

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111
Phone: 860-666-3331;
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Web Site: www.gracechurchnew.org

Email: office@gracechurchnew.org

Father David: eakp@aol.com

Holy Eucharist - Sunday at 9am

Morning Prayer - Tuesday at 8:30am

The Rev. David C. Parachini, Interim Rector

The Rev. CJ Puskarz, Deacon

Martha Brundage, Organist and Choir Director

Art Riihimaki, Office Manager

PACE OF GRACE



November 2014

Grace Episcopal Church
124 Maple Hill Avenue
Newington, CT 06111



November 2014 Room Key: PH=Parish Hall; L=Library; S=Sanctuary; PO=Pastor's Office; MR=Meeting Room; K=Kitchen; C=Chapel

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 20 Pentecost 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM HE with Music - S 9:00 AM Church School 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal	27 12:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH	28 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	29 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	30 9:30 AM Tai Chi PH 7:00 PM Al Anon PH L & MR	31 5:30 PM All Hallows' Eve Service	1
2 21 Pentecost 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM HE with Music - S 9:00 AM Church School 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 PM Finance Committee - MR 10:30 AM Book Discussion	3 Hi-Noon Group 12 N PH 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH 7:00 PM Recruitment Team	4 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	5 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	6 9:30 AM Tai Chi PH 7:00 PM Al Anon PH L & MR	7	8
9 22 Pentecost 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM HE with Music - S 9:00 AM Church School 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal	10 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH 7:00 PM Recruitment Team	11 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	12 8:30 AM Chili Prep K 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	13 8:30 AM Chili Prep K 9:30 AM Tai Chi PH 7:00 PM Al Anon PH L & MR	14	15 8:00 AM Welcome Table Breakfast 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry - L
16 23 Pentecost 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM HE with Music - S 9:00 AM Church School 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal	17 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH 7:00 PM Recruitment Team	18 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	19 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	20 9:30 AM Tai Chi PH 7:00 PM Al Anon PH L & MR	21	22
23 Last Pentecost 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM HE with Music - S 9:00 AM Church School 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Service	24 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH 7:00 PM Recruitment Team	25 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	26 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	27 Thanksgiving 7:00 PM Al Anon PH L & MR	28	29
30 1 Advent 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM HE with Music - S 10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal	1 Hi-Noon Group 12 N PH 6:30 PM Boy Scouts - PH 7:00 PM Recruitment Team	2 8:30 AM Morning Prayer - C 7:00 PM Narc Anon - PH, MR	3 4:00 PM Drop the Rock - L	4 9:30 AM Tai Chi PH 7:00 PM Al Anon PH L & MR	5	6

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

Pace of Grace

November, 2014

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

Thanks Saints!

Dear Grace Church Family,

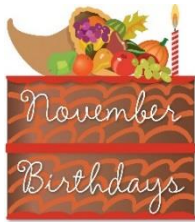
A number of years ago now, I was walking through the nave of the parish I was serving with a five year old member of the congregation. The many stained glass windows in the church had recently been carefully removed and repaired and now the full brilliance of their magnificent colors was apparent. The nave was filled with light in ways that it had not been for many years. My young friend noticed this and was drawn to the representations of the men and women in the glass. "Who are they?" he asked. I tried to explain to him who these saints were and his response was to observe that they didn't see any who looked familiar. They came from a different time and place. I told him that some of these men and women whom we call saints were better known to us than others and that some we didn't really know at all. He asked the next logical question which was, "are there any saints around now?" I told him that there were and his reply was to ask if we knew who they were and to query if they would be in a window someday. I told him that we knew who some of them were but that only God knew them all. I tried to explain, as best I could in a five year olds vocabulary that the saints were all of those who tried, as best they could, to do the things God needed and wanted us to do. That seemed to satisfy him and he quickly went on to asking questions about other things as is typical of most five year olds I know. Our conversation ended when he said simply, "thanks saints".

