

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

The Rev. Dr. Valerie Miller, Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon
Mei-Tsen Chen, Organist and Choir Director
Debbie Forrest, Office Manager
Web Site: www.gracechurchnew.org
Email: office@gracechurchnew.org

Holy Eucharist – 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays at
9 am

Morning Prayer – 2nd & 4th Sundays at 9 am
Morning Prayer - Tuesday at 8:30 am

PACE OF GRACE



JANUARY 2021

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111



January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
3 2 nd Sunday after Christmas 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	4	5 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	6 The Epiphany 12pm-5pm – Blood Drive - PH	7	8	9
10 1 st Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Morning Prayer	11	12 6:00 pm Vestry by Zoom 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	13 2:00 pm Book Club Meeting	14	15	16
17 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	18	19 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	20	21	22	23
24 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Morning Prayer	25	26 7:00 pm Narc Anon - PH	27	28	29	30
31 4 th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 am Holy Eucharist						

Room Key: PH=Parish Hall; L=Library; MMR= Music Meeting Room; MR=Meeting Room; C=Chapel; K=Kitchen



Pace of Grace

January 2021

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

Dear Parishioners of Grace Church,

A week before Christmas, the same day we wrote this letter for the January Pace of Grace, the paperwork to appoint The Reverend Dr. Valerie Miller (Reverend Val) was delivered to the Diocese Offices. While Reverend Val will begin her official duties as 'Priest in Charge' on January 1, 2021, she has been part of our family for over a year. She has been our regular visiting priest since services were resumed last summer following the 'virus closure'.

We joyfully welcome an old friend in her now permanent position. Unfortunately, we do not welcome her with open arms and hugs, but with smiles behind our masks. Traditionally a welcome Potluck Brunch is held to welcome a new priest. That and many of our usual 'friendly' activities will be held in the future when we feel comfortable socializing.

Over the past year the Diocese has redefined the title and role of part-time clergy. The term 'Priest in Charge' replaces 'Missional Priest'. The role of a part-time priest has also been changed. Reverend Val, as a quarter time priest, will be hosting a Eucharist Service twice a month (usually the first and third Sundays). She will also perform regular duties of a priest including pastoral care, weddings, baptisms and funerals. These activities must be scheduled around her other employment as part-time Inter-faith chaplain at Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, Massachusetts and chaplain at Armsmead Community for Senior Women with weekly chapel services and pastoral care.

Those of you who have not been attending services during these questionable times will remember her as an inspiring, energetic visiting priest in 2019 and early 2020.

The Diocese requires that parishes with part-time priests have at least two parishioners trained to be lay leaders of Morning Prayer. Currently Grace has three trained leaders with others in training as well as Deacon CJ to conduct services on the Sundays not served by Reverend Val.

The Annual Meeting, generally held in late January, will be rescheduled to a later 'safe time'. The meeting includes a socializing brunch, various reports, presentation of the Vestry-approved budget and election of Vestry. Usually the only act requiring Parish member approval is Vestry election. Since most of the present Vestry has agreed to continue there will be continuity in Parish management. Any

Parishioner desiring to fill an open position please contact one of the Wardens. The Vestry meets the second Tuesday evening of the month by Zoom. The meetings may also be attended by telephone.

Happy New Year to ALL as we look forward to an exciting 2021 for Grace Church.

Faithfully,

JoAnn Cromwell, Senior Warden Walt Parker, Junior Warden



Here are the lectionary readings for each Sunday and Holy Day in January

	First reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Holy Name of Jesus January 1	Numbers 6:22-27	Psalm 8	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:15-21
Second Sunday after Christmas January 3	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 84	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
The Epiphany January 6	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:107, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
First Sunday after Epiphany The Baptism of our Lord January 10	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
Second Sunday after Epiphany January 17	1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)	Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
Confession of St. Peter January 18	Acts 4:8-13	Psalm 23	1 Peter 5:1-4	Matthew 16:13-19
Third Sunday after Epiphany January 24	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62:6-14	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
Conversion of St. Paul January 25	Acts 26:9-21	Psalm 67	Galatians 1:11-24	Matthew 10:16-22
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany January 31	Deuteronomy 18:15- 20	Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28



I hope everyone had a beautiful and safe Christmas. It is a wonderful time of the year to count our blessings starting with the birth of Jesus. This is also the time of the year to continue to help our family, friends, and neighbors. There are lots of people with food insecurities and rent struggles. If any of us needs some help, please let the church know. We are all together in this even if we are distancing to stay safe and well. We need to continue to experience the loving and healing arms of Jesus, He keeps us safe as He listens to our prayers and our tears.

