

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

PACE OF GRACE



Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111



March 2015

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
1 2 Lent 8:30 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 5:00 PM Stewardship Dinner PH	2 12:00 PM Hi- Noon Group 6:30 PM Boy Scouts – PH 6:30 PM Exercise Class N	3 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 7:00 PM Fundraising Committee MR	4 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 6:30 PM Exercise Class PH	5 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L	6	7
8 3 Lent 8:30 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	9 6:30 PM Pinewood Derby - PH 6:30 PM Exercise Class N	10 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 7:00 PM Vestry - L	11 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 6:30 PM Exercise Class PH 6:00 PM Potluck and Lenten Study PH	12 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L	13	14 Transgender Workshop 9am-3pm PH
15 4 Lent 8:30 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	16 6:30 PM Exercise Class N 7:00 PM Boy Scouts - PH	17 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	18 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 6:30 PM Exercise Class PH 6:00 PM Potluck and Lenten Study PH	19 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L	20	21 8:00 AM Welcome Table Breakfast - PH 9:30 AM Prayer Bead Making MR
22 5 Lent 8:30 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	23 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH 6:30 PM Exercise Class N	24 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	25 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 6:30 PM Exercise Class PH 6:00 PM Potluck and Lenten Study PH	26 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 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	30 6:30 PM Boy Scouts – PH 6:30 PM Exercise Class PH	31 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	1 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 6:30 PM Exercise Class PH 7:00 PM Tenebrae Service S	2 Maundy Thursday 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA – PH 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L 7:00 PM, Agape supper, stripping of the altar, beginning of watch.	3 Good Friday 12 N Good Friday Liturgy with stations of the cross 7:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy	4 Holy Saturday 9:00 AM St Thomas Church 7:00 PM Easter Vigil - baptism

**To renew,
to serve, and to
accept all
people, as we
grow together
in Christ.**

Pace of Grace

March, 2015

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

Lent and Stewardship

Dear Grace Church Family,

When you receive this issue of *The Pace*, we will be well into our Lenten journey. We will gather to hear Bishop Ahrens on March 1 at our "kick off" for the 2015 Stewardship campaign. We will be waiting to hear from the Vestry and the Transition Team how we can best move forward in calling new clergy leadership for this congregation and we will be waiting with expectation for our APOSTLE ministry teams to share with us their plans for this year. What do these events have to do with one another, how can we best face the challenges that lie before us and how might we best respond to God's invitation to us to be God's people at this time and in this place?

First, Lent is that season of the church's year when we are especially invited to pause and consider through prayer, reflection and reconciliation where we are in our spiritual journey. It is an invitation to center ourselves in ways that often seem to elude us in our busy lives. To consider prayerfully God's call to us and to seek to release ourselves, with God's help, from those things which separate us from God and from one another. The season of Lent has often been associated with the idea of giving something up. Let me suggest that a more appropriate response might be to take something on.

Second, where are we as a community of faith and what is our vision of who it is that we wish to become in response to God's call to be a people on mission? What is our sense of mission as we prepare to move forward and what goals and objectives do we want to strive toward in the months and years ahead? The Vestry has been wrestling mightily with these questions and recognizes that we stand at a crossroad in our life as a baptismal community. This is not something to be feared but rather something to be perceived as an opportunity to embrace that which is new while preserving the best of that which is familiar. This is an opportunity for all of us to embrace the vision, mission and goals we have adopted and to make them our own in the several ministries to which we are called here at Grace Church. I can think of no better reflection for Lent than for each of us to consider how we might become a vital and Spirit filled part of the challenge to live into our vision and mission.

Third, we are all aware that it will take faithful stewardship of our resources, especially the resource of treasure (money) in order to help us move toward the achievement of the vision and goals that we have set for ourselves as we work to live out the mission to which we have been called. It is for this reason that the Vestry and the Stewardship Ministry Team are challenging all of us to consider a pledge that will provide the money needed to accomplish the goals we believe we are being called to accomplish. I will leave the details of our stewardship asking for the materials that you will be receiving and for the prayerful conversation that each of us will be asked to have when a member of our parish family comes to call on us.

These three elements will make this Lent a special season for all of us. I invite you to the observance of a holy Lent through reflection and renewal; the embracing and personal adoption of our vision, mission and goals; and, through our commitment of a significant proportion of our treasure for the support of God's work in and through this community of faith.

Please join me in the prayerful response to the abundance that God has showered on this Parish and the love that God has shown each of us and calls on us to share in the opportunities God gives us to be God's people on mission and at work in God's world.

Faithfully,
David+



Feb. 25, Mar 11, 18 and 25 – Potluck and Lenten study, 6pm Parish hall



Holy Week

March 29 - Palm Sunday - service at 9:00 am – Procession with palms, music, dove

April 1, Wednesday - Tenebrae- service at 7:00 pm

April 2, Maundy Thursday – service at 7:00 pm, Agape supper, stripping of the altar, beginning of watch.

