

# GRACE NOTES

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

## Settling in at Salem End Road

It doesn't take long to turn a building into a church. It's sitting together in our new worship space, seeing the altar with our cross, singing favorite hymns, chatting over coffee after the service, watching the children play during fellowship, overhearing discussions about a possible potluck, and sensing the warmth and camaraderie of dear friends. The Grace Church family is comfortably settling into its new home.

Our move into 76 Salem End Road has been surprisingly smooth. That's thanks in large part to several Task Teams who worked long and hard to do everything from painting and cleaning the building to setting up the chairs in the parlor.

The current plan for the building is to simply live there - be there - continue to get comfortable. There are no more immediate changes in the works. Except perhaps to move a chair

from the right to the left, re-arrange a classroom, put up some curtains. But for now - we want to enjoy having finally arrived. We want to focus on being the Grace Church religious community.

### Three Task teams disband

The three powerhouse task teams behind the Salem End move have now disbanded. The Building Task Team, Physical Asset Team and Construction Team have completed their work. The team members all receive heartfelt thanks from the Grace community. In most cases, the work of these teams now fall under the Stewards. Should you have any building concerns, contact the Stewards.

### New team to form - eventually

Sometime this spring, a new team will be formed. The Build-

*Continued on page two*

Join us for  
Lenten Services

Every Wednesday  
evening at  
76 Salem End Rd.  
beginning at  
7:00 PM

## All-Church Potluck and Core Values Finale - Saturday, March 17th!

Thank you to those who responded to our questionnaires in stage 3. We now move on to the final stage in this process, which has two purposes. The first is to build consensus around our core values, both the positive and the

March 17th - 3:00-5:00  
Potluck Dinner

negative. The second purpose is to celebrate the way that this process and the current lists of values solidify our identity. Oh, wait! The third purpose is to share an all-church potluck dinner!

We urge you to attend this event, even if you did not have a

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## Grace Notes

Volume 9, Number 3

March 2007

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Dear Ones,

Some of us recently gathered for an Ash Wednesday worship service. The "imposition of ashes" has possessed different significance in different times and places. For example, our scripture for the evening came from the Book of Jonah. In Jonah, the great city of Nineveh receives a warning that they must repent. When the powerful king hears this warning, he commands the people to repent and he himself takes off his garments of power and puts on garments of remorse, loss, and repentance. He also puts on ashes.

When you have "blown it," when you have offended someone, when you said things in an argument that you wish you had said differently, what do you do? Sometimes, I find myself saying I'm sorry. Now, that moment of saying I'm sorry while still in the heat of the conflict is a good move on my part! Get those words out into the air! But I also note that in some cases, saying I'm sorry right away doesn't finish the job. It is also good practice to remember to check back the next day with the people affected in that difficult moment, check back to say, once again, "I'm sorry." In these moments, you are choosing to take care of the relationship with the other person because you care that the relationship survive the outburst and you care that the person's feelings may have been wounded and you'd like to make that pain go away.

There is another reason to do this. You follow up later because you need to restore your own wholeness, which your ac-

tions have in some sense torn.

When we "blow it" with God, I believe it hurts God. I believe that we can't know the meaning of hurt to the one about whose nature we know very little. But you and I can learn that when we have done something offending to God, we have hurt ourselves and we need to restore our own wholeness.

Christians through the centuries have understood that the terrible crucifixion of Jesus does not only stand alone as an event. There were others crucified that day. In the days that have passed since that first Easter, people just like us and even people acting in our name have committed acts of torture, humiliation, and violence and still do so this very day. We can see that an economic system that "booms" or "is doing well" while many, by virtue of circumstance, knowledge, willpower, and/or opportunity are left out and left behind; that such a system commits deadly violence on the same day that most of us benefit from it. So we connect the dots and see that it wasn't just the Romans crucifying Jesus who committed an act only God

could forgive. Our ancestors and we stand responsible for the same brutality.

We claim the good news that in the resurrection of Jesus, God shows us that death is not the final word. Death, as the biggest fear, is dead. As Jesus hangs dying, he says one of the strangest sentences in the Bible. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." This is our hope, another piece of good news.

To claim this hope, this good news, follow the road to repentance. Say you're sorry today and then check back tomorrow to tend the relationship about which you care the most. Talk to your God. Call upon your God. Seek to make yourself and your relationship whole. That is the beginning of the repentance path. The path goes in a circle because we're going to have to walk it again and again. At this time of Lent, let us walk our repentance path with truth-telling as our promise and hope as our beacon.

