

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

PACE OF GRACE



January

2015

JANUARY



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

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

Pace of Grace

January, 2015

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

New Opportunities in a New Year

Dear Grace Church Family,

We have only just embarked on the new year 2015 and already we are reminded that this will be a decisive year for us as the baptismal community of Grace Church here in Newington. We hope and pray that we will complete the work of calling a new priest to this congregation and we look forward to all that will mean. We are just into the season of Epiphany that reminds us of the central work of Christians which is evangelism and mission. We will be spending time looking at these two aspects of our lives both individually and as a congregation beginning in Lent (not too far away as Ash Wednesday is on February 18) and continuing through the Easter season.

We have a mission statement but how do we make that a dynamic and nourishing reality in our lives. I'm going to suggest (more about that in the February Pace) that this year we consider not giving something up for Lent but rather taking on something(s) new. To get ourselves ready for this opportunity, let me suggest that right now we make some spiritual resolutions for this new year. These resolutions should reflect our shared commitment to our mission as we have articulated it. We should also be thinking about opportunities to share our faith (evangelism) with those around us. This sometimes requires a certain amount of courage but the rewards can be manifold and fulfilling.

We need to consider the opportunities that God may have in mind for us in 2015 and be ready to hear and respond to God's call to us in changing and challenging times. My hope is that part of what we do involves the active exploration of our relationship with Saint Thomas' and the possible openings for a richer connection with our Lutheran friends here in Newington.

There is a lot else going on and I am acutely aware that we are in a variety of ways having to confront the reality that we are an aging congregation and we will need to think about how we respond to that reality and to that opportunity.

In short, there is a lot on our plate for 2015 so rest up and be ready to embrace all that we are being called to do. Please give your careful attention to the information about the Annual Meeting and other events that will be coming along shortly. We need your energy, your commitment, your faithful stewardship, your participation and especially your prayers.

Faithfully,

David+



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).



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be on Sunday, January 25, 2015, 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.



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.

January and February meetings will be in the Parish Hall.

- o January 5, Monday, 12:00 - Games and Conversation - Bring a bag lunch,

Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate and Hot Spiced Cider Served.

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



- 01/01 Liz Welk
- 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



On January 10, 2015 we will have a "Just Because it's Epiphany" Roast Beef Pot Luck Dinner. The admission is bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Dinner will start at 5 PM and be followed by a movie for all ages: "HUNDRED FOOT JOURNEY." Popcorn and beverages will be provided during the movie. Come one, come all. It will be a fun night for our family of Grace. Kids, bring a friend or two.

Pastoral Care Team




Our Welcome Table Breakfast is continuing in 2014. The next two dates are January 17 and February 14, 2015. Sign-ups will be in the Narthex. Please consider helping out in this community outreach.





Thanks So Much!


- ☺ To Ann Pasek for her faithful service in scheduling the Altar Guild and for Liz Welk who has agreed to take over this task.
- ☺ 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 22nd.** 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 8th**, to assure that they will be included in the meeting booklet. *Art Riihimaki*



Our sponsored Blood Drive on Dec. 29, 2014 was very successful thanks to our

wonderful volunteers; Lorraine Belyea, Barbara Block, Dan Cacaud, Bette Forcash, Melissa Haseley, Mari Merwin, Mabel Maynard and Walt Parker. Thank you to our bakers and sandwich making providers. Everything was enjoyed by the donors.

*JoAnn Cromwell
Blood Drive Coordinator*



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.



Save the Date

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

- ✠ January 10, 2015, 5-7 pm: Roast Beef Pot Luck
- ✠ January 17, 2015: Welcome Table Breakfast
- ✠ January 25, 2015: Annual Meeting
- ✠ 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.



