

More Grace News!

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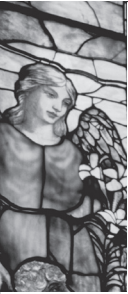
Newsletter Deadline

The deadline date for November’s news-
letter is Monday, October 15.
Send submissions to Andy Shapiro–Zysk
at azysk@cox.net.



GRACE *In The City*

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE



From The Rector

Last month, I voted in the state of Rhode Island for the very first time. It had been years since I actually stepped into a voting booth. When we were living in France, all my voting was done by absentee ballot, and since I’m not a French citizen, for that whole time I didn’t vote in the city or country where I was living. I was surprised by how much I missed the ability to be deeply involved in the life of the city and country where I lived. Even before leaving Paris, I knew that when we moved to Providence, I wanted to subscribe to the local newspaper and learn about my city and state and vote in its elections. I’ve been happily reading the “ProJo” for two years now. Yes, there are the front page headlines like September 14th’s “Judge fines Warwick woman \$15 for cockatoo accused of swearing at ex’s new love,” but it’s helped me to no end to learn about the challenges that face this city and state that we love.

During his ministry on this earth, Jesus preached a universal message, but he also responded to the specifics of his time (30 AD) and place (Roman Palestine). As followers of Jesus, we are called to do the same. We still preach his universal message of love of God and neighbor, but we are called to do so in the context of our own time and place. That means we need to ask some hard questions. Are our city and state managed in a way that as many people as possible might find gainful employment to support themselves and their families? What can we do, as Christians, to help the people of our city move from poverty to a life of dignity and hope in the future? With Rhode Island having the second-worst unemployment rate in the country (thank you, Nevada!), are our elected officials doing work in the State House that will create a Rhode Island where people will be able to find jobs that enable them to feed themselves and their families? Or are they simply looking after their own political futures and the desires of their powerful supporters?

As a priest of the Church, it is not my place to endorse any particular candidate, of course. But I want to assure you all that just as Jesus engaged in the issues that affected his community, we must do the same. Jesus famously said, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and give to God what is God’s.” Next month, what we need to give to Caesar - or, in our case, our elected officials - is our ballots. As parishioners of Grace Church, we live in multiple zip codes with multiple elected officials, some of you even in neighboring states. But we should all be ready to vote in a couple weeks and to vote against any elected officials who have abused the public trust by

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*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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GRACE CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE

175 Mathewson Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3499
(401) 331-3225
www.GraceChurchProvidence.org



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Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3499
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engaging in unethical or illegal activity or any politicians who have excused such behavior. Many of us have causes we care deeply about and that we'd like to see our legislators address as early as yesterday. But nothing is more important to the future of our state

and its ability to claw its way back than for Rhode Island to have clean government. So on November 6th, render unto Caesar a ballot. The result might not look as dramatic as Jesus' turning over the tables in the Temple, but perhaps, here in Rhode Island, we might

just be able to turn over a new leaf, so that we can have real hope for a better future for the people of our city and state.

Blessings,
Jonathan+

Music Notes



On Sunday, September 2nd, the summer choir season concluded. We are grateful to all those who lent their voices and their instrumental skills to help enrich our worship during the warm months. With fall now upon us, the choir and Grace Church Singers have been busy:

- *Sunday, September 9th:* The choir sang the first 10 a.m. Eucharist of the season.
- *Sunday, September 16th:* Music focused on the lectionary and remembering Holy Cross Day (September 14th).

- *Sunday, September 23rd:* The Grace Church Singers sang their first 10 a.m. service of the new season. Christina Stanley played a partita by Bach for solo violin during the receiving of Communion. After the service, we had our first meeting of our newly-formed “Cherub Choir.” At 5 p.m., the choir sang Choral Evensong, the first “Sundays at 5” service of the year.

- *Sunday, September 30th:* The music for the Eucharist included a motet sung in commemoration of the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels (September 29th).

Looking ahead to this month:

- *Sunday, October 7th:* At 10 a.m., our parish will celebrate the annual St. Francis service, which includes a blessing of the animals. The music will be centered on that event. The Choir and Grace Church Singers will collaborate to provide musical leadership for that morning. At 8 p.m., our “Compline Choir” will sing its first office. There will

be fellowship after the service in the Chafee Room. It is our intent to sing Compline the first Sunday of each month through May.

- *Sunday, October 14th:* The Grace Church Singers will sing at the 10 a.m. service. The choir will sing Choral Evensong at 5 p.m. as part of the “Sundays at 5” services. Food and fellowship to follow.

- *Sundays, October 21st and 28th:* The Choir will sing at the 10 a.m. Eucharist both days.

