

Grace Episcopal Church  
124 Maple Hill Avenue  
Newington, CT 06111  
Phone: 860-666-3331;  
Fax: 860-666-3332

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](http://www.gracechurchnew.org)  
Email: [office@gracechurchnew.org](mailto:office@gracechurchnew.org)  
Father David: [eakp@aol.com](mailto:eakp@aol.com)

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

# ***PACE OF GRACE***

February  
2016



Grace Episcopal Church  
124 Maple Hill Avenue  
Newington, CT 06111



Room Key: PH=Parish Hall; L=Library; S=Sanctuary; PO=Pastor's Office; C=Chapel; MR=Meeting Room; K=Kitchen, N= Narthex

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>31 4 Epiphany</b> 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Annual Meeting - PH	<b>1</b> 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	<b>2</b> 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30 AM Employment Group 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	<b>3</b> 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	<b>4</b> 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Last Epiphany</b> 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 12:00 PM Hi-Noon Group 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	<b>9 Shrove Tuesday</b> 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30 AM Employment Group 5:00 PM Pancake Supper 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 7:00 PM Vestry - L	<b>10 Ash Wednesday</b> 6:00 AM HE C 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 7:00 PM HE S	<b>11</b> 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 1 Lent</b> 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Church School 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal	<b>15 President's Day</b>	<b>16</b> 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30 AM Employment Group 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	<b>17</b> 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 6:30 PM Soup & Pot Luck Supper & Compline - PH	<b>18</b> 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21 2 Lent</b> 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Creative Energy Team - MR	<b>22</b> 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	<b>23</b> 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30 AM Employment Group 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	<b>24</b> 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 6:30 PM Soup & Pot Luck Supper & Compline - PH	<b>25</b> 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 3 Lent</b> 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	<b>29 Leap Day</b> 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	<b>1</b> 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30 AM Employment Group 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	<b>2</b> 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	<b>3</b> 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>



# *Pace of Grace*

*February, 2016*

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

## **You are Invited, in the Name of the Church, to the Observance of a Holy Lent...**

Dear Grace Church Family,

With the words above (found on page 265 as part of the Lenten invitation) we are reminded that we have taken a turn in our yearly pilgrimage with Jesus and are now intentionally turning with him towards Jerusalem and the next great act in the drama of salvation. We are being called to reflect during these days and weeks of Lent on the reality of the Passion which we know must proceed the gift of the Resurrection. It has been customary to observe this penitential season by self-examination, reflection, study and fellowship. This year here at Grace, we are sharing the Lenten journey with our sisters and brothers of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Our Lenten pilgrimage together will begin on Shrove Tuesday (the traditional pancake supper) and continue through the Great Vigil of Easter. During the Lenten season we will meet together weekly on Wednesday evenings for fellowship and study shared over a simple meal and concluded by a brief time of worship. The schedule and location of our shared activities are shown below.

Lent 2016 Grace Episcopal Church (GEC) and Our Savior's Lutheran Church (OSLC)

- February 9 Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras at Grace (GEC) traditional pancake supper from 5PM-7PM (\$5 suggested donation)
- February 10 Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes if desired:  
6AM (GEC); 1PM (OSLC); 7PM (GEC)
- February 17 (GEC): 6PM Soup Pot Luck Supper and table conversations "Be the Change" followed by Compline (the Evening will conclude by 8PM)
- February 24 (GEC): 6PM Soup Pot Luck Supper and table conversations followed by Compline
- March 2 (OSLC): 6PM Soup Pot Luck Supper and table conversations followed by Midweek Evening Prayer for Lent
- March 9 (OSLC): 6PM Soup Pot Luck Supper and table conversations followed by Midweek Evening Prayer for Lent
- March 16 (OSLC): 6PM Soup Potluck Supper and table conversations followed by Midweek Evening Prayer for Lent
- March 20 Palm Sunday (The Sunday of the Passion): Each congregation will hold its own service but members of both congregations are most welcome at either:  
9AM (GEC) and 10AM (OSLC)
- March 23 Wednesday in Holy Week – Tenebrae 7PM (GEC)

