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Grace Episcopal Church E-News

Grace Abounds

Summer,

2015

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Rector's Letter

Friends,

Some of the work Jesus does is very visible, sometimes it's quite hidden. As we've been reading chapter 6 of Mark's Gospel in church, we see that Jesus' work is often so public, that he has flee in a boat to escape the crowds! But we know that at other times, such as with the raising of Jairus' daughter from the dead, his good work is seen by only a few. The work that the Episcopal Church and Grace Church does is also sometime clear



Quick Links

[Grace Church Website](#)

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Deadline: September's E-News

Please [forward](#) any content for September's e-news by **Friday, August 21st.**

Grace Church Calendar

Sundays in the Summer

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

Saturdays,

2nd & 4th of the Month

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

to all and sometimes not as obvious. This past month, the Episcopal Church made history by electing the first African-American, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, as our next Presiding Bishop. You can read about that momentous event [here](#).

That event made national news, as did General Convention's (the policy-making body of the Episcopal Church) decision to create one marriage liturgy available to both same and opposite gender couples. Here at Grace, we made the front page of the local paper for our restoration work (you can read the article below), even though when the scaffolding comes down next month, the place will look much as it did before. But if you were to look closely, you would see that things that were falling down are now staying up! And, of course, as the ProJo article alludes to, there is more to come...and more to celebrate!

- Jonathan +

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. 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, Christine Pulciani, Marc Schrank, Patricia Trosclair,

and Elizabeth Wheeler. Thank you for your support and keep us in your prayers!

Mid-Summer Cookout!

After church on August 9th

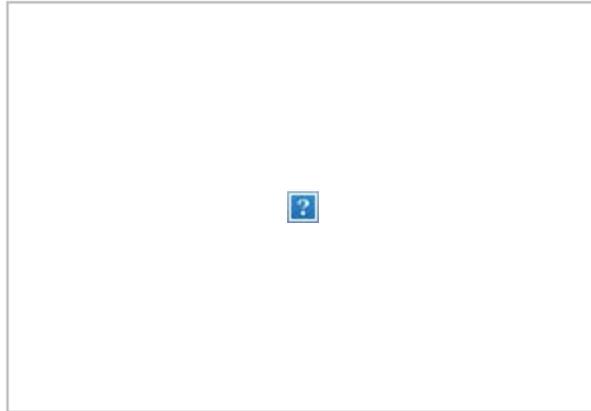
We'll have a cookout (where else? in the parking lot!) to celebrate Christian Lane, our Interim Organist/Choir Director on his last Sunday here at Grace. Be on the lookout for a signup sheet for side dishes, tasks, and fun!



Grace in the News

To see the story that Channel 12 ran on the Interfaith Vigil that Grace hosted for the victims of last month's shootings in Charleston, South Carolina, [click here](#). Below is the article from the Providence Journal, July 13, 2015 by Patrick Anderson.

Episcopal Church Restoration to Open Doors in Providence



*The Rev. Jonathan Huyck at Sunday's 10 a.m. service.
"After 167 years," he says, the church "needs some attention."
The Providence Journal/Glenn Osmundson*

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - With chunks of stonework falling from its rear facade and water leaking into a stained glass window this spring, Grace Episcopal Church had reached the point where doing nothing to its 1848 neo-Gothic house of worship was no longer an option.

"Having a historic church is a mixed blessing," said the Rev. Jonathan Huyck, rector of Grace Church, about maintaining the building. "After 167 years it needs some attention."

Three years ago, the city's oldest Episcopal Church, the Cathedral of St. John on North Main Street, was closed in the face of mounting repair costs and a shrinking base of parishioners.

So with that outcome in mind, Grace Episcopal has embarked on an aggressive, multimillion-dollar plan to preserve the Westminister Street church and expand it into a bigger part of the surrounding community.

Repair work on the building exterior is already under way, and church leaders are finishing plans to extend a new parish hall off the west side of the building.

The new hall would replace the church's current basement gathering space with a glass-enclosed, wheelchair-accessible, single-story structure fronted by a new sanctuary garden.

It would have a new code-compliant kitchen to allow the congregation to hold soup kitchens, church suppers and community events that it can't host in the current parish hall, itself a 1912 addition connected to the original church with a series of narrow, twisting stairwells and passages.

"The primary motivation is to serve the needs of the congregation, including making it accessible for people with disabilities, but we will also be a place for community events," Huyck said.

On one level, becoming more of a neighborhood presence would mark a return to Grace's roots. The congregation was originally formed in 1829, when its part of Westminister Street was more residential. As the city's central business district spread west, Grace Church became less neighborhood oriented and more regional.

However, that demographic pattern has recently been reversing, Huyck noted, with downtown becoming one of Providence's fastest-growing neighborhoods.

Across the parking lot from the church, the Kinsley Building is in the final stages of being converted into apartments, and several other buildings on Westminister are candidates for similar conversions.

"Downtown will continue to be one of the fastest-growing neighborhoods in the city, and we would like

to be open to newcomers," Huyck said.

Often associated with Rhode Island's historic Protestant elite, Grace Episcopal in recent decades has become a diverse congregation, drawing a large number of parishioners from the city's Liberian community.

Since the precise design of the new parish hall has not been completed, Huyck said Grace Church does not know exactly how much it will cost, aside from "millions."

By June the church had raised \$1 million toward a goal of \$1.25 million in its first capital fundraising campaign in 25 years.

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Grace Episcopal Church

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