

GRACE NOTES

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

First Sunday service held on January 21

Grace Church moves into its new home!

The Grace Church congregation had its first Sunday morning service in its new home on January 21. Our long journey is finally over.

About 45 members gathered in our new worship space at 76 Salem End Road at 10:00 AM. We prayed, we sang, we shared communion and we stood united.

The week before (January 14) we had a farewell service at 73 Union Avenue. We said goodbye to our church home of more than 90 years (since the fire in the 1920s). We talked about what we loved, what we valued and what we would not miss at our old address. A week later, we gathered in our new home and repeated the exercise - talking about hopes and expectations for our church community.

Our first day in our new home was also the occasion for our semi-annual Congregational

Meeting (story page three) and included a catered luncheon with much camaraderie, good food and laughter.

The move to 76

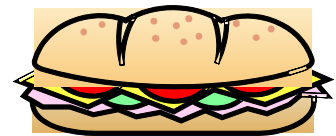
Several church teams put in long hours preparing the building for the move - and actually moving us in.

The Construction Team, led by Walter Brown, had the enormous task of converting a building that had been vacant for six months into a church home. Within a two month period, 76 Salem End was transformed with painting, cleaning and new siding. Dead shrubs and trees were removed, the parking lot fixed, doors adjusted . . . the list goes on and on.

Then, in mid December, the Physical Asset Team (led by Daleen Perkins), arranged to have our belongings moved out of

storage. Since one cannot move 27,000 sq. ft. of stuff into 3,000 sq. ft. of space, two pods were set up in the yard to handle the overflow. The pods will be combined, and, eventually, we will find a better way to store our extra belongings as well as have a yard sale. Following the Janu-

Continued on page three



Order Super Bowl subs for yourself, family and friends!
See page seven



Buddies Luncheon February 11

Missions is planning a lunch/debrief/training meeting for shut-in buddies (new and old) after church from 11:30-12:30 (apx.) on February 11th, at Salem End Rd.

Grace Notes

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Core Values Stage 3 in process

We are now in the middle of Stage 3 of the Core Value Discernment process. This is when we check the list of values we, the currently active members, have generated with people of Grace who are no longer as active. The purpose of this is to introduce an outside view from the lens of those who have known us, but for many different reasons can not be active at this time.

Twenty questionnaires have been mailed to folks who have agreed to participate in the process. They have been asked to circle those values that during their time with Grace they had experi-

enced to be "true", cross out those in their experience to be "not true" and place "???" next to those not experienced either way. Space was given for comments as well.

If you would like to do this exercise yourself, here is the list of values. You can send in this marked up sheet to the church office, attention Core Values Team.

- Joy, laughter, hope, love*
- Compassion, forgiveness, healing, love*
- Spirituality, faith, praising God through music, from "I" to "we", healing, humility*
- Commitment, perseverance, steadfastness, unity of purpose*

Discerning and Celebrating our Core Values
A Journey of Discovery
Congregational Gathering Successfully Completed!
Focus groups
October 23- November 5th Successfully Completed!
Interviews
Moved to January In Process
Consensus and celebration
February/March 2007

- Respect, inclusion, accepting, welcoming, tolerance, embracing, diversity, valuing differences*
- Community, family, love, children, unity of purpose, fellowship*
- Courage, boldness, doing, action, integrity*
- Mission, service, outreach, social justice*
- Trust, honesty, integrity*
- Empowerment, support, create, catalyze, generate*

The results of the questionnaires will be combined with the results of the previous meetings and help to synthesize our value statements as we move forward. We will gather together again in a few weeks to build consensus and celebrate our core values as well as acknowledging those "negative" values that sometimes hinder our ministries.

We invite all who love and cherish Grace to continue with us in the journey of discovery so that we may build a strong future together!

