



Weekly News from Grace Episcopal Church - September 4, 2026

Full and Equal Claim

Fifty years ago, in 1976, the Episcopal Church - at the same General Convention that approved both the Book of Common Prayer and the ordination of women as bishops and priests - passed this resolution:

"That it is the sense of this General Convention that homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church."



Our Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe and many others are in Minneapolis this weekend to commemorate the 50th anniversary of this resolution that gave LGBTQ+ Episcopalians "full and equal claim" of both God's blessings and responsibilities.

This Sunday, two Grace parishioners—John-Albert Moseley and Cassie Suttan Coats—will share the sermon with me to mark this significant anniversary.

We'll look back and, more importantly, we'll ask where God is leading Grace to be 50 years from now...not just for the LGBTQ+ community, but also for all who feel they do not have full and equal claim on God's tender mercies. Presiding Bishop Rowe says, "As we celebrate this milestone, we also acknowledge that the journey to achieve full inclusion for all of God's children is not yet over."

This anniversary reminds me that 2076 is not that far away. My hope that 50 years hence, "full inclusion" for "all God's children" will be far beyond where we are now and "far more than we can ask for or imagine."

Timothy Safford, Interim Rector

Sign Up to Help With the Rector-Search Process

The Grace Church Vestry invites all church members - communicants in good standing who are at least 16 years old - to reach out if you are interested in serving on one of the



four committees we will form as part of the rector-search process.

The four committees are:

- **Prayer Team:** Individuals who are willing to pray daily for the people of your church and for all those engaged in the search/discernment process. May also create or adapt a prayer for the search process to be used regularly in worship, shared on the website, and prayed by the Profile Team and Search Committee.
- **Communications Team:** Communicates regularly with the Interim, Wardens, Search Committee, and Canon to the Ordinary to keep the church informed as to the search/discernment process and where the church is in the process.
- **Profile Team:** Works with the Canon to the Ordinary to develop the Vocation Hub Profile, the primary search document for promoting Grace Church to potential rector candidates. *This team should include people who can work well as a team, have strong writing skills, and will represent the church accurately.*
- **Search Committee:** Comprised of Vestry members and/or other representative members of the church. Commits to prayerfully discerning the next right priest for the church, must be able to keep information confidential, work toward consensus in decision making, and is willing to build trusting relationships. *Meets at least weekly for several months of the search process. The Chair and/or Wardens work closely with the Canon to the Ordinary.*

If you're interested in being part of one or more committees, please send an email to rectorsearch@gracepvd.org with your name and the committee/s you'd like to join and a member of the Vestry will follow up with you regarding next steps. **All such requests are due no later than Monday, September 21.**

Please keep in mind that, depending on the committee size, number of applicants, and needs of the search process, there may not be room for everyone who sign up for a particular committee. But rest assured that there will be work for all of us and ways to participate in the process!

Fall Kickoff Sunday - September 13

Grace Church will celebrate **Fall Kickoff Sunday** next weekend on **September 13!**

- Our Grace Church Choir will be back in full voice, and we look forward to hearing the Pavilion ring with song!
- We'll have our annual Ministry Fair where you can learn about the many ways you can get involved in our church services and ministries.



We look forward to seeing you!

Upcoming Meetings for Rector-Search Process

Please make every effort to attend 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! At these meetings, we will gather as a congregation to discuss what we hope for in our next rector, and we need everyone to be part of the conversations.

Meetings will begin immediately after our 10am worship. More details will be available soon, 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!

Mark Your Calendars!

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!

SEP
27

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.

OCT
11

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.

Do You Know a Child Who Likes to Sing?

The Grace Church Choristers are always welcoming new members!

- Our Training Choir (ages 5 to 7-ish) meets on Fridays at 5pm. We learn basic music skills and how to use our voices.
- The Choristers (ages 8 to 18) meet on Fridays starting September 18 from 5:30 to 6:30 and have pizza following. The Choristers join the Grace Church Choir approximately twice per month to sing for Sunday services.



Of special interest – the Choir and Choristers have a trip planned to England next summer, where they will sing at Bath, Bristol, and Gloucester Cathedrals!

If you're interested in one of these groups for your child, please contact Vince Edwards:
vedwards@gracepvd.org.



