



GRACE ABOUNDS



Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church

January 26, 2024

The Open Doors Ministry at Grace Church

DID YOU KNOW? Here is some interesting information about one of our most vibrant ministries which does not occur on Sundays! The Open Doors program at Grace Church allows free public access to our beautiful sanctuary weekdays between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Regularly-scheduled docents are on hand each day to provide a friendly welcome and information for visitors entering through the front doors off Westminster Street. The reasons people come inside are as varied as the individuals themselves: some to warm up during cold weather or to cool off (at least a little!) on sweltering days; others to light candles at the votive station or sit for a few minutes in prayer. Visitors from out-of-town see the sign on the sidewalk and come in to learn about the history of our parish and its architecturally-stunning home. During 2023, Open Doors welcomed 3,469 visitors (that were recorded – probably several hundred more on special Saturdays, such as RIPride, PVDFest, etc), representing at least 30 states (plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) and 21 countries outside our own. The story of Grace and the warmth of its members stretches from our North American neighbors, through Central and South America, across Africa and Eurasia, all the way to New Zealand (and Westerly...).



Grace Church wishes to thank its team of dedicated docents: Pam Baker, Robert Bennett, Anne Clanton, Anne Clear, Duncan Cook, Melody Ennis, Paul Hossfield, Gailia Rutan-Annaldo, and substitutes Janet D'Alesandre and Charlie Rooney.

If you feel called to share a warm Grace Church welcome to visitors during the week and would like to join the roster of Open Doors docents, please email and/or speak to either the Rector or Vince Edwards.

Graced with Socks: The 20s/30s Sock Drive!

The Grace Church 20s/30s Group is holding a Sock Drive for those in need on the Sundays **February 4 and February 11**. Drop pairs of new socks in the red hamper located in The Pavilion February 4-13 and the donations will be dropped off to PVD homeless shelters on Valentine's Day. Please join our community in fulfilling a need this time of year. Last time, in 2020, we donated over 500 pairs of socks, and this year we've been asked for thick ones in regular and larger sizes. Thank you for sharing the warmth!



FESTAL CHORAL EVENSONG WITH THE BLESSING OF CANDLES FOR CANDLEMAS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD 4:00 PM

*The combined choristers of **Grace Church (Providence), St. Luke's Church (East Greenwich), and St. Paul's Church (Fairfield)** will sing music of **Thomas Tallis, Herbert Howells, Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, Alan Gray, and others** under the direction of British conductor, **Dr. Barry Rose, OBE**, former Director of Music of **St. Paul's (London), Guildford, and St. Alban's Cathedrals**. Candles for use in the new year will be blessed and a festive reception follows in The Pavilion.*

Blessed Chalk Available at Church

This past Wednesday, Fr. Jonathan blessed sticks of white chalk during the Noonday Eucharist as per our annual tradition during Epiphanytide. It has been a tradition in the Church to bless chalk at the masses for Epiphany, and then use the blessed chalk as part of blessing one's home in the New Year. Above the doorways of the home, the chalk is used to write 2024 for the year and C, M, B for the three Magi (Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar) which also functions as an acronym for the Latin phrase "Christus Mansionem Benedicat", which translates as "May Christ Bless this House". During this Epiphany season, we hope you take part in this house blessing, and we wish all a blessed, healthy, and safe New Year! To learn more about the background of the "Chalking of the Door", check out this article published by the Episcopal News Service by [clicking here](#).



The blessed chalk is available for pick up from a basket
located in the rear of the church.
Cards with the instructions for the house blessing are also available there.

20+C+M+B+24

Sunday Morning Worship **The Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany**

~ Sunday Morning YouTube Link ~

[Click here!](#)

This service will be live-streamed to the [Grace Church YouTube Channel](#). Please use the link provided above to watch. The service will also be archived on the [Grace Church website](#) for 'on-demand' viewing after Sunday morning. We hope this experience allows those who are not able to join us in person on Sunday to participate in the worship.



To view the Order of Service for **The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany,**
[CLICK HERE!](#)

Regardless of how you choose to participate in our worship life together,
ALL ARE WELCOME at Grace Church!

The Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany **January 28, 2024**

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



For the texts of the readings for **The Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany,** [please click here.](#)

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