Just a Reminder of Why Core Values are Important
 Core Values are the preferences or choices churches make in their life together. The way we behave reflects what we truly value as a congregation. Values are not an

Church calendar - February

Worship and meetings at 76 Salem End Road unless otherwise noted

- February 3 Senior High Lock in
(Order your Super Bowl subway sandwiches!)
- February 4 10:00 AM Worship/Family Communion Service (No SS)
Cans for Communion
- February 5 7:30 PM Women's Lectio
- February 6 7:30 PM Central Council
- February 7 7:00 PM Deacons
- February 11 10:00 AM Worship/Sunday School classes
11:30 AM Mission Buddy Luncheon
- February 14 11:30 AM Grace Women United Soup Luncheon
- February 16 Turning Point Dinner
- February 18 10:00 AM Worship/Sunday School classes
- February 21 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service
Come to shed your old skin and seek rebirth from the Holy Spirit.
- February 25 10:00 AM Worship/ Sunday School (Mission Multiage)
- February 28 10:00 AM Book Club
6:00 Missions meets at Eagles
7:00 PM Worship hosted by Deacon Ministry Team
7:30 PM Deacon Ministry Team Meeting
Noon through dinner: Eat at the Eagles (fundraiser)

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New Home

Continued from page one

ary 14 final service at Union Avenue, PAT moved all our remaining belongs from the old building. There is still much unpacking and settling in to do, but we have now said goodbye to Union Avenue (with heartfelt thanks to New Life Presbyterian) and are setting up our new home.

Already using the building

Since early December, Task Teams and other committees have been meeting at 76 Salem End. Shortly after the initial move, the parlor was set up (our familiar sofas and chairs fit beautifully into the new space). Reverend Brad has held Advent Services there - and a Christmas Eve service was held in the new worship space. Even before our first official service, we have been getting accustomed to our new location.

Next steps

There is much work still to be done. A number of Task Teams have been formed to handle publicity, the grounds, financial issues, neighborhood outreach and so on.

But there is another aspect to settling into our new home. That is recapturing some of the activities that had been set aside for the last few years. We need ushers and greeters, we need flowers on the altar, we always need fellowship hour volunteers. Since we don't have a sexton, we will need volunteers to empty the trash, run a vacuum, dust a room. Watch for sign-up sheets for the many ways that we can each lend a hand to keep our new home clean - and our worship time together very special.

Congregational meeting

Grace Church's congregational meeting was held on January 21, following our first Sunday morning service in our new home. There were updates from the Salem End Road Task Teams and a report from the Core Value Team (elsewhere in this issue). Each Ministry Team also took a few minutes to discuss their plans for 2007.

The Stewards presented a six-month budget for 2007. Since we have not been in the new location long enough to know what costs will be, it was felt that a six-month budget would give us time to get a handle on expenses. The vote was 41 in favor and one abstain to approve the budget.

A second vote was taken in regards to the Charles Warren estate. In 2006, the church voted to borrow money from the Warren estate with the goal of paying it back in five years after moving into a new building (at that point, we expected to be moving into Newbury Street). It was the recommendation of the Stewards that we forgive that loan and continue to use the Warren funds to offset deficit budgets. As it turned out, the 2006 deficit was considerably less than expected. The vote was 41 in favor of forgiving the loan - and one negative.

New (interim) home for the Grand Piano

As we celebrate our new church home, the grand piano that has provided us with so much beautiful music through the years will have a chance to continue to make beautiful music. The music ministry team researched several options ranging from selling the piano outright to locking it away in storage. The Central Council agreed to loan the piano to the Performing Arts Center of Metro West (they reside on the 3rd floor of the Danforth Museum) where the piano will reside in their performance hall and be utilized by both experienced and budding musicians when performing. In fact, the first performance was Sunday, Jan 28th. A few from Grace were in attendance to hear this instrument once again.

The piano is on loan to the Performing Arts Center until we have the space to house and utilize it. The people at PAC are very grateful for the opportunities now available to their young musicians with the addition of this instrument. Thank you to the Grace community whose generous spirit and love of music have encouraged this loan.



Ministry Teams

Christian Ed.
Laura Buck, co-chair
Ronda Yeomans,
co-chair
Clair Ball
Daleen Perkins
Lynn Rodriguez

*christianed@
gracechurchucc.org*

Volunteers

*Sign up sheets by
Fellowship table*

Fellowship

February 4
Mary Memmott
Rob Lovewell
February 11
Al and Evelyn McQuirk
February 18
The Dunbracks
February 25
Terri/Meghan Taylor

Greeters/Ushers

February 4
Laura/Andrea Buck
Ellie Crawford
February 11
Jackie Mague
Judy Sebastian
February 18
Volunteers needed
February 25
Joanne Larkins
Grace Kimball