Grace Walks to Support Parkinson's Research - September 26

In honor of Grace Church's former Rector, Rev. Jonathan Huyck, you are invited to join our team for this year's **Optimism Walk & 5K Fun Run for Parkinson's**. Enjoy raffles, live music, a catered lunch, and more at this **FREE event!**

Sponsored by the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Parkinson Disease Association, the Walk (the largest PD community event in Rhode Island) raises funds to support our friends and neighbors with the illness. Join us and access valuable resources, learn about programs, and strengthen our supportive network.

Donations will help empower individuals affected by Parkinson's to live vibrant lives and impact groundbreaking research aimed at improving treatments and ultimately finding a cure.

And if you don't want to walk/run, we still need you! Be a supporter of the Grace Church team and cheer on our friends as we help build awareness of Parkinsons' impact on our community!

Vestry member **Ed Morgan** will lead the Grace Church team, and each participant on our Walk team will receive a free logo'd Grace t-shirt! For more information, click the QR code on the flyer below, or see Ed at church on Sunday or in your parish directory. (You also can email the parish office at admin@gracepvd.org and we can relay a message to Ed.)



AMERICAN
PARKINSON DISEASE
ASSOCIATION

Rhode Island Optimism Walk & 5K Fun Run

September 26, 2026

Check-In: 9:30 AM

5k Fun Run Starts: 10:30 AM

Walk Starts: 11:30 AM

Lunch, Awards & Raffles: 12:00 PM

Warwick City Park

Stephen O'Connor Blvd, Warwick, RI

Sponsored by



Join Team Grace Church



www.apdaparkinson.org/ri

(401) 439-8435

apdari@apdaparkinson.org

**Walk with us and make a
difference for families
impacted by Parkinson's!**



A short and accessible walk route
and 5K Fun Run option.



Every six minutes, someone is
diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.



The more funds we raise, the more
people we can help!



Earn great prizes for raising \$100,
\$500 and more!



Strength in optimism. Hope in progress.

Save the Date: Evensong October 4

CHORAL EVENSONG



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 ~ 4:00 PM

*The Choir & Choristers of Grace Church sing music of
Byrd, Smith, and Gibbons.*

The service and reception will be held in the Pavilion.

Grace Church in Providence
300 Westminister Street ~ Providence, RI 02903
www.gracechurchprovidence.org

Common Ground: Creation Care and Social Justice - October 3

The Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island's Center for Reconciliation and Creation Care Ministries invite you to an ecumenical conversation about finding common ground in a vision of justice that promotes the wellbeing of the planet and communities.

Dr. Andrew Thompson, Director of the Center for Religion and the Environment from The University of the South: Sewanee, will be joined by a panel from the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, Garden Time, and Southside Community Land Trust for a conversation on Saturday, October 3, 8:30am-12pm at All Saints

Memorial Church (674 Westminster Street, Providence). Refreshments will be provided; [click here](#) for more info and to RSVP.



Organ Work (Still) Continues!

This week's blog post from Grace's Director of Music Vince Edwards highlights some of the less-exciting-and-very-necessary work of preparing the organ spaces, cleaning and re-organizing the chambers, and repairing some of the larger pipes that were left here when most of the components went to Canada.

Vince included a couple of pics showcasing the amazing gold-trimmed painting job hidden behind the scaffolding in the Chancel - that will be an amazing reveal later this year!

We also are looking forward to Monday, September 14: that's the day we expect another truck from Casavant - and this one will contain **our new console!**

And be sure to check out Vince's blog posts in ["The Pipes Are Calling"](#) where he documents the progress of this once-in-a-lifetime experience restoring Grace's organ!



Our Livestreaming to Return Soon

We are making progress replacing our livestreaming equipment and expect to resume our regular streaming schedule within the next two weeks. Please stay tuned for updates. And thank you for your patience!

Office Schedule

The parish office will be closed next Monday, September 7, for the Labor Day holiday. We will return on Tuesday, September 8.

If you have a pastoral emergency, please call the parish office at 401-331-3225 and press "6" to reach our Interim Rector, Rev. Tim Safford.



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!

Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost

September 6, 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](#).)

Our livestreaming will return soon. Thank you for your patience.

[Click Here to See the Bulletin for This Sunday's Service](#)

Collect for This Sunday: *Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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



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.*



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