

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111
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The Rev. David C. Parachini, Missional Priest
The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon
Mei-Tsen Chen, Organist and Choir Director
Art Riihimaki, Office Manager
Web Site: www.gracechurchnew.org
Email: office@gracechurchnew.org
Father David: eakp@aol.com

Holy Eucharist - Sunday at 9am
Morning Prayer - Tuesday at 8:30am

PACE OF GRACE



APRIL 2016



2016 Room Key: PH=Parish Hall; L=Library; S=Sanctuary; PO=Pastor's Office; C=Chapel;

MMR=Music Meeting Room; MR=Meeting Room; K=Kitchen

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 Easter Sunday 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	28 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	29 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30am Employment Group MMR 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	30 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	31 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	1	2
3 2 Easter 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	4 12:00 PM Hi-Noon Group 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	5 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30am Employment Group MMR 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	6 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	7 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	8	9
10 3 Easter 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	11 12:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	12 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30am Employment Group MMR 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 7:00 PM Vestry L	13 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	14 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	15	16
17 4 Easter 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	18 12:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	19 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30am Employment Group MMR 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MRH	20 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	21 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	22	23
24 5 Easter 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	25 12:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	26 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30am Employment Group MMR 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 7:00 PM Property Committee MMR	27 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	28 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	29	30



Pace of Grace

April, 2016

"The Pace of Grace" is a monthly publication of
Grace Episcopal Church, 124 Maple Hill Avenue, Newington, CT

Stations of the Resurrection

Dear Grace Church Family,

First and above all else, a blessed and joyous Easter season to all of the members of our Parish Family. Also, a profound thank you to all of you who supported our shared Lenten and Holy Week observances with Pastor Julie and our brothers and sisters from Our Savior's Lutheran Church (OSLC). I also want to thank all those who worked so hard at Grace and OSLC to do the planning and logistical work for the services. I especially want to thank CJ, Art, Mei, the choir and the Altar Guild for all of their hard work. I have heard many positive comments about our sharing and expressions of support for doing it again. We will start to discuss other sharing opportunities with our OSLC friends in the next few weeks and see where we go moving forward.

One of the opportunities for liturgical sharing that we had during Holy Week was the Good Friday liturgy (at GEC at Noon and OSLC at 7:00pm). Part of our liturgy at Noon was the use of the Stations of the Cross following the conclusion of the Good Friday liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer. The Way of the Cross/Stations of the Cross is an ancient form provided for individual and group devotion to the Cross and to the Passion of Our Lord. It is used in many different Christian traditions and not just during Lent and on penitential occasions. The design of the devotion of the Stations is to encourage the one praying these steps to walk with Jesus during His Passion. Opportunities like the Stations were particularly important when the majority of the community were not able to read.

In the last few years, other "journey" or pilgrimage devotions have appeared. One that has gained some attention is the Stations of the Resurrection. These stations, following the same format and approach offering the one using them the opportunity to walk with Jesus, help to connect us with the risen Lord during the "post resurrection" journey that leads, ultimately at the end of the fifty days of the Easter season, to the great feast of Pentecost.

Let me invite all of us to consider how we might use this devotional opportunity in our lives during Eastertide. The Stations can be prayed in the Church using the same fourteen crosses on our nave walls that we use for the Stations of the Cross or, as the weather gets more "spring like" outside in the memorial garden. The Stations of the Resurrection can be a resource to keep our attention focused on the true meaning of Easter and not on the fleeting commercialism of peeps, chocolate bunnies or other secular expressions of the Easter season.

If you would like more information about how to pray the Stations of the Resurrection, please speak to CJ or to me. In the meantime, revel in the solemnity, the hope and the promise of the Resurrection.

Faithfully,
David+



Here are the lectionary readings for each Sunday and Holy Day in the month:

Second Sunday of Easter April 3, 2016	Acts 5:27-32	Psalm 118:14-29 or <i>Psalm 150</i>	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
Annunciation of the Lord April 4, 2016	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 45 or <i>Psalm 40:5-10</i>	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
Third Sunday of Easter April 10, 2016	Acts 9:1-20	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
Fourth Sunday of Easter April 17, 2016	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
Fifth Sunday of Easter April 24, 2016	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 04/02 Richard Hack
- 04/02 Wayne Haley
- 04/04 Elizabeth Gallagher
- 04/07 Diane Guyette
- 04/09 Jonathan Page
- 04/10 Meagan Balducci
- 04/11 Barbara Johnson
- 04/12 James Dumont
- 04/18 David Bagioni
- 04/18 James Robidoux
- 04/20 Pat Rogorzanski
- 04/21 Walter Parker
- 04/21 Thomas Fischer
- 04/22 Carmela Balducci
- 04/25 Sandra Colena



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 04/13 Jane and Robert Stewart
- 04/20 George and Barbara Johnson



Thanks So Much!

