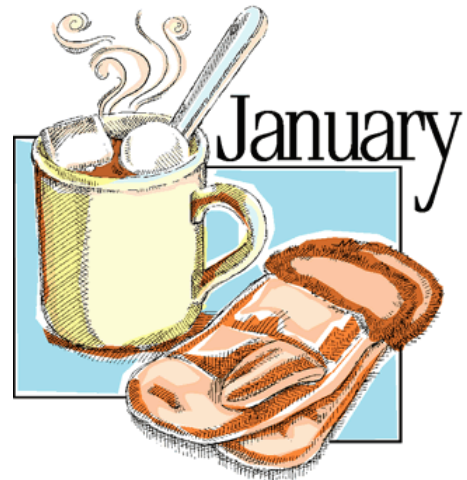


Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111
Phone: 860-666-3331;
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The Rev. David C. Parachini, Missional Priest
The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon
Martha Brundage, Organist and Choir Director
Art Riihimaki, Office Manager
Web Site: www.gracechurchnew.org
Email: office@gracechurchnew.org
Father David: eakp@aol.com
Holy Eucharist - Sunday at 9am

PACE OF GRACE



2016

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111



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
27 1 Christmas 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	28	29 8:30 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	30 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	31 New Year's Eve 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L	1...New Year's Day	2
3 2 Christmas 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	4 12:00 PM Hi-Noon Group 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	5 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30 AM Employment Group 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	6 Day of Epiphany 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	7 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	8	9 Altar Guild Clean Up
10 1 Epiphany 8:20 AM Choir Rehearsal 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Creative Energy Team	11 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	12 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30 AM Employment Group 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR 7:00 PM Vestry L	13 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	14 8:30 AM Chili Prep - K 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L	15	16
17 2 Epiphany 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	18 Martin Luther King Day	19 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30 AM Employment Group 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	20 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	21 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L	22	23
24 3 Epiphany 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	25 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	26 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30 AM Employment Group 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	27 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	28 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L	29	30 2:00 PM Book Club - L or PH
31 4 Epiphany 8:30 AM St. Thomas - PH, MR, CR 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Annual Meeting - S	1 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	2 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 8:30 AM Employment Group 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	3 6:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	4 9:30 AM Tai Chi - PH 7:00 PM Al Anon - PH, MR, L	5	6



Pace of Grace

January, 2016

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

A New Year

Dear Grace Church Family,

As you read this, we are in the earliest days of a new year (2016, and even though in our liturgical life together our new year began with the beginning of Advent the first of January really marks the transition to a new year. The unfolding year holds a number of significant mile posts for all of us. As a nation, we will elect a new President to lead us in the months ahead. There will be other such benchmarks that will be revealed as we go forward. In our life together as a baptismal community we will also experience several transitional moments in this new year. These moments represent next steps in our missional journey as the Episcopal Church in Newington. We will be discussing these transitions at greater length at our Annual Parish Meeting that will be held on Sunday, January 31, following our morning liturgy and I encourage you all to plan on being present for this important opportunity for sharing. Just a couple of highlights include responding to the Vestry's invitation to me to serve for this new year as your Missional Priest. This decision brings our period of interim ministry to a close but represents a significant new model of ordained ministry in our Grace Church community. We will also be asked to consider a bylaws revision that will reduce the number of Vestry members to more accurately reflect the reality we face. I think that both of these new steps forward need to be seen as positive and realistic steps that represent where we are in our missional journey. One of the realities about these two initiatives is that both of them will be effective only if all of the members of our parish community step forward as proactive and committed missionaries who are prepared to offer their various and abundant gifts for ministry to work for the extension of God's mission in Newington and beyond. This is in accord with the broader vision for the missional work in Connecticut to which our Bishop and Diocesan Convention are calling us. Our work as God's people needs to become an even higher priority in our lives than it has been in the past.

Beyond our commitments to being a part of the larger work of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, we are beginning to explore a more robust and intentional partnership with our brothers and sisters at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. We have shared services together in the past year and are planning to do more of this in this new year. Watch for more information about what we are planning for the Lenten season in the next issue of the *Pace of Grace*. Don't forget that Lent starts early this year. Ash Wednesday is February 10 and it will be here before you know it.

As you can see, there will be a lot going on in 2016 and we need your commitment, involvement and prayers as we move ahead. Don't forget that the Vestry has implemented the APOSTLE structure as a way of channeling and supporting the various aspects of ministry here at Grace Church.

If you have any questions, creative thoughts or concerns about our continuing missional journey please don't hesitate to speak with a member of the Vestry, CJ or me we are all anxious to hear from you.

