

Grace Episcopal Church  
124 Maple Hill Avenue  
Newington, CT 06111  
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Email: [office@gracechurchnew.org](mailto:office@gracechurchnew.org)

Father David: [eakp@aol.com](mailto:eakp@aol.com)

Holy Eucharist - Sunday at 9am

Morning Prayer - Tuesday at 8:30am

The Rev. David C. Parachini, Interim Rector

The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon

Mei-Tsen Chen, Organist/Choir Director

Art Riihimaki, Office Manager

# ***PACE OF GRACE***



*December*  
**2015**

Grace Episcopal Church  
124 Maple Hill Avenue  
Newington, CT 06111

# December 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 1 Advent 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM HE with Music - S 9:00 AM Church School	30 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	1 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	2 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	3 9:30 AM Tai Chi PH 7:00 PM AI Anon PH L & MR 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	4	5 4:00 PM Sweet Comedy Club
6 2 Advent 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM HE with Music - S 9:00 AM Church School	7 12:00N Hi-Noon Group PH 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	8 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Vestry - Library 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	9 8:30 AM Chili Prep K 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	10 8:30 AM Chili Prep K 9:30 AM Tai Chi PH 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM AI Anon PH L & MR	11	12 7:00 PM Roast Beef Dinner 5- PH
13 3 Advent 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM HE with Music - S 9:00 AM Church School	14 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	15 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 12:00n Interfaith Clergy PH	16 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	17 9:30 AM Tai Chi PH 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM AI Anon PH L & MR	18	19
20 4 Advent 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM Lessons and Carols at Our Savior's Lutheran Church	21 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	22 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C	23 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 PM at Our Savior's Lutheran Church 7:00 PM AI Anon PH L & MR 10:00 PM HE S	25 Christmas Day 9:00 AM HE S	26
27 1 Christmas 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM HE with Music - S	28	29 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	30 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	31 New Year's Eve 7:00 PM AI Anon PH L & MR	1 New Year's Day	2



# *Pace of Grace*

## *December, 2015*

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

### Who Are You Waiting For?

Dear Grace Church Family,

One Sunday morning I found one of the younger members of the congregation (David was 5 at the time) standing in front of the altar in the church. He stood very still and seemed to be waiting for someone or something. I asked him who he was waiting for and he pointed to the stained glass window above the altar with its representation of the Nativity and simply said, "Jesus". What more needed to be said? It was early in the season of Advent and in the Church School everyone was talking about the coming of the expected one and with all the conversation, David was very sure about what he was doing and hoped that the Holy child would hurry up and get here so that Christmas could begin. Of course we, as sophisticated grownups (are we?) know that while Advent is about the first coming of Jesus (this is what all the increasingly secular hoop-la is all about) it is more importantly about his second coming. So, what do we do about these in between times for only the Father knows when the Son will come again?

I think that the answer has to do with using this season to see Jesus in those around us. In seeking the Holy One, we will open ourselves, even if it is just a little bit, to the hope, the grace and above all the love which are hallmarks of God's kingdom and the heralds of the second coming. If you would seek Jesus in this way do not look for him just in the familiar places and in those whom you know best. Rather look for him in the unfamiliar places, in the faces of strangers and in those moments when you least expect to find him. Advent is for searching, it is for waiting, it is for hoping for God's promised gift and it is about faithful working and watching to use the gifts we have been given for nurturing and extending God's mission.

We affirm that we are God's people on mission. If we truly believe this then Advent is our season to open our hearts and our resources to seek out and welcome those whom God sends our way or to whom God leads us in our spiritual journeying. So as the secular countdown to Christmas continues, let us focus on what is really the work of this holy season and prepare ourselves to look for Jesus in those around us.

Faithfully,

David+



Thank you for making a contribution to the Food Bank as part of our food in-gathering. Please continue to support the Food Bank throughout December. Many of the kinds of foods you brought for Thanksgiving are perfect for the December Holidays.

*Shirley Adams, Outreach Chair*



### Weather Closing

Cancellation of services due to weather will be posted on NBC Connecticut (channel 30) and WFSB (channel 3) and on their websites



December 5, 4:00 PM: Sweet Life Dessert  
Comedy Theater  
December 12, 7:00 PM: Holiday Roast Beef  
Pot Luck  
December 20, 10:00 AM: Lessons and Carols  
at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1655 Main Street,  
Newington (No service at Grace Church that Sunday)



December 24, 5:00 PM: Joint Service at Our  
Savior's Lutheran Church, 1655 Main Street,  
Newington  
December 24, 10:00 PM: Joint Service at  
Grace Episcopal Church  
December 25, 10:00 AM: Christmas Service  
at Grace Episcopal Church



12/01 Kathy Johnson  
12/05 Rosario Savastra  
12/08 Deborah Winslow  
12/09 Robert Stewart  
12/12 Paul Bailey  
12/12 Steven Tatsapaugh  
12/14 Brandon Johnson  
12/15 Ashley Lockery  
12/17 Ruth Bachman



12/27 Donald and Charlotte Buckingham



## Fall Festival

**Feedback on our Fall Festival:** I received some great, positive feedback from a person who attended our fall festival in October. This was her first time at the fair or any kind of event at Grace. Her mom lives on Maple Hill and when she drives by she saw the signs for the fair and decided to come.

