

GRACE NOTES

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

This Fall at Grace Church



Cans for Communion – Sept. 5th

Requested: Peanut butter, tuna and fruit juice. See page 3.

Yard Sale - September 11th

Let's free ourselves from the things we are keeping captive! See article at right



Rally Day - September 12th

This is a day when we commission ourselves as a congregation to teach our children our faith in whatever way we are able. Yes, there will be ice cream! See page 5.

Sunday School begins - September 17th

Teachers and assistants are needed. See page 5.



Walk to Prevent Homelessness – Sept. 26th

The seventh annual Walk to Prevent Homelessness is 12:30-3:00 p.m. from Framingham Center Common to Brophy School and back. See page 3.

Global Work Party - October 10th

The Earthcare Education group from Grace and Edwards churches will be sponsoring a tree-planting event. See page 3.



Not Ready for Anytime Players - October 16th



Our intrepid troupe of performers is back with an exciting "Church Supper" mystery." See page 4.

Styrofoam Collections Day - October 23rd

Make a Difference! Collecting Styrofoam, plastic tableware and electronics. Volunteers will be needed to help that day. See page 6



Beyond the 11th Yard Sale!

This summer, we reflected in worship on freedom and the need for freedom in the world. To move our faith conversation into action, let's free ourselves from the things we are keeping captive, and that also hold us captive! If you have things that could be a blessing to another but are no longer useful to you, consider donating. On September 11th from 9-2pm, we will host a Beyond the 11th Yard Sale!

The yard sale will have a mission focus. The proceeds from the yard sale will be split evenly between a group of 9/11 widows who organized to help widows in Afghanistan (<http://beyondthe11th.org>) and an organization called "A Suitable Image" in Framingham, which provides nice outfits for job-seekers who can't afford them along with other support. The kids will have their own special area from which to sell their things and the opportunity to choose a charity as a group for donating the proceeds.



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What will we need from you?

Stuff to sell, mostly. If you are available to price items, or help out on the day of the sale, please

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Where's Brad?

Starting on Sunday, August 29, I will be away at a conference on Star Island. This conference will focus on clergy serving local congregations in their first 1-10 years of ordained ministry.

I haven't gone away for a professional development conference for more than a day, since I've been ordained, so I'm a little wary. I hope to use the time to renew my energy for the program year that is about to start. I'll be sure to tell you all about it when I return.

The conference is subsidized by the United Church of Christ (and by the Unitarian Universalist Association.) My fees are covered by Grace Congregational United Church of Christ. So, on two counts, thank you!

Yardsale

Continued from page one

let Brad know. We would be exceedingly grateful. We will be doing some advertising online and via local community e-mail lists, but we will also need to spread the word with signs. Look for signs and details at church next week, or e-mail Linda Dunbrack to get one that you can print.

Bring items to church on Sunday, September 5. Also, Wednesday - Friday, preferably by noon. We will store things temporarily in the second shed. If you need help moving the bigger stuff out of your home, we will plan to have a truck available and a crew for pickups! Let Brad know that you want some stuff picked up and we'll put you on the schedule.

Larger Space Team Update

By Linda Dunbrack

Should we be called the "Larger Space" team? What about "Managed Space for Grace" or something else? We haven't really settled on a name for ourselves yet, but that doesn't mean we haven't been at work.

Rather than naming ourselves, the focus of the team has been on maintaining the integrity of the process and doing it right, rather than meeting a deadline. We are moving toward answering several questions to form a foundation.

1. What is the best process? We started by gathering some resources divided them among us to read, and shared some of the wisdom from them. Some team members have sent out some feelers informally to others who have built for advice and recommendations. We thought it was important to build upon the wisdom of those who have done this before and learn from their experiences, including the good, the bad, and the ugly.

2. How do we communicate about the process with and involve people inside and outside the church? It is important for all who are involved in the church to have the opportunity to express their views, but even more so to listen to the views of others. I have a book that describes listening as a "sacred art," and I truly believe that the success or failure of the project will reflect our collective ability to listen to one another and our neighbors with that in mind.

3. What are we looking for in an architect, how do we find the right architect, and what do we want the architect to do?

4. How do we avoid potential pitfalls and stumbling blocks? How do we keep the focus on what is most important: ministry, worship, mission, and outreach to the community? How do we ensure the process remains connected to what God wants?

Many of these things can begin to happen concurrently, but the process is beginning with all the best advice from all of our resources about choosing an architect. Fundamentally, most of these resources point to the need for having some sort of "master plan" for ministry and needs assessment for both ministry and space before even hiring an architect. That is, as a community, we have some homework to do this fall. Be prepared to help us complete that homework, as your participation is essential.