*Peace and Blessing,  
Pastor Brad*

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## New Home

*Continued from page one*

ing Vision Team will be charged with developing recommendations around our dreams for Grace in one, three or five years. This team is open to anyone who would like to imagine Grace's future from the facilities perspective. Watch for details for the launch of this team.

## Comments, concerns

Feel free to share any concerns or issues with any of the Ministry Teams (names next to reports throughout this *Grace Notes*). With so many changes, communications is essential. Speak up if you have ideas that will help during this time of transition.

# GWU/Circle 13 plan Kitchen Shower



We're having a shower to outfit our kitchen and kitchenette at 76 Salem End Road - and everyone is invited to come and bring wrapped shower gifts!

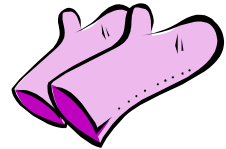


The shower will be held on Sunday, March 11, after church. Desserts and coffee will be served. Men are definitely invited, as well as our children. A Kitchen Wish List (similar to our holiday Pathways tag method) will be posted next weekend so that we don't end up with too much duplication.

However, the kitchen is bare, so anything you bring will be appreciated, including potholders, spatulas, dish towels, sponges, and so on. When we have an occasional potluck, we will need toss-away kitchen supplies (paper plates, napkins, cups, plastic utensils). We could use foil, plastic bags and wrap, and so on.



If you're not sure what to bring, cash donations would be most welcomed. A new coffee maker for fellowship is on the "To buy" list (about \$250). Donations should be given to Jean Burr.



## Church calendar - March

Worship and meetings at 76 Salem End Road unless otherwise noted.

Also see Christian Education calendar on page five

March 1 – 7:30 PM	Women's Lectio
March 4 – 10:00 AM	Worship/Family Communion Service (No SS) Cans for Communion
March 6 – 7:30 PM	Central Council
March 7 – 7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
March 11– 10:00 AM	Worship/Sunday School classes <i>Daylight Savings - Change your clocks</i>
March 14 – 11:30 AM – 7:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Grace Women United Lenten Worship Deacons - business meeting
March 16	Turning Point Dinner
March 17 – 3:00 to 5:00 PM	Core Value Consensus and Celebration Pot Luck
March 18– 10:00 AM	Worship/Sunday School classes
March 21 – 7:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Lenten Worship Stewards

March 25 – 10:00 AM  
– Noon  
Worship/ Sunday School (Multiage)  
Mission - Chili Cook in

March 28 – Noon to dinner  
–10:00 AM  
– 6:00 PM  
– 7:00 PM  
– 7:30 PM  
Eat at Eagles (fund raiser)  
Book Club  
Missions meets at Eagles  
Lenten Worship  
Deacons (spiritual growth)

April 1 Palm Sunday

April 8 Easter

### Two tentative dates:

Saturday, April 28 - Church Yard Sale with sale of May Baskets  
Saturday, May 5 - Community Open House

### Church calendar will be posted in office area

Before long, there'll be a large church calendar posted in the office area. Kab will update it once a week.

Contact Kab if you have a date that needs to be added to the calendar. And check the calendar to be sure there are no conflicts (note: several teams can meet in the building at once; there are several meeting spaces).

## Reports from our teams:

- Beautification Grounds Team: Not yet convened
- Decorating Team: (Beverly Ablondi, Jackie Mague) This team is currently considering window treatments for the building. They have been doing some comparison shopping and are making a recommendation to the Stewards.
- Kitchen Team: (Lynn Burdett) Grace Women United has been working on the kitchen. The ladies are planning a Kitchen Shower (see related article on page 3).
- Newbury Street Team: (Jean Burr) We have been meeting (much by e-mail) to determine all options for this land and will present pros and cons of each to the Central Council as soon as possible. Although we have asked our realtor to install a For Sale sign on the property with her phone number, this is just to “test the waters.” Any interest shown will be included in the options and help the entire membership make a decision at the next congregational meeting.
- Open House: (Terri Taylor, Ellie Crawford) An event is being planned in May to invite neighbors and the community to tour our new facility.
- Publicity: (Linda Hilliard) A favorable article (with photos) about the church appeared in the *Tab*. This team is currently working on an overall publicity philosophy. The web page is almost ready to relaunch. The second neighborhood leaflet drop will announce our Lenten Services.
- Reaching Out Team/Reverse Welcome Wagon Team: (Brad Watters) Not yet convened
- Safety Team (Tim Taylor): The alarm system is in the building.
- Signage Team: (Jean Burr) All of the signs requested have been installed. Our spring project will be finding a good location for a flag pole. Your suggestions for this will be appreciated.
- Strategic Plan Team: (Stewards) Not yet convened

