

GRACE NOTES

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

Music Workshop on November 10

Opening the Gates: Music & Inter-generational Worship

Fiona Vidal-White will lead the workshop, using her hymnal "My Heart Sings Out." We are hosting the workshop at Grace on Saturday, November 10, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The cost is \$40 and includes lunch. We are inviting participants to attend Sunday worship, led by Ms. Vidal-White, on November 11, at 10:00.

So far, church musicians, pastors, music staff, and lay leaders have registered. We welcome anyone who has a passion for music in a worship setting and making that music accessible to all worshippers.

We need donations of baked goods and/or cider or cups. If you wish to attend - or can help with serving lunch and other hospitality on Saturday, just see Brad Watters, Terri Taylor or Susan Minor.

Grace Church on Nov. 3: Family Fun Day for the Earth

At the 26th General Synod of the United Church of Christ this year, the representatives approved a resolution on climate change calling for "all segments of the Church to address global warming in their decisions and investments and in their educational and advocacy efforts."

As part of our response to this call of caring for creation, the Grace Missions Team is sponsoring a "Family Fun Day for the Earth" from 10-12 on Nov. 3rd, a national day of action on global warming.

If you haven't signed up to help with the day yet, please feel



We need donations of baked goods and/or cider or cups

welcome to join us! We'll be there from set-up to clean-up from 9 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. We need donations of baked goods and/or cider or cups for our sale (to benefit the Stearns Farm share and the SMOC pantry). We are also collecting recyclables for kids' crafts (especially paper tubes, egg cartons, and shoeboxes), and gently-used Halloween costumes.

Finally, please pass along our flyer and invite your friends and neighbors to this event. Our big "features" – a veggie-oil powered car and the "Green Grease Ambulance" will be eye-catching draws in the parking lot, and we hope everyone who drops by will find some fun and fellowship while taking a positive stand for their planet.

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- Buddy Coordinator Needed
 - "Blue Jean Sunday and Greening of the Church"
- See Deacon's column



Dear Ones,

Grace Congregational in Framingham is an exciting place to be these days. When something happens at our church, the energy is focused and significant. This is a sign to us. What does this sign mean?

Focused energy is not a new thing for Grace Congregational, is it? You each claim memories unique to you. Everyone has a story about when they worked on some project or other at church and they found clarity, fellowship, accomplishment, and satisfaction. Praise God for the joy of these creating moments!

That last paragraph actually contains a question. Let me be more explicit. Does everyone whom we might include in our church community have that kind of story? Who might not? Churches have the habit, like any other organization, of making broad invitations to people to

“get involved” or to “sign up today!” For example, I invite each of you to come to worship on Wednesday evening and Bible Study on Monday morning. That’s a good thing, a broad invitation. There are among us some folks who appreciate that kind of invitation. One can take it or leave it.

There are some among us for whom that kind of invitation is not sufficient. There are some of us who need another person to look us in the eye and say, “We’re going to meet to (plan, work, worship, play, etc.), would you come?” The level of energy and immediacy of that individual invitation is a difference for which I believe we can each strive. In this matter, let us follow the Bible. Most of the time God and our beloved Jesus call one person at a time!

Peace and Blessing,
Pastor Brad

Grace Church's Holiday Fair

Friday, November 30 • 6 to 8 PM
Saturday, December 1 • 9 AM to 1 PM

- Baked goods
 - Christmas Tea Room
 - Country pantry
 - Cookie walk
 - Books, tapes, videos
 - Collectibles
 - Hand-crafted items
 - Holiday decorations
 - Jewelry
 - Knit, crocheted and sewn items.
 - Plants
 - Recycled gifts
 - Silent Auction
- (No rummage or white elephant)



Check the volunteer sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact Jean Burr, Beverly Ablondi or Lynn Burdett for more information.

Break out those craft supplies; start assembling items for a Silent Auction basket; put up your best jams and jellies.



All are invited!

Stewardship Campaign

Pot Luck Supper

(and team presentations)

Saturday, November 17
6 pm - Fellowship Hall

Refer questions to
Jean Burr or Linda Hilliard

Living Nativity at Grace

Sunday,
December 9
4:00 PM



- The sound of Christmas carols will fill the air.
- Mary will arrive on a donkey (hopefully) with Joseph.
- The shepherds will be in the fields with the sheep (hopefully)
- Cocoa and cookies will warm people after the service.
- Rehearsals will be at a minimum.

We are looking for those young in age or heart to be in costume and take part in the story. We are looking for those who would like to work behind the scene. We are looking for people who are ready for fun and fellowship.

