

# GRACE NOTES

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

## Upcoming at Grace Church



### Sundays 9:30 During Lent!

For all the Sundays in March, we are shifting our morning schedule. Come to church early so that you can join a seminar, a workshop, or a forum. These opportunities start at 9:30 so plan to arrive earlier and we'll begin on time. Our first week, we have the opportunity to join a forum: a discussion based on a short provocative video, a prayer workshop: learn and create a communion prayer, a food adventure: join in making something in the kitchen, a visual arts workshop: can we create something to share at Palm Sunday and Easter? a music practice: learn a song or two, plan some music for a future Sunday

The intergenerational worship service will begin at 10:15 and we will aim to end at our usual 11:00 AM.



### Friday, March 6: Camp Night

Join us for a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm or come later for s'mores, camp games and a sing-a-long. Hot dogs and s'mores will be provided by Faith in Action; bring other food to share.

Pastor Brad will figure out a camp fire. If you have camp song books, bring them as well. There's a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall - or just come.

### Saturday, March 21

#### Spring Clean Your Carbon Footprint

What's a carbon footprint anyway? What can you do to make yours smaller, help the planet, and save \$ in the process? Join us from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, March 21 for another event in the Earth Care Education Series



with Edwards Church. This location is Grace Church. A special guest speaker from The Climate Project will provide a timely update on the science behind the movie "An Inconvenient Truth." Children are welcome and can participate in the presentation and discussion or make "earth art" and learn how to be energy detectives. Come for an informative and inspiring morning, and bring a friend! Light refreshments will be provided.

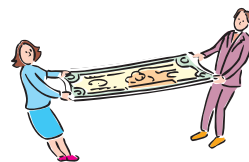
### Spring Lecture Series *(Hosted by Faith in Action)*

#### Wednesday, March 25

#### How to Stretch Your Dollars

*Jennifer Lane, CFP*

Jennifer founded Compass Planning Associates 12 years ago. She appears weekly on New England Cable News' Newsday Live program and the "Ask Jennifer" segment. She has written two books: "The Everything Get Rich Book" and "The Everything Personal Finance in your 40's and 50's Book."



#### 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

*Camille Hendsbee of Megna Nutrition*

Low fat, low cal, egg whites, cholesterol, artificial sweeteners? Learn about healthy eating choices for yourself and your family. Camille is a Licensed Registered Dietitian.



### Grace Notes

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March 2009

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## Note From the Pastor

Dear Ones,

With all the respect and love with which the Holy Spirit fills my heart, I think about you, I pray for your wholeness, and I greet you again in these pages of Grace Notes.

Our friends Tom and Lynn came over to share supper with Debbie and me the other night. Among the vast range of conversation topics we visited was the one about what our impact on the world will be when we have died, passed by the last milestone, crossed the river, etc. None of us are likely to have monuments erected or bridges named for us. There might be an entry on a list of some high school plaque somewhere. For all our individual accomplishments in a culture that celebrates individuals, we recognized that our lasting mark would be visible only in the lives of other people.

Is that true for you? What does it mean to you that your life will or won't leave a lasting impression on its own? What if our only legacy was that which is felt by others?

Martha Warren died a few weeks ago. She was "a life-long member of Grace Church." When I asked people to tell me stories about Martha, the stories poured out. Her nursing career stood tall. The ministries of Grace Church which drew her passion stood beside those stories. For those of us who love Grace Church, Martha Warren is one of those who provided vigor to a vigorous basket of ministries.

Across the street from my house in Needham is an old telephone pole. It is, of course, more than a telephone pole. It is a cable, electric, streetlight pole as well. It may be the oldest one of its kind in Needham. Right next to it and bound to it is a taller, stronger, fresh pole. It is a magnificent product of nature and the hands and tools of humans (although – does anyone stop to notice?) It is the next generation. As soon as all the wires and boxes and the light get transferred to the new pole, men and women in a truck will come and remove the old one, plucking it like a pickup-stick. The old one seemed so permanent and its only mark on the world will be that it faithfully carried the load until the new pole was in place and ready.

For all the years that individuals have worked for the ministries of Grace Church, trying to do the good thing that we tell each other is the work God has for us, let us give thanks. We who are the church today bear the imprint and legacy of that good work, that passion, and that faithfulness. We are blessed to be the ones who feel that gift and accept that gift. We are their mark on the world.

