

Grace Episcopal Church
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The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon
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Holy Eucharist - Sunday at 9am

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january 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
29 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	30 12:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	31 4:00 PM AA - PH 4:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	1...New Year's Day 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	2 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	3	4
5 2 Christmas 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Church School 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal	6 Day of Epiphany 12:00 PM Hi-Noon Group 12:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH 7:00 PM Finance Committee - MR	7 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM AA - PH 4:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	8 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	9 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	10	11
12 1 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 Parish Meeting - S	13 12:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	14 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 4:00 PM AA - PH	15 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	16 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	17	18 8:00 AM Welcome Table Breakfast - PH 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry - L
19 2 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	20 Martin Luther King Day	21 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 4:00 PM AA - PH	22 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	23 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	24	25
26 3 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 Annual Meeting - S	27 12:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	28 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 4:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 4:00 PM AA - PH	29 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	30 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 4:00 PM AA - PH 7:00 PM AI Anon - PH, MR, L	31 Vestry Retreat	1 Vestry Retreat



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

January, 2014

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

Faithful Resolutions

Dear Grace Church Family,

First of all, as we begin 2014, let me wish all of you a most happy and fruitful New Year. The last few days of 2013, now that the Christmas push is over in the secular world with the twenty-four hour holiday music, the endless rounds of food and the competing demands for conspicuous consumption in response to ever more frantic sales in a shortened holiday retail period, we have been subjected to the usual round of soft news stories and talk show conversations about New Year's Resolutions. What are you going to start doing in 2014? What are you going to stop doing in 2014? How are you going to change your life and yourself in a few easy steps that, were they so easy to accomplish, you would have done months or years ago. Yes, this will be the fodder for endless hours of analysis and conversation and will be forgotten by the time the next big milestone, Super Bowl Sunday, rolls around in a few weeks. Now I'm not against enlightened self-improvement and the use of resolutions as one tool to help accomplish change and growth in our lives but I am concerned that as people of faith we go at this in a somewhat different way that the simple listing of resolves that we know full well will not be enduring. At least we know this in our hearts if we are honest. So is there another way to approach the issue of New Year's resolutions from a faithfulness perspective?

I was thinking about this last week as I mucked out Prince and B's stalls. I was right in the middle of scooping out a wonderfully fresh and fragrant bucket of manure when Prince (I was in his stall at the time) came over, pulled the hat off of my head (a favorite maneuver when he wants attention) and I thought I heard him say "remember Dr. Morden". John Morden was the Principal (Dean) of Huron University College at the University of Western Ontario in London when I sat for my first Theology degree. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, he was a distinguished academic whose specialty was the poetry of the Anglican divines. On one occasion in chapel, he preached a marvelous homily at the beginning of the winter term on the making of resolutions just after we had finished the Michaelmas term exams and returned from the University's Christmas recess. Dr. Morden used as his model a brief poem attributed to Richard of Chichester (1197-1253) the text of which I have included below.

*Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly, Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly, day by day.*

Dr. Morden's point was that these three simple resolves are grounded in faith and rather than setting us up for failure encourage us to embrace life in a grounded in God's absolute and non-judgmental love for us. If we work on this "Day by Day" approach it allows us to start by taking "baby steps" on our faith journey. What would it mean to see the Incarnate one more clearly, love Him more dearly and follow Him more dearly? I'm not suggesting radical but rather increasingly incremental change in our lives. This is the way to go about the making and keeping of resolutions not just for a few days but for the duration of our lives. May God bless us as we seek to be more faithful "Day by Day".

Faithfully,

David+

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be on Sunday, January 26, 2014, at 10:30am.

On that Sunday our service at 9:00 a.m. will be followed by a brief coffee hour. The Annual Meeting will start at approximately 10:30 a.m.

The purposes of the meeting are to elect Wardens, Clerk, Treasurer, and Vestry members, to accept reports, to present the budget adopted by the Vestry, and to execute any other business that is necessary to come before it.