Christian Education

We have changed the Sunday School format slightly for the upcoming winter/spring session. We will still have Family and Communion Sunday the first Sunday of the month. On the second and third Sundays, children will meet upstairs in the parlor for an opening worship together before breaking off into different classes. The fourth Sunday will continue to be a Storyteller Sunday Multiage. On these days, the children will still have an opening worship together before having a guest storyteller read a story related to a bible theme. We then have discussion and an activity to help apply the lesson to our everyday lives. Our upcoming program will run February until June 10, which is the last official Sunday School class of the 2006-2007 year. That day, an end of year party will be planned for the kids and teachers/helpers. We are hoping for some "Divine" weather so we can possibly hold it outside. CE will be passing out a full schedule to parents in the next few weeks. For Grace Notes, we will publish 2 months at a time. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please speak to any member of the CEMT at any time. As a reminder, our monthly meetings are open to the congregation so you are always welcome to join us any third Wednesday of the month at 7pm at 76 Salem End Rd.

Sunday School Schedule for February and March

- Feb. 4 – Family/Communion Sunday
– No SS - children in worship
- Feb. 11 – SS Classes – theme is
Communion Education
- Feb. 18 – SS classes – theme is Ash
Wednesday
- Feb. 25 – Missions Multiage – O.G.H.S.
kickoff
- March 4 – Family/Communion Sunday
– No SS - children in worship
- March 11 – SS Classes – theme is
Jesus in the Wilderness
- March 18 – SS Classes – theme is
Parable of the Lost Sheep
- March 25 – Storyteller Sunday multiage
– theme is Mary anoints Jesus/Jesus
washes the disciples' feet

Welcome Stacy

CEMT would like to introduce Stacy Tuegel as our new childcare provider for Sunday morning worship. She officially joined us on Dec. 10. Stacy has extensive experience with kids, as she not only babysits but teaches swimming and lifeguarding at the Y. She is certified in both CPR and First Aid. We feel extremely lucky to have her on board.

Bulletin Board and Wish List

We will be hanging up a bulletin board soon (location TBD) with our SS Schedule, Teaching Schedules, and Wish List Items. Please take a look periodically at our Wish List items as you may have something we could use at home or are willing to donate a few craft items to help with our programs. This list will change and be added to as the need arises. CEMT sincerely appreciates all donations, both past and present, made to the nursery and classrooms in support of our children in their faith journeys here at Grace.

The current Wish List items are:

- ✓ child safe scissors (6 pairs)
- ✓ glue sticks (5)
- ✓ coloring books

Ministry Teams

Missions Ministry Team

Mirlande Butler
Christine Collins
Eleanor Crawford,
Chair
Victoria Ellis
Mary Memmott
Missions Ministry Team

mission@
gracechurchucc.

Stewards

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

stewards@
gracechurchucc.
org

Mission

Pathways letter received

Thank you for your generous donation of toys for the children living at Pathways Family Shelter. We often find that the parents struggle greatly during the holidays due to their longing to be in a home of their own and missing family and friends. Your gifts brought smiles to many faces, reminding parents that their children are well-remembered and easing their worries. The children had a wonderful Christmas! It has been such a delight to watch them laughing and playing and to see the babies busy discovering new sights and sounds.

We are so fortunate to have donors who are as committed to Pathways' families as you continue to be. Your gifts were clearly chosen with much care and thought. Thank you for

remembering the children who live at the shelter and thank you for helping us to make this holiday season such a special one for them. Best wishes to you and your families for a happy, healthy 2007.

*Kimberly Hick and Glendi Jmenez,
Family Advocates*

February Cans for Communion – pantry needs your help!

The next Cans for Communion collection is Sunday, Feb. 4th. Donations of non-perishable foods are welcome, especially **rice, mac and cheese, soups and stews**. The Metrowest Harvest Food Pantry has low food stores this time of year. If you can give an extra can or two this month, it would be appreciated! Please contact Mary Memmott if you would like to help deliver our collection.

Stewards

We are working with the construction team and Tim is looking into getting an alarm system put in the building. We will let you all know when this happens as key holders will need to have a code to alarm and un-alarm the building when it is empty.

We are also in the process (thank you,

Frank) of getting a new copier. The old one will be scrapped or if anybody knows of some organization that might be in need of a copier that needs some TLC, let one of us know. If not we will be asking Manoel if they would like to keep it for their use.

We are also starting to decide what road to take with our investments that will increase our income. If any of you would like to sit in on any of these meetings, (time and date yet to be determined), please let Dianne know and she will put you on the task team.