We are hoping to add members to all of our ensembles (the choir, the Grace Church Singers, the Compline Choir, and the Cherub Choir.) In particular, we would like to extend an invitation to singers with other Sunday morning obligations who might be able to join us for evening services. Information about this or any aspect of our music program is available from Mark Johnson, at 401-331-3225 or mjohnson@gracechurch-providence.org.

Blessing of the Animals – October 7th

On Sunday, October 7th, we will honor St. Francis of Assisi with the blessing of the animals at the 10 a.m. service. A very heartwarming service, everyone is welcome to bring their pets of all kinds, as our animals are God's creatures and our faithful companions. Their presence under Grace's soaring arches is a lovely contrast of the sacred and the very human. On good years, we have had everything from dogs of all sizes and cats in carriers (and not) to beloved lizards and reptiles in their tanks.

Each year, we also invite the Providence Police Mounted Command to come by after the service, to celebrate working and service animals everywhere - on farms, in harnesses, at war - who lend their strength and gifts to us every day. We hope to see you and your pet there!

Please remember that all pets must be leashed or suitably restrained or caged.



Stewardship 2013

As we prepare for our second annual Commitment Sunday on November 18th, please add this prayer to your daily devotions:

“Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded by the Psalmist that Yours is ‘the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it.’ We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have, and are, and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that You call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all You have entrusted to us. Help us always to use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Mark your calendars for our 2nd annual Stewardship Kickoff Party following the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, October 28th. We will enjoy some delectable hors d’oeuvres, as we hear stories about the impact our pledges have on our life at Grace Church and the projected budget for 2013. There will also be yummy snacks and fun for our Sunday School kids!

“You will be enriched in every way for your generosity.” - 2 Corinthians 9:11

Young Families Fall Gathering

On a recent Saturday, 20 young parents and kids gathered at Paterson St. Park on the East Side for locally-sourced cider (Hill Orchards in Johnston) and donuts (Allie's in North Kingstown). While the parents drank cider and coffee and munched on donuts, the kids played in the playground and climbed trees (pictured are Benjamin Huyck and Markose Strnad). Of course, the kids also had some donuts! This was the first get-together specifically for families in the parish with young kids, but hopefully not the last!



GRACE CHURCH
CALENDAR

Sundays in October
8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. – Sunday Forum: Chafee
9:45 a.m. – Sunday School
10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays in October
Noon – Holy Eucharist

Sunday, October 7
10:00 a.m. – Healing Prayer: Messiah Chapel
8:00 p.m. – Compline

Monday, October 8
Deadline for submissions for the
October 15 e-news

Sunday, October 14
5:00 p.m. – Choral Evensong

Monday, October 15
Deadline for submissions for the November
Newsletter

Tuesday, October 23
6:30 p.m. – Vestry Meeting: Chafee

Wednesday, October 24
Deadline for submissions for the
October 31 e-news

Sunday, October 28
11:15 a.m. – Stewardship Kickoff

The Teens in Action 2012 Service Trip

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chopping corn, bagging it, and then vacuum-sealing the bags to be sent to various homeless shelters and hungry families. In total, we bagged 1,200 ears of corn and, afterward, spent a long-time cleaning (the place was spotless when we left). Then we went home, cooked a feast, and fell – exhausted – into bed. Early the next morning, we left for ...

Capital Hill United Methodist Church

Capital Hill United Methodist Church was quite an experience for all of us, waking up early to serve breakfast burritos in an unfamiliar church at the start of a long and tiring day. When we arrived at the church, we set up for the meal, which was served in their beautiful meeting room. We prepared a cheese platter to accompany bagels and breakfast burritos. The folks at breakfast were a diverse group of about 30 people, ranging from lifetime DC natives to refugees. Being told to “sit and talk with someone you don’t know” allowed us to learn lot about everyone there. We made plans to come back to the church for Sunday services and to serve at another, bigger, breakfast. We were impressed by their hospitality and how seriously they take their ministry to the hungry and homeless! Following breakfast and clean-up, we loaded back into the van for a two-hour drive to...

Farming for the Hungry

After breakfast, and a long drive, we picked corn – 2,400 pounds of it, to be exact! We drove to a corn field located directly in The Middle of Nowhere, Virginia. The corn we were picking apparently wasn’t pretty enough for the company who grew it to sell in grocery stores. Therefore, the company lets volunteers like us pick as much of the remaining corn as we want and gives it to the DC Central Kitchen which preps it and sends it to feed the hungry. It was about 100 degrees outside, and we were in the direct sunlight for two hours. It was extremely hot, but, somehow, we bore the heat by singing all sorts of songs and taking frequent water breaks. When we left, we felt SERIOUSLY accomplished and celebrated with extra-large dollar sodas and ice cream at McDonalds. We were then excited to go home and shower. Once more, we cooked a feast and fell asleep. The next morning, we headed to ...

