

GRACE NOTES

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

Have you volunteered to help at Grace's Dedication Sunday?

Grace Church has company coming - and every Grace Church member and friend is encouraged to help us extend a warm and friendly welcome.

Grace Church will dedicate its new home on Sunday, September 16 at 3:00 PM, followed by a collation and tours at 4:00.

Grace's journey to Salem End Road has been a long and difficult one. We're finally in our new home and we want all those who have supported us these past few years to come and help us celebrate.

Here's what you need to know

- The service will be on the back lawn (we're renting a tent and chairs).
- There will be a ceremonial act of dedicating our new church home.
- More than 200 invitations have already been sent - with ad-

ditional names being added as they come to mind.

- The ecumenical service at 3:00 will include some special guests and speakers.
- We'll be serving lemonade and desserts at 4:00 while people tour our building and grounds.
- We are working on a video about Grace

How you can help and who to contact

- **Worship** (Brad, Ruth, Terri, Ellie): Plan service
- **Secretarial** (Evie, Jackie, Priscilla): Address envelopes, maintain master list, make calls
- **Logistical** (Frank, Al, Brownie, Brad): Set-up, parking, tent, chairs, pre clean, post clean
- **Greeters/Guides** (Nancy, Brownie, Ellie): Welcome and tours
- **Collation** (Evie, Daleen, Judy): Bake, set up, serve

- **Children/CE:** (Ronda) General participation
- **Visual Hospitality:** (Linda H., Terri, Brad, Ronda, Jean) Making our facility attractive and welcoming
- **Decorating:** (flowers, music) (Karolyne)
- **General:** Lend a hand where needed. Contact Brad or Linda

Rally Sunday is September 9



The Rally Sunday service and celebration are scheduled for September 9.

Rally Sunday is Grace's start of the program year where we "rally" together and begin anew.

This service includes the commissioning of the teachers and helpers and the distribution of new bibles to children who are moving up to the next grade level in Sunday School.

As is traditional, the Christian Ed Ministry Team will sponsor "Make your own" ice cream sundaes after the service. Traditional Sunday school lessons will resume Sept. 16. Questions? Contact Ronda Yeomans or Daleen Perkins.



Grace Notes

Volume 9, Number 9

September 2007

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Pastor's Note

September 2007

Dear Ones,

In the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark, around about verse 35, you can spy Jesus in a brief moment all alone. Here it is, the first chapter (!) of Mark and Jesus has already been very busy.

Then: In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.

It is a tender image and I urge you to draw your own mental picture. Draw a real picture, if that helps. See Jesus as you wish. Is he kneeling, like the wide-spread image one sees of a white, bearded Jesus with flowing brown hair (by Heinrich Hoffman, 1880)? Add some detail to your image. It is morning and it is "still very dark." Perhaps your image has this man walking in the early dew, feet getting a little damp while he walks. He could have found his way to a rise, a little hill, from which he could see out a bit. They were in Capernaum, a town on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, so a view would have been a water view. We have a story of how Jesus taught his disciples, and taught us by extension, to pray. In our 1611 prose we say, "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name."

We have a story of how Jesus prayed in that dimly lit garden just before he was arrested, saying, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup

pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

How would he have prayed that morning? Make a prayer like you think Jesus might have prayed alone at dawn by the Sea of Galilee. Make it as long or short as you wish.

This story is your story. You don't really need the model of Jesus to tell how a few minutes to yourself early in the day can be a precious time. For some of you, doing a little chore or two before the rest of the house is stirring can be satisfying and useful. Some of you will know the rewards of getting to work before anyone else and having time to do some work in that silence.

In a physiological way, you know that there is a difference between prayer and not prayer. I suggest to you that there is a unique experience open to us when we "take a moment" and experience taking a moment. A chore done in the silence of the morning is good but it is different from stopping the doing, the reading, the eating, the organizing, and the other important tasks of life. Stopping for a brief time and noticing that you have stopped is very close to prayer.