Faithfully, David+

Christmas Message from our Bishops
December 22, 2015

Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
Luke 2:10

So the angels speak to the shepherds on the day of Jesus' birth. So the angels speak to us. Do not be afraid.

In the world today there seem to be so many reasons to fear, so many death-dealing realities that surround us. Gun violence in San Bernardino, in Colorado Springs, in Paris, and in the Middle East continues to take innocent lives. And while the wanton terror of ISIL/ISIS and other extremist groups increases, political leaders here in the United States, capitalizing on fear, are quick to call for the closing of our borders to refugees and those seeking to escape from such evil. We sure need some good news in the face of all this fear and death.

And the good news is that God in Jesus, born again in the manglers of our lives, is the Messiah, the Lord. In Jesus, fully human and fully divine, God crosses the divides that separate us from God and one another. In Jesus, God takes on the pain of the world, the pain and suffering of our own lives, the pain and suffering caused by gun violence and religious and political extremism. In Jesus' life, death and resurrection we are given the truth that light and life will always triumph over fear and death.

The good news of Christmas is that the babe lying in the stable offers us the way to live without fear, and frees us from the death-dealing ways of the world. Jesus models for us a compassionate way of being and empowers us to live lives of peace, always seeking to share that peace with others.

We invite you to share the good news of Jesus' birth in real and tangible ways. The Bishops and Staff of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut have decided to make our annual Christmas gift to the good work of our partners in refugee resettlement: Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (<http://www.irisct.org>). We invite you to join us in a gift to IRIS or some other agency helping with the refugee crisis in the world.

Merry Christmas, one and all.

The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas
Bishop Diocesan

The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens
Bishop Suffragan



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).



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



Thanks So Much!

- ☺ All who contributed Angel Tree gifts.
- ☺ Melissa Haseley, Mitch Page, and our vestry members and committee members for their faithful service last year.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be on Sunday, January 31, 2016, 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 vote on proposed changes to the by-laws (see the proposed changes on page 6 below), 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.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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



Hi-Noon Group

HI NOON, Winter

- o January 4, 2016, Monday – 12.00 Pot Luck Lunch & Games. Bring Soup,

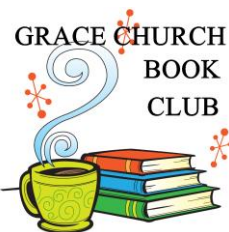
Salad or Main Dish to share. Dessert, Coffee, Tea and Juice provided. Games provided or bring you favorite to play.

- o 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.



Grace and Our Savior's Give 12 Bibles to New Spanish Ministry

Grace Episcopal Church and Our Savior's Lutheran Church collected \$180 in loose offering in our combined worship on December 20. This was also the first day of worship for a new Spanish speaking mission in Manchester called Ministerio Nueva Creacion/New Creation Ministries lead by Reverend Persida Rivera-Mendez. A combined outreach of the ELCA and UCC, this congregation conducts regular bible studies and will be worshipping regularly at 3:30 on Sundays at Concordia Lutheran Church in Manchester. Our offering gifted this new ministry with 12 Spanish language bibles.



After several Narthex and parking lot conversations with some of the readers of the parish, we decided it would be fun to resurrect the book club in some form. It has been proposed that we meet 3 to 5 times a year on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon for a "one and done" discussion of a selected book title. The facilitator will rotate based on book selection and interest.

To get going and stop talking about it,

here is what is being proposed for the first try:

Who: All Grace Church readers and friends

What: Book discussion of *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

When: Saturday, January 30, 2016, 2 pm to 4pm

Where: Library (or Parish Hall depending on number of attendees)

The facilitators will be Melissa Haseley and/or Nancy Beilman.

We selected this book title for the first effort because many have read it already and it is readily available at the library. Our next book will be selected by the group so bring some inspired suggestions. The tentative date for the second book discussion is Sunday, April 10, 2016. This was selected to get a date on the calendar and is subject to change if it's not workable for the group.

A sign-up will be in the Narthex starting this Sunday. Should you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Melissa.



Angel Tree

Thank you all for your generous "angel" gifts for our Newington neighbors. Your gifts will make Christmas brighter for many boys and girls and men and women. You are truly angels!

Now it is time to turn your thoughts to winter—cold and snow. Please bring in hats, gloves, mittens, stocking caps, or scarves to not only warm our Newington neighbors' heads and hands, but also their hearts. We will collect the items through January 17.

Have a wonderful Christmas season and a Happy New Year!

*Shirley Adams and Barbara Johnson
Outreach Committee*



Creative Energy Team


Happy New year to everyone!


