

# GRACE NOTES

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



## Season of Sharing Grace, Edwards and Plymouth

Service to be held on  
Sunday, July 15 • 10:00 AM

Framingham Center Common

If you would like to help out with planning this service,  
please speak to Pastor Brad

## Dedication postponed to September 16

The Dedication Team has decided to move the dedication of our new church home to Sunday, September 16. Although there was much enthusiasm to dedicate this summer, several factors suggested that a delay would be more logical. Of course, the lack of people around during the summer months is important (both church volunteers and those that would be invited). Plus, the Grounds Team is working hard - and the delay will give them more time to further groom our property.

Watch for an article in the August *Grace Notes* seeking your help with this important event at Grace.

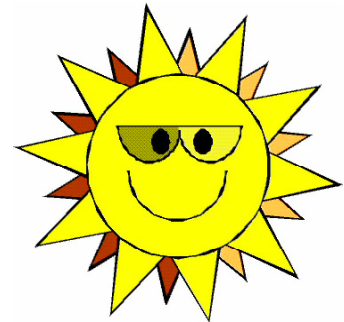
### **Grace Notes**

Volume 9, Number 7

July 2007

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**Everyone is invited!**



## Grace Church Pool Party

**Sunday, July 29**

(Rain date: August 5)

Linda Hilliard's Pool

**11:30 AM to 3 PM**

15 Westgate Road, Framingham  
*Driving directions will be given  
out at church or call Linda  
(508-879-5943)*

We'll have plenty of hamburgers,  
hot dogs, chips and ice cream.  
If you're inclined, please bring  
salads, fruit, cookies and  
beverages.

You'll also want to bring towels,  
sunblock and some  
folding chairs. Anyone have a  
croquet game???

We need the loan of a couple  
of grills or habachis (Linda  
doesn't have a grill).

## Congregational Meeting held on June 3

Approximately 45 people attended Grace's congregational meeting on June 3.

- Annual Reports were approved.
- There was a review and discussion of the midyear budget.
- The nominations report was accepted. The officers of Moderator, Clerk, Clerk of Membership, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Historian are all filled. Members-at-Large to Central Council, Delegates to the Central Association, and the MACUCC, and Pastor / Parish Relations are filled.
- Several Ministry Team chairs added comments. Some Task Team chairs spoke to their team's current activities.
- Rev. Bradford Watters spoke of the Outreach process. He led a discussion about Grace becoming a "Teaching Parish" again. The general consensus was that we don't want to become a Teaching Parish at this time, but will consider it in the future.
- Brad read the names of all of our members whom we have lost this year through death.

## Grace's Grand Piano

Grace Church loaned its Steinway Grand Piano to the Performing Arts Center.

Laura Buck reports found the following in the Performing Arts Center newsletter.

*"We received some additional pledges of donations to the Piano Fund, so we are now up to \$1,300! This will allow us to recondition the Steinway grand piano in the recital hall this summer. Again, many thanks to all who contributed."*

## Planning Board Meeting is July 12

The Framingham Planning Board will have a formal site plan review meeting regarding 76 Salem End Road on Thursday, July 12, in the evening. *Note:* The Planning Board is not the Zoning Board of Appeals and this meeting is procedural.

Our attorney suggests that a few Grace Church members might want to attend this meeting. The Grace Church request is one of many - so although the meeting likely starts at 7:00, we do not know when we are on the agenda.

*Note:* This formal meeting was announced for June 28, but has been moved to July 12 (a new announcement will appear in the newspaper)

An informal departmental Planning Board meeting, held on June 19, sent up no red flags. Seven departments were represented at the meeting and the only issue raised was a fire alarm system.

## New Faith In Action Team meets

The Faith in Action team is back in business! Eight members met on June 21 and began brainstorming suggestions for future activities at Grace Church. (Several others have expressed interest in the group but were unable to attend the meeting.)