### Governance Team

The Central Council is considering reconvening the Governance Task Team, which was formed about a year and a half ago. The team of about six people met to discuss the Central Council model of church governance. They collected information and started to develop recommendations. They went on hold pending the arrival of our Redevelopment Pastor. Watch for an announcement regarding this team. All are welcome to join.



### Follow up on our Steinway

The Performing Arts Center of MetroWest is so grateful for the loan of the Steinway concert piano. It was used in their Jan. 28 winter recital and before each scheduled hour of performances, it was introduced and highlighted as being on gracious loan from Grace Church UCC. They have had an expert clean it, tune it, and check it over to see if there were any necessary repairs and/or reconditioning issues involved with having it be at its full glory. It does need some TLC, so they have started a Piano Drive at

the P.A.C. to bring this beloved piano of ours, as well as all of their other piano's, up to true performance standards. As an example, the Steinway has been without a humidifier for years (!) and it is a necessary part to keep it in tune and keep all wooden parts from suffering damage due to seasonal humidity swings.

If you would like to make a donation to their piano drive and help get our Steinway back to tip top shape, please contact the Performing Arts Center of MetroWest at 140 Pearl Street, Framingham, MA 01702 or call them at 508-875-5554. Your check or credit card donation is fully tax deductible.

## Working together to settle into our new church home

We are all becoming more comfortable in our new church home. But like anything, it takes a while to work out a few of the building kinks. To that point, here are some possible solutions to some of our settling in blips.

- We do not have a sexton so everyone needs to help with cleaning. There's a dumpster in the back and it's only a few steps to carry a trash bag to the dumpster.
- The Stewards will work out a volunteer cleaning schedule, but meanwhile - if you make a mess, grab the vacuum from the downstairs closet and use it.
- Please cleanup after yourself. If you have a craft project, food service event or whatever - don't leave any debris.
- When you come out of sanctuary - please do not stand at the foot of the stairs to chat with friends - especially if people are trying to get by. Please move to an open space.
- After services, please don't leave your hymnal, bulletin, scrap papers in the sanctuary.
- Have a display up? Please remove it after a week or two.

## Ministry Teams

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

*christianed@  
gracechurchucc.org*

## 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 story-

teller 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 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. 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 contact a member of the team to find out when and where we will be meeting next and come join us.

### CE Wish List

Cotton Balls - 1 bag  
Elmer's Glue Sticks - Blue Gel kind  
Any Christian story books for kids  
- used is fine if in good shape  
Drawing pads  
Volunteer for Storyteller Sunday and  
a helper or two

### Sunday School Schedule March - April

- 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
  
- April 1 - Palm Sunday - Family/ Communion Sunday - No SS - children in worship**
- April 8 - Easter - No SS - children in worship**
- April 15 - SS Classes - theme is Psalm 150; Praise**
- April 22 - SS Classes - theme is Denial; Doubting Thomas story; Walk to Emmaus**
- April 29 - Storyteller Sunday multiage**  
- theme is Psalm 23

CE gives a big shout out of thanks to Evie McGuirk for the bulletin board, Tom Guppy for the many coloring books, and Christine Collins and Mary Memmott for the nursery toys. Things are shaping up!

### Special program at Edwards Church, Framingham Saturday, March 10 – 8:30AM-4:00PM

**Wading in the Water:** How the ministry of the baptized creates healthy small churches Gather together with lay leaders and clergy from small membership churches (100 or less in worship) as we work together to answer these questions and more:

How can lay leadership and ordained leadership work together to create life-giving, transforming, over-flowing vitality in small churches? How does that recognition of lay ministry move a church away from the concern that it is too small, too poor, or just plain not enough?

Register online at [www.macucc.org/pep/wading-reg.cfm](http://www.macucc.org/pep/wading-reg.cfm) or print out registration form and mail in, along with a check to: Kris LoFrumento, MACUCC, One Badger Road Framingham, MA 01702

## Youth Ministry

The first joint evening for grades 6-12 was held to close out February vacation with a time of food, fellowship and games. Future gatherings will be exploring Christian Rock music, preparing for our mission trip, experiencing different styles of worship as well as coming up with some new and fun ways of raising the funds needed to support our trip in June. In the meantime, we are still selling pins and wooden replicas of 73 Union Avenue and 76 Salem End Rd. Stop by and check them out after service sometime!

