

# GRACE NOTES

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

## Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 3

Grace Church's congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, June 3, at 11:30 AM. A light lunch will be served and child care will be provided.

There is still time to add names to the nominations list for ministry teams before the June 3 meeting. Speak to Jean Burr.

## A busy and rewarding time at Grace Church

Grace Church's spring activities were high on camaraderie and community outreach. First there was Mission's Chalk Event to address global warming, then the Pod cleaning, followed by the Yard Sale and the Spring Fling. All were lots of fun (with some hard work mixed in). We were rewarded with a great sense of fellowship, good community outreach, some profits from the Yard Sale - and a great sense of jobs "well done."

Note: The pod cleaning was so effective, one more workday is all we'll need to combine the large pod into the small. Then we'll be able to have the large pod removed, which will free up parking spaces.

*A couple of notes:*

- **Dave Sherman** was named the chili making champ.
- **Ellie Crawford** was an amazing negotiator during the Yard Sale.
- All the bentwood chairs have been sold.
- **Nancy Brown** was a great welcomer and greeter.
- **Tim Taylor** is a master at the grill. Those hamburgers, hot

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## Dedication Sunday will be July 22

Grace Church will dedicate its new home on July 22 at 4:00 pm.

The program for the afternoon will include a warm welcome to our visitors, a brief service, a collation and tours of the building.

*Your help is needed:*

- We're developing a guest list and we need input. If you think of any person(s) - or organization - that we want to have visit our new home, contact Linda Hilliard so she can send an invitation.
- Brad will be asking a few people to do readings during the service. Please say "yes."
- We'll need folks to organize the collation and donate finger foods.
- We'll need tour guides and some parking lot greeters/guides.
- We'll need everyone to pitch in to clean up our church .
- We need team members to assist with some of the details.

Don't wait to be asked! Let Pastor Brad or Linda know how you want to take part.

## Grace Notes

Volume 9, Number 6

June 2007

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## Pastor's Note

Dear Ones,

*Those who till their land will have plenty of food, but those who follow worthless pursuits have no sense.*

Proverbs 12:11

Here is a fine bit of wisdom, wouldn't you say? The advice seems sound. The illustration is specific and thus has credibility. Moreover, the advice is portable. Those of us who are not farmers can easily apply the advice to whatever it is that we cultivate with our efforts. I read it as good advice about choosing a worthwhile pursuit, like tilling and planting crops. I'd like to tweak that proverb a little, just expanding the verses to read:

*Those who till their land will have plenty of food, but those who are not diligent at preparation, planting, weeding, and caring for their fields will face the consequence which will be that they will not have plenty of food.*

In my modification, the proverbial voice emphasizes the practices for tilling the land. Let me use that to make a point about how we do what we do at church.

I'd like you to begin thinking about the business phrase "best practices." The idea of best practices is that when one has identified processes and behaviors that are critical to accomplishing an organization's goals, then one seeks from a wide array of sources the best practice for each of those processes and behaviors. If one is passionate about the organization's goals, then one finds the energy and time and resources to locate, to learn, and to adopt the best way of doing things.

It is in this search that we have to be ready to refresh "the way we did that before," to replace the "we always do it that way," in the face of awkwardness, to push through "it didn't work when we tried that before," and to recognize that we are a very different church living in very different times from any church or time that Grace Congregational UCC has lived in before.

We don't have organizational goals spelled out very clearly. That is a task that lies ahead. But we all share, I think, some sense of what at least

some of those goals would be. For example, in our mission statement, in our Open and Affirming Statement: Statement of Inclusiveness, and in our Core Values, we mention welcome, invitation, and inclusiveness in a variety of ways. It is an unmistakable presence in those formal declarations. When, then, shall we do a diligent job of researching, choosing, learning, and putting into place the extraordinary hospitality practices that others have discovered?

I know that for many of us, the fellowship and caring we experience when we gather with our friends in worship, at coffee hour, and in smaller team efforts is the glue that binds us to Grace Congregational. When a new person considers our church, by visiting or by seeing some of our promotional publicity, we hope that they will be drawn by the same things that draw us. How can that happen? How could the retired couple up on State Street near the college feel drawn by our little church? Even if they were to visit, strangers have the task of moving through acquaintance toward friendship in order to find that warmth of fellowship and caring. If they are people who have reason to expect that they will be welcomed, then maybe they'll give it a try. But suppose they are a couple who, in other such forays in their lives, have found the welcome cool, or the path toward acquaintance and friendship unclear, or for some reason have not been able to count on people being happy to see them? Well, if that is the case, then something extraordinary has to happen to make them drive down the hill and around the corner on Sunday morning.