We are refreshed and re-energized for the start of a new year. Our first meeting planned for The Creative Energy Team is on Sunday, January 10th right after the service. It is in the upstairs meeting room. Bring your coffee, a snack to eat and your ideas for the year. We will discuss what worked, what we can improve and what we can leave off our plans this year. I plan on setting a loose schedule for the year, and talk about the Fall Festival. Should we do it or not?? We do have a person interested in chairing it this year. I do have some suggestions if we decide to go forward with it. We will also go over our expenses and income for 2015. All are welcome to join the team.


See you on the 10th.


Valerie Dumont



 **Deadline for February *Pace of Grace* - Thursday, January 21st.** 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 31st, 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 7th**, to assure that they will be included in the meeting booklet.
Art Riihimaki



Save
the Date

- ✓ Grace Church Book Club, January 30
- ✓ Annual Meeting, January 31
- ✓ Pancake Supper, February 9
- ✓ Stewardship Dinner, February 14



Bible Readings *for the Month*

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

January 3: The 2nd Sunday after Christmas

- Jeremiah 31:7-14
- Psalm 84
- Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a
- Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 or
Luke 2:41-52 or
Matthew 2:1-12

January 6: The Day of Epiphany

- Isaiah 60:1-6
- Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
- Ephesians 3:1-12
- Matthew 2:1-12

January 10: The 1st Sunday after Epiphany

- Isaiah 43:1-7
- Psalm 29
- Acts 8:14-17
- Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17: The 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

- Isaiah 62:1-5
- Psalm 36:5-10
- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- John 2:1-11

January 24: The 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

- Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
- Psalm 19
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
- Luke 4:14-21

January 31: The 4th Sunday after Epiphany

- Jeremiah 1:4-10
- Psalm 71:1-6
- 1 Corinthians 12:13:1-13
- Luke 4:21-30

FROM THE Sr Warden

Who Are We, the Vestry?

Uh,oh, it's that time of the year again, where, chances are, if you see a retiring vestry member approach, (a retiring vestry member is usually on the Nominating Committee for the vestry slate presented and voted on at the annual meeting) you may feel the urge to run in the opposite direction for fear they will ask the seasonally perennial question "Would you like to serve on the vestry?"

And if you're like I was, you are thinking "why on earth are they asking me, I'm not a religious leader and have nothing to contribute" or "I know the meetings are on Tuesday and that is my movie night". Today with everybody's busy life, there are a multitude of reasons to say No, but I urge you to reconsider and say Yes! as it can be a very worthy calling.

Since being a vestry member and then "moving up the ladder", I certainly have become more faithful in my love of God and to following the way of Christ. I've also become more active and knowledgeable about the parish, its programs and governance. And I can honestly say it's been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling experiences of my life. Really people, I truly do feel that way, even with all that has gone on the last few years. And goodness knows there has been a lot and look: we are all still here, by the Grace of God.

So what does the vestry do? A vestry, along with the clergy, leads a congregation. We are not a board of directors, nor are we a senior management team, though I will say with my corporate background, there are similarities. A vestry is different because the church is different.

The vestry keeps the mission of the Church and that of the individual congregation clearly before the parish community.

A vestry member attends monthly vestry meetings and the annual vestry retreat, is a regular attendant at weekly worship services, attends parish events: coffee hours, fellowship events, fundraisers, adult education programs, etc., attends the annual meeting and pledges.

The vestry also identifies and allocates resources, enabling the church to carry out its mission.

The vestry, as it is comprised today, made the commitment of leading the parish through the transition period for continuity of leadership and almost to a person, extended their term of service significantly beyond the normal three year period. We all owe them a debt of gratitude and a big thank-you. Since reaching the end of our transition period, most of them are transitioning off so there are openings to fill, but not as many as before since we are revising the by-laws (to be voted on at the annual meeting) to reduce the vestry size based on us becoming a missional parish.

The Nominating Committee is in the process of meeting as this article is being written, but it does look as though I will be serving another term as your Senior Warden, reluctantly, I will honestly tell you, but with no less commitment than I have had throughout my tenure, unless someone steps forward and says they will. And then I will shadow that person all the way through 2016 so they will be fully “equipped” to continue for another year or two.

Vestry service begins with a core commitment to Christ. From that follows honesty, confidentiality, a commitment to the whole enterprise, a positive, generous attitude and a grateful heart. Each of us has unique gifts and talents as well as a broad range of knowledge, experience and skills. Consider how you can utilize these resources as a servant leader to help Grace Church continue and grow into future. So instead of the Nominating Committee seeking you, seek them out – your church needs you! Liz Welk is the chairperson and Bev Manning and Mabel Maynard are also on the committee. Or you

can speak to me as well.

Blessings and Happy New Year!

