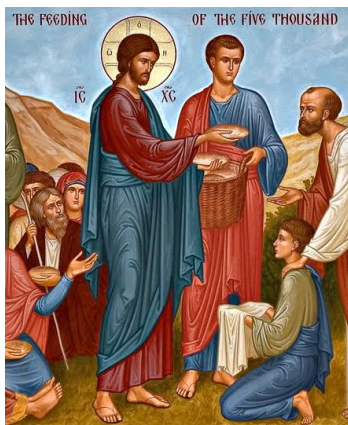




Weekly News from Grace Episcopal Church - July 31, 2026



Abundance, Yes! Scarcity, No!

This Sunday, [the Gospel lesson from St. Matthew](#) addresses the human fear of scarcity. The disciples, fearing they will have to feed thousands on just five loaves and two fish, beg Jesus to disperse the crowds. In the end, their small offering - transformed - is so abundant that there are twelve baskets full to share with those who've yet to know a freedom from want.

How did the miracle happen? Did the loaves and fishes spontaneously expand because of Jesus' blessing? Or did the people, seeing that Jesus' followers were willing to risk all that they had to share with others, spontaneously share what they were hiding and hoarding? Both? Let us wonder together.

What is the Spirit saying to Grace Church Providence? Can we share what we have in service to God's radical abundance?

Timothy Safford, Interim Rector

Next Steps in the Rector-Search Process

Mark your calendar for **two important congregational meetings** to be hosted here at Grace Church in the coming weeks. Both of these gatherings are critical parts of our rector-search process and your attendance is vital! These meetings will be **the only time we'll gather as a congregation to discuss what we hope for in our next rector**, and we need everyone to be part of the conversations.

As we get closer, more details for the days will be provided, so stay tuned.

Please click the image below to download a larger, printable version of the flyer - and make plans now to join us after church on September 27 and October 11!

Grace Church's Rector-Search Process

As part of our rector-search process, we will host two separate meetings after church that will help guide the Search Committee. These meetings—both of them led by Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew—are a critical part of the process, and **they are the only opportunity for us to gather as a group and identify what we hope for in the next rector.**

Please make every effort to join us, and let your voice be heard!



Parish History Event

This event helps create a shared awareness of the church's history from a congregational perspective and provides a foundation of information for the profile and discernment process.



Congregational Conversation

At this event small groups will have an opportunity to respond to the questions of The Episcopal Church's Vocation Hub portfolio. Those answers provide additional information from the congregation in the format used for the actual portfolio.

After October 11...

- The Profile Team begins work with Canon Dena to develop the primary search document.
- The Search Committee also begins to meet, initially with Canon Dena, to build relationships, set regular meetings, and start its work in earnest.
- The Communications Team oversees the process of keeping the congregation informed.
- The Prayer Team continues to pray daily for the people of Grace Church and for all those engaged in the search/discernment process.

Back-to-School Drive Continues

We continue collecting school supplies at Grace Church to be shared with our friends at St. Peter's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Providence, and we invite you to join us!



Below is a suggested list of supplies students can use. We'll be collecting the items at Grace **through Thursday, August 20.** Items will be delivered on Friday, August 21.

- Backpacks in various sizes
- 3-ring binders
- Notebooks
- 2-pocket folders
- Crayons
- Markers
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Dry-erase markers
- Pencil cases
- Glue sticks
- Pens
- Rulers
- Paper

Please bring your donations when you come for church, or drop them off at the parish office during the week (8am-4pm, Monday through Friday). For added convenience, place an order through Amazon to be shipped directly here! (Just let the parish office

know to watch for it.) And if you can help with the delivery to St. Peter's and St. Andrew's, that would be appreciated.

Thank you for your generosity!



Choir Camp Next Week

Next Monday through Friday, our Choristers will be at Choir Camp - held at Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, Connecticut - getting ready for the coming year.

Choir Camp really is the best of both worlds - summer camp AND singing! This time of singing, learning, playing, and eating is a wonderful opportunity for our young singers to practice some of the music we'll perform this year, and to strengthen their relationships with other choristers and with Grace Church.

Great news is that we welcome new choristers – grades 3 through 12 – and there is still time to participate in the camp! If your young person – or a young person you know – is interested in singing this year and/or going to camp, please contact Music Director Vince Edwards at vedwards@gracepvd.org.

Lots of Great "News" About Our Organ!

As you may have noticed, news of our organ restoration is spreading around Providence!

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of parishioner David Hughes - Vice President of Providence-based advertising agency [Dodge Associates](#) - several media outlets were on hand earlier this week to witness and record the arrival of our first delivery from Casavant's facility in Quebec. Reporters from [WPRI \(channel 12\)](#), [WJAR \(channel 10\)](#), and [The Providence Journal](#) all had extensive conversations with Director of Music Vince Edwards and parishioner/choir member/volunteer historian Robert Bennett. Both Vince and Robert shared about the organ's history and restoration, as well as our plans for making the instrument a community resource.



And if you haven't already seen Vince's latest blog posts in "[The Pipes Are Calling](#)," visit now to read more about the project and see some of his MANY photos.

As always, stay tuned for more updates as Vince carefully documents this once-in-a-lifetime experience restoring Grace's organ!

More "Picture Days" for the Parish Directory

Updated Parish Directory!



We will issue an updated Grace Church directory in September. So that we have the most accurate information in it, please make sure we have your current contact info (address, home and cell phones, and email address). AND, if you already log in to Realm to manage your giving online,

feel free to update your own information and add an updated photos for yourself and for your family.

If you don't use Realm, just send your favorite family pic as a .jpg or .png to the parish office at admin@gracepvd.org. Don't have a current one? Not to worry! Parishioner Doug Ditmars will provide additional photo sessions during coffee hour on the last four Sundays in August (August 9, 16, 23, 30) so bring your family and we'll take care of the rest!

Shawl Ministry at Grace

Shawl Ministry is currently making hats and scarves for mariners at the Seamen's Church Institute, the largest and most comprehensive seafarer and mariner service agency in North America. These hats and scarves are given to both international seafarers and U.S.

Mariners. Knitters and crocheters are invited to join us at Shawl Ministry each Wednesday at 10am in the Pavilion. All are invited! Questions? Please contact Jane Ditmars at shawls@gracepvd.org.



Worship with Us!

Tenth Sunday of Pentecost

August 2, 2026

Most Sunday mornings, Grace Church live-streams our 10am service of Holy Eucharist on YouTube. 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.

Live-streamed 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](#).)



Please click the image above to join our live-streamed service on Sunday.

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

Collect for This Sunday: *Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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



300 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903

(401) 331-3225 | www.gracechurchprovidence.org

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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