

# GRACE NOTES

Grace is a Green Church!

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



## Pot Luck Dinner and Game Night

Friday, October 4th - 6:00 PM

Bring food to share and some games to play.  
This event is open to all ages.

Will we see you at the pot luck supper on Friday night?  
If you haven't signed up yet, it's OK We still want you to be with us. It's game night too, so if you have a favorite game, bring it along with your food to share.  
If not, there will be lots of games to choose from.  
All ages are welcome!



## Congregational meeting to be held on October 20

The Crossroads process is complete! Those who participated have done faithful work. Many members of the congregation invested their time prayerfully and collectively considering our future options as a congregation. There was a clear consensus within all of the House Meeting groups to move forward with "Mission Redefinition." We have made a decision about our future.

Now we are ready to move ahead. The Leadership Ministry Team is proposing that we engage the Hope Partnership for Transformational Ministries as coaches and facilitators for the next phase of our journey. They offer resources and coaching services that they call "Mission Pathways Options for Your Congregation" that seem like a good fit and are affordable.

The purpose of this congregational meeting is to request that the additional funds need-

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October 2013

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## Cans for Communion

The Food Pantry is especially seeking PASTA. Although any donations are welcomed.  
We will collect on both October 6th and 13th.

## From the Pastor

Dear Ones,

*“You can observe a lot by just watching.”*  
 - Yogi Berra

Have you ever been overlooked?  
 Recently, I showed up for an event all suited up and ready only to find that no one at the event expected me or knew what to do with me and no one wanted to figure it out. No one caused a scene. I certainly didn't. Everyone just looked away.

I've sat at senior staff meetings at a large Massachusetts company where the contributions of one of the people at the table were routinely ignored. Almost everyone just kind of looked at their notes whenever she spoke and then the discussion continued as if she had said nothing, as if she hadn't made a sound.

More than one of you has told me that you have taken your place in line at something like a Dunkin Donuts counter behind a “person of color” and had the odd experience of being asked for your order - you who came later - as though the person in front of you was not even there.

If that happens once to you, it is odd. If that has happened more than once to you, it becomes something much more difficult to accept.

Now, there are sometimes contributing circumstances that make such overlooking or avoidance understandable, if not forgivable. Psychological explorations of how the human mind does or does

not pay attention continue to provide new insights about what we do and don't notice. What does your faith teach you?

In following the way of Jesus, we call each other to be more like Jesus, sometimes even to be the very hands of Jesus in this broken, beloved world. When it comes to noticing who is in the room, and choosing away from a path that overlooks another person, we might do better if we aspired to be like Jesus would want us to be. After all, there are several stories wherein Jesus overlooks someone. In those stories, the person sometimes ends up shouting for the attention of the man from Galilee. You see, Jesus was a human just like you and me with a human mind just like you and me and a busy schedule, just like yours is sometimes. Still, it is clear from the stories that Jesus learns to notice everyone.

You see, Jesus is learning from the God whom he loved and so should you and I. And, “What would God do?” Consider this familiar verse.

*“God's eye is on the sparrow,  
 and I know God watches me.”*

Civilla D. Martin, ca. 1905

May you be plagued today by noticing everyone you pass. May you even go out of your important way to observe, to listen, and to see each sparrow and each person. May you be unable to overlook any of them.

Peace and Blessing,  
 Pastor Brad

## October Calendar

October 4	6:00 PM Potluck and Game Night	9:00 AM	Singers rehearse
		10:00 AM	Worship
		11:00 AM	Congregational Meeting
October 5	8:00 AM Men's Breakfast	11:30 AM	Faith in Action Meeting
October 6	10:00 AM Cans for Communion Worship/Communion	October 21	11:30 AM Bible Study
October 9	11:30 AM Grace Women United	October 23	10:00 AM Book Club
October 13	9:00 AM Cans for Communion Singers rehearse 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Green Team meeting	October 26	10:00 AM Foam Collection
October 14	Indigenous People's Day & Columbus Day	October 27	9:00 AM Singers rehearse 10:00 AM Worship
October 20		October 28	11:30 AM Bible Study



## “It’s Not About Molasses”

I just read an article about 233,000 gallons of molasses being spilled into Honolulu Harbor, killing 28,000 fish and other water life. A leak was previously reported of a pipe which pumps molasses from a storage tank into cargo ships bound for California. It was inspected and reported no leaks.

