is, in all things, inspired and responsive, especially in church forums and study gatherings where, in her many contributions, she may agree or disagree but always with an abiding purpose of gaining an ever-deeper comprehension of the Lord’s bounty.

Joyce’s happiness as a member of the family of Grace Church is rooted in her involvement in parish activities. She is an usher and in fact shared head-of-ushers recruiting and assignment for 11 years; she served on the vestry for six years when the Rev. Daniel Warren was the rector; she has used her artistic talent to create promotional pieces for events and special programs such as the First Fruits Stewardship campaign, and she is an active participant today in the adult forums that occur at 9 a.m. each Sunday. “I love the Bible study classes and the chance to share ideas with so many interesting people.”

Joyce’s early church years were at the Methodist Tabernacle Church in Providence. Her grandfather, the Rev. Frank Gray, was the Methodist Episcopal minister, and her mother, Ivy Gray, was organist and choir director. When the Tabernacle Church closed her mother accepted the same job – organist and choir director – at Plainfield Baptist Church. Joyce had taken cello lessons privately for six years and occasionally played the cello at church with her mother at the organ. Her brother played the violin and the three – Joyce, her brother and her mother – played as a trio at weddings and for special occasions. Joyce also played the cello in the school orchestra but said that while she enjoyed music she decided that her career would be in the visual arts.

The Plainfield Church closed and the congregation merged with the Church of the Master, which was across the intersection in Olneyville from Church of the Messiah (Episcopal). Joyce remained a Baptist until she met her future husband, Lloyd Alan Baker, a Rhode Island architect. They had met as students at Rhode Island School of Design. He was an Episcopalian and she went to church with him. Eventually she became an Episcopalian and was confirmed at Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranston where she and Lloyd were married in 1955.



Joyce became a member of Grace Church in 1990, a moment in her life, she says, when she experienced “an astounding, incredible sense of renewal...

They had four children, two of whom now have families of their own. Mark, the oldest of three boys, is a computer programmer and lives in Arizona. Mark also plays a 12-string guitar. Kyle has seven children and is a doctor of obstetrics and gynecology in Connecticut. Kyle plays the guitar, writes music, sings in his church choir and paints. Scott is an artist living in Brooklyn and works for the New York Department of Transportation. Cheryl Ivy, the daughter, has three children. Cheryl has two master’s degrees in library science, one of which she received at the University of Wales. She is the librarian for the Westerly Hospital.

Joyce and Lloyd, however, were divorced in 1970; they were reconciled during the last two years of his life, but in 2008 he died. Joyce had served on the vestry at Trinity Church in North Scituate. She taught in the church school, was president of the Women’s Fellowship and led the annual bazaar, but ultimately, following the divorce, she stepped away from the church.

Joyce became a member of Grace Church in

1990, a moment in her life, she says, when she experienced “an astounding, incredible sense of renewal,” and in 1991, sponsored by her daughter Cheryl, she reaffirmed her baptismal vows. “Because of its study groups and because the people are so supportive,” says Joyce, “I feel that the Grace Church family is a very important part of my life, and the music inspires me in my whole being.”

Joyce majored in illustration at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1956. She freelanced as a graphic designer for many years, and in 1993 she developed her own line of handmade jewelry, which she calls Zing Collection. She sells at most RISD alumni sales, which are held outdoors on Benefit Street, at the RISD Rhode Island Convention Center holiday sale and at consignment shops. Joyce says she has enjoyed wide acceptance of her jewelry, and considerable growth in sales. Many of her followers are people who are attracted to the colors and the uniqueness of her designs.

Joyce walks every day for about two miles “for good health and spirit.