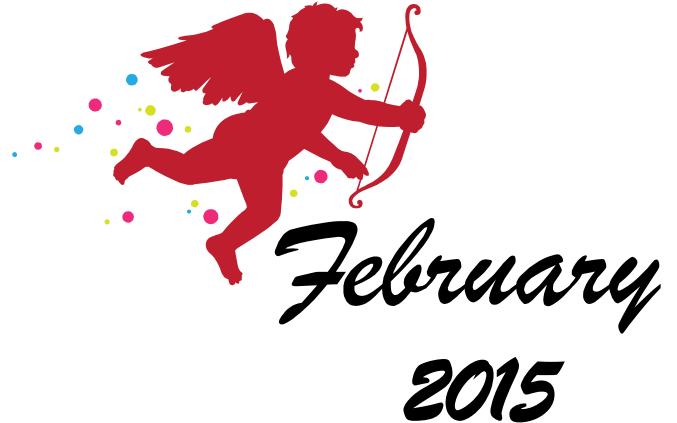


Grace Episcopal Church  
124 Maple Hill Avenue  
Newington, CT 06111  
Phone: 860-666-3331;  
Fax: 860-666-3332

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

# ***PACE OF GRACE***



Grace Episcopal Church  
124 Maple Hill Avenue  
Newington, CT 06111



# February 2015

Room Key: PH=Parish Hall; L=Library; S=Sanctuary; PO=Pastor's Office; C=Chapel; MR=Meeting Room; K=Kitchen, N= Narthex

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 4 Epiphany</b> 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	<b>2</b> 12:00 PM Hi-Noon Group 7:00 PM Boy Scouts - PH 7:00 PM Exercise Class N	<b>3</b> 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	<b>4</b> 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 7:00 PM Exercise Class PH	<b>5</b> 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 5 Epiphany</b> 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	<b>9</b> 7:00 PM Boy Scouts - PH 7:00 PM Exercise Class N	<b>10</b> 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 7:00 PM Vestry - L	<b>11</b> 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 7:00 PM Exercise Class PH	<b>12</b> 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 Last Epiphany</b> 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	<b>16 President's Day</b> 7:00 PM Exercise Class N	<b>17</b> 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	<b>18 Ash Wednesday</b> 6:00 AM HE C 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 7:00 PM HE S 7:00 PM Exercise Class PH	<b>19</b> 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00 AM Welcome Table Breakfast - PH
<b>22 1 Lent</b> 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	<b>23</b> 12:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH 7:00 PM Exercise Class N	<b>24</b> 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	<b>25</b> 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L 7:00 PM Exercise Class PH	<b>26</b> 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

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

# *Pace of Grace*

## *February, 2015*

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

### **In the Bleak Midwinter**

Dear Grace Church Family,

As I write this I am looking out at our barn and paddocks covered in more than two feet of snow and inhabited by horses who haven't seen any real snow since last winter. As I watch, Prince, the horse with a particularly well developed equine sense of humor, is coming out of the barn. He looks at the snow, paws it with his hoofs, tastes it to see if it might be good to eat and then starts to make horse snow balls. He does this by scooping up some snow and then flinging it with his hoof. He seems quite pleased with the result and does it several more times before going on to see what else is available for his entertainment. He quickly discovers that, in spite of two stock tank heaters, his water source is frozen solid and he will have to wait for one of his humans to come out with the sledge hammer and break up the ice. What a bummer and its cold too. Prince then goes back to throwing snowballs which illustrates the two basic ways one can confront the realities of existence. We can either complain about what is wrong or we can do our best to make what might be seen as a negative into a positive.

We know something about that at Grace Church and how we respond to the challenges that confront us will say a lot about the nature of this baptismal community. Indeed it says a lot about our relationship with the loving Father whose adopted sons and daughters we are. The Lenten season that will begin later this month (February 18) is an opportunity to consider whether we are going to be caught up in focusing on all that we may feel is wrong in our life situation or whether we will instead focus on the great gifts of possibility that our Lenten journey invites us to discover. How we respond to the season of what some have called "spiritual winter" will say a lot about us as individual Christians and about this community of faith. Lent offers us the opportunity to consider what kind of response we will make to the spiritual vicissitudes of life. We will be asked to make that choice in the midst of the meteorological season of winter when the cold reigns, the snow flies and we wonder if we will see the springtime again.

We are invited by the church to the observance of a Holy Lent and to engage in those disciplines of loving service which give us hope and remind us of the promise of resurrection even in the bleak midwinter. As I have been so recently reminded by Prince, when your stock tank is frozen, your hay stale and you are chilled to the bone, don't despair, don't succumb to the thought that you are unloved or unappreciated, instead know that God loves you more than you can ever know and trusting in that reality, go out and make snow balls..

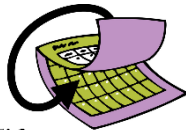
*Faithfully,  
David+*



- 02/03 Lily Grace Gebhardt
- 02/04 Jeanne Parker
- 02/05 Nora Bernhard
- 02/13 Clare McCusker
- 02/21 Gregory Goodwin
- 02/23 Frank Ancona
- 02/26 Dale Anne Whalen
- 02/26 Meagan D'Ascanio



- 02/08 Paul and Shirley Crosswaith
- 02/18 Rosario and Andrea Savastra



### Save the Date

**Save the Dates:** Here are some important "Save the Date" events for the next few months:

- ✚ February 21, 2015: Welcome Table Breakfast
- ✚ February 17, 2015 5-7 pm: Pancake Supper
- ✚ February 18, 2015: Ash Wednesday
- ✚ March 1, 2015 5-7 pm: Stewardship Kick-off Dinner. The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens will be joining us.