Mind you, I'm not saying that we are not welcoming or that we don't take specific actions to be hospitable. But we are not where I think we need to be for those who are one phone call away, one humorous invitation away, and one kind word away from walking through the door on Sunday morning.

Hospitality is just one sphere. In all our spheres of activity, we can seek and learn the best practices. Let our passion be roused! Let the work proceed! Let your light shine!

*Peace and Blessing,  
Pastor Brad*

# Farm Workday is June 2



Grace Church has purchased an alternate week share from Stearns Farm Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)! We give a monetary donation to help the farm run and commit to work for 6 hours during the 2007 farming season. In exchange, we get a share of produce from the farm every other Friday from June through October. One share feeds approximately 2 adults and 1-2 children. We plan to donate some of our food to a family in need and also have produce available for purchase at church some Sundays during the harvest.

On Saturday, June 2, Grace Church will be going to Stearns Farm to help fulfill our work commitment to the farm. All are invited! This is a busy day on the farm. They plan to plant 1400 tomatoes, 870 peppers, and 650 eggplants. They could sure use a large group of us to help.

Also, the farm is a great place

for kids. They encourage parents to bring their children and have them work along with them in the fields. If we are planning on bringing many younger children, there is a children's garden with a sandbox.

We will work from 10 a.m. to Noon and they appreciate people showing up about 9:45, so we are all ready and set to go. At noon we all have lunch together (or at least everybody who has time to stay). They cook stone soup on work days, which means that everybody brings a vegetable (cut up and soup-ready) to put into that soup, and all workers enjoy just sitting and chatting after all that field work. Donations of bread and dessert are also welcome.

More details and directions/ carpooling information will be provided. Contact Christine Collins at this [m-collins@comcast.net](mailto:m-collins@comcast.net).

# All Ages are Invited to "Camp Grace"!

On four summer Sundays our children's CE program will be moving outdoors during worship time for Bible stories, "camp" songs, and fun. Our theme for the summer program is "things you need for camp." We'll plan on being outside each Sunday, but of course if there's rain we'll move inside for indoor-camping. We hope all our children from preschool-middle school will join us, and older youth are welcome to sign up as helpers.

Parents: please send your kids to church with outdoor clothes and sunscreen/bug spray if needed on these Sundays. Kids: come prepared to listen, but also to run, play, and sing. This is also a great time for kids to invite a friend to come with them and join the fun. You don't have to be a regular Sunday school attendee to come. (But please let us know about any allergies, especially to insects, snacks, or sunscreens.)

We need adult helpers for each week, and we could especially use song leaders who can drop in and share an old favorite "camp" or Sunday school tune. You don't have to stay for the whole hour to lead a song, and you don't need to be especially musical, just enthusiastic!

### *The dates and themes for "Camp Grace" are:*

Sunday, June 24 - "Food"

Sunday, July 8 - "Water"

(Kids might get a little wet!)

Sunday, July 15 - No SS; Season of Sharing with Plymouth and Edwards

Sunday, July 22 - "Friends - Bring-a-friend Day"

Sunday, July 29 - "Shelter"

Please see Mary Memmott if you can volunteer to help on any of the dates above. We appreciate your support!

Mark your calendars

**Everyone is invited!**

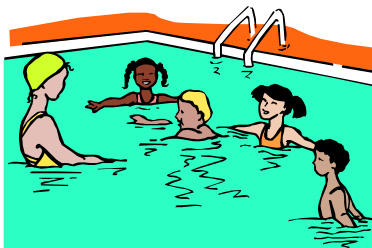
## **Grace Church Pool Party**

**Sunday, July 29 (Rain date: August 5)**

**1 1:30 AM to 3 PM**

**Linda Hilliard's home/pool**

**Watch for details in the July Grace Notes**



## Ministry Teams

**Christian Ed.**  
**Laura Buck, co-chair**  
**Ronda Yeomans,**  
**co-chair**  
**Daleen Perkins**

*christianed@*  
*gracechurchucc.org*

## Christian Education

The Christian Education Ministry team has changed dramatically since the start of the 2006-2007 school year. Clair Ball moved out of state so that her husband could pursue a specialized degree. Clair, Tom and Emily are all greatly missed. Lynn Rodriguez tragically died leaving us all to mourn, but also to gain much perspective on our lives and priorities. After 8 years of dedicated service, our fearless leader, Laura Buck, has decided to pursue other avenues of ministry within our faith community. We sincerely thank her for her exceptional efforts, recognize her many accomplishments, and are very grateful that she will continue to teach Christian Education in future.