Melissa



Annual Parish Meeting

The following changes will be voted on at the January 31, 2016 Annual Meeting. (Changes are in italics).

By-Law 2 *The annual meeting of Grace Parish will be on the last Sunday of January.*

By-Law 7 *There shall be four (4) Members of the Vestry, and one (1) alternate.* There will also be a Senior Warden, a Junior Warden, a Parish Clerk, and a Parish Treasurer.

The voting members of the Vestry shall be the four (4) regular members, the Wardens, the Clerk, and the Treasurer. The Alternate shall vote if a member is absent.

The Senior Warden shall be elected for a term of two (2) years. Election of the Senior Warden must be reaffirmed at the end of the first year. *Normally, the Senior Warden may not serve for more than two (2) consecutive two-year terms.* A vacancy in the office of Senior Warden shall be filled by the Junior Warden until a special Parish meeting is called to fill that vacancy.



FINANCE REPORT

General Fund Update:

December ended up yet another net positive month. Despite some unpredicted expenses, our general operating balance and net cash balance both showed minor net gains. Our overall income is about as expected, and our general operating expenses were definitely below budget. Three unusual situations increased our expenses but were covered by our overall income. Our Sweet Comedy effort was not attended as well as predicted, and did not cover expenses. A number of accumulated Maintenance and Fundraiser expenses were finally posted in December. Finally, the refrigerator at the rectory failed and needed to be replaced out of the reserves from the rent receipts. In general, 2015 has been a successful year. Even considering some of the unusual entries, our overall expenses and income are less than budgeted with income more than covering the expenses yielding a net gain to the checkbook. In fact, we did not use the \$9,000 budgeted to come from reserves, but we returned \$5,112 from previous years. One definite positive is that although our energy and snow expenses were high last winter, they were certainly offset by the mild winter so far this season. Thanks to everyone who is helping out with your time, talent, and treasure.

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

INCOME	<u>December</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>	EXPENSES	<u>December</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
<i>Beginning Checkbook:</i>	\$12,053	\$ 9,972			
Pledge Receipts:	\$ 8,601	\$ 101,259	Salaries & Benefits:	(\$ 5,520)	(\$ 61,781)
General Receipts:	\$ 262	\$ 9,117	General Expenses:	(\$ 2,184)	(\$ 23,020)
Use of Church Building:	\$ 1,780	\$ 12,470	General Utilities:	(\$ 1,428)	(\$ 17,171)
Fund Raisers, General:	\$ 167	\$ 2,256	Fund Raiser Expenses:	(\$ 350)	(\$ 881)
Prayer Bead Project:	\$ 27	\$ 499	Prayer Bead Expenses:	(\$ 266)	(\$ 1,572)
Church Fair:	\$ 288	\$ 3,435	Fair Expenses:	(\$ 208)	(\$ 1,803)
Fellowship:	\$ 394	\$ 770	Fellowship Expenses:	(\$ 263)	(\$ 284)
Special Events:	\$ 400	\$ 1,466	Special Event Expense:	(\$ 3,172)	(\$ 5,929)
Cap.Camp from M.Mkt:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Grounds (Snow/Lawn):	(\$ 665)	(\$ 11,265)
Capital Campaign:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Capital Camp to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
"B-to-B" & Special:	\$ 49	\$ 755	Capital Campaign Exp:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Memorial Donations:	\$ 15	\$ 210	Memorials to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Memorial Garden:	\$ 30	\$ 242	Mem. Garden Exp:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 944)
Seasonal Offerings:	\$ 1,300	\$ 2,601	Diocese Pledge:	(\$ 1,321)	(\$ 15,852)
H.Week, Good Friday:	\$ 0	\$ 194	Church in Jerusalem	(\$ 0)	(\$ 200)
Outreach:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Outreach:	(\$ 258)	(\$ 2,417)
The Grace Fund	\$ 0	\$ 1,336	The Grace Fund	(\$ 0)	(\$ 720)
UTO Donations:	\$ 0	\$ 221	UTO Forwarded:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 221)
Rectory Rent:	\$ 3,600	\$ 18,000	New Fridge @ Rectory:	(\$ 1,150)	(\$ 1,150)
Special Donation:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Audit Fee:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 1,100)
Reserves from M.Mkt:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Reserves to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 6,312)
Total Received:	\$16,913	\$ 154,831	Total Paid Out:	(\$16,785)	(\$ 152,622)
			<i>Ending Checkbook:</i>	\$ 12,181	\$ 12,181

All of the above will make the final evolution of the 2016 budget very interesting!

Faithfully Yours, Mark Shoemaker – Treasurer

Capital Campaign and General Money Market Update: At the end of December, the overall Money Market account balance was **\$55,675**. 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