Larger Space Meeting

Sunday, September 12:

After church

Monday, September 27 at

7:00 pm

Leadership Meeting

Sunday, September 19

After Church

Missions

Cans for Communion – Sept. 5th



This month the food pantry has especially requested: PEANUT BUTTER, TUNA and 100% FRUIT JUICE (plastic or glass containers please, not juice boxes). 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 Mary Memmott. Thank you

for your continued support of the Framingham "Hope" Food Pantry!

Walk to Prevent Homelessness 2010 – Sunday, Sept. 26



The seventh annual Walk to Prevent Homelessness is scheduled for Sunday, September 26 – 12:30-3:00 p.m. from Framingham Center Common to Brophy School and back. The one-time grants that Metrow-

est Outreach Connection gives to families in crisis are critically needed to keep these families out of the shelter system and in stable homes in their communities.

Now is the time for walkers to get pledge forms and start collecting those pledges. All pledges should be collected and handed in at registration on the Common on the day of the walk. Pledge forms are available on the bulletin board, or you can download them from www.mwoconnection.org. There is no minimum amount of pledges to participate, but every walker who raises at least \$50 will be entered in a raffle for some great prizes donated by local businesses. If you can give your time, but not your feet, on the day of the walk, volunteers are especially needed to sit in a shady spot on the Common to register walkers from 12:30-1:30, or help prepare lunch for the walkers at Grace. If you would like to help, please contact Mary Memmott, or sign up on the fellowship bulletin board.

Calendar - September

September 2	Framingham State Classes begin for Fall
September 4	8:00 AM Men's Group meets
September 5	Cans for Communion 8:45 AM Singers 10:00 AM Worship
September 10	Yard Sale pickup/setup
September 11	9:00 AM Yard Sale 5:30 PM Tricentennial Park September 11 Remembrance
September 12	Rally Day 8:45 AM Singers 10:00 AM Worship with communion, multigenerational service 11:30 AM Larger Space Meeting
September 14	7:30 PM Stewards Ministry Team meeting
September 15	11:30 AM Grace Women United
September 19	8:45 AM Singers 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Leadership Meeting
September 22	10:00 AM Book Club 5:30 PM Eagles
September 26	8:45 AM Singers 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday School Walk to Prevent Homelessness
September 27	7:00 PM Larger Space Meeting

Save the Date – October 10th – Global Work Party for the Earth

October 10th is a "global work party for the earth" with events drawing attention to the need for action on climate change around the world. The Earthcare Education group from Grace and Edwards churches will be sponsoring a tree-planting event starting with a gathering at Edwards at 2 p.m. More details to follow! You can check www.350.org for more information on this world-wide event.



Deacons

People of Grace,

There are two days in every week about which we shouldn't worry. One is yesterday, with its mistakes and cares, its aches and pains. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. The other day is tomorrow, with its possible adversities and blunders. Until its sun rises, we have no stake in tomorrow, for it is yet unborn. That leaves us with only one day — today. Anyone can fight the battle of just one day. It is only when we add the burden of those two eternities — yesterday and tomorrow — that contentment will escape us. How is today going for you? Are you finding time to be open to the presence of God in your life? You are never alone.

Soon, the days will be cooler, school begins, trees and plants will be getting ready for winter, Rally Day will be upon us. How was your summer? Did you

find time for renewal? Did you experience physical and mental refreshment? Did you make memorable memories? Did you visit any other churches? We would love to hear about your summer experiences! Remember it is important to take some time to replenish yourself even if it is only a few minutes each day.

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar, please be in touch with Ruth Carney. You may bring flowers or if you wish to have her order flowers from our florist, the current price is \$35.00.

Please do not forget that we care about your wellbeing, if we can be of any help, please be in touch with one of us. God is with us and among us. God does and will provide.

May you always feel God's blessings,

*Deacons
Ruth Carney
Karolyne White*

Stewards

By the time you are reading this, the Framingham State UNIVERSITY students will begin to park in their rented spaces in our lot. Please remember that every numbered space is reserved Monday through Friday for those renting them. Any time you are expecting outsiders to come to the church during the week, inform them to please not park in these spaces. In order to identify your vehicle as one of ours, be sure to display one of our dove stickers on your rear window.

Some of the items which we have on our agenda include: (1) An open Stewards meeting, in late September, at which time, we will welcome questions concerning our investments, financial policies, and whatever else might be of interest. (2) Also in late September, we will be having a clean-up day in order to spruce up the property and prepare the grounds for winter. (3) Any way in which we might schedule some events at our Newbury Street property? Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14.

Faith in Action

The Not Ready for Anytime Players' Mystery Dinner Theater Production



Murder, Mayhem and Marshmallow Salad

Saturday, October 16

Don't miss the upcoming production of the Not Ready for Anytime Players!! If you would like to take part in the play, or help out with props, make-up, or dinner, and haven't already done so, see Daleen Perkins. Above all, be sure to put the date on your calendar!

