

GRACE NOTES

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

Styrofoam Recycling Day Saturday, October 22nd

...and Plastic Flatware that has been rinsed
and packed in separate containers



10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Volunteers are needed throughout the day. Speak to Jean Burr.

In the meantime, please pick up flyers from the fellowship hall and pass and post them to help spread the word throughout the community.

The following collection dates have been set for January 7 and April 28. As usual, the hours will be 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

How Did I Become a Senior and What Should I Do About It?

October 29th

Please help us promote this Grace Church event!
See page 5 for details

Congregational Conversation on Sunday Oct. 2nd

As the feasibility study for exploring options for building expansion draws to a close, we have much to celebrate.

We wondered if an architect could really design something that looked like a church but not “too much” like a church so that it would be welcoming to both those who need it to look like church and those who need it to not look like church. The answer was yes.

The master planning process provided an opportunity to imagine what our optimum space would be, and to define what would be our minimum space needs.

However, site constraints and financial constraints both present significant challenges. Conversations have been happening in small groups, sometimes in meetings and sometimes in the “corners” at coffee hours about the future of our church.

It is time once again for all of us to come together and discuss the future, not just with those we are each close to, but with everyone.

We are going to have a set of structured yet informal opportunities for the congregation to discuss these issues after church. The first of these sessions will

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Dear Ones,

Elijah called to her and said, 'Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.' But the widow said, 'As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug. I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.' Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son.' 1 Kings 17:10-14

That, I'm sorry to say, is one of the only passages in the Bible that approaches being a recipe! I think it would not pass whatever test a recipe has to pass in order to get into the church cookbook.

Do you follow recipes when you cook? Sure you do. Whether you are someone with shelf after shelf of back issues of Gourmet magazine or you are someone who reads the instructions on the microwave box every night before you heat up the frozen entrée, we follow recipes to make sure we get it right. Some of us follow recipes to the letter. If it says one cup of diced carrots, then $\frac{3}{4}$ cup is just not correct. Having all the ingredients available in just the right proportion and preparation before starting to put a recipe together is a wonderful feeling. There is something deeply satisfying about following the instructions exactly and having a stew or a batch of cookies come out just right.

In the interests, as they say, of full disclosure, I will admit that I have a more flexible relationship with recipes than some people. I like to think that I can vary an ingredient here or there when I'm missing something. Won't some chopped basil do just as well as some chopped parsley? Is sour cream a substitute for heavy cream? I also like to think that I might stumble upon something unexpected and wonderful.

Like what? Take the recipe for oatmeal cookies on the inside of the lid of a container of Old Fashioned Quaker Oats. It calls for one teaspoon of ground cinnamon. I made a batch with $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of ground cinnamon and added one teaspoon of a blend of spices called Chinese Five Spice. Our neighbors are still pestering me for the recipe. Very satisfying.

The truth I've experienced in recipe-following is that I almost never have everything I'm supposed to have and I almost always can't do some step exactly like it says. For me, all recipes are "really more like guidelines," (to quote the pirates.) And, yes, here's the Jesus part of today's essay. Jesus was a follower of the law. He loved the law of his family and of the people who came to follow or to listen to him. He "opened the scriptures." Jesus would not want any of us to overthrow the patterns of order and health that have enabled people to live together with justice and mutuality. It is also clear that Jesus sometimes treated the law more like guidelines. He trusted a particularly loving kind of common sense that led him to violate the letter of the law in order to fulfill the wonder of the law. I believe Jesus calls us to do the same. I believe that each of you, each of us, is called – is commanded to make something nourishing and delicious and personal with the recipes of our tradition.

And let's remember that the recipe Elijah requested from "the widow of Zarephath" in the passage quoted above, wasn't much of a recipe for a cook. The Bible is not that kind of a cookbook. Elija offered a recipe of hope for someone who didn't have any. "Do not be afraid. Make a little something to share. We'll eat and then see what is best to do next." That's the kind of recipe I hope we can each cook up this day and every day.

*Peace and Blessing,
Pastor Brad*

Grace Congregational, UCC

PO Box 1481 • 76 Salem End Road, Framingham 01702
508-872-3342

www.gracechurchucc.org • www.macucc.org (Mass Conf.)
www.ucc.org (UCC)

Pastor: Brad Watters • pastor@gracechurchucc.org

Leadership Ministry Team to Meet

The Leadership Ministry Team will meet on Monday, October 3rd at 7:30 pm. The agenda includes discussing a stewardship campaign, the calendar and organizing for advent. All are welcome.