And of course we all remember the Boston Molasses Disaster of 1919 (maybe not). That explosion covered a number of streets with 2.3 million gallons.

But this isn’t about molasses. It’s about how unique we humans are in devising way to hurt our environment. How can oil companies who want to pump millions gallons of oil across the country assure us of no leaks?

Recently, the government wants to dump tons

of sand into the Sudbury River in order to cap the mercury put there by the Nyanza Corp. back in 1978. The mercury has settled to the bottom. A number of environmentalist (and residents) are concerned that the dumping will only stir up a sleeping giant.

A question was asked of an environmentalist on NPR why Germany is far ahead of us in being “green.” His response was that the Germans attempt to correct with the environmental problems with science. The United States does it with politics.

So, the next time you’re at the Sudbury River and see one of my brethren turning orange, quickly call a politician!

*Frank Carney*

### Green Team Update (September meeting)

Those who attended our September meeting welcomed the opportunity to meet with Mike Cucchiara from Next Step Living, a local concern which was brought to our attention through Transition Framingham. Their focus is on helping us all to live “greener” in our homes, starting with an energy audit by Mass Save. These audits cover lighting, heating and insulation and are done at no cost to the homeowner. He then spoke about an air source heat pump, an attachment which can be used with an existing oil or electric heating system for both heat and A/C, while providing cleaner energy and, in the long run, financial savings as well.

We asked Mike to come back to Grace at a time when we could invite others, not only from the church, but from the community as well, to hear what he has to say. This will happen here on Saturday, the 2nd of November at 10:00 a.m. There will be time for questions (and coffee, of course) so please spread the word and plan to be here to meet Mike.

Frank is waiting for more information from our energy audit so the follow up on our electricity usage was tabled until the next meeting on October 13.

*Jean Burr*

## Foam Recycling

Commonly called Styrofoam™

Saturday, October 26

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Remove all tape, labels & food particles from your foam

As usual, we are hoping for volunteers to be at the church on October 26 for our next collection of foam. In the meantime, pick up a flyer or two at the church and help us to pass the word. Because it’s “Make a Difference Day,” we will be asking for donations for the food pantry. Also, there will be a representative there with information about his company, Next Step Living. (See the Green Team article.) We are also contemplating other ideas as well, and welcome suggestions . Let’s do everything we can to really make a difference.

## Thank you to all the folks who helped with Sunday School during September

At our “New Beginnings” service and meeting October 8, we decided that there will soon be a series of conversations and meetings to clarify the goals and purpose of Grace Church. Since goals for Christian Education is part of what the whole church intends to accomplish, we asked that Christian Education goals and programming be included on the agenda in the church rededication meetings.

Since that series of meetings will likely take weeks or months to complete, we decided to proceed with Sunday School as we had over the last year, and add a once a month class for the junior high and high schoolers during church time. Mary and Ronda will continue to teach regular Sunday School lessons assisted by Raechel Belloli after the sign of peace twice a month. Most months lessons will take place on the first and fourth Sundays of the month.

Ruth Carney will meet with the older students on the third Sunday of the month during the entire church service time. Ruth intends this time to be student centered and very responsive to the needs and interests of the students themselves. One idea is for them to plan a worship service together and then share it with the whole congregation at an inter generational service later in the season. **Note:** The Junior and High School Sunday School class is appropriate for 7th graders and older. An adult helper is needed each week in order to maintain our Safe Sanctuaries status. Please see Ruth if you are available to assist with this group.