Timing of these events will vary from "soon" to "long-range", so watch and wait for more news of Faith in Action. ALL

members and friends are invited to meet with us at our next scheduled time of July 19 at 7:30. No commitment – just be there to listen and give us your input! In the meantime, speak to Beverly Ablondi, Lynn Burdett, Jean Burr, Frank Carney, Eleanor Crawford, Leo Mogan, Jeanne Otenti or Daleen Perkins to learn more!!



## Meditation group

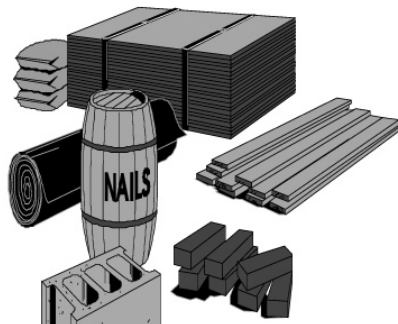
The Meditation Group will not meet on July 3, July 10, July 17, or 24. Meditation group will begin again the Tues. 11 AM time as of July 31, Aug 7, 14, and 28; however, there is no group Tues., Aug. 21. No formal childcare is available, however we will be showing movies in the nursery during some weeks when children may not have alternate scheduling.

Meditation group is still trying to find a second time to meet during the week during school hours so people should contact me with their availability. Ronda Yeomans 508-877-7504

## Grace Youth Travel to North Carolina to Rebuild Homes

While many teens are working part-time summer jobs or lounging at the beach, four youth from Grace (Alex Belloli, Brett Ellis, Victoria Ellis, Kyle Larkins) are building homes with Habitat for Humanity in Tarboro and Rocky Mount, North Carolina during the week of June 24th.

The group is part of a trip organized through City Mission Society's Boston Urban Outreach program, which arranges service-learning projects for groups. This trip will focus on efforts to rebuild after Hurricane Floyd devastated the area in 1999. Even eight years after the storm, hundreds of people are still without adequate housing. BUO put together a group of more than 70 people from the Greater Boston area. Each member of the group is volunteering and donating their time and energy to re-build the community. The Grace teens will join others



from United Church of Christ churches in Methuen, Centerville, Melrose, Georgetown and Holliston.

City Mission Society of Boston is an urban social justice agency serving over 3,000 people each year. As the oldest, multi-service agency in New England, CMS has been addressing the educational, economic and social needs of impoverished area residents since 1816. Programs like BUO reflect CMS's commitment to providing opportunities for groups to work for social change.

## Governance Team holds second meeting

Grace's Governance Task team met recently to consider the governance of Grace Church. Our current model (Ministry Teams with a set number of members) may not be the best model for a church our size.

The Team is doing research. It will not meet in July, but will reconvene in August. Watch for an announcement - and please join us. Speak to Pastor Brad or Linda Hilliard for more information.

## Women's retreat held

Retreat has many connotations, but in the case of the women of Grace, it is a time of spiritual renewal. This year's retreat in Cohasset was again filled with both spirit and fellowship with nine women participating throughout the two days.

### Church calendar - July

*Worship and meetings at 76 Salem End Road unless otherwise noted.*

July 1	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Choir rehearsal Worship Cans for Communion	July 17	7:30	Central Council meeting
July 4		Holiday	July 18	7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Worship Stewards
July 8	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Choir rehearsal Worship Camp Grace (Water theme)	July 19	7:30	Faith in Action team
July 11	7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Worship Deacons	July 22	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Choir rehearsal Worship Camp Grace (Bring a Friend Day)
July 12	7:00 PM* (*TBA)	Planning Board meeting - Memorial Building	July 23	10:00 AM	Bible Study
July 15	10:00 AM	Joint service with Edwards and Plymouth at Fram. Common	July 25	Lunch/dinner 7:00 PM	Eat at Eagles Worship
July 16	10:00 AM	Bible Study	July 29	8:30 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM	Choir rehearsal Worship (Shelter theme) All Church Pool Party
			July 30	10:00 AM	Bible Study
			July 31	11:00 AM	Meditation
			August 1	11:00 AM	Grace Women United Pool Party