We are delighted to welcome Rob Lovewell as our new CE ministry team member. Our "small, but mighty" CE ministry team currently consists of Ronda Yeomans, Daleen Perkins and Rob Lovewell. We wish to thank all of

the teachers and parents who so generously gave of their time, and energy to make Christian Education a reality at Grace Church. The final Christian Education session will be our end of the year party on June 10.

We are thrilled to announce that Mary Memmott will be heading up the Christian Education Summer "Grace Camp." She will need lots of support and assistance so I strongly encourage you to contact her with dates you are available. Also, if you have not yet submitted your summer vacation schedule to Ronda Yeomans please do so ASAP. Once we determine which Sundays this summer are expected to have the highest attendance, we will schedule and announce upcoming Christian Education lessons.

*Thank you!*

*Christian Education Ministry Team*

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

*stewards@*  
*gracechurchucc.org*

## Stewards

### Taking care of our church home

Lend a hand! Grab a dust cloth! Fire up the vacuum! Find the toilet brush! Take a bag of trash to the dumpster. Keeping our church home clean is everyone's job. Please sign up in the fellowship hall - or simply help out whenever you see a mess that needs to be tidied up.

## Financial update

<b>AMOUNT PLEDGED 20 WEEKS</b>	<b>\$21,960</b>
<b>AMOUNT RECEIVED 20 WEEKS</b>	<b>\$21,271</b>
<b>PLEDGED FOR 2007</b>	<b>\$ 57,100</b>

**Financial Secretary,**  
**Nancy H. Brown**

## Governance Team forms; please join us

A team has been formed to consider the governance of Grace Church. Our current model (Ministry Teams with a set number of members) may not be the best model for a church our size. We are a small congregation and our leadership model was formed when we were a congregation of several hundred.

The Governance Task team expects this to be a long-term commitment (six months to a year). However, it will not involve frequent meetings. Currently this team has six members - others are encouraged to participate. The next meeting will be on Monday, June 11, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

## Ministry Teams

### Missions Ministry Team

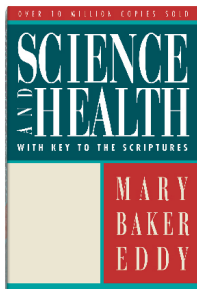
Christine Collins  
Eleanor Crawford,  
Chair  
Victoria Ellis  
Mary Memmott

[mission@  
gracechurchucc.  
org](mailto:mission@gracechurchucc.org)

### Deacon Ministry Team

Ruth Carney, Chair  
Glenn Colpitts  
Joanne Larkins  
Brian Winsor

[deacons@  
gracechurchucc.  
org](mailto:deacons@gracechurchucc.org)



## Mission

### Summer = Hungry Kids What Can We Do?

The Metrowest Harvest Food Pantry reports that many families seek food from them in the summer as children are home for school and no longer receiving school lunch or breakfast. Unfortunately, this is just when their stocks often run low. Please help us “stock the pantry” by bringing whatever you can for our next Cans for Communion Collection, Sunday, June 3. The pantry especially needs **cereal, tuna, mac and cheese, peanut butter, pasta and sauce.**

### Deacons

- We will be having another New members class in the near future. If you are interested in joining Grace or just would like more information, please contact Pastor Brad or one of the Deacons.

### Christian Science lecture at Grace

On Sunday, June 17, at 2 p.m., John Quincy Adams, will present a talk entitled: *Does Christian Science Really Heal Sickness and Sin?* This event will be sponsored by the First Church of Christ, Scientist and will be held at Grace Church.

This informal talk is intended for everyone – those seeking personal freedom from sickness or sin, those who practice Christian Science in their everyday lives, those who want a deeper understanding of spiritual healing, and those who are “just curious” about Christian Science.

The members of the Framingham branch of this First Church feel a special kinship with Grace Church and are very excited to hold this talk at Grace. While this is a public talk, First Church hopes the people of Grace Church will feel welcome and interested in attending.

