

## Grace Episcopal Church

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

[www.gracechurchnew.org](http://www.gracechurchnew.org)

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

## *Strong in God's Grace*

November 10, 2008

### WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP GROW STRONG IN GOD'S GRACE

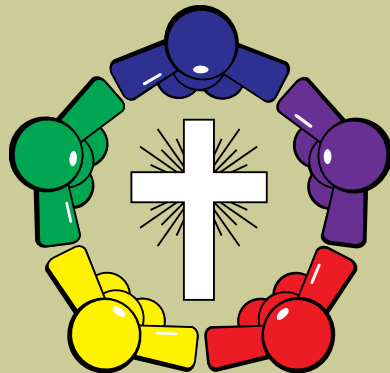
Parishioners have asked what they can do to help grow strong in God's grace and do their part in the capital program. Our first response is to pray. Ask God what he wants to accomplish through you for Grace Church. Pray that every parish member participates in our mission which this capital program supports.

While you continue to pray, rejoice and join us at the 'All Church Event' being planned for December. The capital program is just one step in our moving forward to achieve our mission. This event will celebrate the success of this program and our plans for the future.

As this is just one step in a wonderful and joyful journey, we need everyone to get involved. Talk to your family and friends about the capital program, our mission as a Church, and what God wants to accomplish through us. There is a role for everyone in the life of this parish. In fact, we need your involvement and support to continue to grow in God's grace.

Our congregation is strong in God's grace. Your thoughtful prayers and participation will provide the resources we need to promote our mission and provide a worship space that is attractive, safe, and energy efficient for all to experience God's transforming love. Together we can all help each other to grow stronger in God's grace.

Bill Makucin & John Whalen



STRONG  
IN GOD'S  
GRACE

### Calendar of Events

November 9, 16, 23, and 30  
Bible Study at 9:00 a.m.

November 23  
Children's Focus Sunday

December 7  
All Church Event at 11:30 a.m.

December 7  
Commitment Sunday

December 21  
Announcement Sunday

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## How do I know how to help grow Strong in God's Grace?

We are all asked to sacrifice equally. We are not asked to *give* equally, but to *sacrifice* equally. Jesus favors the widow giving her last penny more than the king who gives without thought. Answering the questions "How can I help?" and "What is **my** part in this effort?" is hard work. The answers to these questions will be as varied as the many people that make up Grace Church. The following steps can help you determine your sacrifice for Grace Church.

### 1 – PRAY

*Gracious God, what would you want to accomplish through **me** at Grace Church?*

This is the prayer every committee member has prayed repeatedly throughout this program. Now is the time when we all pray this prayer, individually and together in fellowship. Prayer is always a good place to start.

### 2 – READ SCRIPTURES

Psalm 24:1 *The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;*

2 Samuel 24:24 *But the King (David) replied to Araunah, "No I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."*

2 Corinthians 8 Read Paul's commendation about the poorer church in Macedonia to the wealthier church in Corinth. Especially, verse 8:7 *"– But just as you excel in every-*

*thing – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving."*

There are several Sunday morning Bible studies scheduled for the 9:00 a.m. space between services in November. Plan to attend them. Additional Scriptural references will be made available by the Prayer Group.

### 3 – THINK ABOUT YOUR ATTITUDES

Re-evaluate your concepts of giving, ownership, acquiring, and stewardship.

*"All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given thee."* Pastor Jane prays this prayer each week over our offerings. The words come from David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 29:14. Read the story of the building of the temple in Chapter 29.

### 4 – COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Write down every blessing God has given you. Blessings are not only physical things such as property and goods, but intangible things: health, friends, safety and security.

*"Even as a child I felt welcomed at Grace Church. (Other people) made me feel that it was important I showed up each week."*  
- K. Ancona

### 5 – COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS AGAIN

Re-surrender your blessings to God. Once you start thinking of all your blessings it just

snowballs, doesn't it? Acknowledge the source of all this wonderful grace . . . these blessings undeserved but raining down on us nonetheless.

### 6 – PRAY

Pray, again. Let God know exactly what's going on in your heart, the good, the bad, the in-between. C Slaughter said Grace Church let you "come as you are, no pretenses." God does, too.

Remember your "piece of the roof" prayer reminder.

*"Being at Grace Church is feeling God working effectively here . . . there is a sense of being loved unconditionally . . . you begin to get a sense of being loved by God and not deserving it."*

- S Lund.

### AND THEN, . . . 7 – OBEY

*"Yes, we are concerned about finances at times. We're retired and on fixed incomes . . . but we have always been able to manage our pledge."*

- M. Herrington

(Quotes are from the DVD produced for the Strong in God's Grace Capital Campaign Program.)

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### What are the goals of the program?

Information sessions are scheduled to discuss with the parish the list of repairs and upgrades. Plan to attend at least one of these meetings.

