

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111
Phone: 860-666-3331;
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The Rev. David C. Parachini, Interim Rector
The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon
Martha Brundage, Organist and Choir Director
Art Riihimaki, Office Manager

Web Site: www.gracechurchnew.org

Email: office@gracechurchnew.org

Father David: eakp@aol.com

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

PAGE OF GRACE



February
2014

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111



february

2014

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
<p>26 3 Epiphany 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 Annual Meeting - S</p>	<p>27 7:00 PM Boy Scouts - PH</p>	<p>28 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 4:00 PM AA - PH</p>	<p>29 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L</p>	<p>30 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L</p>	<p>31 Vestry Retreat</p>	<p>1 Vestry Retreat</p>
<p>2 4 Epiphany 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</p>	<p>3 12:00 PM Hi-Noon Group 7:00 PM Boy Scouts - PH 7:00 PM Finance Committee MR</p>	<p>4 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 4:00 PM AA - PH</p>	<p>5 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L</p>	<p>6 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 5 Epiphany 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</p>	<p>10 7:00 PM Boy Scouts - PH</p>	<p>11 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM AA - PH 4:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 7:00 PM Vestry - L</p>	<p>12 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L</p>	<p>13 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 8:00 AM Welcome Table Breakfast - PH 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry - L</p>
<p>16 6 Epiphany 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</p>	<p>17 12:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH</p>	<p>18 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 4:00 PM AA - PH</p>	<p>19 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L</p>	<p>20 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 7 Epiphany 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</p>	<p>24 12:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH</p>	<p>25 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM AA - PH 4:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR</p>	<p>26 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 7:00 PM Property Committee - MR</p>	<p>27 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>1</p>



Grace Episcopal Church Newington,
a Spirit-filled community,
joyfully welcomes all to gather
and worship in God's grace to
experience and share God's
transforming love.

Pace of Grace

February, 2014

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

Love is All Around

Dear Grace Church Family,

February is Love Month (saw that in the copy for an ad a few weeks ago) at least according to the floral, confectioners, jewelry, greeting card and dining industries who have worked so hard over many years to turn a very minor saint's day in the middle of the winter (February 14 as we all know) into the premier commercial "love feast" known to human kind. It is Valentine's Day and we are all remiss if we don't engage in the appropriate celebratory activities most of which involve the support of the Valentine's Day commercial infrastructure. Don't get me wrong, I'm certainly not opposed to a celebration of love but, as Christians, we need to put it in the proper context and recognize that the love we celebrate is not limited to one day, a few persons or the giving and receiving of material gifts. Exactly how Valentine's Day grew into the commercial juggernaut it has become is not really clear. If you consult volumes on the lives of the Saints, you quickly discover that there may be as many as three identifiable Valentines in the array of loyal and faithful followers of God and yes, at least one of them was probably martyred for the faith. Very little is known about any of them and according to conventional ornithological wisdom the date of February 14 may have more to do with the timing of the return of several bird species to central Italy from their winter grounds in north Africa than it does to any particular saintly personage, however obscure, in the footnotes of the history of the church.

Is it possible to refocus the celebration of Saint Valentine's Day in a more meaningful and appropriate direction? Whenever a ponder this question, which seems to be every year at about this time - isn't that interesting - I am transported back a number of years now when one of the most popular "sit-coms" on television was the Mary Tyler Moore Show, the details of which I won't go into, with its theme song *Love is All Around* which became a kind of anthem for those looking for love in their lives. One of the young people in a Confirmation class I was teaching chose the theme "love is all around" for the homily all of the confirmands were required to give. She transformed the title of the song to "God's love is all around" and as she "unpacked" this notion she was clear that in addition to being all around, God's love is not limited to a particular date or to a select group of people. God's love is available always and everywhere at all times and for all who need it. When you think about love, especially God's love as it is uniquely and perfectly represented in God's Son, you realize that there are no limits to it. God's love is indeed all around and since it is, in the lyrics of the song, why not take it, embrace it, share it and rejoice in it.

How is this accomplished? It is through our response to God's love for us that we discover that God is calling us to be ambassadors of love. We are invited to receive God's love in order to share it with others. To "pay it forward" (to use perhaps an overworked phrase these days) in order to advance God's loving purposes in what is for too many of our brothers and sisters a broken, loveless and troubled world. Indeed, God's love is all around us. It is not limited to the 14th of February and it is not reserved for those able to purchase the transient tokens of affection. God's love, channeled through us, is for all who will receive it and, having received it, are willing to join with us in seeking to accomplish God's mission of reconciliation, grace and above all, love.

Faithfully,
David+



- 02/03 Lily Grace Gebhardt
- 02/04 Jeanne Parker
- 02/13 Clare McCusker
- 02/21 Gregory Goodwin
- 02/23 Frank Ancona
- 02/26 Dale Anne Whalen
- 02/29 Gerald Beilman



- 02/08 Paul and Shirley Crosswaith
- 02/16 Clifford and Ruth Sperre



Hi-Noon Group

Monday, February 3 - CHILDREN'S BOOKS - We will help Bev Manning organize the books on the newly installed shelves following a "Bag Lunch."



Thanks So Much!

- ☺ To all who showed support for Grace Church by attending the annual meeting.
- ☺ To our Vestry members for a job well done and for agreeing to serve again during the interim period.
- ☺ To Mark Shoemaker and Jane Stewart for continuing as our Treasurer and Accounts Payable Manager.



Important Notice Regarding By-Law Changes


According to our By-Law 4, "thirty members of the parish entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at any Parish meeting." Because our weekly church attendance is approximately 40, the Vestry would like to recommend that we consider the quorum to be "1/3 of the regular attendance in the 3 month period before the meeting," This will allow the quorum to ebb and flow with the church active membership.


