



with Grace Church. During his lifetime, A.T. served the Rhode Island community in many ways, most notably as the State Director of Corrections for almost 20 years.

A.T.'s sister is Grace Church member Polly Wall. His widow, the Very Rev'd. Maria DeCarvalho, is an Episcopal priest who was ordained at Grace and has served in a number of leadership and spiritual roles in Rhode Island.

A memorial service will be held for A.T. at 11am on Tuesday, December 16, here at Grace Church. All are invited to attend.

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## **Poinsettias and Music for Christmas - Last Call!**

We hope you're looking forward to the uplifting music and beautiful poinsettia display you'll experience at Grace Church during the Advent and Christmas seasons!



This week is your last opportunity to lend your own support toward those programs and help make them possible. Make a donation today toward our special music programs or offer a poinsettia in honor of a loved one - this week is the last opportunity to do so for 2025!

To do so, please use the "Christmas Poinsettias and Music" dedication cards found in the pews, on the back table near the Baptismal Font, and in the Narthex literature rack. Be sure to complete the form (legibly!) and note your dedications, then place the card and your payment in a light-green "Flower Guild" envelope and drop it in the offering plate or at the Parish Office by December 20.



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## **Decking Our Halls for Christmas**

As you noticed this past Sunday, Grace Church has started decking our halls for the holiday season! Wreaths, garland, banners, and lightpole signs on Mathewson Street all were installed last Friday - many thanks to volunteers from Johnson & Wales' Kappa Sigma who fulfilled some community-service

hours by lending a hand - and now we need your help to decorate the inside!

This Sunday, December 14, Diane Stamp will organize a tree-decorating party in the Pavilion during coffee hour. Whether you hang one ornament or stay to decorate the entire tree, all help is welcome and appreciated.

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## Stewardship 2026 - Where We Stand So Far

Many thanks to the 92 parish families who already have expressed their financial support for the mission and ministries of Grace Church for the coming year. We appreciate your generosity!



We're deep in the middle of developing our 2026 budget and, as you can imagine, pledge commitments form a significant portion of the income we use to plan for the new year. As of December 11, we've received pledge commitments of \$316,791.52 toward our goal of \$400,000; this total is a bit short of where we were by this time last year. In real terms, it means we don't yet have enough income to cover the programs and events we had **this year**, let alone add/expand more for next year.

Typically, we have most pledges confirmed by the third week in December, so this is the week to add your pledge toward our goal!

That difference of \$85,000 sounds like a lot to make up, but the great news is that **if everyone who hasn't yet made their pledge for 2026 just renewed for the same amount as 2025, we'd raise another \$85,154.92 - meeting our goal!** And if pledges were just 10% higher, we could have another **\$40,000** to put on more musical events, offer more Youth-Group activities and trips, build a feeding ministry or more outreach opportunities, and support more local nonprofit partners.

We know you believe in the work of Grace Church. Will you support it and the many programs you enjoy here? Be sure to submit your pledge today!

*To make your pledge to Grace for 2026, please complete a pledge card and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the parish office (300 Westminster St, Providence, RI 02903). Extra pledge cards still are available at the back of the church if you need one. You also can email the Parish Office at [admin@gracepvd.org](mailto:admin@gracepvd.org) or call (401) 331-3225 and let us know the amount you'd like to pledge. Please indicate on your pledge card if you want offering envelopes so we know to set aside a box for you. Thanks!*

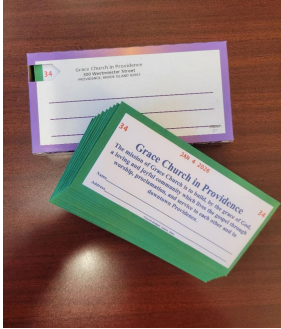
**Thank you to all who have made a pledge – and all who WILL make a pledge – to Grace for the coming year!**

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## Offering Envelopes for 2026

If you requested offering envelopes to use for your pledge gifts to Grace Church in 2026, please pick them up from the marked table in the Pavilion during coffee hour. The envelopes will be available on the next two Sundays, December 14 and 21. (After that, you can contact the parish office at 401-331-3225 to





arrange a pickup.)

Remember that your envelope number likely will change from last year's. So that your 2026 pledge is recorded correctly, please recycle old envelopes and use only the new envelopes starting in January.

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## Beginnings and Endings - A Book for Advent

Dear friends at Grace,

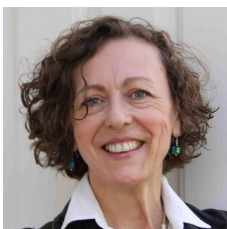
I am so delighted to have been welcomed into the Grace community! My most recent book has just been published in time for Advent. ["Beginnings and Endings \(and what happens in between\)"](#) is a book of short daily readings, one for each day from the 1st of December through to Epiphany. It is arranged around the tradition of lighting candles each Sunday on the Advent Wreath, with each candle representing a particular step through the story of salvation. It starts with the journey made by Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their families to find a place - a promised land - where they could live under God's reign, to the prophets' longings for a time in the future when God's promises would be fulfilled, to John the Baptist's announcement that the place is here, and the time is now - Christ is among us. But finally, all these longings for God make sense as Mary (who is always celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Advent) shows us at last that the fulfillment of the promise is Christ within us.