- March 24 Maundy Thursday 7PM (OSLC)
- March 25 Good Friday 12NOON (GEC), 7PM (OSLC) –Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament if desired
- March 26 Easter Eve- The Great Vigil of Easter 7PM (GEC)
- March 26 Easter Day (The Sunday of the Resurrection): Each congregation will hold its own service but members of both congregations are most welcome at either:9AM (GEC) and 10AM (OSLC)

To help us in our conversations we will be using *Love Life, Live Lent, Be the Change* by Paula Gooder and Peter Babington. We will also have other Lenten resources available to help guide you through the solemnity, promise and possibility of the Lenten season. For the hard core basketball fans eager for the onset of March Madness, we will also be offering an opportunity to participate in Lent Madness (come and find out how you can help your chosen saint strive for the Golden Halo). These materials will be available at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and on Ash Wednesday. Pastor Julie and I look forward to seeing many of you as our congregations share in the observance of a Holy Lent.

Faithfully,  
David+



- 02/03 Lily Grace Gebhardt
- 02/04 Jeanne Parker
- 02/05 Nora Bernhard
- 02/13 Clare McCusker
- 02/26 Meagan D'Ascanio



- 02/08 Paul and Shirley Crosswaith
- 02/18 Rosario and Andrea Savastra



**Save the Dates:** Here are some important "Save the Date" events for this month:

- ✠ February 14 5-7 pm: Stewardship Event.
- ✠ March 5: 2-4 pm: Book Club
- ✠ April 9: Spring Fling

(see last page for Lent and Easter schedule)



Here are the lectionary readings for each Sunday in the month:

February 7: The Last Sunday after Epiphany

- Exodus 34:29-35
- Psalm 99
- 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2
- Luke 9:28-43a

February 9: Ash Wednesday

- Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
- Psalm 103
- 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10
- Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 14: The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

- Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
- Romans 10:8b-13
- Luke 4:1-13

February 21: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

- Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
- Psalm 27
- Philippians 3:17 – 4:1
- Luke 13:31-35

February 28: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

- Exodus 3:1-15
- Psalm 63:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- Luke 13:1-9



## Hi-Noon Group

**February 8 (second Monday) – 12.00** Movie with Lunch (movie to be announced) Bring a bag lunch. Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Juice provided. ALSO > Bring a Valentine Sweet and Movie Treat to share.

**March 7, Monday - 12:00** - Program to be announced - Bring a bag lunch. Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Juice provided

**April 4, Monday - 12:00** - Program to be announced - Bring a bag lunch. Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Juice provided.



## Thanks So Much!

- ☺ To all who showed support for Grace Church by attending the annual meeting.
- ☺ To our retiring Vestry members for a job well done: Beverley Manning, Mabel Maynard, Mitch Page, Marie Ritchie, Liz Welk
- ☺ To Mark Shoemaker and Jane Stewart for continuing as our Treasurer and Accounts Payable Manager.



### CREATIVE ENERGY TEAM ANGLICAN PRAYER BEADS AND RELIGIOUS JEWELRY

We are selling our handcrafted Anglican Prayer Beads. Prices start at \$20.00. There are a variety of styles, colors and crosses available. We also are selling religious jewelry. We have Faith Bracelets, Psalm 23 Bracelets and Prayer Bead bracelets. Each item purchased comes with an explanation in

a white organza bag. They all can be custom ordered. If you have any questions call Lorraine Belyea (860-543-2069); Valerie Dumont (860-690-0727), or Lynn Page (860-841-2539). If we don't answer, please leave a message. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

### Members for 2016

Co Chairs - Valerie Dumont & Lynn Page  
Lorraine Belyea, Wendy Cooper Nancy DiPrato, Melissa Haseley, Laura Lynch , Mari Merwin, Jeanne Parker, Jane Stewart.