## Ministry Teams

**Christian Ed.  
Rob Lovewell  
Daleen Perkins  
Ronda Yeomans**

*christianed@  
gracechurchucc.org*

**Deacon Ministry  
Team  
Ruth Carney, Chair  
Joanne Larkins  
George Tyne  
Karolyn White**

*deacons@  
gracechurchucc.  
org*

***P. S. Have a great  
(and safe) summer!***

## Christian Education

While the Christian Education Team plans the fall semester, Mary Memmott has graciously stepped forward to run the summer "Camp Grace" program for the children. Mary is planning a camping theme with each week focused around what we need to survive, in addition to our faith, namely: food, water, friends and shelter. Camp Grace Christian Education will be held outside (weather permitting) on June 24, and July 8, 22, and 29.

Please have the children wear sunscreen, (possibly bug repellent), hats and bring water bottles as they would

for a regular camp day. No formal children's sessions are planned for the month of August, however Christian education for all ages will be included in the regular services as always. Rally Day, including the commissioning of the teachers, distribution of children's bibles and ice cream sundaes after service, is scheduled for Sept. 9.

Traditional Sunday school lessons will resume Sept. 16. Any questions regarding summer Camp Grace contact Mary Memmott 508-788-1826. General questions: Ronda Yeomans 508-877-7504 or Daleen Perkins: 978-779-6399.

## Deacons

People of Grace,

Isn't summer going to be great with the availability of air conditioning in worship on those hot Sunday mornings! Isn't it great to have the availability of having worship outside if we so desire! We are blessed to be where we are now!

- Pastor Brad will be away June 29-July 9. On Sunday, July 1, we will have a guest preacher, the Reverend Elizabeth Magill. This will still be our family friendly communion service with "cans for communion." On Sunday, July 8, we will have a special service based on spirituals and will be led by the deacons. Sunday, July 15, will be the joint summer service with our brothers and sisters from Edwards and Plymouth churches. This service will be at 10:00 AM on the Framingham Centre Common (opposite Plymouth Church). On a sadder note, the Memorial Service for George Summer will be on Saturday, July 21. (Please check with the church for the exact time)

- We will be having New Members Classes beginning at the end of July. Those who have expressed an interest in participating will be contacted with the details. There is still time to be a part of the classes. If you are interested in

joining Grace or just would like more information, please contact Pastor Brad or one of the Deacons. Attending the classes does not commit you to join Grace, but will let you know what it means to be a member.

- We are still in need of volunteers to usher, greet or to prepare and serve coffee for the fellowship time on Sunday after worship. (Thank you to those who have signed up.) Please consider volunteering some Sunday. Everyone who gathers at coffee hour enjoys the time and fellowship it provides.

- At our Deacon Ministry Team Meetings, we talk about worship. Is there anything that touches you in worship? Concerns you? The Deacons thank you for the feedback we have received. We need you to continue to communicate with us! And we will discuss it and get back to you. Please let Pastor Brad or any of the Deacons know. We need both positive and negative feedback.

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,

## Ministry Teams

### Missions Ministry Team

Christine Collins  
Eleanor Crawford,  
Chair  
Mary Memmott

*mission@  
gracechurchucc.  
org*

**Cans for Communion Collection July 1**  
This month (July 1st) we are especially looking for donations of canned fruit and toilet paper, but all donations of non-perishable foods are welcome.

## Mission



### Stearns Farms Veggies are Coming!

Thank to everyone who turned out to help at our Stearns Farm work-day on June 2. Our multi-generational and large group was able to plant hundreds of pepper plants, weed, and do other chores, all before lunch. The Farm staff was grateful for all your help. Now comes the fun: reaping the harvest!

We will be picking up fresh produce at the farm every other week on Friday. If you would like to help with the pick-up duty, see any member of the Missions Team. Help with this enjoyable task would be much appreciated!

