

GRACE ABOUNDS

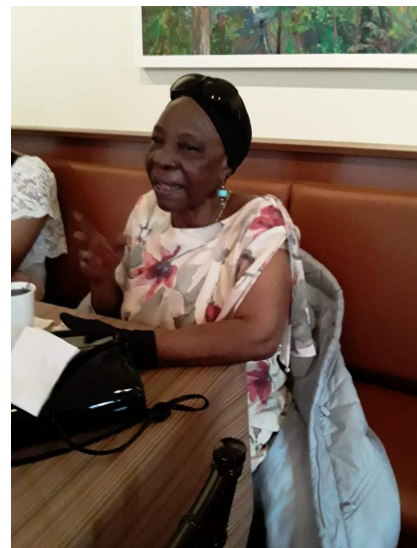


Weekly E-News from Grace Episcopal Church - February 7, 2025

A Surprise Gift

This is the time of year when Episcopal churches prepare for the canonically-required “Annual Meeting of the Parish.” As part of that preparation, parish leaders write reports to tell parishioners – and posterity – what the year just past was like for that particular church. As I cast my mind back to the year gone by, I read those various reports, and one of them mentioned a parishioner here at Grace that everyone who met her will never forget.

Mama Kelley (that may have been her given name) was a Liberian-American widow who lived at the Cathedral Apartments just a stone’s throw from the church. She was at every event and every service. Mama was at the church more than I was! She had a personality larger than life, and she often had wonderfully profound theological or biblical questions for me following a service or a Bible study. One of her most repeated instructions to me and others was that she did NOT want to be cremated.



When she died a few years ago, she had no family in this country that we knew of, but knowing that she wanted to be buried, we used one of the very few remaining open plots in our cemetery to lay her to rest. Parishioners and others from the community joined in the graveside ceremony that included prayers from the Prayer Book and hymns and songs of praise from both this country and her native land. It is still the only funeral/burial I have ever conducted at Grace Church Cemetery.

Grace Church paid the undertaker and other burial fees for Mama. We knew of no will or plans she might have made for her funeral service. We laid her to rest because we could and because Mama would have wanted it so. We had a reception in the Pavilion after the burial where people shared memories of Mama. There were so many, that the gathering lasted for hours.

Mama Kelley was a virtually-blind, elderly immigrant who lived alone in public housing who left us with wonderful memories of a unique human being. As it turns out, she also left us \$26,000.

We had no idea that Mama had done this until long after she had departed this life for the next. I would say that Mama Kelley was like the widow who put a penny into Temple treasury that Jesus commends for her generosity, but she left Grace a lot more than a penny! I count it as a blessing that I knew Mama Kelley and that she was proud to call Grace her home. So am I.

Sunday School and Youth Group

Sunday School

Sunday School (age 4 – Grade 6) meets during the Sunday morning service (other than the 2nd Sunday of the month, when kids attend the main service with their families). The children and teachers process from the church to the Sunday School rooms after the opening prayer. Kids can gather in the northwest corner of the church with the Sunday School teachers or sit with their families and join in the procession as it goes by. Questions? Call the parish office at 331-3225 or email sundayschool@gracepvd.org.

Youth Group

Youth Group (Grades 7-12) meets from 7 to 8 p.m. on Fridays. Teens can come to the Youth Group room at 7p.m., or come for pizza first in the choir room (Cronhimer Hall) at 6:30p.m. Questions? Feel free to call the parish office at 331-3225 or email youthgroup@gracepvd.org.

Table Movers Needed on Sunday

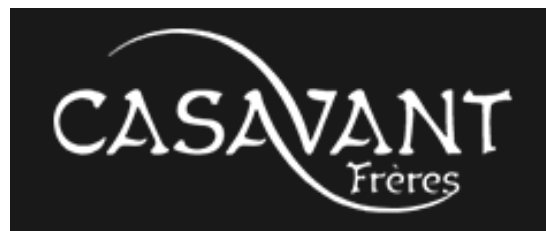
Next week, the floor in the Pavilion will receive some much-needed TLC! Starting Monday, the entire space will be buffed and re-polyurethaned. (Note that, during this time, the Pavilion will be off limits.)

And while we're looking forward to seeing the result, we need to prep for that work by moving out all the tables and chairs. To that end, we could use some help moving the wooden farmer's tables into the church and storing them on top of the church pews at the end of Sunday's coffee hour. If you are willing and able to stay for a short time to lend a hand, it would be much appreciated!

The floor should be ready in time for next Sunday's coffee hour.

Organ Restoration - A Visitor from Casavant

The organ-restoration project continues - even when the pipes are in Quebec!



Today, Dany Wiseman, Project Director at Casavant Frères (the company restoring our organ pipes and components), is here meeting with Vince Edwards and Robert O'Donnell of E.F. O'Donnell & Sons, the contractor who is overseeing the scaffolding and logistics related to the removal and installation of our organ. This visit is a time to

determine the work that needs to be done to the organ cases in preparation for the restored pipes to return home to Grace.



Our Mural Restoration - More to See!

David Hughes and Vince Edwards met today with Gianfranco Pocobene, whose Boston-based firm is restoring the mural. Gianfranco showed them what processes are being used, and detailed that an earlier restoration included a fair amount of “over-painting” - where previous restorers painted damaged areas to match the dirty and varnished colors instead of matching the original colors.

The restoration team is working to remove as much of that over-painting as possible and, where it can't be removed, they will repaint - this time in the original color scheme. It's all very complex, but very exciting to see the colors and faces of the angels come to life!

Shawl Ministry - Join Us!

Grace Church's Shawl Ministry invites you to join us in the Pavilion every Wednesday from 10:00 to 11:00 am. We knit and crochet together each week to make shawls, blankets, hats, scarves and mittens to donate to the community. Come and bring your ideas for new projects for the new year!



For more information, please contact Jane Ditmars at janeditmars@gmail.com!

Sunday Worship:

**The Fifth
Sunday After
the Epiphany**

February 9, 2024

Most Sunday mornings, Grace Church offers a 'live-stream" broadcast of our 10:00 AM service of Holy Eucharist. We hope this experience allows those who are not able to join us in person on Sundays to participate in our worship life at Grace.

~ [Click Here to Join This Sunday's Service on YouTube](#) ~



Livestreamed Worship: When available, this service will be live-streamed to the [Grace Church YouTube Channel](#). Please use the link provided above to watch. The service also will be archived on the [Grace Church website](#) for on-demand viewing after Sunday morning.

Order of Service: To view a downloadable version of the Order of Service for the [The Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany](#), please [click here](#).

Collect for This Sunday: *Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Readings: For the texts of the readings for Sunday worship, [please click here](#).

More About the Episcopal Church: [Click here](#) for the latest from the Episcopal News Service. [Click here](#) for current news from the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island.

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

Connect with Grace Anytime!

This Sunday's
Readings

Click Here for Recent
Services





GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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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