Adult leaders are always welcome for an event, an evening or as someone to call on just in case Brad or Terri can't make it. If you think you might be interested, come talk with Brad Watters or Terri Taylor.

## Ministry Teams

### Deacon Ministry Team

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

deacons@  
gracechurchucc.org

## Deacons

People of Grace,

• Lent has begun. The Ash Wednesday Service on February 21 was a wonderful, thoughtful communion service with imposition of ashes. We will continue to have an evening service at 7:00 PM on each of the Wednesdays in Lent. Please join us and make this part of your Lenten schedule.

• Our Director of Music, Susan Minor, is planning music for Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. Would you consider joining the choir for any or all of these services? Please speak to Susan about being part of the choir.

• At our Deacon Ministry Team Meeting, we talk about worship. Is there anything that touches you in worship? Concerns you? The Deacons thank you for the feedback we have received. We need you to continue to communicate with us! 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 as we gear up for redevelopment.

• Don't forget, if we have to cancel worship or any other activity, tune in to channel 5 for our cancellation listing.

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 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*

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## Core Values *Continued from page one*

chance to attend one of the earlier events.

In this final stage, we will accomplish a final narrowing of the lists. In preparation, you could examine the lists below with these questions in mind:

Have I experienced or seen people at Grace Congregational behave in a way that showed me they valued this within the past year? Have I seen it often, once in a while, or never? When I experienced this, I felt [joy, pain, relief ....].

### Core Values List

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  
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

### Negative Values List

Selfishness, listening without heart, taking things personally (rather than listening to intent), forgetting about God, apathy, avoidance, let someone else do it  
Disrespect, prejudice, jealousy, envy, gossip, angry outbursts, cliques, underestimating people, feeling excluded, welcome denied, not invited  
Stubbornness, Closed mind, Rigidity, inflexible, "we've always done it that way"  
Control, "knowing it all", not allowing input, not an open process, trying to define others' passions, power, "Why don't you trust me"  
Needing immediate success, instant gratification, disconnection, distraction  
Communication/making assumptions, lack of understanding vs. ignorance, lack of information so filling in the gaps,  
Criticism, lack of humility, addicted to crisis, Eeyore Syndrome ("poor me"), highlighting the negative, finding fault

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!

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

## Ministry Teams

### Missions Ministry Team

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

*mission@  
gracechurchucc.  
org*

### Stewards

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

*stewards@  
gracechurchucc.  
org*

## Mission

### One Great Hour of Sharing – April 1



With your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, the UCC offers hope and well-being to people around the world. Working with international ministry partners and with the domestic UCC disaster network, Wider Church Ministries uses the offering to help people make vital basic improvements in their lives.

By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, you connect with communities suffering from poverty, illiteracy, illness, and the dangers of wars and disasters. By the time such a crisis becomes news, your offerings are already at work. This year the focus of the OGHS campaign is “who is my neighbor?” This simple question, the same one that led Jesus to tell the story of the Good Samaritan, inspires us to reach out to our neighbors across the globe.

## Stewards

- The Stewards are putting together a building use manual for all who are involved using the building. It will contain contact lists for all utilities, maintenance issues, contractors etc. This should be completed within the next few weeks.
- We would like to remind everyone who is using the building that they are responsible (for now) to clean up after themselves. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for people to take turns to vacuum, clean the bathrooms, empty the trash, etc. pretty much the inside of the building, on every Saturday. It's not fair to Brad or Brownie to have to keep vacuuming the building, if we all take turns and get into the routine of building upkeep, it will be rewarding for all.
- If you have a key to the building and have not picked code to alarm or unalarm the building, please get in touch

To help you focus your giving, please consider using the attached “giving calendar” from the UCC, for a week or two, or as long as you are able. Envelopes are included with this issue of Grace Notes, and checks can be made out to “Grace Church,” just note “One Great Hour of Sharing” in the memo line. We will also plan to have special “photo cube” collection boxes available at church, please pick one up if you haven't already. We will take up this collection on Palm Sunday, April 1.

### Cans for Communion – Update

This month (March 4th) we welcome any contributions of non-perishable foods. Thank you for your continued support of the SMOC food pantry!

with Dianne or Tim Taylor to do so. We need to get this done ASAP.

