

GRACE NOTES

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

Dedication Sunday: A Stellar Event in the Life of Grace Church

It couldn't have been any better! Grace's Dedication of its new church home fulfilled all expectations:

- It was a gorgeous day (we gathered under a tent on the lawn)
- More than 80 people attended (and one bunny rabbit). We saw old friends and met new ones.
- The service was moving and fun and lively
- All our guests had the highest praise for our new church home

Comments from attendees

"I've never seen Grace with so much energy before. You are all so upbeat!"
 "What a great turnout!"
 "You're doing fine!"
 "God has brought you to something better!"
 "I feel a closeness among your members."
 "Most congregations would

have fallen apart, but not Grace. You stuck together and you're stronger than ever."

"You've survived and you're thriving."

"You're in the perfect amount of space for who you are right now."

"This building feels like a church."

"You are such an animated congregation."

"You're where you're supposed to be."

"You've hung in and you've survived."

The success of our September 16 Dedication was thanks to many hands (both planning and execution) who helped to make it a seamless and pleasant event.

It's impossible to list all names (because we'd have to thank almost everyone at Grace), but two special thank

you are needed. Ruth Bodge make as many as 50 phone calls to follow up on the printed invitations. And to Pastor Brad who not only lead us through this rewarding day, but also demonstrated his artistic ability with the wonderful *Grace Notes* headline montage on the wall in the fellowship hall. Very cool....

Behind the scenes - thanks to all our volunteers on the secretarial, collation, logistical, worship, visual hospitality teams, greeters and children. Also to all those who baked for the event. So many pitched in to ensure the success of this event.

**Grace to host
Music Workshop
on November 10**

*Opening the Gates:
Music &
Inter-generational
Worship*

See page two

Grace Notes

Volume 9, Number 10

October 2007

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Dear Ones,
Our way of organizing effort in groups at Grace Congregational is, in some ways, very much like the way things were organized at "mainstream Protestant" churches all through the last half of the 20th Century. It is also true that things have changed in how we name teams, how we staff teams, and how some teams have permanence while others disappear as soon as their task is done. We have placed some emphasis on an ongoing switch to team-based action and we have decided to hope that teams will make a difference.

What differences do we hope for? Well, we hope to shed some of the baggage of procedure, of boredom, of wearying duty, of rigidity, and of the abuse of power that "committees" and "boards" carried with them. We also hope to unleash energy and passion, quick response and personal initiative, generosity and creativity, spirituality and geniality, (and the list could go on) and all aspects of the abundant life we should find in our faith and our faith community.

How are we doing? I'm interested in your answer to that question!

I see the move to teams as very important for our life together at Grace Congregational. If we operate in teams that are simply committees by another name, then we will fail to become a revitalized church.

Following some good practices can help our teams serve us well. Here are four characteristics of good teams to think about this month. I'll share some more in the future. If you are on a team that doesn't share these characteristics, then you should ask why not. You and your team have work to be done to fix it!

1. Clear purpose. The vision, mission, goal, or task of the team has been defined and is now accepted by everyone. There is an action plan derived from the outcomes the team desires to achieve.

2. Informality. The climate tends to be informal, comfortable, and relaxed, with room for excitement and humor and also room for deeper engagement.

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Grace to host Music Workshop on November 10

Opening the Gates: Music & Inter-generational Worship

This workshop is intended for Church musicians, staff, lay leaders and anyone who has a passion for music in a worship setting (that would mean most, if not all of us!) and making that music accessible to all worshipers. We will learn songs and how they can be used in worship as well as how to lead song in worship. Some of the songs learned will be used in worship the next Sunday morning (November 11th) so that we can learn by experience as well as theory.

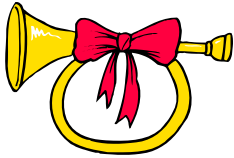
The workshop will be led by Fiona Vidal-White, using her hymnal "My Heart Sings Out." Fiona says "The purpose of this hymnal is to desegregate the children ... and the adults in the church. Children cannot participate in the music we use for worship if they are required to rely on traditional music resources.... This collection of music makes it possible for both adults and children to be fully engaged in the worship of God,

and ... provide a sound foundation for a child's personal theology as he or she grows up in the church." Ms. Vidal-White, has a Masters degree in sacred music from Boston University. She currently consults with parishes in the Diocese of Massachusetts and further abroad on the intersection between worship, music and faith formation. She is program coordinator for the Leadership Program for Musicians in Massachusetts, (www.lpm-online.org- national and www.rvan.org - local) and an associate with Children at Worship (www.childrenatworship.org)

When: Saturday November 10, 2007 9:00 - 4:00;
Cost is \$40 and includes lunch. All participants are also invited to attend Sunday worship led by Ms. Vidal-White, November 11, at 10:00

If you would like to attend the workshop or help out with serving lunch and other hospitality on Saturday, just see Brad, Terri or Susan.

