



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

October 18, 2019

Spotlight on Grace: Letter from the Senior Warden

Dear Grace Church Family,

We've arrived at my favorite season of the year. Not fall, although I do love the excitement that comes with the opening of a new academic year, as sweater weather becomes the new normal. No, I mean Stewardship Season. If you hear the word "stewardship" and cringe, I get it: too often, in too many places, it is a synonym for "fundraising." I think that is a horrible distortion of the concept, and I'd like to share a few thoughts about what I believe stewardship is really all about.



Going right back to the Creation story in Genesis, God's people are told to be caretakers - stewards - of the earth and every living creature. I've checked very carefully, and there's no mention in there about ponying up cash to keep Eden running. Things get a lot more difficult after the whole snake-and-apple episode, but at that point God's request is that we all bring the first fruits of our lives and labors to Him, with thanksgiving: the first reaping of grain, the first-born lambs of the flock.

Being a steward means to be a fiduciary, a fifty-cent word that includes the notions of custody and responsibility. We're entrusted with Grace's buildings and our programs, of course, but also with the astonishing and potent promise of resurrection, at which time God expects us to explain how we handled all those responsibilities. Have we been good and faithful servants? Have we found a way to benefit others, those of our own household as well as the stranger, the widow, the orphan, the imprisoned, the destitute?

In this Sunday's Gospel passage from Luke, Jesus tells us to, "pray always and not to lose heart." I hope you will join me in praying daily for our beloved church and everyone, especially our youth, in this parish, city, and state. Celebrate this Stewardship Season with me by making a pledge to support the ministry of this special place that we are blessed to call home.

Yours in Christ,

Adrienne Southgate

Shining Our Light: Stewardship 2020

This week, we are pleased to launch our 2020 Stewardship campaign with a theme of *Shining Our Light*. Currently en route to our member and newcomer households is our annual stewardship letter, in which Jonathan speaks to some of the ways that all of us here at Grace are together shining our light. The following passage from Matthew offers some context for our reflection:

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. - Matthew 5:13-16

Over the next several weeks, leading up to the culmination of our stewardship campaign with **Commitment Sunday (November 17)**, several Grace parishioners will share with us their light-filled stories of faith and gratitude. Also, please find periodic inserts in our Sunday 10AM bulletins, including for this Sunday, that will guide our further reflection on the theme.

A pledge card and return envelope are included in your mailing. If you do not receive our mailing and would like a pledge card mailed to you, please [contact the parish office](#). Additionally, pledge cards will be placed in the pews through Commitment Sunday. Please either mail completed pledge cards, place them in the offering basket, or bring them with you to place at the altar on Commitment Sunday. Setting up regular electronic contributions is easy and convenient [right from our website here](#), or by utilizing the GivePlus mobile app, but please do still fill out a pledge card. And thank you very much for supporting the mission and ministry of Grace Church.



Prayer Shawl and Quilting Ministries

Grace Church has two opportunities for the crafty among us to give back to the community. The Prayer Shawl Ministry, led by Anne McCarthy, has been at Grace for years and invites parishioners to knit shawls and pray as they work. When completed, the shawls are blessed and given to individuals in hospice or others in need of prayer.



The Quilting Ministry is a new endeavor at Grace led by John Chamberlin and will gather those who enjoy quilting at the church to work together on quilts that will go to a similarly good home.

All those interested are encouraged to find Anne and/or John this Sunday during coffee hour in The Pavilion, where they will be positioned at one of the walnut tables in the alcove. They will be delighted to answer any questions you may have. Alternately, please email Anne at annina.mccarthy21@gmail.com or John at jchamberlin1944@gmail.com for more information.

New Parking Location for Sunday Worship

On Sunday mornings (until noon) we now have use of the parking lot immediately opposite the church lot on Snow Street, next to the Federal Building. Please either park facing the brick of the Federal Building, or on the opposite side facing Snow Street. Our hope is that most people will use this new lot, and only use the old lot across Westminster Street if the new one is full.

All Kids and Families are Invited
to a
**Frozen Sing-along
Movie Night!**

Free Admission

Optional: Wear Pajamas & Bring Pillows!

Pizza and Refreshments for Sale

Proceeds to benefit Choristers' 2020 United Kingdom Trip



November 16, 5:30pm

**The Pavilion @ Grace Church
300 Westminster Street**

Upcoming Music at Grace

Joint Choral Evensong October 20 The Grace Church Choir and Choristers will be joined by the Choirs of St. Luke's, East Greenwich, to sing a service of Choral Evensong on October 20, at 4:00 PM. Music of Malcolm Boyle, Herbert Brewer, Richard Ayleward, and David Hurd will be featured. A reception will follow in The Pavilion.

Choral Compline October 20 Our next service of Choral Compline will take place at 8:00 PM on October 20. Come and experience a quiet contemplative 30 minutes of chant, Renaissance polyphony, and fragrant incense in a darkened church by candlelight. Doors open at 7:30 PM.



Thursday Noon Concert This coming Thursday, October 24, Mark Steinbach, University Organist and Senior Lecturer in Music at Brown University will present a 30-minute organ recital of works by Anton Heiler.

This Week at Grace

Weekly Worship Schedule:

Sunday 8:00am Holy Eucharist

Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist with Music

Wednesday 12:00 Noon Eucharist

Open Doors: Your friendly docents are here to greet you every weekday from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Please encourage your friends or guests to come and visit Grace Church and see the new Pavilion at Grace.

Wheelchair Access and Accessible Parking: Please find convenient accessible in the Grace Church parking lot with access from Snow Street. The new wheelchair ramp connects directly from the lot, and you will enter through the new reception entrance of The Pavilion and into the church at ground level.

Parking for Worship: Free parking for Sunday worship is provided:

- 1.) in the lot directly across Snow Street from our lot, at the SW corner of Westminster and Snow; and
 - 2.) In the Grace Church parking lot accessed via Snow Street. We ask your kind cooperation in reserving this lot, to the extent possible, for seniors and those with limited mobility.
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October 20, 2019 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

For the text of this Sunday's readings, [please click here](#).

This week from the Episcopal Church: [United Nations Commission on the Status of Women](#).

[Click here](#) for the latest from the Episcopal News Service. And for current news from the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, [please click here](#).

Would you like to add someone to the prayer list? [Please click here](#) to submit a name, or call the church office at (401) 331-3225. Names are kept on the list for a month, and can be renewed at any time. Those received by Wednesday will appear in the same week's bulletin.



