

Grace Episcopal Church
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The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon
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Holy Eucharist - Sunday at 9am
Morning Prayer - Tuesday at 8:30am

PACE OF GRACE



APRIL

2015



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
29 Palm Sunday 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal	30 12:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	31 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	1 Holy Wednesday 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 6:00 PM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 7:00 PM Tenebrae	2 Maundy Thursday 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 5:45 PM Agapé Meal and Maundy Thursday Eucharist 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L 9:00 PM Stripping of the Altar 9:30 PM Watch	3 Good Friday 8:00 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 12:00n 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
5 Easter Sunday 6:00 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	6 12:00 PM Hi-Noon Group 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH 6:30 PM Exercise Class N	7 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	8 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 6:30 PM Exercise Class PH	9 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	10	11
12 2 Easter 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	13 12:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH 6:30 PM Exercise Class N	14 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 7:00 PM Vestry L	15 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 6:30 PM Exercise Class PH	16 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	17	18 8:00 AM Welcome Table
19 3 Easter 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	21 12:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH 6:30 PM Exercise Class N	22 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MRH	23 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 6:30 PM Exercise Class PH	24 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	25	26
27 4 Easter 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	28 12:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH 6:30 PM Exercise Class N	29 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	30 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 6:30 PM Exercise Class PH	1 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	2	3

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

Pace of Grace

April, 2015

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

Alleluia. Christ is risen, the Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia

Dear Grace Church Family,

With these words of the ancient Easter acclamation we will end our Lenten fast and season of penitence. There is really nothing more that needs to be said and I could profitably end this brief reflection right now. As I write this we are still in the early days of Holy Week and the hope and promise of Easter is only just beginning, like the rising sun, to shed its light across the landscapes of our lives. We all know the Easter story. It is as familiar, even to those on the periphery of the faith, as is the event of Christ's incarnation which we celebrated just a few months ago. Easter receives, outside of the church, even less attention than does Christmas although it is at least as important, if not more so, than the December observance of the holy birth. We don't hear "Easter carols on the radio, there is no tally of the number of shopping days until Easter and, with perhaps the exception of the confectioners and florists, there is no natural constituency that works to promote the observance of Easter in the secular community. Yet, here is God's great promise of rebirth and forgiving love. We are reminded that we indeed are Easter people. Everything we believe, everything we do. All that we are or may become is grounded in our active affirmation of the Easter acclamation.

This Lent a number of us have gathered on Wednesday evenings to reflect, with the guidance of Marcus Borg, late Canon Theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle, Washington, to consider what it might mean to embrace an adult faith, an Easter faith in the difficult, challenging and changing times in which we as people of faith find ourselves, and the church of which we are a part, living and attempting to carry forward God's mission. What does it mean to be people of the resurrection when so much in the church and in the world seems to be changing (and many might suggest not always for the better). One of the questions in Borg's material struck me as particularly urgent and profound. "What does Easter mean to you?" Borg asks. I invite all of us in the weeks of the Easter season, as we move to embrace the gifts of the Spirit at Pentecost, to consider how we might answer this question. Then, as the Easter people we are called to be, let us consider in our works what we profess by our faith. How will Easter transform and challenge us? How will we, day by day, become more the resurrection community we are called to be?

To call this to mind on this Easter day, the feast of the Resurrection, let us with enthusiasm greet each other - "Alleluia. Christ is Risen!"... "The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!"

With every hope and prayer for a joyous and life transforming Easter,

Faithfully,
David+

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE 2015



Holy Week

Wednesday, April 1 – Tenebrae - 7:00 pm (after Lenten study)

Thursday, April 2 – 5:45 – Maundy Thursday Eucharist including an Agapé Supper in the Parish Hall followed by the Stripping of the Altar 9:00 pm Watch in the sanctuary

Good Friday, April 3 – Good Friday Liturgy: noon with stations of cross and 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 4 – Easter Vigil with Baptism – 7:00 pm



Easter SUNDAY

Sunday, April 9 – Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist with music 9:00 am



04/02 Richard Hack
04/02 Wayne Haley
04/04 Elizabeth Gallagher
04/07 Diane Guyette
04/09 Jonathan Page
04/10 Meagan Balducci

04/11 Barbara Johnson
04/12 James Dumont
04/14 Katherine Ancona
04/15 Ryan Holland
04/18 David Bagioni
04/18 James Robidoux
04/20 Pat Rogorzenski
04/21 Walter Parker
04/21 Thomas Fischer
04/22 Carmela Balducci
04/25 Sandra Colena
04/30 Richard Goodwin




04/13 Jane and Robert Stewart
04/20 George and Barbara Johnson





Thanks So Much!