Our Welcome Table Breakfast is continuing in 2014. The next two dates are January 18 and February 15, 2014. Sign-ups will be in the Narthex. Please consider helping out in this community outreach.



Hi-Noon Group

The Hi-Noon Group will meet on Monday, January 6th at 12 noon. Join us for Lunch, Conversation & Games. Bring your lunch and a friend.

Parish Meeting: There will be a Parish Meeting on January 12, 2014, following the 9am Holy Eucharist. The Rev. Canon Tim Hodapp, Canon for Mission Leadership, will be worshipping with us and will discuss the process for selecting a new Rector at the meeting.



- 01/01 Liz Welk
- 01/08 Kamryn Gaydos
- 01/17 John Balducci
- 01/19 Paul Crosswaith
- 01/29 Emily Hack
- 01/29 Andrea Savastra
- 01/29 David Kowalchik



- 01/02 Robert and Lorraine Belyea
- 01/27 Wayne and Linda Haley



Thanks So Much!


- ☺ Thank you to Sandy Colena for keeping up with the seasonal decorations for the stairwell window.
- ☺ All who contributed Angel Tree gifts.
- ☺ Melissa Haseley, Mitch Page, and our vestry members and committee members for their faithful service last year.




Deadline for February Pace of Grace - Thursday, January 23rd. Please, make every effort to meet this deadline to allow us to distribute the issue promptly.

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.

 **The Annual Meeting of the Parish** will be on Sunday, January 26th, following one service at 9:00 AM. Please send all annual reports to the office as soon as possible and no later than **Thursday, January 9th**, to assure that they will be included in the meeting booklet.

Art Riihimaki



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 and wfsb.com).



*Save
the Date*

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

- † January 12, 2014: Parish Meeting with The Rev. Canon Tim Hodapp after Worship
- † January 18, 2014: Welcome Table Breakfast
- † January 26, 2014: Annual Meeting
- † January 31 – February 1, 2014: Vestry Retreat

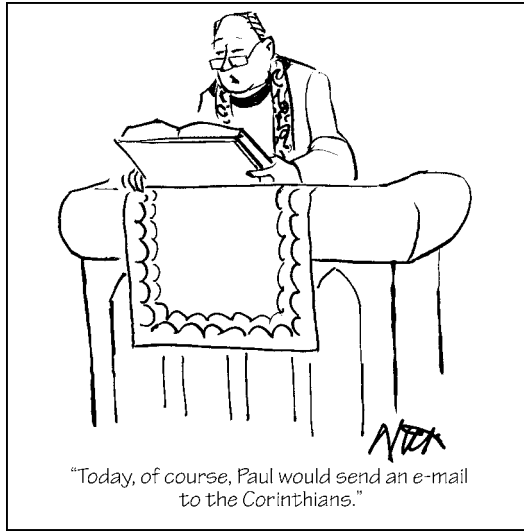
- † February 15, 2014: Welcome Table Breakfast
- † March 2, 2014 5-7 pm: Stewardship Kick-off Dinner. This is a new event. Details to follow but basically it will be a cooked meal, by a committee and a keynote speaker – we have asked the Bishop and are awaiting confirmation from his office.
- † March 4, 2014 5-7 pm: Pancake Supper
- † March 5, 2014: Ash Wednesday



Flowers donated to the church by parishioners in thanksgiving or in loving memory will be taken to our shut-ins after the Sunday services. Please consider this contribution to the beauty of our worship by remembering a special person or date. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex.

The Altar Guild always needs large juice cans for the gifts of flowers for the needy. We must save our few brass and wooden containers for the florist. Thank you for helping us in this way.

COFFEE MAKER NEEDED - Mr. Coffee type drip coffee maker needed for Sunday After Service Coffee Hour. If you have one you are no longer using please leave it in the Narthex (with unused paper filters). Thanks!



"Today, of course, Paul would send an e-mail
to the Corinthians."