Faith in Action

Movie Night

The September movie night proved to be well attended and all 18 who were there enjoyed a very good movie and freshly made popcorn (right off the cobs from Stearns Farm!) and other snacks as well.

The movie, FIREPROOF, as well as being enjoyable, gave everyone something to think about and we recommend any group wishing to see it to contact the church office to make arrangements. We have the rights to show the film until the end of the year.

And More Movies

- The movie, COURAGEOUS, from the creators of FIREPROOF, will be opening soon in local theaters. Stay tuned for a possible group night out to see this one or, of course, put it on your own list of movies to see!

- In conjunction with the Earthcare team, plans are being made to host another movie night soon, so as soon as a date is announced, be sure to make a note of it!

Anytime Players . . .

If you haven't contacted Daleen Perkins yet about the Not For Anytime Players' next play, do it soon! There are lots of ways to be a part of this really fun event.

Jean Burr, Faith in Action

Missions

Stearns Farm Fall Work Day – Sat., Oct. 15th

We continue to enjoy our membership in Stearns Farm this year, and the Framingham Hope pantry is grateful for the pounds and pounds of produce we have shared with them.

For our fall work day, we will most likely be planting garlic, and there will be work in the children's garden to do. Sit-down jobs are available, let us know your requirements.

We will meet at the farm on October 15th at 9:45 a.m. sharp for instructions and work until noon.

Dress for the weather. Optional "stone soup" lunch to follow. Friends and family are welcome, contact Mary Memmott if you would like to join us.

Cans for Communion – Oct. 2nd

This month we will focus on collecting: BOXES OF CEREAL, but all donations are welcome. Please remember that expired, damaged or unlabeled cans cannot be safely donated – the food pantry must dispose of these types of cans and this trash removal adds to their expenses.

If you would like to sign up to deliver this month's collection, please see the sign-up list in the fellowship hall, or talk to Mary Memmott. Thank you for your continued support of the Framingham "Hope" Food Pantry!

Mary Memmott

Calendar - October

October 1	8:00 AM	Men's Group	October 16	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Singers Worship Sunday School
October 2	CANS FOR COMMUNION 9:00 AM Singers 10:00 AM Worship Multi-generational worship Congregational Conversation		October 22	10:00 AM	Styrofoam Recycling
October 3	7:30 PM	Leadership Team mtg.	October 23	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Singers Worship Sunday School
October 9	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Singers Worship Multi-generational worship	October 26	10:00 AM	Book Club
October 12	11:30 AM	Grace Women United	October 29	9:00 AM	FIA Senior Seminar
October 15	9:45 AM	Stearns Farm Workday	October 30	9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Singers Worship Sunday School

It's great to have more folks back at church after a summer of adventures and stories to tell. We've all grown in various ways and it is like homecoming to see old friends back again.

The whole congregation was recommissioned as teachers on "Rally Day/Homecoming" since we all teach each other with every interaction. Through our struggles and celebrations we learn in our faith together. All those over 18 please sign up to "assist" Sunday School at least once during the year so that we can continue to meet our "Safe Sanctuaries" pledge of having 2 adults present at all times. To celebrate the renewed school year, we again served the traditional ice cream sundaes which were as sweet as ever. Congratulations to all those kids at heart for showing excellent self control and not knocking each other over on the way to the ice cream table. Well done!

The kids have been participating quite a bit in the first half hour of service before passing the peace and heading up to Sunday School. They are ringing bells, lighting candles, singing songs, reading readings, and participating in our heartfelt discussions at "consultation" time. They also welcome their inclusion when we all voice our prayer concerns. Thank you to Ronda, Mary, Laura and Daleen for planning and teaching lessons. The Sunday School is not purchasing a curriculum this year. Teachers can either look up the readings of the week online and create a lesson from that, or pick an appropriate theme to teach. Ronda has

years of previous curriculum lessons at her house if anyone would like to use a specific resource.

