

GRACE NOTES

Newsletter of Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, an Open and Affirming Congregation

Upcoming at Grace Church

Holy Week at Grace Church



Palm Sunday, April 5 – 10:00 AM Service

We will greet the morn with loud Hosannas moving from Jesus’ jubilant entry into Jerusalem and journey to the Passion of Christ. We will celebrate communion and receive our palms. The Easter plants for our shut-ins will be available for the Buddies to pick up.

Maundy Thursday, April 9 – 7:00 PM Service

What is Maundy Thursday, the Thursday of Holy Week all about? The word “Maundy” is a shortened version of the Latin word mandatum, which means commandment. At the Last Supper, Jesus gave his friends a new commandment. He told the disciples, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another” (John 13:34, NRSV). As Jesus commanded, we should make a special effort to exhibit our love and respect for one another.

We will gather for worship at 7 PM and celebrate communion together. The service will end with the readings of Tenebrae and darkness.

Community Good Friday Service, April 10 – 12:00 Noon

This year’s service will be at Edward’s Church (off of Elm St.). Pastor Brad will be one of the participants.

Easter Sunday, April 12 – 10:00 AM Service

Our Alleluias have returned to worship! (We put away our Alleluias on February 22) We will joyously celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ! We will sing, hear the “good news” and celebrate communion together.

Spring Lecture Series

(Hosted by Faith in Action)

How to Stretch Your Dollars

Our first speaker Jennifer Lane, CFP, gave a dynamic and entertaining talk at the church on March 25. Ms. Lane appears on New England Cable News every Tuesday during the 6:30 and 8:30 programs, answering viewer e-mail questions. (<http://jenniferlane.net/>)

Tuesday, April 28

Stay Safe

Officer Dolores Coots and a colleague of the Framingham Police Department will provide safety tips - when out in public or at home. Although geared to women, all are welcome. FIA will gather any specific community or neighborhood concerns and convey them to Officer Coots in advance.



Tuesday, May 26

Good Nutrition: For You and Your Family

Nutritionist Camille Hendsbee of Megna Nutrition will talk about making healthy eating choices for yourself and your family. Camille is a Licensed Registered Dietitian.



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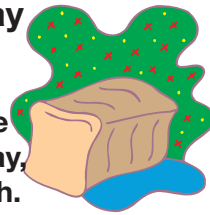
April 2009

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The presentations begin at 7:00 PM and are open to the public and free (however, please consider bringing a canned good for the local Food Pantry)

Bread Sale on Palm Sunday

Don't miss GWU's combination Bake Sale and May Basket Sale in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 5 immediately after church.



This is an opportunity to buy delicious, home-made breads, and muffins for Easter and a chance to stock up on some pretty May Baskets (to be used as Easter Baskets, or to prepare for May Day (May 1)).

Volunteers are needed to provide baked goods and help with set up and sales. Speak to Lynn Burdett if you can lend a hand.

Women's Lectio meeting April 13

The Women's Lectio continues to explore the Easter story through scripture and meditation using the Lectio Divina art form.

We gather at 7:30 in the sitting room of Grace (76 Salem End Rd). We will also be discussing ideas for our annual retreat.

If you have thoughts but can not make it on the 13th, just let Terri Taylor or Laura Buck know.

Church World Service Kits

These kits are small packages of supplies assembled by volunteers and shipped to people in need around the world. Grace Women United has supported the project for many years and it is an important part of our mission commitment. This year, we are providing the required items for 20 school kits. Cloth bags, made according to specific directions by some of our "crafty" ladies, will be filled by our Sunday School children in May, and then sent to a central location for use where the need arises.

During the month of April, we are offering the opportunity for individuals, families, or teams to help with one or more kits, which GWU will add to its shipment. Perhaps the easiest and least expensive kit to assemble is the Hygiene Kit. The requirements are VERY specific, and the instructions urge that no one vary the contents in any way. The total kit is estimated to cost \$11 each and should include:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
 - One washcloth
 - One wide-tooth comb
 - One nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
 - One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
 - One tooth brush (in original packaging)
 - 6 Band-Aids.
- Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure. GWU will assume the shipping cost of \$2 per kit. More information will be posted on the bulletin board.