During this month of November we begin with our observance of the saints on All Saints Day and our observance of all of the faithful departed on All Souls Day. We wrap up the month with our national day of Thanksgiving, the meaning of which is rapidly being overpowered by the rapid expansion of the holiday shopping season, and in our preparation for the one observance we should build on the other. As we celebrate All Saints this year, we will have a special service on the Eve of All Saints (Halloween) and on Sunday we will observe All Souls Day borrowing from the tradition of our Hispanic brothers and sisters who faithfully observe the Day of the Dead, a way of remembering all those faithful departed who have become a part of God's heavenly kingdom in the prior year. In the southern part of this nation and throughout Latin America, those observing the Day of the Dead prepare special pastries in the shape of skulls and decorated graves in cemeteries. This holy day for them is a special moment of connection with their loved ones whom they no longer see.

I would remind all of us that we are called not only to remember the saints of the past but also the saints of the present. Who are the saints of the present we may ask. As I tried to explain this to my young parishioner a number of years ago let me remind us all that they are those who "show up and just do it". They try their best to be responsive to God's question, "who can we send and who will go for us?" The saints are the ones who, without hesitation, reply "here am I, send me." When we see them at work we know that, in whatever way they have been called, they are working for the building up of the church, the equipping of the saints and the extension of God's kingdom of love. For all of the hard work which God's saints do (and may that include each and all of us) as we come to Thanksgiving Day let us say as my young friend did, "THANKS SAINTS!" and may we resolve to follow their example of faithfulness.

Faithfully,

David+





- 11/03 JoAnn Cromwell
- 11/04 James Siviski
- 11/08 William McCusker
- 11/10 Shirley Adams
- 11/14 Lorraine Belyea
- 11/14 Susan Holland
- 11/16 Mabel Maynard
- 11/18 Belinda Walwyn
- 11/19 Samuel Kowalchik
- 11/24 Marisa Casciano



- 11/15 James and Jane Siviski



 **Deadline for December Pace of Grace – Tuesday, November 18th.** Due to Thanksgiving, I need an early deadline. Please, meet this date to allow prompt delivery of the issue.

 The office will be closed on November 27th and 28th for Thanksgiving.

Art Riihimaki



Our annual Thanksgiving Food Ingathering to benefit the John E. Stage Food Bank will be on Sunday, November 16, 2014. Shopping list suggestion sheets and paper bags are available on the card table in the Narthex. You may also wish to use your own “green” bags to bring your donation/s

in. Containers will be marked for the food bank. We are blessed to have this opportunity to help the over 400 Newington families in need have a wonderful holiday feast.

Thank you for your participation!
Shirley Adams



Hi-Noon Group

Fall Schedule:

November 3 – Monday – The Deming Historic House – A special tour of this home built by Thomas Deming in 1784 has been arranged. The home on Church Street sits on land owned by his family since 1671. The group will meet at 12:00 noon. Following lunch (bring your own, coffee, tea provided) the group will car pool to the home. All are welcome, bring a friend.

December 1 – MONDAY – Annual Christmas Party. 12.00, Lunch will be served (no brown bagging this month) followed by Holiday Merrymaking. As always, all are welcome, bring a friend.

Song of thanksgiving

After retiring from the ministry in England, the Rev. Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) became a prolific hymn writer. Some people have compared his talents to those of Charles Wesley, co-founder of the Methodist Church.

Green’s popular Thanksgiving hymn “For the Fruits of His Creation” calls worshipers to move beyond gratitude to their responsibilities for other people and for God’s creation. The hymn’s closing lines sum up why Christians can give thanks throughout the year: “For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.”



Thanks So Much!

- ☺ Shirley Adams for keeping us advised of ecological issues.
- ☺ The members of the Altar Guild for their conscientious service.
- ☺ JoAnn Cromwell and Mabel Maynard for ably covering the office while our Office Manager was on vacation.



**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MATERIALS
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
(ESPECIALLY GRANDCHILDREN)**

Grace Church has ordered a variety of materials for children and young people to use during the Advent and Christmas seasons. These booklets and calendars and study guides are a good way to help our children to focus on the real significance of these days in the midst of the overwhelming onslaught of the crass commercialism of secular society. The materials are inexpensive and ideal for gift-giving by grandparents.

Please look at the display in the narthex, when it is set up, and speak with JoAnn Cromwell, CJ Puskarz, Lynn Page or Father David if you have questions.