New members are always welcome.

Our Next meeting is Sunday Feb 21 after Sunday Service in the meeting room.

### Valentine's Day Fundraisers...

We are selling Valentines Chocolate Pops. They are hand crafted by Ann, (Lynn Pages sister)

We are also selling Valentines Heart Table runners and wall Hangings handcrafted by Lorraine Belyea

See the bulletin board to sign up for Chocolate Pops. Or call Lynn Page at 860-841-2539 or Val Dumont at 860-690-0727.

To buy a table runner or wall hanging please see the bulletin board for what you would like. Please speak to Lorraine Belyea 860-666-3959 or Lynn Page 860-841-2539 if don't see exactly what you would like to buy.

The Creative Energy Team is still collecting new and empty ink and toner cartridges. Please leave on shelf in the corner near the front door. Thank you.

All items are for sale in the Curio Cabinet and items out & about in the Narthex. See anyone on our team if you wish to purchase anything.

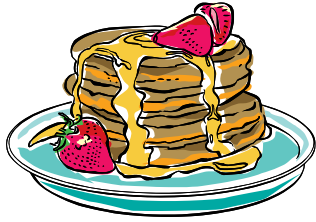
We will be selling Easter flowers. Signup will start the beginning of March. Spring Pansies will be for Sale the first Sunday of April. Weather permitting.

We are having a Tag Sale in early May!! Save all your Tag sale items to donate to us for our Tag Sale! We will let you know when we will be taking in your donations.

As the first Sunday in Lent falls on Valentine's Day this year, may we remember that Jesus' self-giving love is the greatest love of all.



# Shrove Tuesday



## Grace Church Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on February 9, 2016 from 5 to 7 pm in the parish hall. The supper will be a partnership event with our friends from Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Both groups will be sharing the fun, festivities and tasks of putting this event together and it will be the first of several Lenten activities we will do jointly with Our Savior.

We ask you to donate one item needed for this supper, if you can, ie; pancake mix, sugar free syrup, sausages and applesauce. Please bring your donations to the church by Sunday, February 7, 2016.

All items not used will be saved for use by the Family Promise group to feed the homeless families in the program.

Contact JoAnn Cromwell for more information at 860-667-0030.

Sign-ups for attendance, set-up and cooking will be in the Narthex starting January 31. Set-up will be February 9 at 3:00 and cooking will start at 4. Roy Z. has agreed to cook the bacon again this year. And as an added treat Our Savior will be offering a little live music offering – move over Bourbon Street!

Come join us for a fun, festive evening. A \$5.00 free will offering is suggested.



I will be on vacation from February 19 – March 3. If someone could cover the office during that time, it would be appreciated. I expect to print the March 6th bulletin when I

get back.

Because I will be on vacation, the March Pace of Grace will not be published until March 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>. I will need to have all material available before March 4<sup>th</sup>, but it will help to have material available by **Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**



## Weather Closing

Cancellation of services due to weather will be posted on NBC Connecticut (channel 30) and WFSB (channel 3) and on their websites (nbcconnecticut.com and wfsb.com).



My coming to faith did not start with a leap but rather a series of staggers from what seemed like one safe place to another. Like lily pads, round and green, these places summoned and then held me up while I grew. Each prepared me for the next leaf on which I would land, and in this way I moved across the swamp of doubt and fear ... to the verdant pad of faith on which I somehow stay afloat today.

—Anne Lamott, *Traveling Mercies*



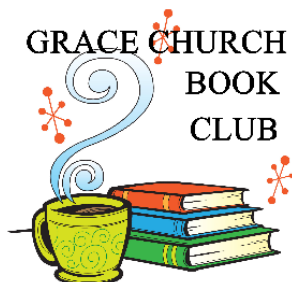
When was the last time you checked out the Grace Church website? Roy Zartarian along with help of Melissa Haseley work hard behind the scenes to keep it current with events, dates and worship schedules.