For the month of October, regular Sunday School will be held on October 6th and 27th. Sunday School for the junior and high school students will be held Oct. 20 and will start at 10AM.

*Ronda Yeomans*

## “September 1, 1939” by W.H. Auden

On a separate note, I happened across the poem “September 1, 1939” by W.H. Auden this morning. His message seemed equally as appropriate now as it was then when Britain entered WWII. It also seems specifically appropriate to the work we as a church try to do. Here are the last 3 stanzas, but I urge you to read the whole poem and others by Auden since he seems so genuine and honest. The last line especially seems like a fitting prayer for our times and for us as members of Grace congregation.

....From the conservative dark  
Into the ethical life  
The dense commuters come,  
Repeating their morning vow;  
“I will be true to the wife,  
I’ll concentrate more on my work,”  
And helpless governors wake  
To resume their compulsory game:  
Who can release them now,  
Who can reach the deaf,  
Who can speak for the dumb?

All I have is a voice  
To undo the folded lie,  
The romantic lie in the brain  
Of the sensual man-in-the-street  
And the lie of Authority  
Whose buildings grope the sky:  
There is no such thing as the State  
And no one exists alone;  
Hunger allows no choice  
To the citizen or the police;  
We must love one another or die.

Defenceless under the night  
Our world in stupor lies;  
Yet, dotted everywhere,  
Ironic points of light  
Flash out wherever the Just  
Exchange their messages:  
May I, composed like them  
Of Eros and of dust,  
Beleaguered by the same  
Negation and despair,  
Show an affirming flame.



## Deacons

People of Grace,  
*It is not how much we have, but  
how much we enjoy that makes  
happiness.*

- Charles Spurgeon

Autumn is here. The trees are putting on their fall colors. The weather has cooled (although, the forecast for the coming week sounds more like summer). It is getting dark earlier and soon daylight savings time will soon be over.

On World Communion Sunday (October 6), we celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ with our brothers and sister in Christ in all denominations, and in all parts of the earth. We eat the bread of heaven, and drink the cup of blessing in communion with all Christians, remembering that in Christ there is no east or west, male or female, old or young, no divisions based on race, ethnicity, preference, or particular interpretations of the gospel message. On this day, we remember that in our incredible gift of diversity, through the divine working of the Holy Spirit, we are one body, whole and complete through Jesus Christ. May it

### Grace Women United

GWU will meet at the church on Wednesday, October 9th at 11:30 AM.

Lynn Burdett

### Book Club



The Book Club will meet on October 23rd at 10AM in the library. We will be discussing BACK BAY by William Martin. The November book is MOUNTAINS BEYOND MOUNTAINS by Tracy Kidder.

Lynn Burdett

be so.

On October 6th, we will have a lay-led service. Pastor Brad and Debbie will be with family celebrating their daughter, Danielle's wedding. Many happy prayers go out to Danielle and Tony as they begin this new journey in their relationship. While Pastor Brad is away, please feel free to contact me in case of any pastoral emergency or need for the body of the church to hold you in their prayers. I will be checking the church's voicemail or you can call me at home.

We will celebrate communion on first two Sundays in October (6th & 13th) and we will have cans for communion at both services. The current need at the food pantry is boxed pasta or you may bring anything else that would be appropriate.

This month the news from the Middle East is encouraging. Please keep the world in your prayers. Praying for peace, for understanding, for ending conflict, for talking, for listening, for coming up with solutions and for justice may not be enough. But it may be. We must continue to pray. We must continue to seek an equitable peace for all. While

## Congregational meeting

*From page one*

ed for these services be added to the budget. The meeting will convene concurrently with the end of the worship service at approximately 11:00 am and be very brief.

Come and celebrate the beginning of the next phase of our journey together.

## Please Welcome Kathryn Cleary to Grace

Kathryn is going to be using our space to provide spiritual direction. Typically, she provides spiritual direction out of her home, but her daughter's family is moving in with her temporarily. The arrangement is expected to last from October to January.