The entire community is invited to celebrate the freedom and bounty of our nation at an annual Interfaith Worship Service on **Sunday, November 23rd**. This service, sponsored by the Newington Interfaith Clergy Association, will be led by various members of the Clergy Association. The Newington Interfaith Association is comprised of clergy from the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths. The New Britain Clergy Association will also be participating. Please come to this special service and celebrate with your neighbors.

More information will be forthcoming.



Forward Day By Day

The November through January issue of Forward Day by Day is available in the narthex in both small and large print sizes. Please take a copy and

use it in your daily devotions. Suggested donation is \$1 for regular size and \$1.50 for the large print.

If you would like us to mail you a copy, please contact the office at 860-666-3331 or office@gracechurchnew.org.



8TH ANNUAL RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

This is our 9th Blood Drive even though we missed a couple of years. It will be held in the Parish Hall on Monday, December 30, 2014, from 1:30 PM until 6:30 PM.

It is our privilege to offer our Parish Hall for this Blood Drive and work closely with the local Red Cross. This is a simple way to serve our local community and allow us to be involved.

Volunteers are needed for the registration and refreshment tables. Let me know if you can help out any time between 1 PM and 6:30 PM, in 3 hour shifts.

If you are a current blood donor, the Red Cross will contact you to set an appointment. To become a new donor, contact JoAnn Cromwell (860-667-0030) to reserve a time.

To donate baked goods for our blood drive refreshment table, please mark them and leave in the kitchen or on The Narthex shelf.

JoAnn Cromwell, Blood Drive Coordinator



At our Altar Guild meeting in September, it was decided not to clean and decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve as we have in the past. This year we will meet at 10 am on Saturday, December 20 to clean instead. We will be able to do some decorating that day, as well. The threesome assigned for the

Christmas weeks will set up for the Christmas Eve service after Sunday, December 21 (the last Sunday in Advent). Thanks, Barbara

Grateful kids

Adults aren't the only ones who benefit from counting their blessings. Research shows that thankful kids get better grades, experience less depression and jealousy, and maintain a more positive outlook on life.

Experts emphasize that parents must model gratitude, especially in today's consumer-driven culture. But Professor Robert Emmons notes that being thankful usually comes pretty easily for children. "Kids have a natural affinity to gratitude," he says. "They often teach parents as much or more about gratitude than the other way around."



Welcome Table Breakfast

The Welcome Table Community Breakfast continues to attract new visitors each month as well as a small group of regulars who have come to depend on it not only for a hot meal but also as a social outlet.

The breakfast is always held the third Saturday of the month from 8 am to 10:00 am. The remaining dates for 2014 are November 15 and December 20.

Sign-ups are in Narthex at the beginning of each month. It is a satisfying way to serve the community as well being a great fellowship event for the parish. Please join us. We also appreciate donations of supplies: eggs, milk, sterno canisters, a BBQ lighter, syrup and sausages, among others.

Thank you for considering helping us.



Angel Tree

Ingathering December 7, 2013

The Angel Tree will be up and decorated by November 23rd and will be "graced" by our Angel Topper and many angel gift tags. Again this year we will be supporting our senior citizens, who are frequently over looked,

Each tag will represent a client, with details such as gender, age, sizes and gift request. Please take a tag, purchase the gift/s and bring the gifts (unwrapped) to the tree as soon as possible, but no later than December 7th. The deadline for distribution

At Newington Human Services is the week after December 9th.

Gift cards are always welcome, too. Let's help our neighbors have a Merry Christmas.

Shirley Adams



Fall Festival

The Fall Festival 2014 was a huge success.

At this time we have a few outstanding bills so the total is not completed.

A big thank you to everyone who worked to help make decorations: to Lorraine B, Valerie D, Lynn P, Jeanne P, and Melissa H for all the hard work they put in to making this a big success. Thank you to everyone who helped set up and clean up and decorate the Narthex. Thank you to Mark Shoemaker for helping us with the finances.

Thank you to all who baked. Thank you to everyone who gave their time on Saturday to work at the fair.