April 3, Good Friday - service at noon with stations of cross (we hope in the garden) and service at 7:00 pm

April 4, Easter Vigil - service at 7:00 pm – baptism



April 5, EASTER SUNDAY – service at 9:00 am - dove, music, alleluias



03/06 Brandon and Kathy Johnson



- 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



Hi-Noon Group

HI-NOON is a group of mostly mature Church members. All are invited, no age restriction. The group usually meets on the first Monday of the month (sometimes due to holidays or museum schedules another date is scheduled) at 12:00 / High Noon. There is either an activity in the Parish Hall or an adventure - past explorations / journeys have included Kelsey Historic Home/ Farm - Newington, Seabury Village - Bloomfield (where we were provided an elegant lunch), Rose Garden - Hartford, Hill Stead Museum - Farmington, Noah Webster House - West Hartford, Carousel Museum - Bristol, Trolley Museum - Warehouse Point and every Fall a visit to Gouveia Winery in Wallingford with beautiful views of mountains, vineyards and Fall colors.

Lunch - For most meetings participants bring a bag lunch with coffee, etc. provided. Occasionally, such as our annual Christmas Party, a full lunch is served.

March 2, Monday 12:00 - . There will be a movie following a bag lunch. A few movies available, the group will make their selection. Complementary popcorn; bring your own soda.



Thanks So Much!

- ☺ Paul Crosswaith and Mark Shoemaker for their faithful stewardship to our building every Friday in the absence of a sexton. You may not be aware of it, but every week they clean and vacuum the bathrooms, the Narthex, the hallways, the meeting rooms, the office and anything else in the building that needs attention. And every month they try to do a “bigger” maintenance item in the building. This month it was the kitchen floor that got a good cleaning. There are a few others who help when they can, Brandon Johnson comes to mind, so if you find yourself with a little time on a Friday, call Paul or Mark and come on over to lend a hand.
- ☺ Walt and Jeanne Parker for putting together the lovely, festive treats for our Parish Meeting on February 14th. The cookies and treats, along with the hot chocolate, with marshmallows even (which impressed Bishop Laura) were welcome goodies on a snowy Saturday afternoon.
- ☺ And speaking of snow, thank you to all of you in the parish who came out to attend the special parish meeting on that snowy afternoon. Your attendance was a testament to how much we all love and care for our church home. There is more on the meeting in another article in this issue of the Pace.
- ☺ Val and Marty Dumont and Robert Belyea for updating the bulletin board in the Narthex. They added colorful paper and graphics and timely information and flyers about church activities and people.
- ☺ Roy Zartarian, Nancy DiPrato, Brandon Johnson, Mark Shoemaker, Paul Crosswaith , Kathy Shoemaker, Lynn Page, Barb Block , CJ and JoAnn Cromwell for helping with the Pancake Supper. It was definitely a co-operative effort.



United Thank Offering

United Thank Offering: Our United Thank Offering ingathering will take place on Sunday, May 3rd. The blue boxes are on the counter in the narthex.



✍ Deadline for April *Pace of Grace* - **Wednesday, 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.

✍ I plan to take a vacation from July 26 through July 31. 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



Time to
Spring Ahead

Reminder: Turn your clocks ahead on Sunday, March 8th. Don't miss church that day.



On Monday, March 9, Pack 322, the Cub Scout Troop we sponsor is having their Pinewood Derby Race in the Parish Hall. This is a great, action packed event and a lot of fun for all. If you are looking for something to do, stop by sometime after 6:30 to cheer everybody on. They are working with a new, unfamiliar track this year, so there promises to be some additional excitement as they see how it plays out with the performance. They will also have a concession stand to raise some funds; any support we can provide will be greatly appreciated.

They are setting up everything on Sunday, March 8 and doing a trial run and then leaving up everything overnight so the Parish Hall will not be available for other activities during that time.



The Fundraising Committee has been busy at work during this winter season. We are trying to think of many new ways to fundraise. One of the newest ideas is to include advertising in the weekly bulletin. This has been voted on by the vestry and we have the go ahead to start. We will be asking our suppliers and vendors first, then our parishioners and then to people who use our building if they would like to place an ad. Such as St.Thomas, Boy Scouts or one of the several other groups. We will be reasonably price for advertising. If you wish to advertise please see one of the members of the committee for a form and information. They will be ready by the end of March.

Two other ideas have the go ahead too. One is Amazon Smiles. A half a percentage of your purchase from Amazon will come directly back to the church. We are in the process of setting it up now. The other is Dining for Dollars. We will have dinner at a local restaurant with a percentage coming back to us. Look for upcoming information about both.