Holiday Craft/Gift Fair



Friday, November 30 - 6 to 8 pm
 Saturday, December 1 - 9 am to 1 pm



Break out those craft supplies; start assembling items for a Silent Auction basket; put up your best jams and jellies – Grace Church’s annual Holiday Fair will be held on two days - November 30 (evening) and December 1.

We will have:

- Bake table
- Books
- Cookie walk
- Country Pantry
- Crafts
- Gifts and collectibles
- Jewelry
- Plants
- Silent Auction
- Tea Room

We will not have

- Children’s used toys
- Chowder luncheon
- Rummage
- Trash and treasures

Outside vendors will not be allowed to rent space this year. There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet by mid-October.

Contact Jean Burr, Beverly Ablondi or Lynn Burdett for more information.



Church calendar - October

Meetings at 76 Salem End Road unless otherwise noted.

October 1	10:00 AM 7:30 PM	Bible Study Women’s Lectio	October 17	10:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Crafters Worship Stewards
October 2	7:30 PM	Central Council	October 19	Turning Point Shelter	
October 3	10:00 AM 7:00 PM	Crafters Healing Worship	October 21	8:30 AM 10:00 AM 11:30	Singer rehearsal Worship Faith in Action
October 7	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Singer rehearsal Worship Cans for Communion	October 22	10:00 AM	Bible Study
October 8	10:00 AM	Bible Study	October 24	Eat at Eagles! 10:00 AM 7:00 PM	Book Club Worship
October 9	7:30 PM	Missions	October 28	8:30 AM 10:00 AM 6:30 PM	Choir rehearsal Worship Youth Party
October 10	7:00 PM	Worship	October 29	10:00 AM	Bible Study
October 11	6:30 PM	Deacons	October 31	10:00 AM 7:00 PM	Crafters Worship
October 14	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Singer rehearsal Worship			
October 15	10:00 AM	Bible Study			

Ministry Teams

Christian Ed.
Rob Lovewell
Daleen Perkins
Ronda Yeomans

*christianed@
gracechurchucc.org*

**Missions Ministry
Team**
Eleanor Crawford,
Chair
Mary Memmott

*mission@
gracechurchucc.
org*

Christian Education

Thank you, teachers and helpers! The Fall schedule is shaping up nicely. There are some blanks that need to be filled. Please Daleen know if you would be willing to teach or help. CEMT is excited about the new curriculum. We will be teaching one story a month. In October, we study the story of Naomi and Ruth. ght in 3 - 5 week increments so there is plenty of material. Be a part of Sunday School this Fall. The curriculum is good, the classes are small and the children are great!

Getting ready for the Fair

The crafters are working at the church on Wednesdays (October 3, 17, and 31), beginning at 10:00 AM. If you can't attend, consider making holiday crafts at home. For ideas, speak to Jackie Mague or Beverly Ablondi.

Jean Burr is looking for 1/2 pint and pint size jars for her homemade jams and jellies. Speak to Jean if you have some you can donate.

Mission

Cans for Communion

This month (October 7) we are especially looking for donations of CANS OF SOUP, but all donations of non-perishable foods are welcome. Thank you for your continued support of the SMOC food pantry!

Stearns Farm Produce

We have just a few more dates to pick up our share of the harvest at Stearns Farm. If you haven't been out to the farm yet, you are truly in for a treat - the flowers and children's garden are especially beautiful in the fall. If you'd like to join us for picking and visiting on Sept. 28, Oct 12, or Oct. 25, please see Ellie Crawford or Mary Memmott.

Why Grace Church recycles!

from Faith In Action

- Saves Natural Resources - By making products from recycled materials instead of virgin materials, we conserve land and reduce the need to drill for oil and dig for minerals.
- Saves Energy - It usually takes less energy to make recycled products; recycled aluminum, for example, takes 95% less energy than new aluminum from bauxite ore.
- Saves Clean Air and Water - In most cases, making products from recycled materials creates less air pollution and water pollution than making products from virgin materials.
- Saves Landfill Space - When the materials that you recycle go into new products, they don't go into landfills or incinerators, so landfill space is conserved.
- It is the right thing to do!

There are recycle bins throughout the church. Use them - for paper, coffee cups (rinsed), plastics, and so on.

Bring a bear to church in late November



By the early December, Grace Church will be overrun by bears - the teddy bear variety. The Faith in Action Team is launching its annual bear collection from November 25 to December 16.

Once the collection is over, all of the bears will be blessed during worship and then sent to shut-ins, shelters, nursing homes, the police stations, etc. with the love, best wishes and prayers of our faith community.

Start bear hunting now, but don't bring the bears yet - wait until the end of November.

