

Grace Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 366  
3328 Franklin Avenue  
Millbrook, New York 12545

January 29, 2017

Dear friends and fellow members of Grace Church,

Growing in spiritual vitality and depth is one of the three major goals of our strategic plan—and perhaps the most important goal of any church. But if our goal is to help our members grow closer to God’s heart, how best can we do that? Let’s try and find out.

The Diocese of New York has made a well-designed and tested tool available to our parish: **RenewalWorks**. Our Vestry has agreed to try it and we have formed an eleven-person team led by Kathryn Calame and Evelyn Garzetta to do that hard work of four workshops developing a spiritual vitality program custom-made for our church.

Their work depends on you—on all of us—providing thoughtful and prayerful feedback on the current state of our spiritual life. To this end, I’m asking that you set aside about 30 minutes to take a **Spiritual Life Inventory**. This survey focuses on you, on your spiritual life and how Grace Church helps you grow spiritually. The survey findings will help shape decisions about how to create the best possible ministries and programs here. Your feedback will directly impact how we allocate resources to further our spiritual journey.

What is the Spiritual Life Inventory? It is an online survey tool developed first in the Chicago area in an evangelical megachurch. But over the past seven years, it has been modified in various ways, and to date over 250,000 Christians, in mainline and non-denominational churches, have taken the survey. RenewalWorks has developed an Episcopalian form of the SLI. The inventory is anonymous, run by a third party, and we will only receive composite findings about the church as a whole. The inventory is open to all parishioners, 16 years and older, and we encourage all parishioners to take the inventory, whether you attend every week, or are only able to be with us a few times a year.

Following are two links. The first is a FAQ about the survey. [http://renewalworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/FAQ\\_10-14.pdf](http://renewalworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/FAQ_10-14.pdf). I found this extremely helpful to read before I took the survey.

The second is a link to the survey itself. <https://www.research.net/r/RenewalWorks2091>. The survey will open on Sunday January 29 and close on Sunday, February 19. This is important and serious, so please take the occasion to really reflect and think about your own spiritual journey. But we are not above offering fun incentives! After taking the survey, you are eligible to write your name on one of the ping pong balls in the Parish Hall and put it in the bowl for a prize drawing later.

Renewal Works Live Link to access the Grace Millbrook Spiritual Life Inventory:

<https://www.research.net/r/RenewalWorks2091>

Once you have begun the inventory you must complete it or all information you have inputted will be erased and you will have to start over from the beginning.

This inventory will automatically take you to the appropriate next page depending on the answers you give on the previous page. You can change your answer(s) if you are still on that particular page. Once you hit 'next' button you cannot return to that page. You cannot go back to any previous pages; you cannot save it; nor print it. Should you have any questions or encounter a problem please contact Evelyn Garzetta.

The survey link will be live through Sunday, February 19, 2017 at midnight. Please complete the inventory prior to that deadline date.

Should you need a hard copy of the survey if you do not have computer access, please contact Evelyn Garzetta (518-789-0793) or stop by the Parish Office during business hours to obtain a copy. Once the paper version is completed there is a special link for us to enter your information please return it to Evelyn no later than February 17, 2017 by 6:00 PM

Peace and grace in Christ,

Matthew+

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Calkins, Rector  
Grace Church, Millbrook, NY