This day, whether the sun shines or the clouds roll in, take a deep breath and feel proud and glad. For what we have received, let us be grateful. For what we are giving and will give in the coming days and years, let us anticipate with joy. As we say each Sunday, "Jesus, with joyful hearts, we give you thanks!"

Peace and Blessing,  
Pastor Brad

## When does the Sunday Worship Service begin? End?

Do you know? Can you guess? Our worship service begins with Director of Music and pianist Susan Minor touching the keys on the piano. A prelude is either the first thing or the introduction to the main event. In our tradition, the prelude is an offering of music that signals the beginning of a sacred change. Like the lighting of the candles, the room is changed. It had been just a room and now it is sacred space. This is a time when people shift gears, centering and preparing themselves for the worship service. In our church, our bulletin has a prayer each week for any of us to read and pray during the prelude.

Do you know when the service ends? For many years, the service ends when Susan finishes

the postlude. "Some worshippers use the postlude as valued time for closing meditation and preparation for the week ahead. Out of respect for them, the congregation is invited to remain seated and silent during the postlude." Remember this quote? It used to be in every one of our worship bulletins. It means that the postlude is like the prelude, a time for nonverbal devotion and appreciation of the musical gift. In February of 2009, Pastor Brad has modified the order of worship just at the end. For these Sundays, Susan has provided a closing piece that is not, strictly speaking, a postlude. Why not? Because it has been followed by the benediction, which is then the final moment of the worship service.

# “Spring-Clean Your Carbon Footprint!”



Saturday, March 21, 2009  
 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
 Grace Congregational Church, UCC  
 76 Salem End Rd., Framingham

*(co-sponsored with Edwards Congregational Church, UCC, Framingham)*

**Just what is a carbon footprint? Why should you care?  
 Learn more and take action!**

**Join us for a timely update on the science behind An Inconvenient Truth  
 with speaker Donna Kramer Merritt from The Climate Project.**

**Bring the family – children welcome – make earth art and  
 learn how to be an energy detective.**

**Coffee, tea, juice, light refreshments and energy-saving door prizes provided.**

**FREE AND OPEN TO ALL**

For more information, visit [www.edwardschurch.org](http://www.edwardschurch.org), or [www.gracechurchucc.org](http://www.gracechurchucc.org),  
 or call Grace Church at 508-872-3342.

This event is generously supported by The Barnes Foundation.

## Grace Church calendar - March

March 1	9:30 AM 10:10 AM	Lenten Workshop Worship	March 16	1:00 PM 5:00 PM	Worship Planning Deacons
March 2	1:00 PM	Worship Planning	March 18	7:30 PM	Stewards
March 3	7:30 PM	Central Council	March 21	10:00 AM	Spring Clean Your Carbon Footprint
March 6	6:00 PM	Camp Night 	March 22	9:30 AM 10:10 AM	Lenten Workshop Worship
March 7	8:00 AM 11:00 AM	Men's Group World Day of Prayer	March 23	1:00 PM	Worship Planning
March 8	9:30 AM 10:10 AM 11:30 AM	Lenten Workshop Worship Faith in Action	March 25	10:00 AM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM	Book Club Eat at Eagles FIA Seminar Stretch Your Dollar 
March 9	1:00 PM 7:30 PM	Worship Planning Women's Lectio	March 29	9:30 AM 10:10 AM	Lenten Workshop Worship
March 11	11:30 AM	Grace Women United	March 30	1:00 PM	Worship Planning
March 15	9:30 AM 10:10 AM	Lenten Workshop Worship			

## Ministries

Mary Memmott  
Member-at-Large  
Missions  
Facilitator

Stewards  
Jean Burr, Chair  
Frank Carney  
Judy Sebastian  
Tim Taylor

stewards@  
gracechurchucc.org

Christian Ed.

Daleen Perkins  
Ronda Yeomans  
christianed@  
gracechurchucc.org

## Mission

### “Cans for Communion” – March 1

We have just received word that the food pantry formerly at SMOC is transitioning to a new space on Irving Street. As they re-stock and plan to re-open they have especially requested: CEREAL, TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES, and TOILETRIES. Thank you!