Grace Church calendar - April

April 1	10:00 AM	Crafters	April 13	1:00 PM	Worship Planning
April 4	8:00 AM	Men's Group		7:30 PM	Women's Lectio
April 5	Palm Sunday		April 15	7:30 PM	Stewards
	Cans for Communion		April 19	10:00 AM	Worship
	10:00 AM	Worship	April 20	1:00 PM	Worship Planning
	11:00 AM	GWU Bake Sale May Baskets	April 22	Eagles (lunch or dinner)	
April 6	1:00 PM	Worship Planning		10:00 AM	Book Club
April 7	7:30 PM	Central Council	April 26	10:00 AM	Worship
April 8	10:00 AM	Crafters	April 27	1:00 PM	Worship Planning
	11:30 AM	GWU meeting	April 28	7:00 PM	FIA Lecture: Safety
April 9	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday			
April 12	Easter Sunday				
	10:00 AM	Worship			

Ministries

Mary Memmott
Member-at-Large
Missions
Facilitator

Mission

April Cans for Communion – April 5

The Framingham food pantry is back! This month we are looking for: CEREAL and TUNA. There will be a sign-up on the bulletin board to help with delivery. Please consider pitching in on this simple task and welcoming the pantry to their new location on Irving Street.

Interested in Reducing Your Energy Costs and Impact on the Earth?

If you came to the “Spring Clean Your Carbon Footprint” event in March, then you probably have some good ideas already – you’ll be receiving gentle reminders soon! If you couldn’t make it, check out the simple website tool we used at the workshop: challenge.greenneedham.org. You’ll also be able to find a link to this on the Grace Church website. Spring is the perfect time to make some changes for the sake of the earth (and your wallet)!

And thank you to everyone who

helped make the carbon footprint event a success – especially Tim Taylor and George Burton for technical support, Jean Burr for coffee-brewing skills, Frank Carney for sign-hanging and welcoming, Brad Watters and Ellie Crawford for behind-the-scenes details, Raechel Belloli for help with the kids’ crafts, and our friends from Edwards Church for excellent snacks and many other talents. Your support was much appreciated – Mary Memmott

St. Patrick’s Day Cheer

Thank you to Meghan Taylor and Amelia and Ellen Burton who shared magic tricks, homemade “shamrock” flags, a fiddle tune, and step-dancing with the ladies of Countryside Manor on the Sunday after St. Patrick’s Day. Thank you also to Mary Truesdale, a long-time Grace member and Countryside resident, who made their visit possible by her welcoming presence.

Stewards

Stewards
Jean Burr, Chair
Frank Carney
Judy Sebastian
Tim Taylor

stewards@gracechurchucc.org

• **Parking lot:** There has been some concern over the winter about the condition of the parking lot where the rented spaces haven’t been properly cleaned out by those using them. Hopefully, there will be no more snow until next winter, and before then, we will make the contract stronger about the responsibility of those renting from us. Otherwise, this has proved to be a win-win situation for both the students and Grace.

• **Cleaning:** Currently, we are depending on volunteers to clean the church on alternate Saturdays (Fridays would work as well). We do intend to hire an outside service later on but in the meantime, we are asking for help. Please speak to Brad or any Steward if you are willing to give an hour or two occasionally.

• **Recycling do’s and don’ts:** DO recycle rinsed coffee cups, paper, cardboard, any plastic bottles, cans, or containers with a number 1 thru 6 on it, glass bottles. DO NOT recycle plastic bags, items with food particles, or tinfoil.

Denominational dues

The Grace Church Stewards are asking members to voluntarily pay their Mass Conference denominational dues. MACUCC dues are \$17.80 annually for each member of the congregation.

Please make your check out to Grace Church and write Conference Dues on the memo line. Note: The \$17.80 figure covers individuals, not family units. Each adult member of a family costs Grace \$17.80 for dues.

Ministries

Deacon
Ruth Carney, Chair
George Tynes
Karolyne White

deacons@
gracechurchucc.
org

Deacons

People of Grace,
Welcome to Spring!

The season of Lent is almost over. Lent is a season of repentance. But for many of us, “repentance” is an offensive word. It sounds so remorseful. In reality, it isn’t remorseful at all. The root word for “repentance” is the Greek word *metanoia*, from which our word “metamorphosis” comes. The great image of this is the butterfly emerging from its cocoon; the caterpillar being transformed into new life. No one is remorseful about that! Nor should we be with repentance, which involves leaving the past and emerging into new life.

