



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

October 4, 2019

Spotlight on Grace: Blessing of the Animals This Sunday

Grace Church will hold its annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 6, to honor St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. The Rector will bless the animals at the 10:00am service. Grace Church welcomes everyone and their pets: dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, fish, turtles, and toy pets that are brought to the church for the service and the blessing. The only requirement is that animals must be properly restrained, leashed or caged.

Did you know? This beloved peace prayer (below) commonly attributed to St. Francis actually appears to have originated in the twentieth century? [According to Dr. Christian Renoux](#), Associate Professor of the University of Orleans, France:



The first appearance of the Peace Prayer occurred in France in 1912 in a small spiritual magazine called *La Clochette* (The Little Bell). It was published in Paris by a Catholic association known as *La Ligue de la Sainte-Messe* (The Holy Mass League), founded in 1901 by a French priest, Father Esther Bouquerel (1855-1923). The prayer bore the title of 'Belle prière à faire pendant la messe' (A Beautiful Prayer to Say During the Mass), and was published anonymously. The author could possibly have been Father Bouquerel himself, but the identity of the author remains a mystery.

A lovely prayer regardless of its attribution, the peace prayer reads:

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

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.

Christmas Pageant Preparation Begins This Week

Children age 4 through 5th grade are invited to get involved in the Sunday School Christmas Pageant! Please come this Sunday, Oct 6, when the Sunday School will get an early start on pageant preparation, which takes place during regular Sunday School time (during the 10am service). This Sunday will be special since children will learn pageant music with our Director of Music, Vince Edwards, and also come back into church briefly as a group to view the Blessing of the Animals. Think about inviting a friend to join in!



Children gather for Sunday School each week at the purple banner in the back corner of the church, staying with their parents until the 10am service begins and then processing out soon after that with their teachers. Oct. 13 is a "Second Sunday" when children remain in church, and pageant preparation will continue the following week, Oct 20. Children who are participating should attend Sunday School regularly until the pageant presentation on Dec 15. For more information, please email: sundayschool@gracepvd.org

Parents Connect: A New Prayer Ministry at Grace

We've been hearing from parents a desire to connect with each other on a deeper level and pray for each other and for our kids. So starting this Friday, October 4, there will be a Parents Connect prayer group at 6:15pm on the first Friday of each month in the Lounge (to use Rhode Island-speak, it's where the nursery used to be!).



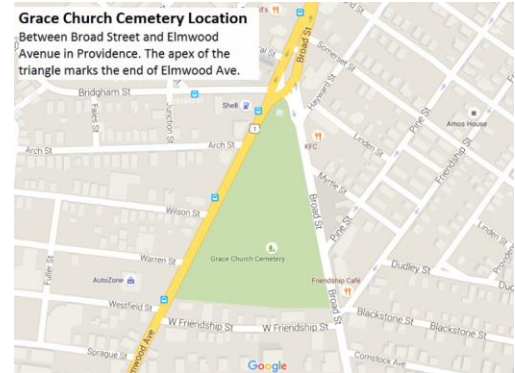
The group is geared towards parents, but anyone is welcome who has a desire to pray for kids and support families. Each week we'll discuss and pray through a psalm - the psalms are fantastic parenting encouragements because they speak to a range of emotions most parents have felt, from exhilaration to exhaustion. With questions, please contact Margrete Jean Louis and Adrian Weimer at parentsconnect@gracepvd.org.

Grace Church Cemetery Cleanup

Join Trinity Gateway Historic Improvement Association (TGHIA) for our fall clean up of the Grace Church Cemetery this Saturday, October 5, from 9:00am to Noon. Participate in community and cleanup by lending a hand (or two) to help improve the experience and remembrance of this space. We will gather at the cemetery at 9:00am.

This clean up is being done in conjunction with Trinity Square Together, a collaboration of nonprofits and businesses working to make sustainable improvements to the Trinity Square area.

To support these periodic cemetery cleanup efforts, TGHIA has set up [a GoFundMe page](#), and we invite you to consider making a donation to help cover their costs.



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:

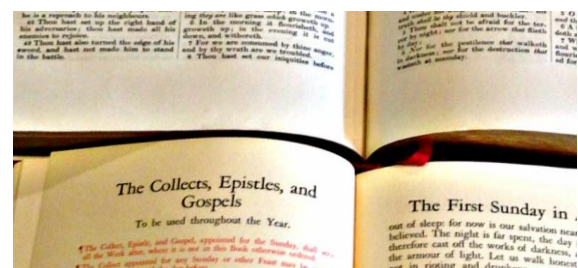
- 1.) in the lot diagonally across Westminster Street, on the NW corner of Westminster and Snow; and
- 2.) In the Grace Church parking lot accessed via Snow Street. We ask your kind cooperation in reserving this lot, to the extent possible, for seniors and those with limited mobility.



October 6, 2019

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us



those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

For this Sunday's readings: [Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4](#); [Psalm 37:1-10](#); [2 Timothy 1:1-14](#); [Luke 17:5-10](#)

Would you like to add someone to the prayer list? Please email Christ Barker at cbarker@gracepvd.org 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.

Styrofoam Recycling this Sunday

On the first Sunday of each month, Grace Church will collect your carefully cleaned and dried styrofoam recyclables in a blue recycling barrel that will be placed outside the office entrance to The Pavilion, next to the handicapped ramp. Items such as styrofoam coffee cups, take-out food containers, rigid styrofoam padding from packages (but not those foam packing peanuts, which are not recyclable), foam meat trays (only if they are stamped with the #6 PS recycling logo), etc., can be recycled through this special program. Key to the success of this program will be your cooperation in ensuring items are thoroughly cleaned and dried before drop-off. Please be sure to **ONLY** bring foam recyclables on the first Sunday of a calendar month, as no recyclables will be collected on any other day. And please do not place recyclables of any other variety in the blue barrel... it is exclusively for styrofoam recyclables.

Putting the *Found* in Lost & Found

In an effort to reunite some lost items with their owners, we will be placing the Lost & Found box out in The Pavilion this Sunday during coffee hour. Please have a glance to see whether anything belonging to you might have found its way there.

Episcopal Church Women Knitting Retreat

The [Episcopal Church Women of Rhode Island](#) invite you to A Time to Unwind: a knitting retreat and meditative arts gathering led by the Sisters of St. Margaret's Convent in Duxbury, MA. The retreat will take place Saturday, October 19, at St. Barnabas Church, 3257 Post Rd in Warwick, from 9am to 2pm. Lunch is included, and the cost for the retreat is \$20. To register, please send a check payable to "ECW-Diocese of RI", and mail to Margaret E. Noel, 225 New London Ave., #434, Cranston, RI 02920.