### Hi-Noon Group

HI-NOON is a group of mostly mature Church members. All are invited, no age restriction. The group usually meets on the first Monday of the month (sometimes due to

holidays or museum schedules another date is scheduled) at 12:00 / High Noon. There is either an activity in the Parish Hall or an adventure - past explorations / journeys have included Kelsey Historic Home/ Farm - Newington, Seabury Village - Bloomfield (where we were provided an elegant lunch), Rose Garden - Hartford, Hill Stead Museum - Farmington, Noah Webster House - West Hartford, Carousel Museum - Bristol, Trolley Museum - Warehouse Point and every Fall a visit to Gouveia Winery in Wallingford with beautiful views of mountains, vineyards and Fall colors.

Lunch - For most meetings participants bring a bag lunch with coffee, etc. provided. Occasionally, such as our annual Christmas Party, a full lunch is served.

February 2, 12:00 - A Program to be announced will be held in the Parish Hall - Bring a bag lunch, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate Served.


March 2, Monday 12:00 - A Program to be announced.




### Thanks So Much!


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



 Deadline for March *Pace of Grace* - **Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Please, make every effort to meet this deadline to allow us to publish the issue promptly.

 I will be on vacation from February 9-13. If someone could cover the office during that time, it would be appreciated. I expect to print the February 15<sup>th</sup> bulletin when I get

back.

 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*

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### Lenten living

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18 this year. Christians have observed this season of the church year since the fourth century. It's traditionally a time of reflection, penitence and spiritual renewal before Easter.

During Lent, some Christians give up something that hinders their relationship with God. Others do something extra for their spiritual growth or make a special sacrifice. The key is to make Lent a memorable season of sincere spiritual growth — a time that can set the tone for the rest of the year.

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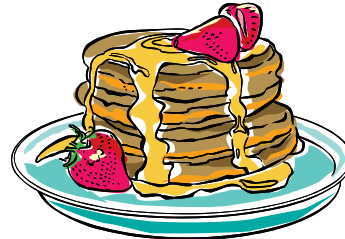
### Weather Closing

Cancellation of services due to weather will be posted on NBC Connecticut (channel 30) and WFSB (channel 3) and on their websites ([nbconnecticut.com](http://nbconnecticut.com) and [wfsb.com](http://wfsb.com)).



Our Welcome Table Breakfast is continuing in 2015. The next two dates are February 21<sup>st</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup>. Sign-ups will be in the Narthex. Please consider helping out in this community outreach.

## Shrove Tuesday



### Grace Church Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 17, 2015

## Family in Need



Please consider donating: There is a Newington family with four children in need of clothing and shoes:

Girl age 11: shirts - women's large,  
pants - Women's 16, bras - 38C,  
underwear - Women's 8 briefs,  
shoes - 9 1/2 women

Boy age 11: shirts - men's medium,  
pants - 16 husky,  
underwear - XL boys boxer briefs,  
shoes - 9 men

Girl age 7: shirts - 12 kids, pants - 14 kids,  
bras - 14 kids large sports bra,  
underwear - 14 kids, shoes - 4 kids

Boy age 4: shirts - 7 toddlers,  
pants - 7 toddlers,  
underwear - 7 kids boxer briefs,  
shoes - 11 kids toddlers



As always, the cold and snow is affecting our attendance and our collection. Overall, January's income was fair, but it won't quite cover all the expenses. Because of our initial balance however, we are still in reasonably good shape. As I write this, all our January bills are paid, but the end month payroll is only estimated, and I still don't know yet what our January snow removal / salting bill will be. At least we won't have to pay that until February. (The Lawn/Snow payment shown below is from an early December final leaf cleanup.)

Overall results for the month of January are as follows:

Beginning Checkbook:	\$ 9,972		
Pledge Receipts:	\$ 7,377	Salaries & Benefits:	(\$ 5,185)
General Receipts:	\$ 498	General Expenses:	(\$ 2,302)
Use of Church Building:	\$ 140	General Utilities:	(\$ 1,681)
"B-to-B" & Special:	\$ 56	Lawn & Snow:	(\$ 100)
Capital Campaign:	\$ 0	Campaign Expenses:	(\$ 0)
Fund Raisers (General)	\$ 37	Fund Raiser Expense:	(\$ 0)
Fellowship:	\$ 281	Fellowship Expenses:	(\$ 0)
Church Fair	\$ 26	Fair Expenses	(\$ 0)
Special Events	\$ 0	Event Expenses	(\$ 0)
Memorial Donations:	\$ 5	Memorials to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)
Memorial Garden:	\$ 20	Mem. Garden Exp:	(\$ 0)
Outreach & Grace donate:	\$ 27	Outreach & Grace Exp:	(\$ 54)
Rectory Rent:	\$ 1,500	Rectory Rent to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)
Reserves from M.Mkt:	\$ 0	Reserves to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)
		Diocese Pledge:	(\$ 1,322)
Total Received:	\$ 9,967	Total Paid Out:	(\$ 10,694)
		Ending Checkbook:	\$ 9,245

With all that is going on this year, and with our 2015 budget concerns, please know that we will be keeping a very close eye on our finances, and will keep everyone up to date as always. 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*