GWU Kitchen Fund

The suggestion was made to the Stewards that a kitchen fund be established and, at that team's request, Grace Women United has agreed to sponsor it. This came about because a few members have asked if we have a special fund to which they could make donations. To date, \$600 has been contributed, and GWU has voted to begin efforts to raise money for this purpose.

Do we know how much money we need? NO. Do we know if the existing kitchen will be renovated? NO. Do we plan to raise funds until sometime in the future when we may relocate and building a new kitchen? NO. In other words, there are no plans or decisions other than the beginning of a fund to someday have a working kitchen in Grace Church, whatever, that may look like. Although this is definitely a long-range project, we invite all to support it, not only with money but also with suggestions and ideas.

Financial Update - 2007

AMOUNT PLEDGED 3 WEEKS \$3,462

AMOUNT RECEIVED 3 WEEKS \$2,466

PLEDGED FOR 2007 \$ 59,814

There are still 3 more Pledges due.

Financial Secretary,
Nancy H. Brown

Ministry Teams

Deacon Ministry Team

Larry Butler
Ruth Carney, Chair
Glenn Colpitts
Melissa Ellis
Joanne Larkins
Brian Winsor

deacons@
gracechurchucc.org



If it's necessary to cancel a church service due to inclement weather, Grace Church will be included on the cancellation listing on WCVB-TV (Channel 5). If it's bad weather for a week night Ministry Team or Task Team meeting, check with your chair.

GWU/Circle 13 will have its annual Soup Luncheon on Wednesday February 14th at Salem End Church, beginning at 11:30 AM.

Deacons

People of Grace,
We have moved! Our first morning service in our new home was January 21, 2007 and we had a full house! We are in a new space and we will need to be flexible over the next few weeks. At our Deacon meeting, we talk about worship. Is there anything that touches you in worship? Concerns you? What the Deacons need from you is feedback. 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. This is especially important in our new worship home. We will be trying different set-ups in our worship space to find what best suits our congregation. As with the rest of the building, everything will be a trial and error process to see what works for us. We need you to communicate with us.

We have been given a Kawai digital organ. This generous gift came from Union Congregational Church, UCC in Maynard. They offered this small organ to us in the beginning of 2006 and held it until we had a worship home. On January 14th, Keith Larkins (and his truck), Frank Carney, Glenn Colpitts, Brad Watters and Brian Winsor got it and brought it to Salem End Road. We were able to use it on the 21st.

Ash Wednesday is February 21. We will have an evening service at 7:00 PM and also each of the Wednesdays in Lent. Please join us and make this part of your Lenten schedule.

The New Member Class will be in two sessions and will begin shortly. Those who have expressed an interest in participating will be contacted. 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.

Please do not forget that we care about

Susan is our Director of Music

We are so happy to have Susan Minor as our Director of Music. She has been with us as our Interim Director since September 2005. She originally came as a music supply person in June 2005. She enjoyed being with us so much that when we drew up a job description, she took the job.

We wanted an interim until our Redevelopment Pastor came on board. Both Brad and Susan worked so well together, that conversations started and now Susan is our director! Susan works so well with the choir and she is such a talented musician that we are truly blessed to have her.

Please take a moment to speak with Susan and tell her how much it means to have her as our Director of Music.

your wellbeing and want to walk with you celebrating your joys, holding you in your sorrows, and just being there when there when you need us. God is with us and among us. God does and will provide.

*May You Always Feel God's Blessings
Deacon Ministry Team*

Women's Lectio

The Women's Lectio Group will be meeting Monday, February 5 at 76 Salem End Road starting at 7:30. All women are invited to share in this sharing of worship and scripture.

Hold the date!

The upcoming dates for the Women's retreat are June 8-9, 2007. It will be held at the St. Joseph Villa Retreat Center in Cohasset. It was held there last year and we found it to be a wonderful setting for a retreat group of about 9-12 women. More information will follow next month. Any questions, please contact Laura Buck or Terri Taylor.

Updates

Anyone interested in participating in the youth ministry, either for a single event or as an ongoing adult team member, please see Brad or Terri.