Would you take that moment today? ... and tomorrow? Take the moment to notice the moment and in that moment, turn your regard to the holy place where you find or you guess or you hope the Spirit waits to be noticed. Just like Jesus.

Peace and Blessing,
Brad

Save the Date

Opening the Gate: Music & Inter-generational Worship

A workshop for church musicians, staff, lay leaders and anyone who has a passion for music in a worship setting and making the music accessible to all worshippers.

Saturday, November 10, 9 AM to 4 PM • \$40
at Grace Church, Framingham

Details in next month's *Grace Notes*

Visual Hospitality Team meets

The recently-formed Visual Hospitality Team has held their first meeting. Their initial task is to help the church get ready for Dedication Sunday. If you would like to participate in this important, on-going team, please speak to any of the current members. The next meeting will be September 6 at 10:00 AM.

Stewardship Team forming

Want to help shape Grace's 2008 Stewardship Campaign? A Campaign team will be forming shortly. Speak to Reverend Brad if you are interested in participating in his important team.

BIG

“Dream a Little Dream” a.k.a. Planning the Possibilities

What are your dreams for Grace Church in 2008? If we had unlimited funds (alas, we don't) how would you like to see those funds spent to make Grace Church a better (more inviting) place in 2008? The Central Council and the Ministry Teams have been charged with coming up with a dream list to present to Stewards. 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. Here are some examples:



Church calendar - September

Meetings at 76 Salem End Road unless otherwise noted.

September 2	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Singer rehearsal Worship Cans for Communion
September 4	7:30 PM	Central Council
September 5	11:30 AM 7:00 PM	Grace Women United Healing Service
September 6	7:00 PM	Lectio Pot Luck
September 9	RALLY SUNDAY 8:30 AM 10:00 AM 11:15 AM 11:45 AM	Singer rehearsal Worship Ice Cream Sundaes Dedication Update
September 10	10:00 AM	Bible Study
September 11	7:30 PM	Missions
September 12	7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Worship Stewards

September 13	6:00 PM	Deacons
September 16	DEDICATION SUNDAY 8:30 AM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM	Singer rehearsal Worship Dedication Event
September 17	10:00 AM	Bible Study
September 19	7:00 PM	Worship
September 21		Turning Point Shelter
September 19	WALK TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS 8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Choir rehearsal Worship
September 20	10:00 AM	Bible Study
September 26	10:00 AM 7:00 PM	Book Club Eagles (lunch and dinner) Worship
September 30	8:30 AM 10:00 AM	Choir rehearsal Worship

**Christian Ed.
Rob Lovewell
Daleen Perkins
Ronda Yeomans**

*christianed@
gracechurchucc.org*

CE Curriculum:

The Christian Education Ministry Team (CEMT) feels the “Come Join the Circle” curriculum will best meet the needs of our students, teachers, helpers and parents this year. This flexible curriculum uses multiple learning approaches including hands-on, music, service, food and games. Unit resources provide all we will need in terms of leader training and planning, materials lists, resource sheets, visual aids, a music CD and at-home resources for families. Three CJC curriculum units have been purchased for use in the fall semester.

Class Grouping:

The children will be divided into two groups of 9 learners each. This approach ensures that child: adult ratios in both classrooms are less than 5:1 while allowing one less adult to staff classrooms each week than with the three group approach.

- The Primary Class will include the younger students, ages 3 to 8 years old, and will be led by one teacher with two helpers. The Primary Class will make use of both classrooms as needed.
- The Junior Class will be composed of 9 to 13 year old students led by one teacher and one helper. The Junior class will meet in the “Function Room” and use the kitchen for art-work, crafts or “messy” projects.

Class Schedule:

- The first Sunday of the month will continue to be “Family / Communion” Sunday with the children collecting the cans for the food pantry at the time of the offering.
- The second and third Sundays of the month will be “Traditional Classroom” Sundays where all the children will meet in the function room for an initial Opening Worship and then split into 2 age-based groups.
- The fourth Sunday of the month will be Story Teller Sunday. This will be a multi-age session which will begin with all the students meeting in the function room for Opening Worship. A “guest” teacher (or ministry team) will read a story (or describe what their ministry team does.) Then the guest may stay to lead an activity or return to the adult service. Some kinds of hands-on activity will follow which embodies or expresses the topic for the day.