If you would like to join me on this Advent journey, read along day by day in the book - and there will be supplementary articles on [my substack](#) throughout Advent.

See you again soon one Sunday at Grace!  
Maggi Dawn

*Editor's Note: Maggi's book also is available from [Ebay](#) and [Amazon](#).*



*The Rev. Dr. Maggi Dawn is a Professor of Theology, and serves as Diocesan Theologian to the Diocese of Rhode Island, and as a Priest Associate at Grace Church.*

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## Year-End Needs for Our Friends at Pete & Andy's



Once again, Grace Church's generosity has exceeded all expectations! Last week, we received - in addition to your food donations - **\$500 worth of Walmart gift**

**cards...amazing!**

We appreciate your efforts to help other families in our community...and **we still need your help.**

Here are a few ideas for ways to share the holiday spirit in a tangible way:

- When you buy your baking items this week, grab extra bags of flour, sugar, and chocolate chips so another family can have the fun of baking cookies together.
- Put together a kit that includes all the ingredients for your family's signature cherry pie and share a copy of the recipe.
- Pick up some popcorn and cocoa mix so another family can spend time together making their own holiday memories.

And remember that **Pete & Andy's also can accept clean, used blankets**, so if you have any you'd like to donate, please bring those as well.

We are grateful for your ongoing support this year, and ask you to continue this work. **Please bring your contributions of food and gift cards this Sunday.**

- Purchase some extra dry goods at the store and dig through your pantry to see what you can spare, and bring those items to church on Sunday. (Due to the chance for breakage, glass containers are not preferred.) All donations will be turned over to Pete & Andy's Food Pantry for them to share with our friends and neighbors in Providence.
- Donate a gift card or two for Walmart or Price Rite - both of which are in their neighborhood - to offer other families the chance to choose items that fit their families. (Please put gift-card donations in an envelope with your name on it if you'd like that donation reflected on your giving statement.)



## **Weekly "Commuter's Bible Study" - Fridays**

This morning's Bible study spurred some fascinating conversation about the lessons for Sunday. (Note: The first reading contains the Bible's only use of the Hebrew word for "highway.") We all have such different life experiences...and the scripture **STILL** is relevant for us all!

Be sure to join us at 7am next Friday morning as we gather to look at the readings for the upcoming Sunday service and discuss how they apply to our lives.

You're welcome to drop in as you can; bring your coffee and breakfast and join us for the conversation!

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## **Final Rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant - Next Saturday!**

At the service on Sunday, December 21, we will

celebrate our Christmas Pageant! If your child is interested in participating, please add your name to the sign-up sheet during coffee hour or email [sundayschool@gracepvd.org](mailto:sundayschool@gracepvd.org).

The final rehearsal will take place next Saturday, December 20, from 1pm to 3pm after which, we'll adjourn to the Courtyard for cocoa and caroling!



## Caroling & Cocoa in the Courtyard - **Treats Needed**

All are invited to join us at 3pm on Saturday, December 20 in the Pavilion Courtyard for caroling, hot chocolate, and general Christmas merriment! All ages (and singing abilities) are encouraged to join us in making a joyful noise!

We'd love to have some of your favorite holiday goodies to share that day. Can you bring a dozen cupcakes, cookies, or brownies to share? Store-bought, homemade...all is welcome!

## 2025 Donations Due Monday, December 29

In order to record all 2025 gifts in this calendar year, please be sure to submit all final donations and pledge balances **no later than end of day on Monday, December 29**.

Cash and checks received by that date will be deposited by Wednesday, December 31.

Since online donations typically require 1-2 days to process, it's recommended that electronic gifts also be submitted by December 29 so they can be fully processed by December 31.

Thank you for your support of Grace Church!

## Shawl Ministry at Grace

The Shawl Ministry Team has continued to embellish and add to Grace Church's Giving Tree at the back of the church - be sure to check it out this Sunday before all handmade hats, scarves and mittens are packed up and delivered to Children's Friend of Providence. This group's efforts will provide local children in

need with warm accessories for the cold days ahead.

And if you want to be part of the fun, please join us each Wednesday in the Pavilion from 10am to 11am. New members are always welcome!



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## Worship with Us!

### Third Sunday of Advent

### December 14, 2025

Most Sunday mornings, Grace Church offers a "live-stream" broadcast of our 10am 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.

**Livestreamed Worship:** Our Sunday services are live-streamed on the Grace Church YouTube Channel. If you can't join us Sunday morning, visit [our YouTube channel](#) and watch/share at your convenience. (Note that if the recording isn't in [the "Live" listing](#), you may find it in [the "Videos" tab](#).)





*Click the video box to join this Sunday's live-streamed service on YouTube.*

**Click Here to See the Bulletin for This Sunday's Service**

**Collect for This Sunday:** *Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and 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!*

**Find Sunday's Readings**

**Find Recent Services**

**Planning a Special Event?  
Rent The Pavilion at Grace!**





The Pavilion  
*at Grace*



GRACE  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

300 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903

(401) 331-3225 | [www.gracechurchprovidence.org](http://www.gracechurchprovidence.org)

[info@gracepvd.org](mailto:info@gracepvd.org)

### Connect with Grace Anytime!



*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.*

Grace Episcopal Church | 300 Westminster St | Providence, RI 02903-3499 US

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