I don't know about you, but first on my Christmas list this year is the containment of Covid-19 as well as the vaccines that are out are safe for all people. I pray that we continue to remain smart in what needs to be done to stop the spread of this virus. We still have to practice due diligence when it comes to Covid - 19. Second on my list is being able to spend time with part of my family. We are again practicing social distancing by only gathering in immediate family groups.

How are your plans for the New Year going? We still don't know how long before we can safely be out and about, but hopefully that might happen by next spring or summer. I like the state of CT, but I certainly wouldn't mind being able to take a trip to Rhode Island or Massachusetts or some other nearby state just for a change of scenery. I miss being able to go to the beach or the ocean. I can only watch so many nature shows and Hallmark movies with "finding love at the beach." I know that a lot of you are wanting to go to the mountains and lakes which would also be nice to do. However, I am guessing that most of us just want to be with our family and friends no matter where we can do that.

January brings Epiphany. We have the light of Christ in our lives. We can "see" what we might not have seen before. We can do more in His name if we shine His light in our pathways. We have to learn not to be afraid of the dark as we have His arms around us as we go forth in His name. We have much to do. I ask that you send in suggestions as to what you would like us to do at Grace Church. We can continue on to do the work of Christ in the year 2021. We have learned much from 2020 as to how to do some things in different ways. But—we can still help one another and ourselves in the new year. ECCT is asking us to continue on with racial injustice education so that we understand our white privilege and our anti-black bias. There must be justice and equality for all. We also have the problem of great wealth disparity within the different churches of ECCT. How do we find ways to share the wealth? We have life experiences to use in our quest to share wisdom with others as to what we can or cannot do; we must be willing to take chances for the better good. I don't have the answers as to what that might be, but I am sure that working together with other parishes we can come up with some suggestions.

There are lots of ideas that we can hopefully share in the new year. We are united in Jesus even if we are not all sharing common space right now. We will let people know we are Christians by our love and willingness to help one another.

I pray that the new year of 2021 will be much safer and more fun. But since God has chosen not to reveal the future to me, I have no idea what adventures will come my way. I only know that Jesus will be with me on each and every one of them. Jesus will be with each and every one of us if we allow our faith

to grow through our life experiences. (ok, so maybe some of my experiences were not so noteworthy but I did still learn stuff) We must go forth in the name of Christ in all that we do!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR MERCY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Stay safe-stay well-stay connected

cj

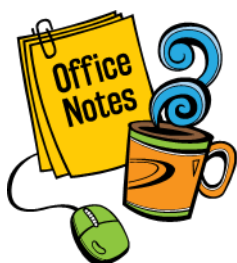
Ps Thank you to all medical personnel, first responders, school personnel, delivery people, volunteers who assist those in need, and to those places with grab and go. Thank you to all who were and are a part of the year 2020.



01/01 Liz Welk
 01/13 Debbie Forrest
 01/19 Paul Crosswaith



01/02 Robert and Lorraine Belyea



The deadline for the February issue is Tuesday, January 19. Please make every effort to meet this deadline to allow us to distribute the issue promptly. The earlier you submit, the easier it is to publish the issue.



January 3	Holy Eucharist
January 10	Morning Prayer
January 17	Holy Eucharist
January 24	Morning Prayer
January 31	Holy Eucharist



The next meeting of the Book Club will be on Wednesday, January 13. Since the last two meetings were cancelled, we will still be discussing *When We Were Young* by Lisa Wingate. Future book selections will be discussed at the next meeting.



The Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 24, 2021 will be postponed until a future 'safer' date to be determined. The agenda of the meeting usually includes: approval of minutes of previous meeting, presentation of the previously Vestry approved budget, various reports, comments by the Priest-in charge, Wardens and anyone desiring to speak, election of Vestry members and the highlight of the meeting – socializing at an abundant, delicious, pot-luck brunch. Generally the only item requiring parishioner approval is Vestry membership. Since most of the Vestry members have stated they are willing to continue, Church management will continue without interruption if the annual meeting is delayed. Any Parishioner desiring to fill an open Vestry position contact a Warden. Vestry vacancies will be filled by the Vestry with confirmation of the appointment at the future annual meeting. The Vestry meets from their homes on the second Tuesday of the month by Zoom. Meetings may also be attended by telephone. If attending by phone the participant will hear and be able to speak, they just won't see the friendly faces of other participants on a screen (smartphone, laptop or reader - kindle etc.).

GRACE FUND



The "Grace Fund" is a collection started in 2014 as an in-house "outreach" program available to Parishioners with a temporary emergency need to help make ends meet. It was originally intended to be self-supporting by either special donations, or to perhaps be paid back when the emergency had passed.