Museums, Southeast White House, and Atlas Theatre

On the third day, we started out by visiting the Holocaust Museum, which was a profound, sobering, and moving experience for all of us. From there, we went back to do some volunteer work at the Southeast White House, who had so generously fed us brunch when we first arrived. Following our work there, we changed into black-and-white clothes and headed out to usher at the Atlas Theatre. While there, we learned that a group of teenage performers can put on a great show, and a community theatre can be created from an old building. At both volunteer opportunities, the people there were kind enough to provide us with food, which meant that we didn’t have to eat ANOTHER meal of brown-bag PB&Js! Everyone had a warm heart and a nice spirit.

Wrapping up the Trip

We spent one full day just hanging out and enjoying the beauty of the city. One group spent the whole day doing touristy things in Washington, while the other spent the day doing outdoor activities closer to our home base in Maryland. We ended-up covered in mud (on purpose) and with Federal IDs (from the US Archives), full of food and laughter and adventure. It was great to have one full day to just hang out, since our earlier days had been so busy!

We spent our last day working and worshiping with our friends at Capital Hill United Methodist Church, and then an incoming storm meant that we had to rush to the airport six hours early, so we could get a flight home at a reasonable hour. When we touched down in TF Green and smelled the delicious donut-smell of Rhode Island, we knew that we were glad to be home and that we would never be the same.

Parish Profile: Spike Sommers

by Raymond Finelli

Spike Sommers, a member of the choir, is recruiting boys to create a Grace Church boys choir. The choir is open to boys 7 to 11 years of age whose voices have not yet changed and who would benefit from professional musical training.

Spike, a high school junior at the Wheeler School, is being assisted in the recruiting by his choral teacher, Kristen Sprague, and is enthusiastically supported by our esteemed organist and choirmaster, Mark Johnson. Of course, until they have a good number of boys, there can’t be a separate choir, but Spike says that they have already involved four boys, one of whom has been in the choir for three weeks. Says Spike, “Since I began teaching the boys, I have felt more patient and better at communicating. I’m learning as much as they are, and it gives me great pleasure to see them start to sing and appreciate the music. It’s awesome to teach brilliant and energetic kids!”

A young man whose unusual name would seem to command immediate attention, Spike’s spirit of adventure developed while growing up in San Diego, California. Spike was very much involved with the Boys Choir at St Paul’s Cathedral there. For seven years, he was head chorister, and a choir member for another year, before his mother, Christina Stanley, was offered the position of Chief Medical Examiner for the State of Rhode Island, and the family closed its western home and moved to Providence.

As expected, Spike’s inspiration to get a boys choir started at Grace Church came from his experience at St Paul’s Cathedral in San Diego, where he also gained experience as an actor, which kindled his appreciation for the performing arts. It all started with a church opera he had a part in called “Noye’s Fludde.” Later, with a professional opera house, he played in the opera “Peter Grimes” and had a lead role in “Amahl and The Night Visitors” by Gian Carlo Menotti. Spike says his acting roles came about through his connections with the church choir. Like Mark at Grace Church, Spike says, “my enthusiastic choirmaster in San Diego helped me become



Like Mark at Grace Church, Spike says, “my enthusiastic choirmaster in San Diego helped me become a better person. He showed me the value of community service, how to be a good role model, and encouraged me to try out my leadership skills.”

a better person. He showed me the value of community service, how to be a good role model, and encouraged me to try out my leadership skills.”
In Providence, Spike attends acting classes at Trinity Repertory Theater after school on weekdays and on weekends where he is

a student in the Young Actors Studio. At school, Spike studies Latin, Biology, particularly enjoys U.S. History, and for the first time, he says, Math. In the visual arts, he takes drawing and sculpture.
Spike enjoys New England’s four seasons of the year. “There is no winter in San Diego.”

NEWS AND EVENTS



Back to School Drive – Overwhelming Success!!!

The Outreach Ministry wishes to thank the Grace Church community for its overwhelming support of the August Back-To-School Drive for Children's

Friend! Countless school supplies, including backpacks, socks, sneakers, markers, crayons, scissors, notebooks, paper and more were donated and delivered to some of Rhode Island's most vulnerable children. Thank you!!!

Providence In-Town Churches Association (PICA) Thanksgiving Food Drive

On Sunday, October 14th, Grace Church will commence its annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Providence In-Town Churches Association. PICA is a faith-based nonprofit agency whose mission is to offer stability, justice, and hope to those in need through advocacy and direct service. Baskets with a list of suggested food items will be available at the rear of the church from October 14th through November 11th. Please return all baskets with food donations to Grace Church by Sunday, November 18th. Volunteers are needed to assist with delivery of food donations following the 10 a.m. service on November 18th. Please contact Elaine Gabellieri at jeffoster1@cox.net or Joshua Klemp at jklemp@ccri.edu for more information.

