

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111
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The Rev. David C. Parachini, Interim Rector
The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon
Martha Brundage, Organist and Choir Director
Art Riihimaki, Office Manager
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Father David: eakp@aol.com

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

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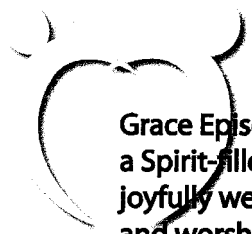
2014

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23 7 Epiphany 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal	24 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	25 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	26 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 7:00 PM Property Com- MR	27 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	28	1
2 Last Epiphany 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Stewardship Dinner - PH	3 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	4 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM AA - PH 5:00 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - PH 7:00 PM Narc Anon PH, MR	5 Ash Wednesday 6:00 AM Ash Wednesday Liturgy - C 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Liturgy - S	6 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	7	8
9 1 Lent 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Church School 10:30 AM Finance Com 10:30 AM Stewardship 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Fundraising Com	10 12:00 PM Hi-Noon Group 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	11 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 7:00 PM Vestry - L	12 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 5:45 PM Pot Luck & Lenten Study - PH	13 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	14	15 8:00 AM Welcome Table Breakfast - PH 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry - L
16 2 Lent 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal	17 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	18 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	19 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 5:45 PM Pot Luck & Lenten Study - PH	20 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	21	22
23 3 Lent 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal	24 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	25 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 4:00 PM AA - PH	26 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 5:15 PM Pot Luck & Lenten Study - PH	27 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	28	29
30 4 Lent 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal	31 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	1 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 4:00 PM AA - PH	2 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 5:45 PM Pot Luck & Lenten Study - PH	3 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	4	5 9:00 AM St Thomas Church



Grace Episcopal Church Newington,
a Spirit-filled community,
joyfully welcomes all to gather
and worship in God's grace to
experience and share God's
transforming love.

Pace of Grace

March, 2014

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

Setting Our Faces to Jerusalem – Our Pilgrimage Continues

Dear Grace Church Family,

This issue of *The Pace of Grace* appears as the season of Lent begins. Lent is the great forty day observance that leads us to the events of Holy Week culminating in the Resurrection. By the way, if you look at a calendar and discover that there are more than forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter it is because the Sundays during Lent, because they are considered to be celebrations of the Resurrection are not a part of the observance of the season in the same way that the great forty days are. In any case, Lent is a season of repentance, reflection and renewal and we are invited on Ash Wednesday to the observance of a holy Lent by prayer, fasting, self-denial and the reading of and meditating upon God's holy Word (BCP p. 265). This by no means is to suggest that these activities aren't appropriate at other times but they are a focus for us especially during this great penitential season.

One of the underlying themes of the Lenten season is that of pilgrimage. We are reminded in our lectionary and in our liturgy that we are on a journey along the path upon which God has set each and all of us. The journey that we are on is modeled by the pilgrimage of Jesus as he made what was to be his final journey to Jerusalem. In the words of Luke's gospel, following his teaching mission in the Galilee which concludes with the "sermon on the mount", Jesus sets his face to Jerusalem. He does this, even though he knows what lies ahead, because it is a critical part of the Father's plan for the grace filled salvation of human kind. The mission of the church and of each individual Christian is to continue and further that work of loving reconciliation. Lent offers us the opportunity to consider where we are in our own pilgrimage. It has been customary at Grace Church to offer a structured opportunity during Lent for our own reflection on where we are in God's call to us to further God's mission in our own lives. We will follow that custom again this year.

On Wednesday evenings in Lent, all members of our Parish family are invited to share in a light evening meal followed by a time of study and reflection. We will be using a book, *He Set His Face to Jerusalem*, by Richard B. Wilke a prodigious author, teacher and preacher who is currently the Bishop in Residence at Southwestern College (Methodist) in Winfield, Kansas. Bishop Wilke invites us to continue our pilgrimage as we walk with Jesus towards Jerusalem. He reminds us of the nature of pilgrimage as a way of understanding the purposeful journey to which God calls us. Too often, we lose sight of the purpose of the journey and the reality that we are pilgrims on a holy mission.