Kathryn has a long-term connection to our congregation. Many of you may remember that she a member of the Women's Book Group years ago, and she has led retreats and a Lenten Series at Grace over the years.

you are praying, please keep our country in your prayers. Pray for petty differences to end, and for understanding, and for all to do the right thing for our country.

May God support us all the day long; till the shades lengthen; and the evening comes; and the busy world is hushed; and the fever of life is over; and our word is done. Then in God's mercy may we be given a safe lodging; and a holy rest; and peace at last. Amen. (John Henry Newman's Prayer for Peace, adapted)

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

*Shalom - how magical  
the sound.*

*Pacem - how lofty the thought.*

*Salaam - how welcome  
the feeling.*

*Peace - how far the journey.  
(Foerster, 2003)*

May you always feel God's blessings, Ruth Carney (Deacons: Ruth Carney, Karolyne White)

## Faith in Action

We hope that those of you who went to the Dolphin for lunch last Sunday (10 of us!) enjoyed both the meal and the fellowship.

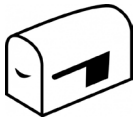
If you missed out on this, perhaps you will be with us next time. Anyone with suggestions for where to go? Actually, anyone interested in a movie out, or a field trip of sorts? We are open to all ideas!

We are providing the coffee (and cookies) for the Green Team's event on November 2. See that team's article (page 2) for details and please put the date on your calendar. Come and bring your friends.

Our next meeting will be on October 20.

*Jean Burr*

## If you receive your Grace Notes by Mail



The majority of Grace Notes readers receives their issue electronically.

If you are among those who receive paper copies, we wonder if you might like to switch to electronic (this would save the church money on paper and postage). Of course we're happy to mail you a copy, but if you have an e-mail address that we could use instead, please send it to [lmhilliard@aol.com](mailto:lmhilliard@aol.com) so she can switch you over.

Also, if you would prefer not to receive *Grace Notes* at all, please let us know. Thanks ....

## Deacons

### Deacon's Fund

Are you aware of the "Deacon's Fund?" And no - it's not a fund for the deacons to have a good time. It is a non-budget item that gets replenished from the church family either by a designative donation or by a special offering. The fund is very low, actually it is almost gone. This fund is purposed for helping those in a particular need or in an emergency, it is not intended for an ongoing need. Monies collected feed the pastor's discretionary account so Pastor Brad would have the means to help individuals within and outside our congregation. The use of these monies is confidential. Many who have benefited have given back any funds they received when their need has reversed. Please prayerfully consider donating to this fund. It could help the person sitting next to you, across from you or even yourself at some point. Remember, God loves a joyful giver and the amount of your donation doesn't matter. Every coin and dollar counts! Thank you!

### Storm Closings

This may be rather early to even think about church closings due to bad weather, but it isn't. The hurricane season is still with us even though it hasn't been very active. If the weather turns on us and we need to cancel a service or activity, tune to WCVB-TV channel 5 for our listing. We will also use other sources (i.e.: email, Facebook, etc) to get the word out. If there is a power failure and you cannot access TV or internet, there is always the telephone (I have a landline so you can call me at home.).



### Altar Flowers



If you would like to provide flowers for the altar, please be in touch with Ruth Carney. She can order them from our new florist (\$43 or higher or lower depending on what you would like) or you may bring flowers yourself (perhaps from your garden). If there is a special event in the life of Grace that you would like lifted up and acknowledged with flowers, just let Ruth know and she will arrange it. (We do have funds donated for this purpose.)

#### Grace Congregational, UCC

PO Box 1481 • 76 Salem End Road, Framingham 01702  
508-872-3342, [churchoffice@gracechurchucc.org](mailto:churchoffice@gracechurchucc.org)  
[www.gracechurchucc.org](http://www.gracechurchucc.org) • [www.macucc.org](http://www.macucc.org)  
(Mass Conf.) • [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) (UCC)

Pastor: Brad Watters  
[pastor@gracechurchucc.org](mailto:pastor@gracechurchucc.org)