### Thank you to the children of Grace!

Thank you to the mighty group of Grace children who traveled to Worcester Fellowship on February 1st. They delivered another 80 pairs of socks (to add to the 200 or so we collected at Epiphany), along with several dozen containers of hand sanitizer. Most importantly, they shared their song “You are You” as guest musicians with sign and spoken lyrics, a welcome and special offering.

Special thanks to Susan Minor and Terri Taylor for helping them to master this song. We’re also grateful that the impromptu snowball fight on the steps of Worcester City Hall stayed fun and (basically) injury-free – not every traveling choir can boast of such good snowball aim!

## Stewards

### Denominational dues

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

\$17.80 is not a lot of money out of an individual pocket, but \$1,305 from the Church budget is a significant amount. We realize that some members may not be able to afford even this amount. And that’s okay. However, for others who could help by paying their own dues, perhaps you would even be willing to round up your contribution to \$36.00 to help cover the membership dues for someone else.

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.

## Christian Education

Christian Education is looking for volunteers to fill in the March and April teaching schedules. Speak to Ronda or Daleen if you can donate a Sunday or two to work with the children. It’s a lot of fun and your assistance is much appreciated by not only Daleen and Ronda, but also by the children.

## Faith in Action

Your Faith in Action team has been busy planning events for the coming spring and we are now excited to invite all of you to take part in any or all of them. Please read the articles on page 1 and mark the dates on your calendars. Also, remember that everyone is invited to meet with us at our meetings, the next one of which will be on March 8, following worship. Our meetings are fun, short, and open to all!

Valentine’s Day lasted a whole month at Grace Church this year! Those coming to services were invited to write a message on a red heart and have

it posted on the wall in the fellowship area. The words of appreciation and affection were directed, in many cases, to individuals for various reasons, and some were more generally meant for the entire church. All were a joy to read and a reminder to all that we are a very close community here at 76 Salem End Road. For those who weren’t able to visit this month, here are a few of those loving messages: “GRACE IS STILL SPEAKING!”, “WE ARE SMALL BUT MIGHTY”, GRACE CHURCH PUTS OUR FAITH INTO ACTION”, and “I LIKE THAT WE KNOW EACH OTHER BY NAME”.

## Ministries

**Deacon**  
**Ruth Carney, Chair**  
**George Tynes**  
**Karolyne White**

**deacons@**  
**gracechurchucc.**  
**org**

### **In Case of Cancellation**

As winter is here in full force and the weather turns on us, we are connected to WCVB, Channel 5. If a service or event needs to be cancelled because of weather, tune to Channel 5 for our cancellation listing or their website [www.thebostonchannel.com](http://www.thebostonchannel.com).

## Deacons

People of Grace,

Even though spring is just around the corner, winter seems like it is not done with us. Please keep safe and do not take unnecessary chances. Please don't forget if we need to cancel worship or any other event for weather related reasons, we are connected with The Boston Channel, so tune to WCRB Channel 5, or their website [www.thebostonchannel.com](http://www.thebostonchannel.com) for the listing. In addition to this list, there would also be an email sent out.

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

The significance of Lent – Lent is our next season of the Christian year. Its length is the 40 days preceding Easter Day (April 12), not counting Sundays. This means Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday (this year February 25). Lent commemorates Jesus' fast and temptation in the wilderness of Judea Province, which, according to the Gospels, lasted 40 days. Many find this time of the Christian year as a time of repentance and forgiveness. Many find this time of the Christian year as a time of "going without" or "turning a new leaf." Is there a change you would like to make in your life? Begin a new practice?

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 \$35.00.

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 new 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

### **Thoughts on prayer**

If the Bible is our food, than prayer is our air. It's the way we draw closer to God. Prayer is rich and varied. Sometimes we confess our sins in a prayer of penitence. Sometimes we praise God in worship and thanksgiving. Sometimes we ask God for help and grace to meet whatever comes our way. Sometimes we pray for other people. Sometimes we're quiet, knowing that when we stop clamoring and pleading, there comes a sense of God's reply, some message to us. It is God we seek in prayer. Everything else is secondary.

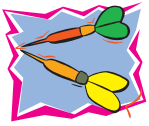
### **An Irish Blessing**

May you have walls to keep out the wind,  
a roof to keep out the rain,  
warm drinks by the fire,  
laughter to cheer you,  
those you love near you,  
and all that you heart may desire,  
including the love of God within.