By-Law 7 in Section III, Canon I, Section 7 (page 4). Currently reads "There shall be nine (9) members....alternates. The Vestry proposes to change it to seven (7) members.


The Vestry will call a special meeting of the parish, 10 or 15 minutes after Sunday service, for either February 23. We are giving notice at the Annual Meeting, it will be posted on the door next week and in the bulletin for the next three Sundays. Art will do a mailing to every member of the parish so they are aware of the proposed change.

The vote will take place on February 23rd. It will take 2/3 of the voting membership to pass the By-Law changes.

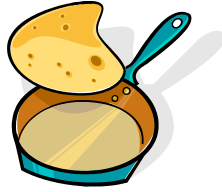


 **Deadline for March Pace of Grace - Tuesday, February 25th.** Please, make every effort to meet this deadline to allow us to publish the issue promptly.

 Please notify the office of your email addresses. We would like to send more information by email when possible. If you are not getting messages from the office, I do not have your email address.

 Please review your contribution statements and call the office if there are any questions or corrections to be made. Call the office if you did not receive a statement.

Art Riihimaki



**Grace Church Annual Shrove
Tuesday Pancake Supper
March 4, 2014**



Our Annual Meeting, held on January 26th, was a wonderful fellowship gathering. We had a brunch prepared by loving and gifted hands. We were able to celebrate another year of dedicated work by our Finance Committee; thank outgoing members of the Discernment Team and to welcome new members to the Discernment Team; thank two new alternates of the Vestry; recognized and thanked CJ for her support as our Deacon during this past year; and most of all, to give heartfelt thanks to current Vestry members staying on another year during our time of transition. Mark Shoemaker, Treasurer, presented and reviewed Grace's budget for 2014 with us, acknowledged the challenges which lie before us, and prayed for God's guidance and grace. The primary challenge for us as the body of Christ in Newington may be summed up as continuing to grow and learn together "to share a faith that is exciting enough to be contagious."

The Stewardship Committee and Vestry are now busy planning our Annual Parish Stewardship Campaign. You are particularly and especially invited to join us on Sunday, March 2nd at 5 pm – 7 pm. Our distinguished guest speaker that night will be The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, our Diocesan Bishop. We have so many blessings to share and celebrate with him! He has a unique perspective on our relationship with our Lord Jesus and what it means to be church to share with us. We promise you an evening of good food, faithful fellowship, a stimulating

and reflective start to the holy season of Lent, and fuel for our spiritual journey together this year.

Our leadership team will be extending a personal invitation to you to be present for this evening. If you will need transportation, it will be arranged. Please leave a message in the office for Art when you RSVP.

We look forward, with grace, gratitude and excitement to partnering with you this New Year.

Faithfully Yours,
*Karen Halpert, Stewardship Chair and
Members of the Stewardship Committee*



Our Welcome Table Breakfast is continuing in 2014. The next two dates are February 15th and March 15th. Sign-ups will be in the Narthex. Please consider helping out in this community outreach.



Weather Closing

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



The boiler and circulation system has been repaired. Please let me know if you feel the system needs tweaking.

If you are interested in joining the Property Committee or just listening in, please join us on Wednesday, February 26th at 7pm.

Paul Crosswaith, Chair



Save the Dates: Here are some important “Save the Date” events for the next few months:

† February 15, 2014: Welcome Table Breakfast

- † March 2, 2014 5-7 pm: Stewardship Kick-off Dinner. This is a new event. Details to follow but basically it will be a cooked meal, by a committee and a keynote speaker – we have asked the Bishop and are awaiting confirmation from his office.
- † March 4, 2014 5-7 pm: Pancake Supper
- † March 5, 2014: Ash Wednesday



The cold weather certainly is affecting our attendance and our collection. Even with all who did come last week for the Annual Meeting, there were still many faces missing. The overall deposit was rather light, for all four weeks, with only one week over \$2,000 – and then only because of the Rectory Rent receipt. The figures below include estimated month-end payroll.

Overall results for the month of January should look as follows:

<u>Beginning Checkbook: \$ 3,898</u>		
Pledge Receipts:	\$ 7,164	Salaries & Benefits: (\$ 5,487)
General Receipts:	\$ 385	General Expenses: (\$ 3,041)
Use of Church Building:	\$ 900	General Utilities: (\$ 1,539)
“B-to-B” & Special:	\$ 192	Snow Removal: (\$ 1,275)
Capital Campaign:	\$ 0	Capital Campaign Exp.(\$ 0)
Fund Raisers	\$ 29	Campaign to M.Mkt: (\$ 0)
Memorial Donations:	\$ 5	Memorials to M.Mkt: (\$ 0)
Memorial Garden:	\$ 5	Mem. Garden Exp: (\$ 0)
Vestry Retreat	\$ 97	Camp Washington (\$ 0)
Rectory Rent:	\$ 1,500	Rectory Rent to M.Mkt:(\$ 0)
Reserves from M.Mkt:	\$ 0	Reserves to M.Mkt: (\$ 0)
	<u>\$ 0</u>	Diocese Pledge: <u>(\$ 1,302)</u>
Total Received:	\$ 10,277	<u>Total Paid Out: (\$ 12,644)</u>
		Ending Checkbook: \$ 1,531

We have paid all our January bills, and still have some cash left in the checkbook, so I guess that is a good thing. As you can see, however, our January bills certainly made a dent in the cash we end up with in the checkbook. Hopefully, it only reflects the minimal deposits from several of the January Sundays where the cold weather may have kept people away. As always, please consider a little extra in either the “Back-to-Black” envelope, the Turtle Jar or the Snow Removal Kitty Basket.

Faithfully Yours, Mark Shoemaker – Treasurer