Faith in Action

Of utmost importance, spread the word about our next recycling event on October 23! More information about these events are included in this issue.

Thanks!

The Grace Faith Community would like to thank Mary Memmott, Ronda Yeomans, Molly Wyatt, Aaron Dunbrack and everyone who helped teach our children in June and July whether through word, deed or teaching summer Sunday School lessons named, "Camp Grace." Mary Memmott especially did a lot of work organizing Camp Grace and we greatly appreciate her efforts. This summer our children chose the theme, "All God's Creatures" for their lessons. Camp focused on the children's favorite bible stories involving animals (and fish). Some topics included Noah's Ark and also, The Talking Donkey. We tried to get the kids outside as much as possible, moving around and using as many senses as possible to engage them in an interactive learning experience. A grand time was had by all. Thanks also to Terri Taylor, Heather Lucas, and Brad Watters for their efforts to engage the children during intergenerational services in August.

Rally Day

Daleen Perkins and Ronda Yeomans met in July to start to organize the Sunday School semester for the fall. Rally Day is scheduled for September 12th.

Rally Day is the Sunday before the Sunday School lessons begin. It is a day when we commission ourselves as a congregation to teach our children our faith in whatever way we are



able. Back by popular demand, make your own ice cream sundaes will be provided after Rally Day service.

Classes



Sunday School classes will begin the following Sunday during service time (10-11AM).

Daleen has ordered units from Come Join the Circle curriculum which will be available for teachers to prepare this fall.

Daleen will teach in September, but we need volunteers to lead the remaining fall lessons. As in the past, the first Sunday of the month children will join their parents in an intergenerational service, and Sunday School will be held the remaining weeks. Long weekends are not necessarily Sunday School weekends due to members travel plans.

Please tell Daleen Perkins if your children will not be at

service on a particular Sunday so that teachers can plan accordingly. Ronda Yeomans will be very occupied with school involvements this fall, so please address any questions or concerns to Daleen. As always we welcome your input and suggestions.

Teaching

Please consider teaching or assisting a Sunday School class this fall. Our children learn every waking hour, so if you aren't available during Sunday School time, remember all your interactions with them and with each other whether at a church event or fellowship time after service are potential teaching moments through our words and actions. Every little bit helps.

Thank you.

Ronda Yeomans and Daleen Perkins, Sunday School Administrators

Bible 101

Submitted by Ruth Carney

- The Bible contains about 800,000 words, depending on the translation. This is about four times as many words as are found in a book of average length.
- Although the Bible is so long and deals with the greatest themes that can engage the human mind, its vocabulary is singularly limited. It uses only 6,000 different words, a very small number compared to the 20,000 words that Shakespeare employed while writing his plays.
- Not only is the Bible's vocabulary limited, but the average word in it contains only five letters. However, many of these short words are full of the deepest meanings and are worthy of earnest study. For example, consider these five-letter words: grace, peace, faith, saved, serve, glory and Jesus.

Grace Church/ReFoamIt
Make A Difference Day!

Recycle Your:

Styrofoam
Plastic Tableware
Electronics

Saturday, October 23
10:00AM to 3:00PM

No fee for Styrofoam (all tape, labels & food particles removed) All meat and produce trays must display the recycling symbol # 6 in the triangle. Packing peanuts must be Styrofoam!

No fee to recycle your plastic utensils. These are currently being trashed by most towns and cities.
(Please rinse and pack separately from Styrofoam.)



Small fees for electronics (below)

- Small household items (irons, phones, radios, small table lamps, etc.) \$2 each or 3 for \$5.
- Electronic items (computers, monitors, printers, VCRs, etc.) \$5 each or 3 for \$12.
- Appliances (microwaves, dishwashers, dehumidifiers, etc.) and other large items (snow blowers, lawnmowers, power equipment, etc.) and televisions up to 19" are \$10 each. Larger TVs, TV consoles, water tanks, etc. are \$15 to \$20 each
- No charge to shred your hard drives, but only if removed from the computer!
- Caution: All items must be drained of gas, paint, oil or any other fluid. No items containing mercury will be accepted.

MetroWest Medical Center's Green Fair
with Medication Disposal
Sunday, September 12 • 1 to 4 PM
85 Lincoln Street
Stop by and dispose of your old medications



Book Club

The Book Club will meet on September 22nd at 10:00AM. We will discuss books we have read during the summer. Because we recently read "A World Apart" (a history of MCI), and because Grace Kimball lived on the grounds with her family for many years, she has agreed to be our guest at this meeting. Anyone interested in this discussion is welcome to join with us.

Grace Women United

GWU will meet on Wednesday, September 15th, instead of September 8th at 11:30AM. Bring a bag lunch. Dessert provided.

Grace Congregational, UCC

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