For those who want to be a part of this opportunity for reflection and renewal, we will gather on the six Wednesday evenings in Lent: March 12, 19 and 26 and April 2, 9 and 16. Our time together will begin at 5:45pm with a simple Lenten pot-luck supper of soup and bread followed at 6:30pm by a guided reflection for an hour. We will plan on concluding at 7:30pm. You are free to come for the full program or, if you prefer, just for the meal. If you want to participate in the discussion, and I hope that you will, copies of the book *He Set His Face to Jerusalem* are available at a cost of \$7.00. To reserve your copy(ies) please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or let Art know. The books will be available at Church on Sunday, March 9. We will plan on discussing the first Chapter of the book on March 12.

Just a reminder that Ash Wednesday services will be at 6:00am in the Chapel and 7:00pm in the Church. If you have any questions about Lenten services or the Lenten study, please speak with me.

Faithfully,

David+



- 03/01 Eva Thurlwell
- 03/09 Melissa Haseley
- 03/10 Benjamin Page
- 03/13 John Whalen
- 03/16 Emilia Herrington
- 03/17 Cindy Fischer
- 03/19 Mary Ancona
- 03/21 Gail Holland
- 03/23 Jane Stewart
- 03/30 Tobie Aguiar
- 03/30 Patricia Edge



- 03/06 Brandon and Kathy Johnson



Ash Wednesday liturgy on Wednesday, March 5 at 6AM in the chapel and 7PM in the Sanctuary.

“Lenten Study”- The program will be held: Wednesday evenings, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, and 4/16 from 5:45PM -7:30PM. Time breakdown: 5:45-6:30, potluck in parish hall (soup and bread), 6:30 -7:30PM book study of *He Set His Face to Jerusalem*. Sign-up sheets to purchase the books and for the pot luck are in the narthex or call the office.



Thanks So Much!


- ☺ Walt Block for scheduling the lay worship leaders
- ☺ Camden Tatsapaugh for his trombone solos during Sunday services. We love his willingness to share his musical gift and talent with us.
- ☺ Our dependable ushers.





Hi-Noon Group


March Hi-Noon Monday, March 10: Since the first Monday in March is between the Bishop's Dinner on Sunday and Pancake Supper on Tuesday, Hi-Noon will meet on the second Monday. Bring a bag lunch.



 **Deadline for April Pace of Grace - Tuesday, March 25th.** Please, make every effort to meet this deadline to allow us to mail the issue promptly.

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

 Please notify the office of your email addresses. We would like to send more information by email when possible.

 I plan to take a vacation for 1 week in September. I likely will take another week or so in the spring or summer. I would like to have 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



Reminder: Turn your clocks ahead on Sunday, March 9th. Don't miss church that day.



I work with Nurse named Susan. She is a member of ST Mary's RC parish in Coventry. Her church sponsors a school in a remote area of Haiti. Many of the children walk to school and it sometimes is 2 to 3 hours one way.

They have also sponsored someone to teach the teenagers how to sew with a sewing machine. Since there is very little electricity they have bought many manual sewing machines. Even some of the young men have also learned to sew.

They are looking for donated items for the school. They buy large plastic barrels to ship items and the residents of this town use the barrels for storage of rain water and other necessities.

I will put a box in the narthex and I will bring them to Susan to take to her church to ship to Haiti. Here is a list of items they need:

- ☺ light cotton material.
- ☺ zippers for pants
- ☺ thread
- ☺ buttons
- ☺ seam rippers
- ☺ tracing paper. (Patterns are very limited so they often have to trace a pattern.)
- ☺ stainless steel spoons (The school feeds the children and often they have to wait 20 to 30 minutes for a meal due to the lack of SPOONS. The children have to wait for them to be washed by hand.)
- ☺ used soccer balls

Vestry has approved this project. It will be ongoing; there is no deadline.

So look through your old stuff and help bring a smile to a child in Haiti.

Thank you. God bless all of you.

Liz Welk



The fund raising committee met in Feb. We discussed a church fair for the fall. The date, Oct 25, 2014, was approved by the Vestry. We would like the members of the church to contribute items to sell. Items, such as knitted, crochet, sewed, or other craft-like items for our church table. We will sell items such as baked goods. We would like to also have vendors rent space and use the upstairs as well as the parish hall. More details to follow.

Our next meeting is Sunday March 9th directly after the 9am church service. New members and ideas are always welcome.