And she's glad she did – she spent over 2 hours going to all the vendors and thought it was quite fun. She likened it to a maze – when she thought she had seen them all she found another around a corner. And she thought the variety and quality of what was available were excellent. And yes she did buy some things.

She also loved the music – she had never seen that before at an event like a church or school type fair. She had lunch and enjoyed the music while she ate. She looks forward to attending next year.

After all the hard work everyone did, it's nice to know it's noticed by those who attend. And I think it's important to pass it along to all of you who worked so diligently in making it a success. Thank you.

*Melissa Haseley  
Senior Warden*



### A Holiday Tradition Continues....

Our holiday, roast beef pot luck supper will be held on Saturday, December 12 from 5 to 7 pm in the parish hall. While there is no official chairperson for this event, some of the same folks who have helped in the past have agreed "to return to their post" to make this the fun, fellowship event the parish has enjoyed in the past. And that includes our very own Roy Z. who will be doing the cooking of the beef!

Again we need everyone to take a small part to make this a success. The grocery list is the same – potatoes, carrots and celery and these will be cooked with the meat. The pot luck comes in with you as we are asking everyone to share a dish that has been a

family favorite over the years. It could be a salad, a side, a bread or dessert. It doesn't make a difference – it will all work, remember the “Just Because” pot luck we had? That turned out to be a great time with minimal effort and the food was delicious.

There will be sign-ups in Narthex for set-up, dishwashing and clean-up. We also will have a sign-up for who is bringing what - just to make sure we have enough of food. It's an early event so if you have other plans for the evening you can still stop by and enjoy a meal with your church family and friends.

A \$10.00 per head donation is requested to cover the cost of the meat.



### Thanks So Much!

- ☺ to those who helped with watering the plants over the summer to keep our grounds looking good.
- ☺ to Mark Shoemaker and Jane Stewart for their faithful service to the business and treasure side of managing our financial affairs.
- ☺ To all who contributed to our Thanksgiving Food In-gathering.



Cleaning of the Church will be Dec 19<sup>th</sup> at 9am. If you cannot come that early we welcome to come help even if you come a little later that morning.

After the cleaning of the church we will need to decorate for Christmas. We will be worshipping at the Lutheran Church on Sunday Dec 20. We will need some men of the church to help decorate and vacuum the Church the narthex and the cushions on the pews and put up the decorations. Many hands make light work.

On Jan 9, 2016 we will need help to take the Christmas decorations down.

Thank you to Nancy DiPrato and Jane Stewart for the lovely Thanksgiving decorations on the Altar. We welcome Barbara Johnson to our Altar Guild.

We thank Barbara and Walt Block for their many years of service with the Altar Guild. We will all miss them.

I am honored and humbled become the new Directress of the Altar Guild. Peace and be well.

*Liz Welk*



### Hi-Noon Group HI NOON, Fall/Winter

**December 7, Monday – 12:00** - Annual Christmas Party. Holiday Punch, Pasta Lunch, Coffee, Tea Served, Bring cookies to share.

**January 4, 2016, Monday – 12.00** Pot Luck Lunch & Games. Bring Soup, Salad or Main Dish to share. Dessert, Coffee, Tea and Juice provided. Games provided or bring you favorite to play.


**February 8 (second Monday) – 12.00** Movie with Lunch (movie to be announced) Bring a bag lunch. Coffee, Tea, Juice provided. ALSO > Bring a Valentine Sweet and Movie Treat to share.





Angel Tree  
**Angel Tree**

The Angel Tree is up and adorned with gift suggestions. If you have not already, please select a gift to buy. The gifts have to be back by Dec 6. Let me know which gift ornament you selected. When you bring the gift, you must attach the ornament. Thank you. .Shirley Adams



 Because of Christmas, the deadline for January *Pace of Grace* is **Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. Please, make every effort to meet this deadline to allow us to distribute the issue promptly. The earlier you submit, the easier it is to publish the issue.

 The office will be closed during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. The office will be open again on Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

 Please send all annual reports to the office as soon as possible and no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> so that they will be included in the meeting booklet.

