

Grace Episcopal Church

124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111
860-666-3331

www.gracechurchnew.org

Click on the link "Strong in God's Grace"

Strong in God's Grace

October 20, 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am so excited about sending you the enclosed newsletter. This formally launches one of the largest steps our church has undertaken in recent years to make our church buildings more welcoming and inviting to all of God's people and to make us responsible stewards of God's resources.

In this newsletter you will find the following:

- More information about our efforts to make our buildings more environmentally friendly; to repair the driveway, the roof and other areas of the buildings; and to make the entire building accessible to all people including those with physical disabilities
- Information introducing our **Strong in God's Grace** Capital Stewardship Program
- Our Schedule of Events (Events you will want to be a part of!)
- Information about the exciting spiritual journey ahead of us

One of these days we will reap the benefits of what we are doing now. Until then, let me encourage you to read this newsletter and all the subsequent pieces of information that will come your way.

Pray for God to lead you in these critically important days in our church.

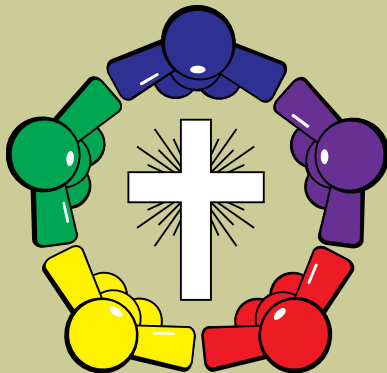
Attend our services and be a part of every event of our **Strong in God's Grace** program.

Be ready to take one of the most exciting steps of faith in your life.

Together we can touch lives here...now...for generations to come.

Faithfully,

Pastor Jane



STRONG
IN GOD'S
GRACE

Calendar of Events

November 2 to 9

Information Packets Available

November 9, 16, 23, and 30

Bible Study at 9:00 a.m.

November 23

Children's Focus Sunday

December 7

Commitment Sunday

December 21

Announcement Sunday

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What do we mean by Strong in God's Grace?

Strong in the past

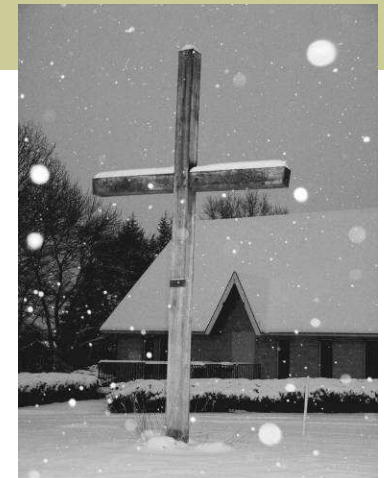
We have inherited a church that was solidly built by parishioners for worship and for service to the community. Many of its facilities are original to the building, a testament to the quality of materials used at the time. But our building now needs repair and maintenance. Energy efficient windows and repairs to the boiler and furnace will bring them to 21st century standards and provide savings in utility bills. The parking lot has stood up to many New England winters and stop gap repairs are failing. The rectory, although somewhat newer, is also showing its age. It also needs repairs to its doors, gutters, front walk, and kitchen.

Strong in the Present

We have a parish comprised of people committed to its mission to joyfully welcome all to gather and worship here. Our fellowship events are famous in the community but the kitchen is in need of modernization. The carpet in the parish hall can no longer be cleaned well and needs to be replaced. New toilets are needed to replace fixtures original to the building. Upgrades are needed to the office computer and to the sanctuary's electronics. An elevator will make the entire building accessible to all. Central air conditioning will be a welcome addition to the sanctuary and improved lighting in the parking lot will make nighttime gatherings safer. Improvements to the church sign will make it easier to find us.

Strong in the Future

Plans need to be made now to provide a strong basis for Grace Church to move forward. Solar panels on the roof and energy efficient lighting will lessen our utilities bills and continue our commitment to being wise stewards of our resources. The past few years, with all the upheaval and questioning in the Episcopal Church have not been kind to our finances. Only with dedicated service of our financial officers and some careful shepherding of funds have we been able to pay the bills through these difficult times. Now we hope to stabilize our cash flow ups and downs to prepare a strong foundation for the future.



How much will all this cost?

The cost of the repairs and upgrades is estimated to be \$450,000. This list of items has been carefully prioritized by the vestry with the most immediate needs coming first. This is a three year project and not all the items on our list can be addressed at once.