For now it still has the transition letter from Father David but that will be updated

sometime this coming month. The Lenten schedule is viewed using an easy click from the home page and currently there is a lot of good Creative Energy Team information.

The webpage is a valuable tool for any congregation to use and several of the guests that have passed through our doors this past year have found out about us through our website. Suggestions and comments about layout and content are always welcome. Please be aware that we are limited to some degree about how the page is presented because we use a free web service and there are some minor restrictions we have to adhere to.

For the most part it serves us well. The one thing it is lacking is pictures! We don't have a parish photographer but there are a lot of smart phones around with cameras that can be used to snap a picture or two and forward them to Roy to be uploaded to the website. It would enhance the content to have some updated pictures. The website is [www.gracechurchnew.org](http://www.gracechurchnew.org). Check it out and let us know what you think.



On Saturday, January 30, 2016 the Grace Church Book Club had its first book discussion bringing out nine ladies who enjoy reading including a parishioner we haven't seen much of in recent years. The book selection was *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. The discussion was facilitated by Nancy Beilman with an assist from Melissa Haseley. An interesting discussion was held based on questions put together by Melissa and a detailed story line referencing chapters meticulously put together by Nancy.

The book club format is a "one and done" discussion of a selected book title and the facilitator will rotate based on the book selection and interest. Our next book is *At the Water's Edge* by Sara Gruen and will be facilitated by Faye Hughes. Several other

books were recommended and were put on the list for future reading. Based on the level of interest, the book club will meet more frequently than initially discussed. All readers are invited to attend, including friends and guests from the community. We will ask Our Savior if they would be interested in joining us for our future discussions.

The date for our next gathering is SATURDAY, March 5, 2016 from 2 to 4 pm. in the Grace library. A sign-up will be in the Narthex in the next week or so. Please join us.

#### **An early start to spring cleaning**

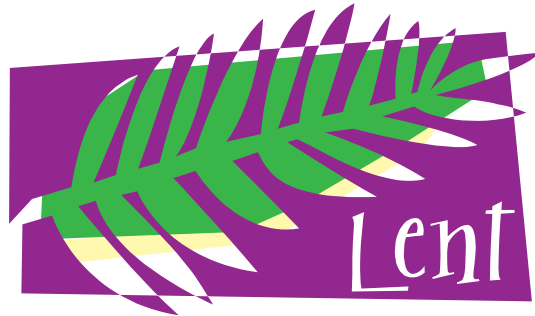
Although Lent starts early this year, before spring appears in many areas, it's an appropriate time for spring cleaning. Indeed, *Lent* comes from old German and English words for "spring." So, while it might be too soon to open windows or hang clothes on the line, now is ideal for some *spiritual* spring cleaning.

Lent calls us to examine our beliefs, confess and dispose of old grudges and selfish habits, dust off our Bibles for a new routine of study and prayer, air out our hearts and brighten up our attitudes. "Lent cleaning" lets the Holy Spirit freshen our faith — and it's never too early for that.



The Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 31, 2016. The following officers were elected: Senior Warden - Melissa Haseley; Junior Warden - JoAnn Cromwell; Treasurer - Mark Shoemaker; Secretary - Shirley Adams; Members: Term Ending 2017 - Kathy Johnson and Karen Halpert; Term Ending 2018 - Barbara Johnson; Term Ending 2019 - Val Dumont and Lynn Page; Convention Delegates - Karen Halpert and Elizabeth Welk

The parish also approved participating in the Family Promise endeavor. Planning meetings will be in February. More information will be in the March Pace of Grace.



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- March 26 Easter Day (The Sunday of the Resurrection): Each congregation will hold its own service but members of both congregations are most welcome at either:9AM (GEC) and 10AM (OSLC)