

More Grace News!

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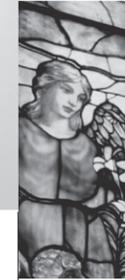
E-Letter Deadline

The deadline dates for each month's two e-letters is one week prior to the 8th and 30th of each month. Please send submissions to Andy Shapiro-Zysk at azysk@cox.net.



GRACE *In The City*

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE



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, to downtown Providence, and beyond.

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From The Rector

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."
- Ecclesiastes 3:1

This July issue of the Grace Church parish newsletter, Grace in the City, will be the last. Last month, the Vestry and I decided that, in this age of internet, email, and Facebook, it would make more sense for our talented and committed parishioners and staff to put their time, talents, and energy into those very 21st century forms of communication. In making this decision, we are following in the footsteps of other churches, both in our diocese and around the world. For decades, a monthly print newsletter (originally called "The Parish Helper") was a crucial and beloved instrument in keeping parishioners informed about the common life of the parish – upcoming worship services, educational opportunities, profiles of parishioners, notes on the music being sung in church, etc. Our shift in emphasis is part of our ongoing effort to keep up with the evolving nature of how churches communicate with their parishioners.

As part of that evolution, for the last two and half years, we've been printing an "inclusive" bulletin in an effort to produce a single document each Sunday morning in which worshippers may follow the entirety of the service (except for hymns); see who is serving in what role that morning; and read announcements of upcoming parish events. These "inclusive" bulletins have made the reproduction of announcements in a newsletter less necessary. However, the biggest change has been in electronic communication. For years now, Grace Church has sent out an e-letter via email twice each month to its parishioners. We will continue to do so, and we will bring over to the e-letter much of what people have enjoyed from the print newsletter and hopefully some new features as well. We will focus our energy on making sure that that publication is as good and helpful as possible, and we will print and mail copies of the e-letter to parishioners who do not use computers. We are also committed to updating our parish website regularly, so that upcoming events can always be found there by anyone in the parish...or anyone on the planet, for that matter! I'm told by our teenagers here at Grace that, among the younger set, even email and websites have been superseded by Facebook, and, of course, people of all generations find Facebook a wonderful way to communicate. Grace Church does indeed have a Facebook page, but, going forward, we will seek to build it up so that it too can be a venue

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(401) 331-3225

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for active communication in the parish. Before signing off in print for the final time, I want to thank three parishioners who have given many hours of their time over the months and years to bring this publication to print each month. Andy Shapiro-Zysk took over from Dave Seifert as editor of the newsletter last year and has done a wonderful job. Libby Rock has been doing the layout of the newsletter for years and has brought her considerable professional skills and generosity of time and spirit to the task. And last, but

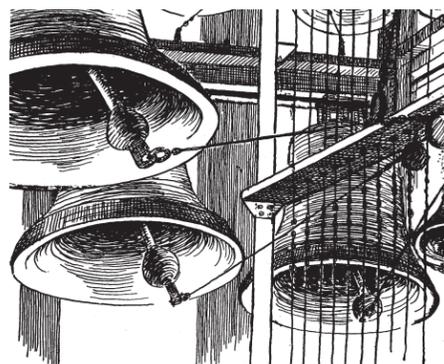
most certainly not least, Ray Finelli has given us a profile every month of a parishioner here at Grace Church. I took no offense when my wife Ann told me it was her favorite part of the newsletter! It was mine too. Thank you so much, Ray, Andy, and Libby!

So while you won't be reading this particular publication any longer, you'll certainly be hearing from us. Both the Vestry and I welcome any feedback you have on ways that we might improve how we communicate with the congregation and the community. The

message of the Christian faith — love of God and neighbor and following the risen Christ — is unchanging, but how we communicate that faith and all that surrounds it does change as the world changes. As I quoted at the start of this letter, and as the good book says, "To everything there is a season." I hope this summer season brings you all many blessings.