In a very short time, Holy Week will begin with Palm Sunday and end with Easter! See the complete Holy Week details on page one of this *Grace Notes*.

- **Palm Sunday**, April 5 – 10:00 AM Service
- **Maundy Thursday**, April 9 – 7:00 PM Service
- **Community Good Friday Service**, April 10 – 12:00 Noon
- **Easter Sunday**, April 12 – 10:00 AM Service

We are proceeding with our Natural Church Development program. Pastor Brad will be sitting down with those who have completed their Spiritual Gifts Inventory. Have you met with Brad, yet? If not, Brad will be contacting you, but you do not have to wait for his call, you can call and schedule your time with him.

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar, please be in touch with Ruth Carney. If you wish to have her order flowers from our florist, the current price is \$35.

Every Sunday, things get done before, during and after worship. How would you like to volunteer to be a lay reader, usher, greet or to prepare and serve coffee for the fellowship time after worship on Sunday? (Thank you to all who have signed up or just pitched in.) Please take a moment to sign up for one of these opportunities. You will find the sign up sheets on the bulletin board in our fellowship area. There are still many, many openings!

Please do not forget that we care about your wellbeing and want to walk with you celebrating your joys, holding you in your sorrows, and just being there when you need us. God is with us and among us. God does and will provide.

May you always feel
God’s blessings,
The Deacon Ministry Team

Resurrection means reconciliation

Jesus’ resurrection is the very foundation of Christianity. If Christ had never been raised from the dead, we’d have no Christian religion. God’s power was at work in Christ’s death and resurrection. “It was on the resurrection fact that the church was built,” said New Testament scholar James Stewart.

The resurrection proves that Jesus is Lord and Savior. Its authenticity means that by faith in Christ, we are reconciled with God.

Billy Graham said the risen Christ is the bridge between us and God. Rev. Graham said, “One of Christ’s hands holds the hand of God; his other hand holds ours.”

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody

This is a little story about four people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done, and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody’s job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn’t do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Christian Education

Christian Ed.
Daleen Perkins
Ronda Yeomans

Christian Education and all the parents and children of Grace Church would like to thank all the people who volunteered their time and energy in the last few months to teach or assist in the Sunday School Classroom. We are especially appreciative of the folks who don't have children currently in lessons who have none the less stepped forward to be the village raising our children. Thank you also to the people planning the Lenten workshops and worship who have made efforts to actively involve the children. Susan Minor also deserves our gratitude for her most impressive efforts to teach the children some special music to be offered during the Easter service. Special thanks also to Mary Memmott and Brad Watters for making sure there were child-centered activities at the recent "Carbon Footprint" gathering.

Formal curriculum lessons so far this semester have included, "Bible 101," "Baptism," and "Jesus the Teacher." Children are invited to attend service with their families on Palm Sunday and Easter. Lessons in April 19 and 26 are on Pentecost. Teachers and helpers are still needed for both these dates. Please contact Ronda or Daleen if you are available.

The child care position in the nursery is still open. Please mention this opening to friends who may know someone interested in the work. Thank you.

About US

- Our sympathy and prayers to **Helen Stetson** and her family. Robert passed away in late March. A service was held at Grace Church on March 26.
- Prayers for **Joanie Bodge**, who is recovering from a health issue at Beth Israel Hospital.
- Prayers of healing for **Ruth Bodge** who is recovering from foot surgery.
- A note of thanks from **Linda Hilliard**, who is recovering from a second knee replacement surgery. Calls, cards and visits have been much appreciated.

Tax News

(See your tax person for more details.)

1. The exclusion from taxes of mandatory distributions from IRAs which are made by the trustee directly to a non-profit (see last month's article) has been adopted by the Mass Dept. of Revenue.
2. Mass. homeowners or renters over age 65, may qualify for the circuit breaker, even if not required to file a Mass. return. A rebate of up to \$930 may be available to them just by filing a simple form. Why not check it out?
3. Some of the biggest reasons for delayed refunds are unsigned returns, incorrect social security numbers, and a name change, such as in the case of marriage.

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The Book Club will meet again on April 22 at 10:00 AM. This month they are reading Maeve Benchey's *Heart and Soul*.

Have you seen our webpage? Need to check on church activities between *Grace Notes* issues? The church webpage is kept up to date with events and mission interests, plus a lot more. Go to www.gracechurch.org