FINANCE REPORT

General Fund Update:

December and the Christmas season helped end up 2013 in reasonably good shape. As shown below, we ended up with a fourth at least slightly positive month in a row, and the second best month of the year. In fact, without any adjustments we have successfully whittled our basic 2013 operating deficit down from a high of (\$14,144) at the end of August, to (\$8,662) at the end of December. We were able to do this without using any of the Rectory rental to cover operating expenses as originally provided for in the 2013 budget. The Annual report will actually adjust the use of much of the cash reserves held in the General Fund Checkbook to reflect a zero deficit for the end of the year to start off 2014 with a much cleaner accounting balance.

At the end of December, our finances end up as follows:

INCOME	<u>December</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>	EXPENSES	<u>December</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
<i>Beginning Checkbook:</i>		\$ 5,813		\$ 8,392	
Pledge Receipts:	\$ 9,484	\$110,390	Salaries & Benefits:	(\$ 5,231)	(\$ 72,496)
General Receipts:	\$ 783	\$ 5,679	General Expenses:	(\$ 3,004)	(\$ 31,321)
Use of Church Building	\$ 1,040	\$ 12,660	General Utilities:	(\$ 1,517)	(\$ 14,766)
Fund Raisers:	\$ 1,272	\$ 3,086	Grounds (Snow/Lawn)	(\$ 1,010)	(\$ 9,793)
Capital Campaign:	\$ 1,250	\$ 4,740	Capital Camp to M.Mkt:	(\$ 1,250)	(\$ 4,570)
"B-to-B" & Special:	\$ 127	\$ 3,051	Capital Campaign Exp	(\$ 0)	(\$ 170)
Memorial Donations:	\$ 5	\$ 135	Memorials to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Memorial Garden:	\$ 4	\$ 761	Mem. Garden Exp:	(\$ 92)	(\$ 424)
Seasonal Offerings:	\$ 2,521	\$ 5,348	Diocese Pledge	(\$ 1,646)	(\$ 19,752)
Rectory Rent:	\$ 0	\$ 16,123	Outreach:	(\$ 151)	(\$ 2,903)
Reserves from M.Mkt:	\$ 0	\$ 9,000	Rectory Rent to M.Mkt	(\$ 0)	(\$ 14,772)
Total Received:	\$16,486	\$170,973	Reserves to M.Mkt:	(\$ 4,500)	(\$ 4,500)
			Total Paid Out:	(\$18,401)	(\$175,467)
			<i>Ending Checkbook:</i>	\$ 3,898	\$ 3,898

We still have a reasonable balance in the checkbook, and in fact I was able to return to the Money Market account half of the \$9,000 that we pulled in from our reserves in June. Last year's budget would also have allowed us to use rectory rent as income, but as mentioned above the rent has been kept separate so we have a fund towards anticipated future repairs and upgrades for the house. In addition to the checkbook balance above, we should receive several checks early in January (a past due October rent check, the January rent check, and the January St. Thomas payment for a total of over \$4,000). With all of this, I am confident that we will be all set for a successful January. Please remember that we will not be doing our new pledge campaign until Lent, so try to at least continue with the white envelope donations (and any others you have been able to make) at whatever amount you set for yourself last year. Of course, any miscellaneous extra donations would be greatly appreciated. Together, lets plan to make 2014 a wonderful and blessed new year here at Grace Church.

Faithfully Yours, Mark Shoemaker - Treasurer

Capital Campaign and General Money Market Update:

At the end of December, the overall Money Market account balance should be \$63,497. Of this amount, \$37,465 is the posted Capital Campaign balance, and net Rectory funds of \$3,300 Security Deposit + \$10,842 Rectory Reserves. The current tenant does owe us one more month rent, and her last month will wash out her initial \$1,800 security deposit soon. All current Capital projects are now complete and paid for, so the property committee is reviewing the next possible project. In addition, in December we returned \$4,500 (out of \$9,000 originally transferred in June) to our Money Market reserves from the General Fund, so we have some undesigned reserves available for next year.

Faithfully Yours, Mark Shoemaker – Treasurer