The Fundraising Committee.



"Even if friends did always call you a saint, I still have to look it up."



FINANCE REPORT

October was a really interesting month to show the numbers for. Initially, I was discouraged that the overall amount from regular collections (\$12,189 shown below) less than average for the year so far. I had thought we would start to see an overall increase with all the summer distractions behind us. Looking more closely, the overall pledge receipts are above average for the year and better than expected. Thanks to one and all for keeping up with your pledge. Although the figures below indicate about a \$1,700 deficit for the month, it is partly because all the Fair expenses turned in to date are included. However, we haven't yet had a chance to do a detailed reconciliation of the Saturday & Sunday Fair receipts. I plan to do this before the end of October which should add approximately another \$1,350 to the checkbook. Part of that won't show up until November when we see what the fees are for using the credit Card machine. Once again, of note is that our balance is just about where we started off at the beginning of the year, and we haven't had to use any of the \$4,500 reserves provided for in the budget.

The overall October Finances (excluding the Sat/Sun Fall Fair Receipts), come out as follows:

INCOME	<u>October</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>	EXPENSES	<u>October</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
<i>Beginning Checkbook:</i>	\$ 4,078	\$ 3,898			
Pledge Receipts:	\$ 8,938	\$ 84,223	Salaries & Benefits:	(\$ 5,416)	(\$ 51,932)
General Receipts:	\$ 425	\$ 4,289	General Expenses:	(\$ 2,828)	(\$ 23,626)
Use of Church Building:	\$ 990	\$ 10,232	General Utilities:	(\$ 1,120)	(\$ 14,209)
Fund Raisers, General:	\$ 17	\$ 1,055	Fund Raiser Expenses:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 239)
Church Fair:	\$ 125	\$ 660	Fair Expenses:	(\$ 1,298)	(\$ 1,298)
Special Events:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Special Event Expense:	(\$ 389)	(\$ 989)
Cap.Camp from M.Mkt:	\$ 0	\$ 200	Grounds (Snow/Lawn):	(\$ 1,430)	(\$ 10,488)
Capital Campaign:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Capital Camp to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
"B-to-B" & Special:	\$ 64	\$ 982	Capital Campaign Exp:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 200)
Memorial Donations:	\$ 5	\$ 255	Memorials to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 0)
Memorial Garden:	\$ 125	\$ 393	Mem. Garden Exp:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 640)
Seasonal Offerings:	\$ 0	\$ 1,336	Diocese Pledge:	(\$ 1,302)	(\$ 13,020)
Outreach:	\$ 0	\$ 567	Outreach:	(\$ 105)	(\$ 3,770)
Miscellaneous:	\$ 0	\$ 160	Miscellaneous Forward:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 160)
Rectory Rent:	\$ 1,500	\$ 16,800	Rectory Rent to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 1,000)
Special Donation:	\$ 0	\$ 7,500	Audit Fee:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 1,100)
Reserves from M.Mkt:	\$ 0	\$ 0	Reserves to M.Mkt:	(\$ 0)	(\$ 7,500)
Total Received:	\$12,189	\$ 128,652	Total Paid Out:	(\$13,888)	(\$130,171)
			<i>Ending Checkbook:</i>	\$ 2,379	\$ 2,379

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make our Fair a success. Especially since this is the first big event like this that we have done in a long time. One extra benefit is that we now have the capability to process Credit Card transactions. Please let us know if you would like to use this new feature to make pledge payments or any special donations. One thing I am not sure how to show yet is the new checking account that will accumulate the credit card receipts. That account presently has \$300.00 setup funds from the General Fund (part of the General Expenses above) plus \$273.50 from the Fair.

Faithfully Yours, Mark Shoemaker – Treasurer

Capital Campaign and General Money Market Update:

At the end of October, the overall Money Market account balance should be **\$58,225**. Of this amount, the major elements are: \$23,619 as the posted Capital Campaign balance, and \$15,142 as the posted net Rectory balance (\$1,500 Security Deposit + \$13,642 Rectory Reserves). In addition, a special donation of \$7,500 is being temporarily held.

Faithfully Yours, Mark Shoemaker – Treasurer