We will deliver one share of produce to the Metrowest Harvest food pantry. The other shares will be available to our members, for a free-will donation, after church on July 22, August 19, Sept. 2, Sept. 30, and Oct. 28. Bring spare change on those dates, and a bag for fresh seasonal produce! Donations will go towards paying for this year's share.

### Calling All Cooks

Grace Church provides dinner to ap-

proximately 20 residents of the Turning Point Adult Shelter on the third Friday of each month. We encourage members to "buddy up" with a friend to make the meal, to share the task and make it more fun. We can reimburse you for the cost of the food, or you are welcome to donate it. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Missions bulletin board, or speak to any members of the Mission Team. We need cooks for August, October, and November. Thank you to all of you who have already cooked this year!

### Save the Date – Sunday, September 24

The fourth annual Walk to Prevent Homelessness is scheduled for Sunday, September 24 – 12:30-3:00 p.m. from Framingham Center Common to Brophy School and back. We had a great group of families and friends walk last year from Grace – we hope many of you will return and we invite new walkers and helpers to join us. All the funds raised go to a local program that helps prevent eviction or foreclosure for families in financial crisis. We will need walkers, sponsors, volunteers for the check-in booth, etc. Please put this date on your calendars!

If your business or employer would like to sponsor a mile of the route, contact Mary Memmott. Sponsors are an important part of making the walk a success. Business sponsors will receive recognition along the route, and of course all donations are tax-deductible.

## Stewards

**Stewards**  
Dianne Belloli, chair  
Lynn Burdett  
Frank Carney  
Judy Sebastian  
Tim Taylor

*stewards@  
gracechurchucc.  
org*

### Combining the Pods

The Stewards will be combining the two storage Pods in our parking lot (larger into smaller). Once that is done, the large Pod will be removed and we'll have more parking spaces (and the yard will be more attractive.)

## Financial update

AMOUNT PLEDGED 24 WEEKS	\$26,448
AMOUNT RECEIVED 24 WEEKS	\$25,734
PLEDGED FOR 2007	\$ 57,100

Financial Secretary  
Nancy H. Brown

### Hot Coffee for a Hot Month -- July Coffee Drive

Help local homeless shelters welcome guests with a cup of hot coffee, as well as a safe place to stay -- donate any type of ground coffee during the month of July and Metrowest Harvest in Framingham will make sure those pots don't run dry. Donations can be left in the box in the fellowship hall. See any member of the Missions Team with questions.

## Keeping faith this summer

Ideas of faith practices that can connect families to each other and to God while away, on vacation, or at their summer camps.

- Families visits to a library; check out some Bible story books.
- Plan to eat dinner as a family as often as possible and rotate who is to offer grace at each meal.
- Read a poem about the beauty of God's earth. Let your child guess what the next rhyming word will be.
- Share memories of a special church season or holiday.
- Read a Bible story. Make puppets out of small paper bags.
- Take a walk in God's creation. Talk about where you see God in nature.
- Cut words out of the newspaper. Arrange them on paper to make a new sentence about Jesus love.
- Help your child decorate a prayer box. Write a prayer each day and then put it in the box. At the end of summer read the prayers together.
- Play the game Boggle and find words about God, Jesus, church.
- Leave a love note for your child to discover sometime during the day.

## Grace Congregational Church, UCC

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### Pastor

Brad Watters  
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### Moderator

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### Christian Education

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### Deacons

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### Mission

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### Music

Terri Taylor  
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### Stewards

Dianne Belloli  
steward@gracechurchucc.org

### Members at Large

Jean Burr  
Jon Ellis  
atlarge@gracechurchucc.org

### Office Administrator:

Kab Rabinowitz  
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### Music Director

Susan Minor  
musicdirector  
@gracechurchucc.org

Missionary in Indonesia – Susan Frans  
sefrans@kupang.wasantara.net.id

### Websites:

<http://www.gracechurchucc.org>  
[www.macucc.org](http://www.macucc.org) (Mass Conf.)  
[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) (UCC)

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