- If any one has any issue with the building, please get in touch with any of the Stewards.
- A special thanks to Frank for getting the copier installed and to Tim for the alarm system.

## Financial update

### FINANCIAL UPDATE 2007

AMOUNT PLEDGED 7 WEEKS	\$8,087
AMOUNT RECEIVED 7 WEEKS	\$7,772
PLEDGED FOR 2007	\$ 61,194

Financial Secretary,  
Nancy H. Brown

**May baskets are back!**

The Grace Church crafters will be making May baskets again. These colorful paper baskets will be sold at the April 28 Yard Sale and also on Craigslist.

The crafters will be constructing the basket on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesday of each month starting on March 7. They will meet at the church at 10:00. Refer questions to Jackie Mague and Beverly Ablondi.

**Kid's Choir Starting up!**

All kids (16 and under) are invited to rehearse with Susan Minor before service from 9:30 – 9:45 on Sundays in March to prepare for a musical offering during Palm Sunday service (April 1st – no fooling!)

The next GWU/Circle 13 meeting will be on March 14. It's tentatively planned to go to a movie. On April 4, the group will have lunch at Keefe Tech.

**Church World Service School Kits**

Several volunteers will be working on making school kits for Church World Service. This project involves sewing school bags, then filling them with a specific list of school supplies. Anyone who would like to donate to the bag contents, should send a check to Jean Burr. Stitcher volunteers should check with Beverly Ablondi or Jackie Mague.

**Two letters received**

- Re: Grace Notes: "I do enjoy hearing the news of people mom and dad know - and me, too - and the progress you are all making in your new church home. Will all good wishes." *Jean (Pugsley) Sherback*
- "I am sending a donation to the church at the request of my parents, Jason and Lucy Kelly. They send their congratulations on settling in and opening the doors at your new location on Salem End Road." *Barbara (Kelley) Rolfes*

**Fundraiser Update**

**Eagles:**

Let's really take advantage of this opportunity for fun and good food on March 28. Remember that each month will be on the 4th Wednesday. This means that you can copy the coupon and pass it out to your friends and neighbors and also that you can use it on any month as there is no specified date required. (January income from this was \$18.)

**Respect anyone?**

There's a new musical in at the Stuart Street Playhouse in Boston called "Respect." It's touted as being similar to the popular Menopause, the Musical that about 15 church members attended last year. If there is enough interest, GWU will organize a theater group - with discount rates. Depending on the number that attend, tickets would range from \$39 to \$42. Shows are on Wed and Sat at 2 and 8; Tues & Fri at 8 only; and Sun at 2 and 6. If interested, contact Jean Burr.

**Women's Lectio**

The Women's Lectio Group will gather at 76 Salem End Rd. on Monday, March 5, starting at 7:30. Come join us for a time of scripture reflection and spirit building using the Lectio Divina art form.

Retreat: The upcoming date for the Women's retreat is 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. It's on the beach and they have a labyrinth on premises for reflection. Any questions, please contact Laura Buck or Terri Taylor.

**Intergenerational Prayer**

**Shawl Ministry**

This is a great opportunity for knitters of all ages and abilities (or lack of) to come together and learn to knit, share stories and serve a need voiced by Donna Tetreault for hospice patients in her spiritual care. Timing will probably be once or twice a month on a weekday in the 3:30 – 5:30 range – but will revolve around the schedules of those expressing an interest. If you are interested, please contact Terri Taylor.



## **Mission Calendar**

## Chili "Cook-In" for Shut-in Buddies

Thank you so much to everyone who has volunteered to be a "buddy" to one of our shut-in's. This joyful ministry will truly enrich you as well as our shut-in's. If you're not a buddy yet, please consider joining us.

On March 25th after church, we will have a chili lunch to celebrate the buddies who are already serving, and welcome any new ones who would like to join us. We'll provide chili, cornbread, desserts, and drinks, along with an informational discussion about the challenges and joys of visiting. Please let Christine Collins or Mary Memmott know if you plan to join us.



## Grace Congregational Church, UCC

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### Pastor

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### Mission

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### Music

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### Stewards

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### Members at Large

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Jon Ellis  
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### Office Administrator:

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### Music Director

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Missionary in Indonesia – Susan Frans  
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### Websites:

<http://www.gracechurchucc.org>  
[www.macucc.org](http://www.macucc.org) (Mass Conf.)  
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