**Education opportunity:
Reaching out into neighborhoods**

Pastor Brad is looking for people to join him on September 7 and 8 at Jim Griffith’s Turbo Boot Camp in Wollaston.

This bootcamp is for pastors and a team of lay people to come and learn from Jim how to reach out into our neighborhoods, how to build leadership, hospitality issues, etc.

This is a mini-version of a 3 day Bootcamp Jim often does for new church start pastors.

This workshop will take place at the Wollaston Congregational Church on Friday night, September 7th from 6:00-9:00 PM and will continue on Saturday AM from 9:00-12:30.

Contact Brad ASAP if you can attend.

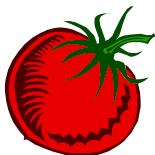
**Teacher/Helper
Appreciation Night:**

On Wednesday, September 5th at 7:30PM (immediately following the 7PM prayer service) all Christian Education teachers and helpers are invited to enjoy delicious desserts and drinks and peruse the new curriculum for the upcoming year.

Missions Ministry Team

Christine Collins
Eleanor Crawford,
Chair
Mary Memmott

*mission@
 gracechurchucc.
 org*



Stearns Farms Fall Harvest

We have two more months of wonderful fresh produce to collect from Stearns Farm. Picking up our share of the harvest involves just that – picking – as well as collecting many veggies already picked for us. This is an enjoyable task that takes about 1 hour, anytime between 2-7 p.m. on the date of pick-up. Children are welcome. Likewise, delivering the produce on the following Saturday morning to the food pantry on a “give-away” week is very rewarding.

If you would like to help with pick-up duties on a Friday afternoon, we could use help on the following dates: Aug. 31, Sept 14, Sept. 28, Oct. 12, Oct. 26. We will be delivering produce (along with cans) to the pantry at 9 a.m. on Sept. 15 and Oct. 13. Just contact any member of the Missions Team if you would like to help out on any of those dates.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has contributed to our “free will offering box” when you take some produce on a Sunday morning. All your contributions are appreciated, and go toward covering the cost of our share. The food pantry clients truly appreciate the wonderful surprise of a choice of fresh vegetables and fruit to add to their bags, even if only once a month. Every extra dollar or two you put in our collection will help us cover the cost of this healthy and high-quality produce. We still have about \$100 to raise to cover the cost of this year’s share.

Cans for Communion Collection September 2

On September 2nd we collected donations of DIAPERS, TOILET PAPER, and BEANS WITH PROTEIN (i.e. kidney, black, or garbanzo beans) but all donations of non-perishable foods are welcome. Thank you for your continued support of the SMOC food pantry!

Walk to Prevent Homelessness 2007 – Final Countdown!

The fourth annual Walk to Prevent Homelessness is scheduled for Sunday, September 23 – 12:30-3:00 p.m. from Framingham Center Common to Brophy School and back. If you have decided to walk, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the Missions Bulletin Board.



Now is the time for walkers to get pledge forms and start collecting those pledges. All pledges should be collected and handed in at registration on the Common on the day of the walk. Pledge forms will be available after church every Sunday in September, or you can download them from <http://www.mwoconnection.org/>. There is no minimum amount of pledges to participate, but every walker who raises at least \$50 will be entered in a raffle for some great prizes donated by local businesses. If you can’t walk, but would like to sponsor someone, any member of the Missions Team can take your pledge or point out a walker to you. If you would like to volunteer to help in a “stationary” capacity on the day of the walk, please see Mary Memmott.

The Missions Team will offer a chili lunch for all walkers and volunteers for the walk from Grace immediately after church on September 23. Walkers are welcome to bring an appetizer or dessert to share, but you are also welcome to just come-as-you-are, and we’ll make sure you have a good lunch before you step out. If you would like to help with the lunch, please contact the Missions Team, and join in the fun!