The kids had a great time in Sunday School and after learning about the United Nations International Day of Peace, and how we could participate. We constructed a HUGE peace dove puppet (named "Grace" of course). We stayed a couple of hours after church to finish it and celebrated with ice cream for lunch when we were finally done. Wednesday Sept. 21, Ellen, Amelia, Eleanor, Brad, and Ronda finished last minute touches on the dove and then paraded it (with Brad's dogs!) down Salem Ave, across the pedestrian bridge and over to Framingham center to participate in the Framingham Peace Rally sponsored by the Centers of Light and the Interfaith Ministries. Our dove, Grace, joined doves from 2 other churches and a bunch of folks with posters to wave at the rush hour traffic who beeped and waved their support. The giant white doves looked spectacular against the blue sky and green trees. It was really visually stunning. There was

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Prayer Concerns

- Prayers of healing for
Joanie Bodge
Frank Carney
Candice Mitchell
Karolyne White
- Prayers of support for the family of Charlie Philips, a long-time Grace Church member, who passed away on September 12th.

Thank you

Thank you to the kind and thoughtful people at Grace Church Framingham for the generous check I received on the occasion of my wedding. My new husband, Rodger, and I both appreciate the gift.

*With love,
Susan (Minor)*

Leadership Update

Continued from page one

be after church on October 2. Do not be concerned about missing a single session if you have another commitment. That is the reason for having several sessions. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

*Blessings,
Linda Dunbrack*

GWU meeting

Grace Women United will meet on Wed, 10/12. Bring lunch and any ideas for the coming year.

Book Club

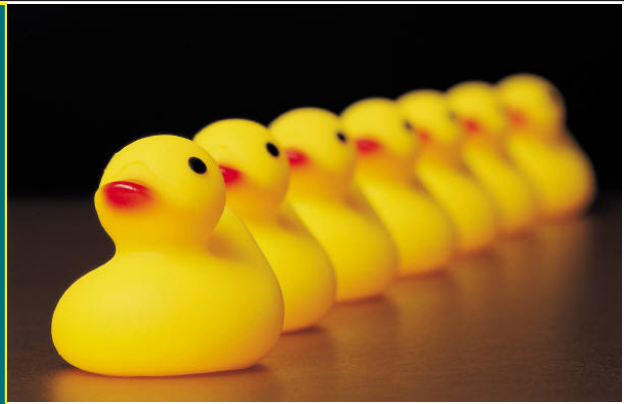
Book Club will meet on Wednesday, September 18 and October 26th 9/28 at 10AM. We will discuss the books that each of us read over the summer.

No Holiday Fair

Grace Women United has decided not to host a Holiday Fair this December.

However, there will be a table of homemade holiday gift items after church for a few Sundays in December (for church members' enjoyment only, not open to the public)

Get All Your Ducks in a Row (Maintain Your Independence)



How Did I Become a Senior and What Should I Do About It?

October 29, 2011

9:30 to 11:30 AM (followed by lunch)
(9:00 - Registration)

Admission is free; reservations required

Grace Church is hosting a unique Life Care Planning panel for seniors (and their offspring). The panelists will be discussing services available to seniors, what options there are and what circumstances would warrant the need for these services.

Our topics and panelists are:

- **Overcoming Emotional Hurdles & Knowing Your Senior Living Options**
Sally Kaitz, MSW, LCSW, C-ASWCM
- **Moving or Downsizing - Where to Begin?**
Marie LeBlanc, President, Transitions Liquidation Services, Inc.
- **Hospice 101** - Michelle Perry, Community Resource Educator, VistaCare Hospice
- **Life Care Planning** - Tracey Ingle, Elder Law Attorney

Call the office to reserve a space

Note to Grace
Church members:
Please help us
promote this seminar
be posting fillers,
telling friends
and family - and
attending yourself.

Christian Education *Continued from page four*

beautiful music from 3 different musical groups, a labyrinth, peace flags, free food and Sierra Club table. They also sold Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate. We would have stayed longer for the prayer and lantern lighting, but we got cold so we had dinner and took the dove home. It was delightful to bring joyful inspiration to so many passersby.

We also think our dove, Grace, will have many future uses in the life of our congregation. She is very eye-catching and would make a good attention getter for whatever future events we have at church, or if we march in any other parades/peaceful protests. In October, Sunday School will be held on October 9, 16, and 23 with a possible lesson or field trip

on Oct. 30. Please contact Ronda Yeomans (MRCE.Yeomans@verizon.net) to let us know if your family will be away Oct. 9 over Columbus Day weekend so we may determine whether or not to provide a lesson that day. Thank you!

Ronda Yeomans