



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

175 MATHILWSON 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*

September, 2015

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Quick Links

- [Grace Church Website](#)
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Deadline: October E-News

Please [forward](#) any content for October's e-news by Friday, **September 18th**.

Grace Church Calendar

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

Wednesdays in September
12:00 p.m. Noonday Eucharist
12:20 p.m. Intercessory Prayer

Saturdays,
September 12th & 26th
9:30 a.m. Women's Prayer and Bible Study: Chafee Room

Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth." So says the Lord in the book of the Prophet Isaiah (43:19). This Bible verse is very fitting for certain holy days (Christmas, Easter) and also for seasons of the year, such as spring. But I've always felt the newness of things especially in fall, with schools starting up and churches, too, often beginning new programs. This fall at Grace we'll have new educational offerings (read below), new programs on offer from our diocese (also below), and a new addition to our staff here at Grace: Director of Music Vince Edwards. We're thrilled to have Vince beginning his work here at Grace and look forward to the blessings that his talent, experience, and southern charm will bring to our parish!

In terms of our building, our exterior restoration work wraps up soon (thanks be to God!), and our attention then turns from our outside walls to those inside. As Jesus told us this past Sunday in Mark's Gospel, it's what's inside a person that matters. That must be at least partially true for churches as well, so our work continues!

Blessings,

Jonathan+

From the Director of Music

I'm delighted to be joining the staff of Grace Church as Director of Music and Organist! It is an honor and privilege to continue the fine tradition of music at this wonderful downtown parish. We plan to continue the excellent work done by Interim Director Christian Lane with the Grace Church Choir. We will continue to grow the choir's numbers and expand its repertoire. Our four section leaders - Paige Revens, Nikiki Lawrence, Brad Kleyla and Amory Kisch - will help the choir to offer varied, challenging and inspirational choral music. In addition the Sunday Eucharist, the choir will sing two services of Evensong and a Lessons and Carols service for the Advent/Christmas season. Another very important goal is getting more people through the doors of Grace Church - not only on Sunday but at other times during the week. Whether it be for a noon-day organ concert, a performance by a guest choir/ensemble, or for a late-night musical offering for the many folks who take advantage of Providence's vibrant night scene, we hope to share this profoundly beautiful and spiritual space with more people. We will also be laying the groundwork this year for a choral program for children and

youth - more about that to come!

A booklet entitled Music at Grace will detail our service and musical offerings for the year. Please take a booklet from the rear of the church, find it on our website, or contact the office to have one mailed to your home. It is indeed an exciting time in the life of Grace Church in many ways, and it is my hope that the musical life of Grace will keep up in every way!

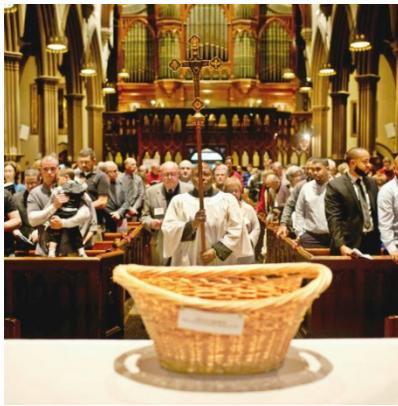
-Vince Edwards
Director of Music at Grace Church

Sunday School - September 20!



Sunday School begins on September 20th, and registration will take place after church on the 13th. The Grace Church Sunday School program uses the Godly Play curriculum. If you have a child between the ages of 3 and 12, please join us! Questions? Please contact our Sunday School Coordinator, Kristie Puster, at kristiepuster@gmail.com.

2016 Stewardship Kick-Off - September 27!



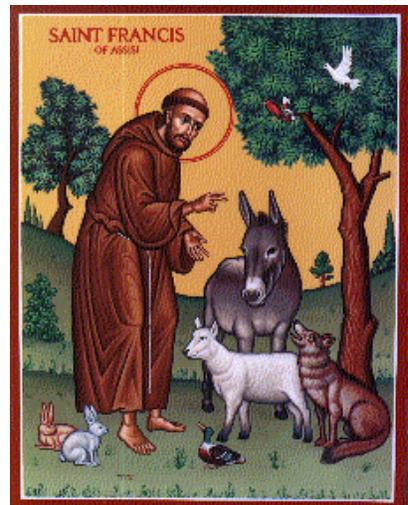
2016 Stewardship Campaign Kick-Off Celebration

Pray . . . Serve . . . Give

Gather with fellow parishioners after the September 27th - Sunday 10 a.m. service as we hear about the impact and importance of our stewardship gifts.

Blessing of the Animals - October 4!

Grace Church will host our annual Blessing of the Animals during the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, October 4. The annual event honors St. Francis of Assisi, known as the patron saint of animals. So bring your dogs, cats, birds or other animals - or a picture if your animal doesn't travel well - to have them blessed by the rector.



Wednesday Noon Eucharist

Is Back!

Parish mini-retreat by Kathleen Norris

All are invited to a parish mini-retreat on "The Desert in the Bible and in our Lives" with Kathleen Norris on Thursday, October 8th at 6 p.m. Kathleen Norris is a renowned spiritual writer and Episcopalian who worshipped with us here at Grace last year while teaching at Providence College. She will be visiting from her home in Hawaii next month and has kindly offered to give this mini-retreat for the parish. You can learn more about her here - <http://barclayagency.com/site/speaker/kathleen-norris>. More details to come...

Small Groups at Grace

Next month we'll begin a five-week small group series at Grace. Parishioners will be invited to gather in homes weekly during that time for a shared meal and Bible study/discussion. More info coming soon!

From the Diocese

It's time to say YES!

Yes! A workshop series by the Commission on Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island

Beginning on Oct. 1, 2015 at St. Luke's Church in East Greenwich.



If you are interested in exploring to what life God may be calling you, register today. Yes! was developed to help you create that life. Register [here](#).

Deepen & enrich your life with EfM

New classes beginning in September

What is EfM? EfM stands for "Education for Ministry," an adult program of Scripture study, church history and theological reflection and education created and administered by the School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee). The Diocese of Rhode Island is a sponsoring diocese for the EfM program.

For more information contact our Diocesan EfM Coordinator, Sue Hurn, who can be reached by email at shurn@cox.net.

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Grace Episcopal Church

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