*Art Riihimaki*





## Bible Readings for the Month

Here are the lectionary readings for each Sunday in the month:

December 6: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

- Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4
- Canticle 4 or 16
- Philippians 1:3-11
- Luke 3:1-6

December 13: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

- Zephaniah 3:14-20
- Canticle 9
- Philippians 4:4-7
- Luke 3:7-18

December 20: The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

- Micah 5:2-5a
- Canticle 3 or 15
- Hebrews 10:5-10
- Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

December 24-25: Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

- Isaiah 9:2-7
- Psalm 96
- Titus 2:11-14
- Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

or

- Isaiah 62:6-12
- Psalm 97
- Titus 3:4-7
- Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

December 27: The First Sunday after Christmas Day

- Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3
- Psalm 147
- Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
- John 1:1-18



### Sweet Life Dessert Comedy Theatre: Scott Davis Bio

Scott Davis is a graduate of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia where he attended on a full scholarship for traveling with the Light Singers. Since his graduation in 1984, Scott has traveled the U.S. and abroad to 25 countries.

He has appeared on Mark Lowry's videos and

has written comedy for Mark while under contract with Word Records. For a year, Scott appeared weekly on the national television show, "The Mark & Kathy Show," with Mark Lowry and Kathy Troccoli. Along with his weekly appearances, he has been a guest on numerous religious and secular radio and television broadcasts, including an appearance with comedian Dennis Swanberg on "Swan's Place."

Scott is also a best-selling author with his debut book release of "If My Body Is A Temple, Then I Was A MegaChurch" which went to number six on Amazon's list in its first week of release. His book is available worldwide, including the audio version, and in all bookstores including Barnes & Noble. His book was also printed in hardcover and available nationally through Crossings Book Club.

Among others, Scott Davis is recommended by Dr. Charles Stanley, Mike Tait of Newsboys, Mark Hall of Casting Crowns, comedian Mark Lowry, and Phil Newberry of Bellevue Church in Memphis. Scott and his wife Donna have one daughter and four grandchildren and reside in Stockbridge, GA, a suburb of Atlanta.



### Sweet Life Dessert Comedy Theatre

Each and every one of you has had a concern about attracting new people to Grace Church. On Saturday, December 5 we are providing the perfect back-drop for each of you to personally invite a family member, a friend, a neighbor or co-worker to Grace Church for a fun evening of clean, family-friendly comedy and music. And as an added bonus we are throwing in a beautiful array of scrumptious desserts for everyone to enjoy. Who could ask for a more perfect way to start the holiday season! And the perfect way to "show off" our hospitality.

And how many of you have inquired about those who have just stopped coming to Grace? Where are these folks? Why don't they come anymore? Well this event is the perfect "excuse" for you to pick up the phone and call them and invite them to this event. The church has given you an opening in that we have sent a mailing to all the inactive members. Pick up the phone, call them and ask if they received it – you may be pleasantly surprised with the results and nothing can replace the power of personal contact. The goal here is for you, an active church member to bring and invite your lost and unchurched friends.

We want each and everyone one of you to take 5-10 mini or large posters and put them in local restaurants, grocery stores, beauty salons, wherever

people gather. All of the small and large promotional posters should be hanging somewhere in our local area. Take a few on your way out the door this morning and get them out this afternoon and tomorrow as people are out and about with preparations for the upcoming holiday. We want NO promotional materials left over.

The success of this event rests squarely in your lap. In today's world, a significant number of new church members are likely to come the first time because someone invited them. Be that someone – the personal invitation is by far the most effective way to bring new people into our midst. Let's be intentional – hospitality is part of our core work as Christians, what we are supposed to do every day to whomever we can welcome through our doors. If we are intentional about how we practice hospitality, we are being faithful.

Sweet Desserts and Décor: I am also in charge of desserts and decorations for this event. The dessert piece is a daunting task if one does the math to calculate how many dozens of cookies, treats and chocolates we need to have on hand for an unknown number of guests.

But because I am a believer, I'm not worried. I've also implemented a plan and the plan is to contact local bakeries, stores and restaurants to provide desserts in exchange for sponsor recognition. There are about twenty-five entities on my hit list and so far 2 have promised to donate, but that still leaves us a long way to go. The supplemental part of the plan to have parishioners bake some of their favorite, festive, high yielding holiday treats – think small bite sweets.

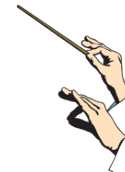
By word of mouth there are already 6 or 7 of you who have agreed to bake. And there is a group

who will be making chocolate bark on Saturday, November 28 in the church kitchen – not in the Parish Hall on our newly cleaned carpeting!

If you have a favorite, festive, small bite treat you would like to share on this evening, all donations will be gratefully accepted. And thank you in advance.

We will be decorating and setting up on Friday, December 4 from 4pm to 7pm. Just come and we will put you to work setting up, decorating Christmas trees and assembling luminarias. We might even feed you a slice of pizza in exchange! But one thing I know for sure is that it will turn out to be a fun, fellowship event in its own right. Join us.