Grace Church Silent Auction

Save the Date!!! The Outreach Ministry Team Invites YOU to join fellow Grace Church parishioners to celebrate Christmas and the spirit of giving! On December 1st, Grace Church will host its annual Silent Auction from 5 - 7:30 p.m. Parking is free in the church parking lot. All of the proceeds will benefit Children's Friend and the Providence In-Town Churches Association (PICA).

Below is some additional information on our beneficiaries. Thank you so much for your support!

Please contact Elaine Gabellieri at jeffoster1@cox.net or Joshua Klemp at jklemp@ccri.edu for more information or to become involved in any aspect of the Grace Church Outreach Ministry.

Children's Friend (cfsri.org)

Children's Friend has been serving Rhode Island's most vulnerable children and their families since 1834. The children that they serve face a myriad of obstacles in their lives, including poverty, language barriers, lack of education, substance abuse, and difficulty accessing health care. Because of these obstacles, many of their parents have difficulty caring for them.

Children's Friend supports families and helps them find the strength to overcome their hurdles. By creating safe and nurturing environments for children during the crucial early years, and by helping parents gain access to the resources, education, and support that they need, Children's Friend can give children the foundation to help them live healthy and productive lives.

Providence In-Town Churches Association (PICA) (ripica.org)

- PICA has four main program areas and is the support system for those who have none. They charge no fee for services and treat everyone with dignity and respect. PICA's four main program areas are:

- *Daily Food Pantry* - The Pantry is open from Monday to Thursday, from 9 to 11 a.m., and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. It is the only pantry in downtown Providence and is among eight units of subsidized housing.

- *Friday-Evening Community Meal* - PICA provides the main meal for the homeless every Friday evening. The meal site is open at 4 p.m., and the meal is served from 4:45 to 6 p.m. They serve approximately 200 people each week.

- *Homeless Outreach* - This program is open daily from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday to Thursday, with Friday reserved for appointments. PICA's staff provides intensive, holistic case management, taking as much time with each guest as is needed. Their staff advocate for housing, medical care, and on legal issues. They also provide basic needs such as clothing, toiletries, phone use, bus passes, assistance with legal documents and prescriptions.

- *SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach and Recovery)* - Their newest program assists eligible homeless guests in accessing Social Security benefits in an expedited amount of time. Benefits include a monthly payment, access to subsidized housing, and health care.

The Teens in Action 2012 Service Trip

Written collaboratively by the Grace Church Teens in Action

For our service trip this year, the Teens in Action (TIA) went to Washington, DC. We stayed at Liz Richards-Hegnauer's parents' house, which they were kind enough (crazy enough!?) to turn over to the TIA while they escaped to stay with relatives. Living on the banks of the Severn River outside of Annapolis, the teens ate, played, worshiped, and didn't sleep much for five joyful days.

For the first time in our service trips, we flew to our destination, foregoing a ten-hour drive in favor of a 45-minute flight. Bill Galligan took the crew down at 5 a.m. on a Wednesday, and Liz met the teens at the airport with their luxurious 12-passenger van. After taking

an hour to settle in, the crew went to work almost right away.

The Southeast White House

The first thing we did while in DC was to attend a "Reconciliation Brunch" at a Christian organization called the Southeast White House. Located in the southeast quadrant of DC, the Southeast White House provides mentoring services to at-risk kids in the neighborhood. They also host weekly meals to "reconcile all that divides the city and the city from the rest of the world." The meal was attended by a number of locals, as well as several other visiting and volunteering youth groups. We sat and ate with the other groups, discussing our similarities and our differences (there were lots of both!). After those inter-

esting conversations, we left and headed to...

The DC Central Kitchen

The DC Central Kitchen's motto is "We use food as a tool to strengthen our community." Through job training, healthy food distribution, and local small business partnerships, DC Central Kitchen offers path-breaking solutions to poverty, hunger, and poor health. We arrived one afternoon to prepare food that was going to be distributed to hungry families. Once we managed to actually find the kitchen, we were informed of our jobs. We suited up in our aprons and hairnets and got to work! While a few of us went off to work on flyers (since Emmett was "too young" to be allowed to use the kitchen's big knives!), the rest of the group went to town

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Left to right. Back row: Noah Nguyen, Rose O'Gara, Emmett Nguyen. Front Row: Bill Galligan, Emma Bombster, Napoleon Tay, Liz Richards-Hegnauer, Brian O'Gara. Standing, Right: Carly Loiselle, Olivia Cianci, Mr. Richardson (DC Central Kitchen Volunteer Coordinator) Sydney Loiselle