- ☺ Everyone who helped make the Transgender Youth Workshop on March 14 a success. In particular: Mitch Page who did an outstanding job of putting the program and speakers together, JoAnn Cromwell who coordinated the kitchen and food preparation effort, Mark Shoemaker who oversaw the signage and technical set-up and to both Mark and Paul Crosswaith who did the room set-ups and cleaned the church in advance of the event.
- ☺ Val Dumont, Michelle Dumont and Chelsea Belyea who crafted the pretty spring flowers for the front Narthex bulletin board.
- ☺ All the readers for the Palm Sunday Passion Gospel; it was beautifully done and Nancy Tatsapaugh in particular did a great job as the narrator.
- ☺ Karen Halpert for her inspiring work putting together our Lenten Stewardship campaign. Her own homily she did on March 22 was beautifully crafted and tied the readings and the joyous baptism of Baylen Dennis Bielitz to the message of Stewardship effortlessly leaving many of us wondering if she missed her calling! Well done, Karen.




 **Deadline for May Pace of Grace – Tuesday, April 28th.** Please, make every effort to meet this deadline to allow us to mail the issue promptly.

 The office is usually closed on Mondays and Fridays.

 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 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

- In helping to develop more sustainable lifestyles;
- By supporting action on global environmental issues;
- By ensuring that Church activities comply with all relevant environmental regulations;
- By ensuring energy is used efficiently and wherever possible reducing its use;
- By encouraging reusing, repairing, and recycling of materials, including organic waste;
- By purchasing products which are made in accordance with the principles of using material in a sustainable way and using local-made goods where practical;
- By buying and eating locally grown food whenever practical; and
- By being aware of local planning developments and the impact on the environment.



Food Bank

Lenten Forty Items Campaign

For four Sundays in Lent, parishioners were collectively challenged to bring in 40 items for the Food Bank. First Sunday was paper towels, followed by bathroom tissue, then facial tissue, and finally aluminum foil. It was a fun way to remind everyone that Lent is not about giving something up, it is about doing something to help others. As we, as a parish, have begun emphasizing stewardship during Lent, the donations given were a wonderful example of “grace, gratitude, and generosity.”

Thank you from the Outreach committee



Environmental Policy for Grace Episcopal Church

As part of the green initiatives of Grace Church, in 2010 the vestry adopted a formal environmental policy and agreed to update it annually in honor of Earth Day. Other than a minor update and a few grammatical corrections, the policy remains the same and the vestry formally reconfirmed it at the March meeting. It will be published in the April Pace of Grace each year. This year Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22.

While we don't have any one big, green project we are working on this year, the church does do its part in many small ways maintain our status as good stewards of God's creation and we encourage our community partners to do the same. The environmental policy will be posted on the community bulletin board downstairs for all to read.

The people of Grace Episcopal Church, Newington, are challenged and encouraged to care for the Earth and all that's in it by following sustainable practices and taking into account global and local environmental considerations for present and future generations:

- In their conservation and use of resources in the Church and at home;



“No, Peter Cottontail was not an apostle!”



Hi-Noon Group

All are invited to attend the Hi-Noon events. Following a bag lunch (bring a sandwich or other lunch - coffee & tea provided), there is an activity

Monday, April 6 12:00 noon – New Britain Museum of American Art. – Following a bag lunch (coffee, tea provided) the group will car pool to the museum. In addition to the regular exhibits there are numerous special exhibits including: Over Life’s Waters: The Coastal Art Collection of Charles and Irene Hamm, NOR'EASTER, 2015 - Blown glass and assemblage, and Otis Kaye: Money, Mystery, and Mastery. Admission \$10 Seniors. See webpage for more information - nbmaa.org



Transgender Workshop

We are very proud of the wonderful Transgender Youth Workshop we hosted on March 7th. Over thirty people attended to learn about how we can better understand and support transgender youth in all areas of our community. Topics ranged from legal rights and advocacy, to social/emotional and family issues encountered by transgender youth. We also learned about how all of us can be agents of change to make sure our private and public institutions are serving everyone with dignity and respect. Keep an eye out for a fall workshop to be determined!"