## About Us

- Judy Sebastian sends a note of thanks to her Grace Church friends who have been in touch during her recent surgery. Thanks for the cards, telephone calls and meals. All have been much appreciated.
- Prayers of sympathy and support for the family of Martha Warren, who passed away in February.

## Dart Tournament at Eagles



Barbara Sherman is chairing the First Annual Framingham Eagles "Luck of the Draw" Dart Tournament. This fun event will be on Saturday, March 14, beginning at 1:00 pm (registration starts at noon). The entry fee is \$10 plus a non-perishable food item (or an additional \$2 donation). Additional competitions are \$10. All proceeds will benefit the local food bank. Eagles is located at 55 Park Street.

If anyone doesn't want to play darts, Barbara could use help with getting gift certificates, raffle prizes, sponsorship of the dart board (\$25/board) and of course donations of food or money. Expenses to run this tournament are minimal, no fee to rent the hall and all profits will go directly to benefit the food pantry. The Eagles make nothing on the tournament except what is sold at the bar or in the Eagles Grills.

Ellie Crawford, Shirley Atwell, Brad Goodwin, and Barbara and Dave Sherman are all members of the Eagles.

## World Day of Prayer at St. Andrew's on March 7

The World Day of Prayer service will be held this year at Saint Andrews Church (Maple Street) on Saturday, March 7 at 11:00 AM (registration at 10:30).

Those from Grace involved in this year's World Day of Prayer are Lynn Burdett, Jackie Mague and Terri Taylor.

A \$5 donation is suggested for lunch, and the cost per child is \$5 to cover lunch and childcare. There is a \$15 maximum per family. For more information, check out [www.standrewsfram-ma.org](http://www.standrewsfram-ma.org)

World Day of Prayer is a Global Ecumenical Movement of Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action. Women of many faith traditions come together to observe a common day of prayer each year in March. Throughout the entire day, we collectively pray all over the world, beginning with the first sunrise and ending at the last sunset. Our prayers follow the sun's path around the globe.

Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

The first organized day of prayer was held nationally in 1920. Each of the 170 countries celebrating WDP has an organized country committee of ecumenical women representing many cultures, races and faith traditions. Each country's committee is responsible for determining the use of the offering as it relates to the theme for each year. Offering grants are made to women's and children's groups in each country.

Grace Congregational, UCC  
PO Box 1481  
76 Salem End Road  
Framingham, MA 01702  
508-872-3342  
[www.gracechurchucc.org](http://www.gracechurchucc.org)  
[www.macucc.org](http://www.macucc.org) (Mass Conf.)  
[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) (UCC)

Pastor: Brad Watters  
[pastor@gracechurchucc.org](mailto:pastor@gracechurchucc.org)

Moderator: Linda Hilliard  
[moderator@gracechurchucc.org](mailto:moderator@gracechurchucc.org)

Christian Education:  
Ronda Yeomans  
[christianed@gracechurchucc.org](mailto:christianed@gracechurchucc.org)

Deacons: Ruth Carney  
[deacon@gracechurchucc.org](mailto:deacon@gracechurchucc.org)

Stewards: Jean Burr  
[steward@gracechurchucc.org](mailto:steward@gracechurchucc.org)

Members at Large: Terri Taylor,  
Mary Memmott  
[atlarge@gracechurchucc.org](mailto:atlarge@gracechurchucc.org)

Office Administrator:  
Kab Rabinowitz  
[office@gracechurchucc.org](mailto:office@gracechurchucc.org)

Music Director: Susan Minor  
[musicdirector@gracechurchucc.org](mailto:musicdirector@gracechurchucc.org)

Missionary in Indonesia:  
Susan Frans  
[sefrans@kupang.wasantara.net.id](mailto:sefrans@kupang.wasantara.net.id)

## Lectio on March 9th

The Lectio Group meets each month on the second Monday at Grace starting at 7:30 p.m. We share in fellowship and scripture, usually chosen from the following Sunday's lectionary options. If you are looking for a way to add to your spiritual life, come and join us!

We are starting to plan now for the annual Women's retreat. If you are interested or would just like more information, please contact Laura Buck or Terri Taylor.