### Wanted: Ms. or Mr. Hallmark

The Missions Ministry Team is seeking a volunteer to take over our “birthday card” ministry. With our youngest member leaving for college (congratulations, Victoria!), we appear to have lost the woman-power to accomplish this simple but much-appreciated task.

The job of the card-sender is simply to sign, address, and mail about 4-10 cards/month to members young and old, using our birthday book. We provide the list of names and birthdays, cards, and stamps. You just need to provide the time and the caring to get this done!

Members on our shut-in list especially appreciate these cards. If this job description sounds like something you’d enjoy, please see any member of the Missions Team (Christine Collins, Ellie Crawford, or Mary Memmott).

John Quincy Adams’ talk includes the foundational concepts that support the healing mission of First Church. As Grace Church explores its own mission, this talk will share helpful and inspiring ideas that speak to the purpose of church activity and participation -- and what it means to be a healing church.

Christian Science is explained in the best-selling book *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy. Free copies will be available at the talk, and the talk will include some historical facts about Mary Baker Eddy who also founded the Church of Christ, Scientist.

If weather permits the talk will be held in the grassy area behind Grace Church. Childcare will be available inside the building during the talk. Refreshments will be served, with opportunity for attendees to chat with John Quincy Adams.

## **Conference news**

As leaders/members of our congregation, you should know the following information.

Dale Hempen is our Area Minister.

Rev. Mr. Dale Hempen  
Associate Conference Minister  
Dale.Hempen@verizon.net

Ms. Diane Cooney,  
Administrative Assistant  
semac.ucc@verizon.net  
Dale and Diane work out of the Plymouth office,

25 Water St., Suite A-115,  
Plymouth, MA 02360.

Phone: 508-746-8330  
Fax: 508-746-8339

## **Rewarding time at Grace**

*Continued from page one*

dogs and sausages were delicious.

- **Rob Lovewell** is a superb ice cream scooper.
- **Karolyne White** was cashier at two events. Thanks, Karolyne!
- Special thanks for extraordinary effort and hard work to team leaders: **Mary Memmott, Christine Collins, Ellie Crawford, Terri Taylor, Dianne Belloli, Jan Norling, Karolyne White, Beverly Ablondi, Lynn Burdett, Jean Burr, and Linda Hilliard**
- The May Baskets were lovely - as usual. Thanks to the church crafters!
  - Thanks to **David Burdett** and **Barbara Sherman** who helped us with transporting left over Yard Sale and Fling merchandise to a donation center.
  - The chili contest brought in \$70 for the **Lynn Rodriguez Library Fund**.
  - Thanks to all those who supplied muscle power, especially on Pod day and Yard Sale setup.
  - All the ice cream was donated by Sealtest/Bryers. There's plenty left over for other events.
  - At the Fling, there were more than 40 church members involved; Pod day saw as many as 25.
  - Leftover food from the Fling will be used at the July Pool Party.
  - Photos from the events will be posted at the congregational meeting.

Thanks to all who pitched in and helped with all the events.

## **Youth News**

It gets very busy this time of year – if we do not fit in one more all youth event in June, we will try to gather at least once during the summer for something fun.

On June 24th we will be heading back to North Carolina with 4 of our teens to work on some new construction with Habitat for Humanity. People in the Tarboro region are still recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Floyd that came through in September of 1999. Many of these people have lived on the land passed down from generation to generation, but since they have no “deed”, they do not qualify for state or federal assistance. This is true for 95% of the damage caused by that storm. Thank you for supporting our efforts with funds and prayers. We will have a lot to share when we return!

## **Women's Lectio**

This year's closing potluck will be held on Wednesday, June 6th starting at 6:00 at 76 Salem End Rd. This will be followed by the Wednesday evening service in a Lectio Dvina format. This event is open to all (women and men!) who would like to share in fellowship and explore this ancient art form.

The annual Women's Retreat on June 8-9, will again be in Cohasset at the St. Joseph Villa Retreat Center. This beautiful setting is on the ocean and has an outdoor labyrinth and large wrap-around porches. The retreat is open to all women of Grace. Please let Laura Buck know if you intent to participate either for the overnight or just for the day on Saturday by June 1st.