General Fund Update:

It is hard to believe that 2014 is now behind us. We managed to stay solvent all through the year without using any of the \$4,500 from our Money Market reserves as originally budgeted. In fact, after adjusting for 3 significant transactions, our overall expenses (and income) were below budget. In August, a special donation of \$7,500 was received and subsequently expensed as a transfer to the separate Money

Market reserves account. In December, \$1,200 was transferred from our reserves to cover a special advance retainer payment for a special event to be held later in 2015. This expense should be recovered when we hold the event, and could hopefully be returned to the reserves. Also in December, a \$6,500 fund adjustment was made as a receipt/expense from the General Fund. Adjusting total expense figure shown below by subtracting the \$15,200 detailed above shows an adjusted expense of \$145,209 (\$8,958 less than budgeted). Despite the adjusted income shown below being (subtract the \$15,200) being \$2,876 less than budget, the cash balance in our General Fund checkbook grew by \$6,089.

The Finances for the month of December are as follows:

INCOME	<u>December</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>	EXPENSES	<u>December</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
<i>Beginning Checkbook:</i>	\$ 8,642	\$ 3,898			
Pledge Receipts:	\$ 7,681	\$ 101,322	Salaries & Benefits:	(\$ 5,586)	(\$ 62,834)
General Receipts:	\$ 607	\$ 5,292	General Expenses:	(\$ 2,186)	(\$ 27,596)
Use of Church Building:	\$ 1,750	\$ 13,062	General Utilities:	(\$ 1,359)	(\$ 16,708)
Fund Raisers, General:	\$ 342	\$ 1,777	Fund Raiser Expenses:	(\$ 219)	(\$ 458)
Church Fair:	\$ 80	\$ 2,924	Fair Expenses:	(\$ 117)	(\$ 1,599)
Special Events:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Special Event Expense:	(\$ 1,200)	(\$ 2,189)
Cap.Camp from M.Mkt:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Grounds (Snow/Lawn):	(\$ 1,095)	(\$ 12,073)
Capital Campaign:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Capital Camp to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
“B-to-B” & Special:	\$ 75	\$ 1,101	Capital Campaign Exp:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 200)
Memorial Donations:	\$ 5	\$ 270	Memorials to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Memorial Garden:	\$ 12	\$ 412	Mem. Garden Exp:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 640)
Seasonal Offerings:	\$ 1,416	\$ 2,864	Diocese Pledge:	(\$ 1,302)	(\$ 15,624)
Outreach:	\$ 0	\$ 567	Outreach:	(\$ 354)	(\$ 3,319)
The Grace Fund	\$ 95	\$ 1,173	The Grace Fund	(\$ 0)	(\$ 910)
Miscellaneous:	\$ 0	\$ 160	Miscellaneous Forward:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 160)
Rectory Rent:	\$ 1,500	\$ 19,800	Rectory Rent to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 1,000)
Special Donation:	\$ 0	\$ 7,500	Audit Fee:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 1,100)
Spec'l Xfer from M.Mkt:	\$ 6,500	\$ 6,500	Special transfer adjust:	(\$ 6,500)	(\$ 6,500)
Reserves from M.Mkt:	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,775	Reserves to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 7,500)
Total Received:	\$21,263	\$ 166,499	Total Paid Out:	(\$19,918)	(\$160,410)
			<i>Ending Checkbook:</i>	\$ 9,987	\$ 9,987

Please note the several activities really helped us this year. Our renewed fair and other fundraisers, the special “Back to Black” envelope, using the rectory rent as income, and the various groups contributing toward the use of the building all were welcome contributions. Our new “Grace Fund” was able to help a parishioner in need, and has already been more than replaced. All that being said, we also need to remember that our expenses are definitely less than “normal” with employment of our part-time Interim Rector, and by using volunteer help to partially make up for not having a paid Sexton in place. Your yearend 2014 statements should be available shortly. Please review them carefully for accuracy and to review your intended level of giving. Also remember that our pledge year now goes from April 1 to March 31. Hopefully everyone can at least maintain their current pledge until March, and can then renew their own personal commitment for another year after that. As we get ready for 2015 and a new budget, the Vestry and Finance Committee have some serious decisions to make to get ready to support a new settled rector. Please keep us all in your prayers as we finalize the figures.

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 \$50,165. Of this amount, the major elements are: \$23,244 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