Ministry Teams

Deacon Ministry Team
Ruth Carney, Chair
Joanne Larkins
George Tynes
Karolyne White

**deacons@
gracechurchucc.
org**

**Stewardship Team
forming**

**Want to help
shape Grace's
2008 Stewardship
Campaign? The team
currently consists
of Jean Burr, Frank
Carney, Linda Hilliard
and Brad Watters.
Watch for a meeting
date and come join
us!**

Deacons

People of Grace,

What a wonderful Dedication Service and collation we had on September 16, 2007! Thank you to one and all: those who were part of the planning, those who lent a hand, those who participated and to all who came. Our guests had many compliments and well wishes for us.

There is a mid-week worship service every Wednesday at 7:00 PM. On the first Wednesday of each month, this will be a Healing Service. (Plan to come to the next one on October 3, 2007.) These services will be for everyone who seeks healing whether for yourself or for someone else in your life. Healing can be in mind, spirit and body. We all find strength in relationship with one another.

Pastor Brad will be attending a family wedding out of state the third weekend in October. We have invited the Reverend Larry Iannetti to provide pulpit supply on October 21. We look forward to welcoming him back.

The Deacons and Pastor Brad are currently discussing worship for fall,

Advent and Christmas. If you have suggestions for us, please let Ruth know and she will put it on our "brainstorming" list.

All the ministry teams have been asked to do planning before the 2008 budget setting so planning, not budget line items, drive our focus. The Deacons have started (and will be continuing) this brainstorming for 2008. We are letting our ideas flow freely. Do you have any dreams that should be included on the Deacons list? Please let Ruth know and she will add it to our brainstorming list.

We are still in need of volunteers to usher, greet or to prepare and serve coffee for the fellowship time on Sunday after worship. (Thank you to those who have signed up.) Please consider volunteering some Sunday. Everyone who gathers at coffee hour enjoys the time and fellowship it provides.

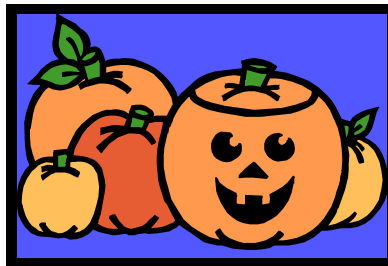
At our Deacon Ministry Team Meetings, we talk about worship. Is there anything that touches you in worship? Concerns you? The Deacons thank you for the feedback we have received. We need you to continue to communicate with us! And we will discuss it and get back to you. Please let Pastor Brad or any of the Deacons know. We need both positive and negative feedback.

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 you need us. God is with us and among us. God does and will provide.

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

Youth Group Meeting October 28th

All youth grades 6-12 are invited along with their friends to an All Hallows' party from 6:30 to 8:30. Come in a costume (or not) and share a ghost story as we explore some myths and facts about this ancient holiday (oh - and there will be food!)



Planning the Possibilities

As part of the 2008 Stewardship campaign, ministry teams and members are being invited to talk about their dreams for the church.

If we had unlimited funds how would you like to see those funds spent to make Grace Church a better (more inviting) place in 2008? What is your dream list for Grace Church? Remember - all dreams cannot become reality, but still... what do you envision?

Speak to Brad Watters, Linda Hilliard or any Ministry Team member about your dream for Grace.

About Us

- Prayers of healing for **Barbara Kimball**, who is recovering from surgery.
- Prayers of healing for **Eleanor Wells** who is back at the Wil-lows after almost two weeks at Leonard Morse.

Pastors' Paragraph

Continued from page two

3. Participation. There is much discussion and everyone is encouraged to be involved.

4. Listening. The members use effective listening techniques such as questioning, paraphrasing, and summarizing to get out ideas.

*Peace and Blessing,
Pastor Brad*

Grace Congregational Church, UCC

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Missionary in Indonesia
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Websites:
<http://www.gracechurchucc.org>
www.macucc.org (Mass Conf.)
www.ucc.org (UCC)

Planning the October 7 service

I loved our Dedication service! Fun to be outdoors. Blessed and consecrated by "the bunny" and all. On October 7, our "Family Service with Communion" will take some planning! I invite you to participate in designing this worship service. The first step is for you to let me know if you would like to be involved in planning the service. Once I have your names, then I'll work out a schedule for the planning work.

Among possible themes for the day are:

- The Core Value - Mission, Service, Outreach, Social Justice
- Sharing the Feast of Jesus in a different way - World Communion Sunday

-- Bold ideas for 2008 - from the Ministry Teams, the plans that will inspire our commitment for the next fiscal year.

-- From 2 Timothy: "[God gave us] a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord ... Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us."

*Peace and Blessing,
Brad*

The Reagle Players in Waltham puts on a wonderful Christmas show. If you are interested in attending in December as part of a Grace Church Theater outing, contact Jean Burr.