## **Meditation Group**

The Meditation group meets Tuesdays from 11A to 11:30A. Meditation group consists of relaxation, deep breathing, visualization and may be used as an opportunity for quiet prayerful connection with God. Research has determined meditation

to be significantly beneficial both physically and mentally. We will continue to meet as much as possible during the summer months. We are trying to find a second day during the week to meet at 1:30 or later so that other members may attend.

## This and That

This is a good time for those with craft skills to spend some summer hours creating some items for the Holiday Fair in December. If you knit or sew, consider creating a few items. How about woodworking? Could you make some plaques or other objects?

The Church crafters meet every other Wednesday (at the church) beginning June 6 - from 10 to noon. They welcome you to join them. Refer questions to Beverly Ablondi or Jackie Mague.

## Stephanie visits China/Tibet

Stephanie Ellis is back from a college trip to China and Tibet. She has written about her experiences, which are posted on the Queen's University website. She was enlisted to write these articles and is being paid to do them. Melissa writes that Stephanie is considering living in China for a year after she graduates. To read Stephanie's fascinating articles, go to

[www.queensuniversity.edu](http://www.queensuniversity.edu)

-in Blue Column on left click academic programs

- s gold column will come up: click on John Belk International programs

-in Blue column click spring/summer study tours

-in gold column click on China and tibet

-in second gold column click on China and Tibet 2007 Study Tour

-In maroon bar, click on reports 1,2,3 4.

## GWU/Circle 13

GWU/Circle 13 will meet Wednesday June 13th at 11:30AM. Bring a bag lunch and we will have a brief meeting with a surprise program. Our annual dinner out will be at the Eagles on June 27th at 6:00PM. Please join us.

Book Club will meet June 27th at 10:00AM. This will be our final meeting for the summer. Book to be discussed TBA. after our May 30th meeting.

## Pledges sought

Linda Hilliard is seeking pledges for a three-mile walk on June 10 to support the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation. She is walking on behalf of a 10-year old boy who was diagnosed two years ago with this painful, incurable, and unpredictable disease. The child has faced repeated hospitalizations, surgeries, and painful treatments.

## Church calendar - June

<i>Worship and meetings at 76 Salem End Road unless otherwise noted.</i>			
	June 13	11:30 AM 7:00 PM	Grace Women United Worship
June 2	10:00 AM	<b>Stearns Farm</b>	June 15 Turning Point Shelter
June 3	8:30 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM	Choir rehearsal Worship/Sunday School classes Cans for Communion <b>Congregational Meeting</b>	June 17 8:30 AM 10:00 AM Choir rehearsal Worship
June 4	10:00 AM	Bible Study	June 18 10:00 AM Bible Study
June 5	11:00 AM 7:30 PM	Meditation Central Council	June 19 11:00 AM Meditation
June 6	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	Women's Lectio Pot Luck Worship	June 20 7:00 PM 7:30 PM Worship Stewards
June 8, 9		Women's Lectio Retreat	June 22 General Synod/UCC Annual Meeting, Hartford
June 10	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Choir rehearsal Worship Sunday School Party	June 24 8:30 AM 10:00 AM Choir rehearsal Worship
June 11	10:00 AM 7:30 PM	Bible Study Missions	Youth Group to North Carolina
June 12	11:00 AM	Meditation	June 25 10:00 AM Bible Study
			June 26 11:00 AM Meditation
			June 27 10:00 AM Lunch/dinner 6:00 7:00 PM Book Club Eat at Eagles GWU dinner at Eagles Worship

**Grace Church china available**

Would you like a memento of Grace Church? How about a place setting of the old Grace Church dinnerware? Any church member who would like a setting or two should help themselves.

**Do you know 211?**

211 for a new information and referral service, which was established in Mass. six months ago and serves the entire state. Call 211 for concerns such as needing heating oil, if you need day care for a child or elder, if your water heater is broken, or someone needs counseling. 211 is a single number that can direct callers to a wide array of services they may need. It is available from 8 to 8 Monday through Friday. Aside from Mass, 41 other states offer 211 service.

**Grace Congregational Church, UCC**

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**Pastor**

Brad Watters  
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**Deacons**

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**Music**

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**Stewards**

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atlarge@gracechurchucc.org

**Office Administrator:**

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office@gracechurchucc.org

**Music Director**

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musicdirector  
@gracechurchucc.org

Missionary in Indonesia – Susan Frans  
sefrans@kupang.wasantara.net.id

**Websites:**

<http://www.gracechurchucc.org>  
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[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) (UCC)

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