Continued on page seven

Ministry Teams

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

*deacons@
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org*

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.

Deacons

People of Grace,
We will have a **Healing Service** on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Plan to come to the next one on September 5. These services will be for everyone who seek 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.

Rally Sunday will be September 9, 2007. (Although this isn't the start of the "church calendar" year – which is the first Sunday in Advent.) Rally Sunday is the start of the program year where we "rally" together and begin anew. Come, be a part of our "new beginnings" at Grace.

The **Dedication Service** is scheduled for September 16 at 3:00 PM with a collation and tours 4-5:00 PM. The service planning is progressing very well. We will have a few very special guests participating in the service. Please put this service on your calendar now – we need you there for the celebration! Also, you will find sign-up sheets (prepared by Linda H. – thank you, Linda) at the church where you will find opportunities to help either before the event or during it.

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 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.

Our next **New Members Classes** have not been scheduled yet. With everyone's summer schedules making this difficult, we have decided to postpone the classes for a few weeks and start them at some point after the Dedication of our building on September 16. Those who have expressed an interest in participating will be contacted with the details. 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.

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.

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

P. S. See you in September!

Ministry Teams

Stewards

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

stewards@
gracechurchucc.
org



Housekeepers
needed to keep our
church clean. Sign
up in the Fellowship
Hall

Stewards

Senior Steward Dianne Belloli has decided to step down after many years of service to this important Ministry Team. Work and family responsibilities are taking up an increasing amount of Dianne's time. We express our appreciation to Dianne for her hard work these past few years. The Nominating Committee is now seeking a new Stewards chair.

- Pledges are on target for summer months. Quarterly letter had been mailed.
- Waste Management will pick up twice a month. We now have 2 large barrels for waste, which will eliminate the necessity of a fence.
- It has been suggested that we need a team of volunteers to cover for Kab when she is not here when a delivery or a worker is expected. Kab's regular hours are Wednesday, 1-5 and Thursday, 9-1.

Financial update

AMOUNT PLEDGED 33 WEEKS	\$36,366
AMOUNT RECEIVED 33 WEEKS	\$35,022
PLEDGED FOR 2007	\$ 57,100

Financial Secretary,
Nancy H. Brown

This and That

• **GWU** will meet a week early in September (Wednesday, 9/5 at 11:30 AM) Please bring a bag lunch and your own dessert. Coffee will be provided. We hope to get the 2007-08 program year off to a good start. Plans for the Christmas Faire and possibly a fun evening will be discussed.

• **Book Club** will resume meeting on Wednesday, September 26. Books read during the summer will be discussed and book will be picked for October.

• **The Grace Church Crafters** will start meeting again in September. Check with Beverly Ablondi or Jackie Mague for times and locations.

Mission

Equal Exchange Coffee – Keep it Brewing!

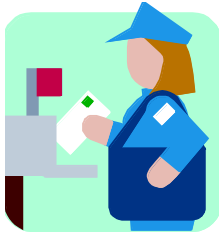
The Missions Team has the task of ordering and budgeting for the Equal Exchange Coffee provided at coffee hour. This is great coffee with a purpose – it is raised by farmers who get a fair deal for their crops.

However, to keep this good coffee in our budget, we need everyone to consider putting a little more in the "offering" can when you get your coffee. Twenty-five to fifty cents a cup will help us cover the true cost of several pots of coffee each Sunday. Even at fifty cents a cup, what a deal!

We also have coffee, tea, and cocoa in bulk available for the congregation to order. The profit from these sales helps to fund our overall budget from coffee hour. Please consider spending your coffee budget at church – you'll get good coffee and help a good cause at the same time. See the Missions Bulletin Board or Ellie Crawford for more information.



The Grace Church Travel Club is starting to collect ideas for a trip. If you have some suggestions for big excursions - or little day trips - speak to Al McGuirk.



**See the insert/survey
enclosed with
this issue regarding the
Grace Notes
mailing list!**



**Walk to Prevent
Homelessness
Article on page five**

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