In Christ,
Jonathan +

June Music Notes



The regular choir season concluded on Sunday, June 16. Our thanks are due not only to our choristers, who have offered so freely of their time, energy, and skill while working together, but also to all those who have supported them and our music program in their efforts through transportation, hospitality, etc. Thanks and recognition were also given during the service to long-time chorister Julia Calise who has offered exceptional service to Grace Church through the Choir for nine years. Last month, she graduated from St. Mary Academy, Bay View, and will be attending and rowing for the University of Connecticut this fall. During her tenure as a chorister, Julia rehearsed for and sang for approximately 500 liturgies with our choir,

while keeping up a very active academic and athletic schedule. We will miss her enormously, both musically and personally, and wish her the very best for the future.

On Sunday, June 23, we switched over to our multigenerational summer choir, which will continue through Sunday, September 8. There are no weekday rehearsals, but we practice at 9 a.m. each Sunday, prior to singing the service at 10 a.m. It is a weekly, not a seasonal, commitment. Everyone is welcome. Singing can be a meaningful and enjoyable way to participate in the liturgy while providing an opportunity to meet others engaged in a common effort.

During the summer months, we would also like to try some singing with young people. If you know of a young person who might be interested, please call Mark Johnson at 401-330-6787 to discuss the possibilities.

The regular 2013-2014 choir season begins September 15, 2013. Further information is available about the Grace Church music program from Mark Johnson at the aforementioned number or at mjohnson@gracechurchprovidence.org.

Lavonne Seifert's Ordination to the Priesthood

By the Grace of God, The Right Reverend Dean Elliott Wolfe, Ninth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, will ordain our friend and former parishioner, Lavonne Seifert, to the Sacred Order of Priests in Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on Saturday, August 24th, at Grace Epis-

copal Cathedral in Topeka, Kansas. Dave and Lavonne have asked that you please keep them in your prayers as they begin this next part of their journey together. If you're thinking about being at the ordination, please contact Dave and Lavonne for more details at: daveandlavonne@yahoo.com.

Parish Profile: Robert and Selina Olawoye

by Raymond Finelli

Robert and Selina Olawoye came to the United States from the Western African country of Nigeria - Robert first in 1979, followed by Selina in 1982. Selina and Robert are both survivors of the Biafran War, a military coup to support secession of the eastern quarter of the country. In its effort to quell the uprising, the government prevented all shipments of food and supplies to the East through sanctions, and, for more than three years, Selina was cut off from any contact with her family in the West.

The war ended in 1970. Sanctions ended, the nation was restored, and Selina at last was able to join her family. Selina, a graduate of Lagos State School of Nursing in Nigeria, has a degree in Nursing and Midwifery. Upon arrival in the States, she continued her education, attending Health Education classes at Rhode Island College. In 1996, she established her own business, Aramsco Nursing Services, which she operated for 17 years. She is now available to two nursing homes: Mount Saint Rita in Cumberland and Hebert Health Center in Smithfield, Rhode Island.

Robert, an industrial machinist, attended Nashua Technical College for Automotive Engineering in Concord, Massachusetts, where he earned a degree in Automotive Mechanics. He owned and operated an automotive garage for more than 10 years, before becoming a residential specialist at The Groden Network, a center internationally recognized for its pioneering work with autistic individuals.

The couple came to Grace Church from the Cathedral of St. John. When St. John's closed down, they, like many of the Cathedral parishioners, took action by visiting other Rhode Island churches for several months before deciding, on Stewardship Day, to pledge to Grace Church. Choir Director Mark Johnson, already aware of Selina's singing ability, having directed the Cathedral choir in the past, invited her to join the Grace Church Singers when the couple became members. Robert has become an usher.



Selina says, "Give me my Bible any time, that's my favorite book."

The Olawoyes have two children: Henry, 28, a University of Delaware graduate, and Jessica, 27, a graduate of Howard University.

The couple's travels consist of visits with their children and family members throughout the U.S. and Canada and in reconnecting with their families in Nigeria.

Asked about their reading, Robert says he reads material related to his work. Selina says, "Give me my Bible any time, that's my favorite book." In addition to the music of the Church, she particularly enjoys classical and Nigerian music. Bob is a sports fan. He likes football, wrestling, soccer and basketball.