Given the current unusual times of pandemic and unusual needs, the Grace Fund does have a limited balance that can be available. If anyone in the parish finds it impossible to pay an important bill, please contact either of your Wardens and perhaps Grace church can provide some limited assistance.

Sincerely, Mark Shoemaker, Treasurer



GIVE *Blood* 17th Annual Blood Drive

Our 17th Annual Blood Drive will be held in the Parish Hall on Wednesday January 6, from 12 to 5 pm.

Volunteers are needed for the registration and refreshment tables. Let me know if you can help out any time between 12 and 4:30 pm.

If you are blood donor, contact the Red Cross to schedule an appointment. To become a new donor, contact JoAnn Cromwell (860-841-6296) to reserve a time. This year we will have appointments only, no walk-ins.



The St. Pauly Shed has reopened! Items are again being accepted for donation.



Weather Closing

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



QUICK FINANCE UPDATE: NOVEMBER 31, 2020

	<u>NOVEMBER OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date OPERATIONS</u>	<u>Year to Date BUDGET</u>	<u>TOTAL 2020 BUDGET</u>
Pledge Income	\$ 6,047	\$ 68,322	\$ 70,581	\$ 79,304
<u>INCOME:</u>	\$ 12,299	\$ 98,931	\$ 106,047	\$ 118,534
<u>EXPENSES:</u>	(\$ 6,636)	(\$ 85,879)	(\$ 127,691)	(\$ 140,342)
<u>NET CHANGE:</u>	\$ 5,663	\$ 13,052	(\$ 21,643)	(\$ 21,808)
Checkbook Balance:	\$ 38,619		<i>End 2019 Checkbook:</i>	\$ 22,206

A Litany for Those Who Aren't Ready For Healing

Let us not rush to the language of healing, before understanding the fullness of the injury and the depth of the wound.

Let us not rush to offer a band-aide, when the gaping wound requires surgery and complete reconstruction.

Let us not offer false equivalencies, thereby diminishing the particular pain being felt in a particular circumstance in a particular historical moment.

Let us not speak of reconciliation without speaking of reparations and restoration, or how we can repair the breach and how we can restore the loss.

Let us not rush past the loss of this mother's child, this father's child...someone's beloved son.

Let us not value property over people; let us not protect material objects while human lives hang in the balance.

Let us not value a false peace over a righteous justice.

Let us not be afraid to sit with the ugliness, the messiness, and the pain that is life in community together.

Let us not offer clichés to the grieving, those whose hearts are being torn asunder.

Instead...

Let us mourn black and brown men and women, those killed extra judicially every 28 hours.

Let us lament the loss of a teenager, dead at the hands of a police officer who described him as a demon.

Let us weep at a criminal justice system, which is neither blind nor just.

Let us call for the mourning men and the wailing women, those willing to rend their garments of privilege and ease, and sit in the ashes of this nation's original sin.

Let us be silent when we don't know what to say.

Let us be humble and listen to the pain, rage, and grief pouring from the lips of our neighbors and friends.

Let us decrease, so that our brothers and sisters who live on the underside of history may increase.

Let us pray with our eyes open and our feet firmly planted on the ground.

Let us listen to the shattering glass and let us smell the purifying fires, for it is the language of the unheard.

God, in your mercy...

Show me my own complicity in injustice.

Convict me for my indifference.

Forgive me when I have remained silent.

Equip me with a zeal for righteousness.

Never let me grow accustomed or acclimated to unrighteousness.

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Lay Ministry Schedule
9:00 AM

	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
	2 nd Christmas	1 st Epiphany	2 nd Epiphany	3 rd Epiphany	4 th Epiphany
	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist
Priest-in-Charge	Rev. Valerie Miller		Rev. Valerie Miller		Rev. Valerie Miller
Deacon/LWL	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz	Rev. CJ Puskarz
LECTOR	Walt Parker	Marie Ritchie	Karen Halpert	JoAnn Cromwell	Walt Parker
PRAYERS	Beverley Manning	Karen Halpert	Marie Ritchie	Walt Parker	JoAnn Cromwell
USHERS	Brandon & Kathy Johnson	Mark & Kathy Shoemaker	Nancy DiPrato Lorraine Belyea	Jane Stewart	Brandon & Kathy Johnson
ALTAR GUILD	Pat Rogorzenski Jane Stewart	Pat Rogorzenski Jane Stewart	Nancy DiPrato Marie Ritchie	Nancy DiPrato Marie Ritchie	Kathy Shoemaker Elissa Schumann
COUNTERS	JoAnn Cromwell Beverley Manning	Melissa Haseley Lorraine Belyea	Melissa Haseley Nancy DiPrato	Walt Parker JoAnn Cromwell	