The Fall Festival date is OCTOBER 24, 2015. From 9am-3pm. Lunch will be served. We will be starting to do mailings to last years vendors. Then we will search for new ones. Crafting sessions will start soon. Look for a list of dates to craft. For this to be successful we need as many hands helping as possible. Please come to a meeting. Come to a crafting session. Make something to sell at the fall festival for Grace Church's own booth. Come forward with ideas and let me know what you can do to help. Any help is beneficial for all of us.

Speaking of our booth for the Fall Festival... We have a name for our booth and for selling our Anglican Prayer beads. It is **"Grace Filled Creations"**. The committee decided last year they liked the sunflower logo we used for the Fall Festival of 2014. We will be using it on business cards & letterhead for the Fundraising Committee. A design is being created by one of our committee members. A simple statement will be included too. We will be using this name & statement when we sell our handcrafted Anglican Prayer beads, Anglican prayer bracelets and other faith related items.

We will be stringing beads for the Anglican Prayer beads on Saturday March 21, 2015 at 9:30am in the downstairs meeting room. This will be right after the community Breakfast. Instructions will be provided. It is easy to do. All you have to do is count

beads as you string them. Lorraine Belyea & Valerie Dumont will be running this. Come for fellowship, fun and laughs!!

Prayer Beads are for sale. The traditional Prayer Beads will be priced at \$20.00 and up. This will depend on the type of cross you choose and we will do custom orders upon request. Please see someone on the Fundraising Committee if you wish to purchase any. We are working on putting the pictures of current prayer beads on our website. Melissa Haseley and her husband Neil are working on ideas for a locking cabinet to be placed in the narthex for all to see them.

Look for coming details about Easter flowers and spring pansies. Jeanne Parker will be in charge of this.

Our next meeting is March 3, 2015 and April 7, 2015. We start at 7pm.

We usually meet the first Tuesday of every month, in the upstairs meeting room. All are welcome!

So as you see there are many projects in the works. We would love new members, your ideas & of course any help would be so appreciated.

Thank you from the Fundraising Committee Co-Chairs:

Valerie Dumont & Lynn Page

Members: Lorraine Belyea, Melissa Haseley, Jeanne Parker, Jane Stewart, Liz Welk

Welcome to our new Members: Mari Merwin, Laura Lynch



Our Welcome Table Breakfast is continuing in 2015. The next date is March 21. 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.



I am taking a class this semester called "The German Mystical Tradition in Theology, Piety, and Music" which involves a trip to Germany during March break! We will be traveling to Mainz, Ruedesheim, Berncastel-Cues, Trier, Wiesbaden, Erfurt, and Leipzig to see museums and hear lectures about people like Hildegard of Bingen, Nicholas of Cusa, Martin Luther, and J.S. Bach. As a result I will be away for two Sundays in March. Carol Gregoire will be playing on March 8th and Mei-Tsen Chen will be playing on March 15th.

FROM THE Sr Warden



For two plus years plus we've been on a faithful journey together to call a settled rector to Grace Church. We've had some curves, we've had some bumps and we've even had some laughs. And we've learned a lot about who we are. The Discernment Team has worked hard and their efforts have been much appreciated and fruitful. Father David has been a strong guiding force keeping us together and moving us forward as we continue to explore what God is calling us to do here in Newington and beyond. All good and wonderful things, but we still don't have a settled rector and it didn't seem we were going to get one anytime soon with the collective concerns about our financial situation.

After much hand-wringing, conversations back and forth and a realistic, emotion free look (by me) at our options, it was decided to have a parish wide meeting to discuss the next steps and to put everything squarely on the table. After all, all of you as members of Grace Church have faithfully supported this endeavor from the beginning. And your input is important and has been invaluable to get us to this point.

On Saturday, February 14 a special Parish meeting was held to discuss the next steps in the recruitment process. Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan and The Rev. Tim Hodapp, Canon for Mission Leadership for the Episcopal Church in Connecticut facilitated the meeting. It was a pretty straight forward meeting as we reviewed where we've been and where we are going and what the next steps might be. We took another look at our financial situation relative to the sustainability of calling a half time rector and *funding* a full benefit package for a three to five year timeframe without putting the parish at risk. While the desire of the parish all along has been to call a half-time rector it was apparent that we couldn't, in good conscience, call the viable candidate we had and move them from out of state to Newington.