- ☺ All the members of the Altar Guild for the hard work and dedication to this service during Holy Week and Easter; for all who helped clean the Church; and Brandon, Mark and Dan for helping with the heavy work. (posted by Elizabeth Welk, Directress)
- ☺ All the readers for the Palm Sunday Passion Gospel



Deadline for May Pace of Grace – Monday, May 2nd. Please, make every effort to meet this deadline to allow us to mail the issue promptly. The issue will not be published until May 4th, since I will be on vacation for the last two weeks in April.

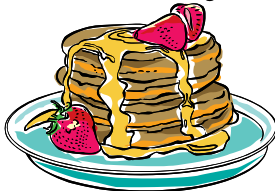
The office is usually closed on Mondays and Fridays.

We normally prepare the bulletin on Wednesday. All items to be included in the calendar insert should be received by Tuesday evening.

I plan to take a vacation from April 18 through May 3. I would appreciate having someone fill in for office duties when I am not here. It is not a difficult job. If you are interested, please speak to Father David or call the office. Training will be provided.

Art Riihimaki

Shrove Tuesday



Members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church joined us at Grace for a wonderful evening of traditional fare, and more so, fellowship. It was nice to get to know each other. Dan Carcaud said Grace while we were in a circle and holding hands.

Mardi Gras music played in the background while 32 people ate. Folks from both churches served the tables and helped clean up.

We had a profit of \$160, which was voted to use for the Family Promise Ministry. We also had extra pancake mix and syrup to save for Family Promise.

*JoAnn Cromwell & Mabel Maynard
Co-Cordinators*



Hi-Noon Group

A group of "Young at Heart" Church friends meets monthly (except summer) for lunch and activities in the Parish Hall and short excursions. All are welcome!

April 4, Monday– 12:00: Dali Exhibit at New Britain Museum of American Art. Following lunch in Parish Hall group will car pool to the museum. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee & Tea provided. There is an admission fee of \$12. We have some NBMAA passes available so it will lessen the cost for each of us, depending on how many attend. Please RSVP to Jeanne Parker by Sunday April 3rd.

May 2, Monday– 12:00: An excursion is planned. Details later. (Date may change depending on excursion).

June 6, Monday– 12:00: Annual Picnic – Munchies served on Patio followed by Picnic Lunch in Parish Hall. Hot Dogs and Hamburgers provided. Volunteers needed to sign up to bring salads and desserts.



April is upon us and we have a busy month ahead. Come be a part of our events. Come be a member of our team.

Our meeting this month is Sunday April 3rd in the Music Meeting Room immediately after Church services. All are welcome to attend. Come with ideas or volunteer to help in some way. Any and all help is appreciated!!

Sunday April 10th we will be selling our Pansies They will be for sale in the Narthex after 9am Church services. They will be sold on a first come first serve basis. There will be a variety of colors available. Price is still to be determined.

**We are hosting a
Community Tag Sale on our front lawn
Saturday April 30th, 8:30 am-2pm. Set up is at 7am.
Rent a space for \$15.00
Rain Date May 14th**

What do we mean by community Tag Sale?? It means that spaces are available to rent for \$15.00 each. Anyone can rent a space to sell tag sale items or be a vendor. You as a renter bring your own items, tables, tent, or whatever you wish to sell from. Even the back of your car.

We also will be having our own booth selling our donated items.

So how can our parishioners help? We are now accepting donations of all kinds at the church. We will accept large or small used items in good condition. We will accept books & furniture also. They will be held in two locked rooms until the day of the

sale. Please contact Lynn Page at 860-667-1835 or Valerie Dumont at 860-690-0727 to arrange a drop off time. If dropping off on a Sunday just bring it in or someone can help bring it in.

Other help needed will be Thurs & Fri evenings putting price tags on all items as we sort thru the items. Also we will need help Sat morning at 7am to set up. Then help thru the day selling items and of course help with clean up.

Please consider how you can help make this day a successful event.

ECW Luncheon

Thursday May 5th at the Aqua Turf

We will be selling our Prayer Beads and religious jewelry at the luncheon. We have many new jewelry items for sale. If you are interested in helping while attending the luncheon please contact Valerie Dumont. It truly is an enjoyable day learning whats new and happening in our state for the Episcopal church. There is a delicious lunch served and Eucharist at your table. Spend time enjoying the day with new and old friends. See Beverly Manning for more information.

DINING FOR DOLLARS

Thursday June 9th Bertuccis in Newington 11am-10pm

Have lunch or dinner at Bertuccis on Thursday June 9, 2016. Fifteen percent (15%) of the sales will be donated to Grace Episcopal Church. You must present a coupon with our name on it at time of payment. It is an all day event from 11am to 10pm. It is also good for eat in or take out. Please share the coupons with your family and friends. Lets have a great turnout like we did last year!!!

THANK YOU

Thank you to Jeanne & Walt Parker for setting up and selling the Easter flowers. We really appreciate all the work you did to make it a success. Thank you also to all who bought bouquets this year. We appreciate it.

Thank you to Lorraine Belyea & Mari Merwin for taking their time with Valerie & Lynn in sorting more ink cartridges. It has been a huge undertaking and learning experience. We are looking for a person to take over this job of sorting the ink and sending it out. If interested please contact Lynn Page or Valerie Dumont.