Stewards of the earth

In our consumer culture, it’s easy to forget that “The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1, NIV).

God calls us to be caretakers of his entire wonderful creation. What a huge responsibility – and privilege – to have stewardship over everything God has made!

Thomas à Kempis, writing in the 15th century, noted the proper attitude toward God’s creation: “If your heart were right, then every created thing would be a mirror of life for you and a book of holy teaching, for there is no creature so small and worthless that it does not show forth the goodness of God” (*The Imitation of Christ, the Interior Life*).



Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee is up and running for the new year! We have lots of new and exciting ideas in the works. The new chairs are Valerie Dumont and Lynn Page. Committee members are Lorraine Belyea, Melissa Haseley, Jeanne Parker, Jane Stewart, Liz Welk. Welcome to our new members, Mari Merwin and Laura Lynch. New members are always welcome.

The Fall Festival is October 24, 2015 9am-3pm Lunch will be served.

There are prayer beads available for sale. They are \$20.00. Please see Val Dumont. You can email her at marval261@yahoo.com or call 860-690-0727

Look what we did! Thanks to all of you we raised \$98.00 from the sale of the Valentine’s Chocolate Pops. Thanks Lynn for running this! We all appreciate it



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.





FINANCE REPORT

Despite the continuing winter weather, March actually turned out very well. We actually ended up with a net gain for the month. Although we are still behind from our initial cash balance at the beginning of the year, it is encouraging to see us heading in the right direction. You can see that a significant part of this is from many of us catching up our pledge contributions after missing so many Sundays in January and February. Of course, a 5 Sunday month helped, but still – thanks to everyone for your support to help cover our unusual winter costs. I for one am certainly looking forward to April, a joyous Easter, and some nice spring weather.

The Finances for the month of March are as follows:

INCOME	<u>March</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>	EXPENSES	<u>March</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
<i>Beginning Checkbook:</i>	\$ 4,527	\$ 9,972			
Pledge Receipts:	\$13,423	\$ 27,066	Salaries & Benefits:	(\$ 5,529)	(\$ 15,822)
General Receipts:	\$ 780	\$ 1,435	General Expenses:	(\$ 2,611)	(\$ 6,384)
Use of Church Building:	\$ 1,080	\$ 2,285	General Utilities:	(\$ 2,508)	(\$ 6,216)
Fund Raisers, General:	\$ 104	\$ 150	Fund Raiser Expenses:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Fellowship:	\$ 0	\$ 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):	(\$ 2,455)	(\$ 4,850)
Capital Campaign:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Capital Camp to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
“B-to-B” & Special:	\$ 190	\$ 284	Capital Campaign Exp:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Memorial Donations:	\$ 5	\$ 15	Memorials to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Memorial Garden:	\$ 5	\$ 45	Mem. Garden Exp:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Seasonal Offerings:	\$ 33	\$ 151	Diocese Pledge:	(\$ 1,321)	(\$ 3,963)
Outreach:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Outreach:	(\$ 158)	(\$ 557)
The Grace Fund	\$ 30	\$ 82	The Grace Fund	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Workshop Donations:	\$ 319	\$ 319	Workshop Exp:	(\$ 306)	(\$ 306)
Rectory Rent:	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000	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:	\$17,469	\$ 35,234	Total Paid Out:	(\$14,888)	(\$ 38,098)
			<i>Ending Checkbook:</i>	\$ 7,108	\$ 7,108

It is important to mention that although our year-to-date White Envelope income (and in fact our overall income) pretty closely matches the figures predicted by our budget, our overall Utilities and Grounds-keeping (snow removal) are 28% and 47% more than budgeted based on past experience. Together, they are about \$2,800 more than I expected. In addition, we are just now getting the invoices which cover the end of February and most of March.

As we move forward into our new pledge year, hopefully everyone has had a chance to review their pledge status. If you didn't get a chance yet to turn in a new pledge card for the 2015/2016 season, please consider doing so in the next couple of weeks to help us plan our continued adventure together with Christ.

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 **\$50,183**. Of this amount, the major elements are: \$24,747 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