Thanks

The fund raising committee: Liz welk. Lorraine Belyea, Jeanne Parker, Lynn Page, Jane Stewart, Meagan Balducci, Melissa Haseley.



Our Welcome Table Breakfast is continuing in 2014. The next date is March 15. Sign-ups will be in the Narthex. We need more helpers. Please consider helping out in this community outreach. Sign up in the narthex or call the office.



Mark your calendar! - The ECW Annual Meeting & Luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2014 at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville. The guest speaker is the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina. We will send in our registration when we receive the form from the Diocesan ECW.

All are invited to attend the open ECW Board meeting on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at Trinity in Nichols. There is a workshop scheduled on flower arranging. Contact JoAnn Cromwell for carpooling arrangements.



The Stewardship Committee sent a dinner invitation to Judy and Ron Ries and got a newsy little note back in return. The note stated that in July they made a permanent move to Florida and are loving it. No snow, no shoveling, beautiful weather, lovely beaches, warm water and no state or personal

property taxes! They sent blessings to all.

Our own Roy Zartarian is an award winning photographer and recently won second prize in the Birds division of the Connecticut Audubon Society's annual photography contest which runs through March 1, 2014 at the Glastonbury Audubon Center. The picture shows two Great Blue Herons competing over foraging territory at a small pond in Vermont. For those of you who missed his exhibit at the Newington Library last year, Roy will again be exhibiting bird and butterfly photographs at the Wethersfield Library during June 2014. Don't miss them, they are beautiful, he truly has a real gift.



General Fund Update:

February, despite some heavy utility and snow removal bills, helped adjust for our somewhat weak January. The pledge income was much stronger, and we finally got the final rent check from last year's tenant. In fact, we were able to move most of that check over to the Money Market account and still end up adding some buffer to the General Fund Checkbook. In fact, I think the month will end up with an overall net gain, although probably not enough to completely offset the January deficit.

At the end of December, our finances end up as follows:

INCOME	<u>February</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>	EXPENSES	<u>February</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
<i>Beginning Checkbook:</i>		\$ 1,632	<i>\$ 3,898</i>		
Pledge Receipts:	\$10,101	\$ 17,265	Salaries & Benefits:	(\$ 5,342)	(\$ 10,751)
General Receipts:	\$ 1,224	\$ 1,706	General Expenses:	(\$ 2,025)	(\$ 4,838)
Use of Church Building	\$ 975	\$ 1,875	General Utilities:	(\$ 2,126)	(\$ 3,665)
Fund Raisers:	\$ 26	\$ 55	Grounds (Snow/Lawn)	(\$ 1,800)	(\$ 3,075)
Capital Campaign:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Capital Camp to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
"B-to-B" & Special:	\$ 119	\$ 311	Capital Campaign Exp	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Memorial Donations:	\$ 5	\$ 10	Memorials to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Memorial Garden:	\$ 0	\$ 5	Mem. Garden Exp:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Seasonal Offerings:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Diocese Pledge	(\$ 1,302)	(\$ 2,604)
Outreach:	\$ 215	\$ 215	Outreach:	(\$ 329)	(\$ 534)
Rectory Rent:	\$ 3,300	\$ 4,800	Rectory Rent to M.Mkt	(\$ 1,000)	(\$ 1,000)
Reserves from M.Mkt:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Reserves to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Total Received:	\$15,965	\$ 26,242	Total Paid Out:	(\$13,924)	(\$ 26,467)
			<i>Ending Checkbook:</i>	\$ 3,673	\$ 3,673

Unfortunately, it looks like winter is not over yet, so we still need some help to cover more large utility and snow removal bills. Please consider using a "Back-to-Black" envelope once in a while, or feeding our special Snow Removal "Kitty" in the basket in the Narthex .

Faithfully Yours, Mark Shoemaker - Treasurer

Capital Campaign and General Money Market Update:

At the end of February, the overall Money Market account balance should be \$64,513. Of this amount, \$37,465 is the posted Capital Campaign balance, and net Rectory funds of \$1,500 Security Deposit + \$13,642 Rectory Reserves. All current Capital projects are now complete and paid for, so the property committee is reviewing the next possible project.

Faithfully Yours, Mark Shoemaker - Treasurer