The Core Value Facilitation Team
Larry Butler, Frank Carney, Melissa Ellis, Rob Lovewell, Terri Taylor, Brad Watters and Karolyne White

Youth Ministry Happenings

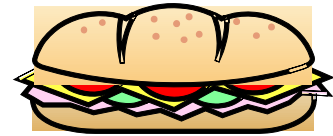
This month the Senior youth group will be “locked-in” from 8:00 p.m Feb 3rd until service time February 4th. During that time we will be assembling Super Bowl subs that have been ordered as part of our fundraising efforts to support returning to North Carolina this June. If you did not have a chance to order last service, orders may be e-mailed to Terri at terriktaylor@comcast.net. The order form is enclosed with this Grace Notes. A “combo” is a sub ordered with a drink and chips.

The youth group is selling new styles of pins from “the house pin lady” (otherwise know as Designs by Lucinda” that include angles and people puzzle pieces. Come and check them out!!

In addition to the pins, we are also offering an opportunity for members and friends of Grace to order a wooden replica of 73 Union Ave and /or 76 Salem End Road. Each replica is \$25. We will place the order as soon as we have reached a minimum of 12 requests.

Later in February, we will be gathering together all youth from 6th grade up for an evening of spirited fellowship. Look to the bulletin for additional details.

Grace Senior Youth Group is open to all teens. Come and be open to the possibilities! Peace and Blessings, Terri Taylor and Brad Watters



**Order a delicious sub!
Menu included in Grace Notes**

Core Value

Continued from page one

idea, nor a program, nor a goal. Core values are reflected in the consistent choices we make in our Church [and our daily lives] on a daily, monthly and yearly basis.

The discernment of core values may not be easy. First we must move beyond our understanding of how Jesus wants us to be to discover how we actually are. Second, we must move beyond how we imagine we behave to discover the truth of how we truly behave. Third we must move beyond how we market ourselves to the public to discover how the public truly perceives us. Core Values are not a matter of wishful thinking or projected self image. Core values are a matter of consistent choices that shape the daily, monthly and yearly behavior of the people in our congregation – both collectively and individually.

Once the core values have become clear, we can begin to address issues of morale, method, relationship and cooperation.

Fund-raising Update

Uno's out---Eagle's in:

This past year, we have enjoyed food and fellowship each month at Uno's, all while earning a few dollars for our church budget. It has been a good program and we are grateful to Uno's for their support.

However, a similar offer has been made by the Eagles All American Grille, and it has been decided that a change to this local restaurant will be a good thing. Mark Curtiss, the owner of this small restaurant in downtown Framingham, will send us a 10% rebate on all meals purchased by those with a Grace Church coupon on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

Some of us had dinner there in January and all agreed that the food was great, the menu terrific, the prices very reasonable and the atmosphere friendly. (A copy of the menu is available at the church but additionally, there are always several specials to choose from.) Plan to use the enclosed coupon on February 28, and take your friends & neighbors with you. The coupon can be copied and it is generic in that it can be used any month. If stairs are difficult, keep in mind that there are 4 steps to access the restaurant.

Webpage photos needed



The Publicity Team has been working on several fronts (letters to missing members and friends), neighborhood leaflet drop, newspaper and web listings. The team has also begun recreating the church webpage. They are looking for recent photographs, especially close-ups shots. We want the photos to project an imagine of closeness, welcome and family. Contact Ronda Yeomans, Mirlande Butler or Linda Hilliard if you have any high quality photos we could use.

Eritaj Benefit

In her steadfast support for the Haitian people, Mirlande Butler will sing a benefit performance at the Performing Arts Center, 140 Pearl St., Framingham (3rd floor) on Saturday, February 17 at 8 pm. Mirlande will sing well-loved, classic French, Creole and English pieces from her romantic compact disc "Mirlande Sings." Proceeds will go to Eritaj Foundation's The Gift of Education fundraiser.

Grace Congregational Church, UCC

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

Pastor

Brad Watters
pastor@gracechurchucc.org

Moderator

Linda Hilliard
moderator@gracechurchucc.org

Christian Education

Laura Buck
christianed@gracechurchucc.org

Deacons

Ruth Carney
deacon@gracechurchucc.org

Mission

Ellie Crawford
mission@gracechurchucc.org

Music

Terri Taylor
music@gracechurchucc.org

Stewards

Dianne Belloli
steward@gracechurchucc.org

Members at Large

Jean Burr
Jon Ellis
atlarge@gracechurchucc.org

Office Administrator:

Kab Rabinowitz
office@gracechurchucc.org

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 (Mass Conf.)
www.ucc.org (UCC)

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Organization
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Permit No. 28
Framingham, MASS.

Grace Church, UCC
PO Box 1481
Framingham, MA 01701