Planning session - Sunday, October 28 - after church.
Refer questions to Daleen Perkins

Church calendar - November

Meetings at 76 Salem End Road unless otherwise noted.

November 3	10:00 AM	Famile Fun Day (see page one)
November 4	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Singer rehearsal Worship Cans for Communion
November 5	10:00 AM 7:30 PM	Bible Study Women's Lectio
November 6	7:30 PM	Central Council
November 7	10:00 AM 7:00 PM	Crafters Healing Worship
November 10	9:00 AM	Music Workshop
November 11	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Singer rehearsal Worship
November 13	7:30 PM	Missions
November 14	7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Worship Stewards
November 16		Turning Point Shelter
November 17		Stewardship Potluck Supper

November 18	Stewardship Sunday	
	8:30 AM	Singer rehearsal
	10:00 AM	Worship
	11:30 AM	Faith in Action
November 19	10:00 AM	Bible Study
	7:30 PM	Deacons
November 20	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	
November 22	Happy Thanksgiving!	
November 25	Bring a Bear	
	Jeans Sunday/Greening of the church	
	8:30 AM	Singer rehearsal
	10:00 AM	Worship
November 26	10:00 AM	Bible Study
November 28	Eat at Eagles!	
	10:00 AM	Book Club
	7:00 PM	Worship
November 29	Set up for Holiday Fair	
November 30	Set up for Holiday Fair	
	6:00 PM	Fair Opens
December 1	9 am to 1 pm	Holiday Fair
December 9	4:00 pm	Living Nativity

Ministry Teams

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**Missions Ministry
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Chair
Mary Memmott
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**Stewards Ministry
Team**
Jean Burr, Chair
Lynn Burdett
Frank Carney
Judy Sebastian
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Stewards

- The Stewards Ministry Team will soon complete an “information” book regarding our building. It will be available for members seeking answers to the “who, where & how” questions about 76 Salem End. The book will be kept on the counter outside of the office.
- The Stewardship Task Team is hard at work and has designated November 18 as our Stewardship Sunday. They have interesting and fun things planned for us. For further details, turn to page six. In the meantime, remember your stewardship of time as well as of money. Sign up today to clean the building once a month, weed the flower beds, be a helper for Christian Ed, be a reader on a Sunday morning, etc. (The list goes on and on and.....)
- Steps are being taken to empty the remaining pod in order to have it removed ASAP. If you, or your team, have anything stored there, please take note.
- Ministry Team budgets for 2008 are due to the Stewards on or before December 15.

Mission

November Cans for Communion – Special Thanksgiving Basket Drive

This month we are especially looking for boxes of instant potatoes and instant stuffing. The Metrowest Harvest Food Pantry at SMOC will be using these to fill over 400 Thanksgiving baskets for needy families in the Framingham area. To make sure everyone gets a chance to contribute, we be collecting on two Sundays this month: Nov. 4th and 11th. The pantry has a huge need for these items – if you can give generously to the can drive, this is the month to do it! Please contact Mary Memmott if you would like to help deliver our collection.

There's a Chair for You

We always have an empty chair at our Missions Team meetings – would you like to join us? Our next meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 13th at 7:30 p.m. at Grace Church.

Christian Education

CE had a great September as we learned all about the adventures of Abraham and Sarah. These were also lessons on faith, trusting God, and listening for what it is that God wants us to do. In October we are learning the story of Naomi and Ruth. In learning about their relationship, their loyalty, and how they cared for each other, we are also learning about how God wants us to care for each other, and also for the earth. In November, we embark on the fascinating and exciting stories about David.

We are also in the process of creating our whole church Christmas event, A Living Nativity, which will be held outside the building with real animals. We are really looking forward to involving the entire church community, not just the children, in this fabulous celebration of the birth of Christ. It will be in the afternoon on Dec. 9.

The order of the Christian Ed calendar is rearranged this month to ensure the children will be in service Nov. 11 for the intergenerational singing experience resulting from the “Opening the Gates” seminar on Sat. Nov. 10. For this reason Nov. 4, will be a traditional classroom Sunday with Opening Worship starting in the function room at 10 AM. November 18 and 25 will be traditional classroom Sundays as previously scheduled.

Getting ready for the Fair

In preparation for the Holiday Fair, the crafters are working at the church on Wednesdays (October 31, November 7 and 21), beginning at 10:00 AM. If you can't attend, consider making holiday crafts at home. For ideas, speak to Jackie Mague or Beverly Ablondi.