*Melissa Haseley, Senior Warden.*



In *Whistling in the Dark* (HarperOne), Frederick Buechner compares Advent to the moments right before a symphony conductor raises the baton to begin a much-anticipated performance. "You hold your breath to listen," he writes. "You are aware of the beating of your heart. The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment."

During December, silence can seem elusive, Buechner admits. But "if you concentrate just for an instant, far off in the deeps somewhere you can feel the beating of your heart. For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world holding its breath."



## FINANCE REPORT

**Capital Campaign and General Money Market Update:** At the end of October, the overall Money Market account balance was **\$55,661**. Of this amount, the major elements are still: \$23,868 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*

**General Fund Update:** October puts most of 2015 behind us. Overall income was above average mostly due to the successful Fall Fair, and to US Mail timing giving us both September and October Rectory Rent checks to deposit. Expenses were nominal, giving us another positive month when reviewing our operating income vs. expenses. In fact we show a positive \$2,800 for our year to date operating figures. Looking at our overall checkbook balance as presented below, we have shown in excess of \$10,000 since June when we received a \$4,200 insurance refund from the Diocese. Considering this, the Vestry approved returning \$5,112 to our Money Market reserves to replace funds we "borrowed" back in 2013 which we have been carrying on our books

since. Thanks to everyone who is helping out with your time, talent, and treasure.

The overall finances for the month of October were as follows:

INCOME			EXPENSES		
	October	Y.T.D.		October	Y.T.D.
<u>Beginning Checkbook:</u>	<u>\$11,817</u>	<u>\$ 9,972</u>			
Pledge Receipts:	\$ 7,923	\$ 83,825	Salaries & Benefits:	(\$ 5,127)	(\$ 51,183)
General Receipts:	\$ 345	\$ 8,484	General Expenses:	(\$ 1,865)	(\$ 19,611)
Use of Church Building:	\$ 930	\$ 9,520	General Utilities:	(\$ 823)	(\$ 14,955)
Fund Raisers, General:	\$ 15	\$ 1,360	Fund Raiser Expenses:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 531)
Prayer Bead Project:	\$ 20	\$ 293	Prayer Bead Expenses:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 1,306)
Church Fair:	\$ 2,185	\$ 2,631	Fair Expenses:	(\$ 1,064)	(\$ 1,064)
Fellowship:	\$ 0	\$ 376	Fellowship Expenses:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 21)
Special Events:	\$ 0	\$ 756	Special Event Expense:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 1,925)
Cap.Camp from M.Mkt:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Grounds (Snow/Lawn):	(\$ 1,585)	(\$ 9,790)
Capital Campaign:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Capital Camp to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
"B-to-B" & Special:	\$ 20	\$ 601	Capital Campaign Exp:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Memorial Donations:	\$ 25	\$ 190	Memorials to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Memorial Garden:	\$ 0	\$ 212	Mem. Garden Exp:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 944)
Seasonal Offerings:	\$ 0	\$ 1,011	Diocese Pledge:	(\$ 1,321)	(\$ 13,210)
H.Week, Good Friday:	\$ 0	\$ 194	Church in Jerusalem	(\$ 0)	(\$ 200)
Outreach:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Outreach:	(\$ 105)	(\$ 2,054)
The Grace Fund	\$ 527	\$ 1,286	The Grace Fund	(\$ 0)	(\$ 500)
UTO Donations:	\$ 0	\$ 221	UTO Forwarded:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 221)
Rectory Rent:	\$ 3,600	\$ 14,400	Rectory Rent to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Special Donation:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Audit Fee:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 1,100)
Reserves from M.Mkt:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Reserves to M.Mkt:	(\$ 5,112)	(\$ 6,312)
<u>Total Received:</u>	<u>\$15,590</u>	<u>\$ 125,360</u>	<u>Total Paid Out:</u>	<u>(\$17,002)</u>	<u>(\$ 124,927)</u>
			<u>Ending Checkbook:</u>	<u>\$10,405</u>	<u>\$ 10,405</u>

Although 2015 is rapidly drawing to a close, there are still a lot of chances coming up to b involved in the overall health of Grace Church Parish. Come and worship, be involved, and enjoy the fellowship. Above all, praise be to God!

*Faithfully Yours, Mark Shoemaker – Treasurer*



If you wish to donate flowers for the Altar for Christmas in memory or honor of someone or in thanksgiving for blessings, please fill out the following ticket 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.

Flower envelopes are also in the narthex at church and in pledge envelope boxes.

(Cut here)

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## CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING

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GIVEN IN MEMORY / HONOR OF / THANKSGIVING FOR

---

NAME OF DONOR

---

ADDRESS OF DONOR

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OFFERING ENVELOPE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_