As this is a challenge for the wider church, not just Grace – Newington the church has been working on a solution and Bishop Laura presented this as an

option that would be suitable for us and give us clergy fairly quickly. This option is called a Missional Priest. Basically a Missional Priest is "an ordained presbyter who will assist a gathered local Eucharistic community in its desire to find new life and vitality in service to God's mission and reconciliation. The Missional Priest is an active and engaged leader that helps a parish to re-imagine and re-engage its vocation in new and life giving ways. Because of the time limitations of a Missional Priest, generally serving a parish at less than half time, the Missional Priest must be a strong motivator of the gifts of others. Missional priests are thus called to empower, encourage and extend the efforts of the baptized as the local Eucharistic community looks beyond itself in service to God's mission. The Missional Priest is not a "caretaker" or "maintainer". Rather, the Missional Priest is a prophetic and challenging leader who calls the faithful to new possibilities and bold ventures in risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit". – Letter of Agreement from the diocesan website

What does this really mean for us? Further research has defined the hours for a missional priest as Sunday +, generally serving 8 to 12 hours. Our job definition for half time is 20 hours. Any shortfall can be taken up by our strong lay leader contingent and there are several tasks in our clergy job description that could be done by them. The total compensation package is manageable for us without jeopardizing our parish finances. It also allows us to keep the rectory rent line item in the income stream which is critical to the overall budget. All in all it gives us a workable alternative to stabilize ourselves and with the added bonus of the majority parish buying into the process as we now have a clear path and an end in sight.

In continued conversations with Tim, we can expect a candidate name any day now. Select members of the vestry, along with members of the recruitment team will conduct the interview and then discuss and make a recommendation to the vestry. This could all be wrapped up within the next 30 days or so.

Thanks to all of you for being patient (for the most part, LOL) and attending the meeting on the 14th. The energy, faithfulness and hope were so apparent in the room and it is all of that, plus the love and support you show every day that makes Grace Church the wonderful community that it is.

Blessings,
Melissa



General Fund Update:

February's income took quite a hit from our snowy weekends. Thanks to our initial checkbook balance, we were able to pay all our February bills and still come out ok. Hopefully March will be a healthier month and we see the end to this crazy winter.

The Finances for the month of February are as follows:

INCOME	<u>February</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>	EXPENSES	<u>February</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
<i>Beginning Checkbook:</i>	\$ 9,517	\$ 9,972			
Pledge Receipts:	\$ 6,286	\$ 13,643	Salaries & Benefits:	(\$ 5,416)	(\$ 10,329)
General Receipts:	\$ 146	\$ 654	General Expenses:	(\$ 1,659)	(\$ 3,961)
Use of Church Building:	\$ 1,065	\$ 1,205	General Utilities:	(\$ 2,027)	(\$ 3,708)
Fund Raisers, General:	\$ 9	\$ 46	Fund Raiser Expenses:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Fellowship:	\$ 95	\$ 376	Fellowship Expenses:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Church Fair:	\$ 0	\$ 26	Fair Expenses:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Special Events:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Special Event Expense:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Cap.Camp from M.Mkt:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Grounds (Snow/Lawn):	(\$ 2,295)	(\$ 2,395)
Capital Campaign:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Capital Camp to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
"B-to-B" & Special:	\$ 38	\$ 94	Capital Campaign Exp:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Memorial Donations:	\$ 5	\$ 10	Memorials to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Memorial Garden:	\$ 20	\$ 40	Mem. Garden Exp:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Seasonal Offerings:	\$ 108	\$ 118	Diocese Pledge:	(\$ 1,321)	(\$ 2,643)
Outreach:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Outreach:	(\$ 104)	(\$ 208)
The Grace Fund	\$ 25	\$ 52	The Grace Fund	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Miscellaneous:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Miscellaneous Forward:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Rectory Rent:	\$ 0	\$ 1,500	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:	\$ 7,797	\$ 17,764	Total Paid Out:	(\$12,822)	(\$ 23,244)
			<i>Ending Checkbook:</i>	\$ 4,492	\$ 4,492

Of some special note is the February snow plowing bill (almost \$2,300 from January storms) and the February utility payments. Our electricity bill from just January was almost \$1,280. Unfortunately, our February snow and electricity invoices certainly won't be much better. But then things should warm up and we can get back to "normal". Please join us for our upcoming stewardship kickoff dinner with Bishop Laura. Also start to review your new pledge for the 2015/2016 season in preparation for our pledge Sunday on Palm Sunday.

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 **\$50,177**. Of this amount, the major elements are: \$24,765 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 – Treasurer

STEWARDS
of
GOD'S
GIFTS



“As each has received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” — 1 PETER 4:10



If you wish to donate flowers for the Altar for Easter in memory or honor of someone or in thanksgiving for blessings, you may fill out the following form and mail it with your contribution, made out to Grace Church, to:
Grace Episcopal Church, 124 Maple Hill Avenue, Newington, CT 06111-2719
You may also drop off the form and your check at the office or place it in an offering plate on Sunday.
Envelopes are also in your offering packets and available in the narthex.

EASTER FLOWER OFFERING

GIVEN IN MEMORY/HONOR OF OR THANKSGIVING FOR

NAME OF DONOR

ADDRESS OF DONOR

OFFERING ENVELOPE NUMBER: _____ AMOUNT: _____

(Cut here)