Ministry Teams

Deacon Ministry Team

Ruth Carney, Chair

Joanne Larkins

George Tynes

Karolyne White

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org

Deacons

People of Grace,

On October 21, we welcomed back the Reverend Larry Iannetti to our worship service. Larry was providing pulpit supply while Pastor Brad attended a family wedding. Larry said it felt like “he was coming home” to be back with us. Many of you probably remember that he was our “Interim-Interim” between Gretchen and Brad. During the fellowship time after worship, Larry was asking about those he didn’t see at church. He sends his best regards to all. Susan ended our worship on the 21st with a lovely postlude beginning softly and ending with a marvelous crescendo of *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* with the congregation joining in. She does bring a smile to our faces and we do know this wasn’t the only reason the Sox won the American league pennant that night.

We continue to have a mid-week worship service every Wednesday at 7:00 PM. On the first Wednesday of each month, this is a Healing Service. These Healing Services are for everyone who seeks healing whether for yourself or for someone else in your life. Healing can be in mind, spirit and/or body. We all

find strength in relationship with one another.

Please put November 25 on your calendar now. This is going to be “Blue Jean Sunday and Greening of the Church.” You are invited to wear comfortable clothes to church, bring a bag lunch and stay to decorated the church for Advent and Christmas. There will be something for everyone to do, no matter what your age or physical abilities. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

The church needs a Coordinator for our “Buddies.” The Missions Ministry Team (and especially Christine Collins) had taken this role on, but now with only two members on the team this needs to be handled in a different way. This role does not require visiting anyone unless you want to – it is an organizational role. If you feel called to do this or are interested in more information, please be in touch with one of the Deacons or Pastor Brad. This role is extremely important and necessary for our church.

We are still in need of volunteers to be a lay reader, 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. You may find the sign-up board on top of the bookcase that holds the hymnals and Bibles.

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*

Faith in Action



- T-shirts are in! Don’t wait to get your new Grace Church shirt, available on Sunday, October 28, after church. Youth sizes (sm, med, lg) are \$8 each. Adult sizes (sm, med, lg, xlg) are \$10 and adult size XXL is \$12.

- In order to further promote our recycling program, please take note of the display on November 3 at the Family Fun Day For The Earth, and on the 4th before or after our worship service. There will also be helpful handouts available on the table.



- See teddy bear article on page six.
- Our next meeting is scheduled for November 18 following worship. You are invited.

Grace reps visit Worcester Church

On Sunday, October 14, Linda Hilliard and Daleen Perkins visited Park Church in Worcester. Sadly, the Park Church congregation is in the process of selling their 100-year-old building. Once the sale is complete, they will rent space from another church until they can find a permanent new church home.

After the morning worship service, Linda (head of Grace's Building Task Team) and Daleen (head of the Physical Asset Team) spoke to the congregation about Grace's experience in selling and relocating. It was a lively - and moving - discussion, lasting well over an hour, in which valuable information was shared. As the Park congregation grieves the lost of their beloved building - and begins to plan for their future, let us keep them in our prayers.

Bring a bear to church starting November 25



The Faith in Action Teddy Bear collection will begin on Sunday, November 25 and culminate on December 16, when Brad will dedicate them for distribution to shut-ins, hospitals, police, etc. Bears (or other four-footed animals) should be new and, need we say, stuffed! They will be named and tagged with best wishes from Grace Church. If you wish, you may attach a tag with whatever name you wish to give your bear.

The Best Is Yet To Come!

Grace Church's 2008 Stewardship Campaign is underway

For 2008, the Grace Church Stewardship Campaign theme is: *The Best Is Yet To Come!* We're here, we're thriving, and it's going to become better and better!

The 2008 Stewardship Campaign team seeks your enthusiastic support as we celebrate the possibilities, reinvent what it means to be Grace Church, and embrace our creativity and faith.

- Why Do you Pledge to Grace Church? This question is being asked right now. And the answers will be part of a display in the Fellowship Hall. You know why you give; check out the responses that others have given.
- On November 17 (Saturday night) we will have a potluck dinner at the church (see page three). Part of the festivities will be some of our Ministry Teams and Task Teams talking about their plans for 2008 in an entertaining way. If you want to find out what they are up to - and have a few big time laughs - please be at the Pot Luck!
- Stewardship Sunday is November 18. You will be asked to submit your pledge cards. Please prayerfully consider the importance of Grace in your life. And remember: *The Best is Yet to Come!*

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