*Thank you for supporting us,
Valerie Dumont Co-Chair*



United Thank Offering

"Now thank we all our God, With heart, and hands, and voices, Who wondrous things hath done, In whom his world rejoices."

Johann Krueger, 1647, adapted by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840.
Martin Rinkart, c1630; Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.

This old hymn used to be sung at Thanksgiving, when we are reminded of the bounty of God's blessings. The reminder of thankfulness to God should be daily. The little blue boxes are one reminder. You can take one home and use it as you are blessed daily. The Ingathering for the United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church Women is Sunday, May 1.

The Blue Envelopes will be available too.

If you have questions please ask JoAnn Cromwell or Beverley Manning.



**PASTORAL CARE
TEAM
COMMITTEE**

We open our meeting with prayer for the Mission of Grace Church and for Social Justice.

We discuss upcoming events, of which there are many and they sometimes overlap with other committees. We coordinate, if necessary.

Recent events include the Annual Meeting, Pancake Supper and the Stewardship Event.

Several repeat and a few new events are being discussed for the fall: Welcome Back Sunday, Church School Registration and the Ministry Fair has been scheduled for September 11th.

We hope to invite Animal Embassy for a return visit in October.

We have scheduled an open meeting for July 27, 2016 at 6:30 PM in the Music/ Meeting Room. Join us to learn more of the goings on at Grace.

*JoAnn Cromwell
Team Leader*



FINANCE REPORT

General Fund Update: As hoped, March with the Easter holiday turned out very positive. White envelope receipts, and in fact overall income were above the budget prediction. Thanks to everyone for your participation. Overall March expenses were just about as expected, so the net result was yet another increase to the checkbook balance. At this point, we should be very well set up for whatever may happen through at least the next 6 months.

The Finances for the month of March were as follows:

INCOME	March	Y.T.D.	EXPENSES	March	Y.T.D.
<u>Beginning Checkbook:</u>		<u>\$13,814</u>			<u>\$ 12,181</u>
Pledge Receipts:	\$10,173	\$ 26,908	Salaries & Benefits:	(\$ 5,060)	(\$ 15,292)
General Receipts:	\$ 500	\$ 1,434	General Expenses:	(\$ 1,857)	(\$ 6,545)
Use of Church Building:	\$ 915	\$ 2,310	General Utilities:	(\$ 2,015)	(\$ 5,019)
Fund Raisers, General:	\$ 50	\$ 691	Fund Raiser Expenses:	(\$ 147)	(\$ 174)
Fellowship:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Fellowship Expenses:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Church Fair:	\$ 0	\$ 10	Fair Expenses:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Special Events:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Special Event Expense:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Cap.Camp from M.Mkt:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Grounds (Snow/Lawn):	(\$ 1,343)	(\$ 2,493)
Capital Campaign:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Capital Camp to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
“B-to-B” & Special:	\$ 38	\$ 129	Capital Campaign Exp:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Memorial Donations:	\$ 5	\$ 15	Memorials to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Memorial Garden:	\$ 5	\$ 137	Mem. Garden Exp:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Seasonal Offerings:	\$ 725	\$ 940	Diocese Pledge:	(\$ 1,213)	(\$ 3,639)
Outreach:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Outreach:	(\$ 145)	(\$ 405)
Holy Week, Good Fri	\$ 113	\$ 113	Holy Week Forward	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
ECW Luncheon	\$ 140	\$ 140	ECW Lunch Forward	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
The Grace Fund	\$ 35	\$ 110	The Grace Fund	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Family Promise	\$ 0	\$ 182	Family Promise	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Miscellaneous:	\$ 32	\$ 32	Miscellaneous Forward:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Rectory Rent:	\$ 1,500	\$ 4,500	Rectory Rent to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Special Donation:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Audit Fee:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Reserves from M.Mkt:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Reserves to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Total Received:	\$14,231	\$ 37,651	Total Paid Out:	(\$11,780)	(\$ 33,567)
			Ending Checkbook:	\$16,265	\$ 16,265

Please note that 2 specific receipts need to be forwarded as expenses next month. The Good Friday and loose Holy week donations get sent to the Church in Jerusalem, and the ECW Luncheon payments get forwarded to cover that event.

Our new 2016/2016 Stewardship program started out fairly well, all things considered. We have received a total of 27 pledge cards so far which is just about half of the number of pledge envelopes being used. The indicated total estimated level of giving so far is \$72,860 toward the overall budget estimate of just over \$100,000. If you haven't had a chance yet to turn in a pledge card, please consider doing so soon so we have a better idea of how the rest of the year might turn out. In any case, thanks to everyone for being involved however you can be in the overall life hear at Grace Church.

Faithfully Yours, Mark Shoemaker – Treasurer

Capital Campaign and General Money Market Update: At the end of March, the overall Money Market account balance should be \$55,696. Of this amount, the major elements are: \$23,868 as the posted Capital Campaign balance, and \$15,142 as the posted net Rectory balance (\$1,500 Security Deposit + \$13,642 Rectory Reserves).

Faithfully Yours, Mark Shoemaker – Treasurers