

GRACE NOTES

Grace Episcopal Church ♦133 School Street ♦New Bedford, MA 02740

November 2010

Encountering God...Everywhere

On Wednesday nights a small group of us gathers in the South Room to practice contemplative prayer and to pray that our parish may continue to be filled with the fire of God's Love. Early in October we discussed the concept of "spiritual apartheid" as taught by the Rev. William Shannon in his book Silence on Fire. Spiritual apartheid is what happens when we think that God is found only in certain places instead of in all places, in certain people, not in all people. The people who say that God is found at Eucharist but not in the ordinary events of life are tragically mistaken. To look for God in the quiet beauty of our magnificent church building but not in the noisy chaos of our homes is to rob ourselves of the chance to wake up to our life. Jesus says the "Kingdom of God is among you and within you", so we'd better look again in those places we thought were too plain or familiar.

We celebrate weekly Eucharist as practice in looking for God. As we begin to sense what God feels like on Sundays we are better able to experience God on Mondays. Meditation and working among the poor and sick are others ways we practice living in the presence of Christ.

I have found the Bittersweet Bazaar a wonderful yearly experience of God's presence as we work together in welcoming others into our parish. This year the bazaar is on Saturday November 13. Those who work in the Thrift Shop, Food Pantry, Community Breakfast, ESOL, and the After School Program get to practice on a more frequent basis.

If you are interested in boosting your ability to see God in the hidden places I invite you to join our Connect Course in January. You may also want to prepare for Confirmation as a sacramental way to open the eyes of your heart. Confirmation, the laying on hands by a bishop as a sign of your renewed commitment to Christ, will be held in April. If you are interested in either Connect, Confirmation, or any of our outreach ministries see me, Malia, or any of our ministry leaders.

Every step we take in life is holy even when we forget to be pay attention. As you join with the community of faith week after week, in worship and service, pray that the eyes of your heart may stay open so that in every moment you may know the fire of God's Love.

Grace and Peace,

Bill

From your curate:

In last month's newsletter, I wrote about UIA (United Interfaith Action) and Grace's new organizing ministry. I explained how Grace's organizing ministry works differently from some other justice groups. We don't start with an issue already in mind. We don't want to work on an issue that's only important to a handful of parishioners. We want to address an issue that matters to many, many people at Grace.

How do we figure out what issue that will be?

We begin by listening. We hope that by listening to many parishioners, we will notice certain concerns bubbling to the surface again and again. We hope to act on one of the common concerns--one where we think we can make a positive impact.

So how does this listening work?

Our listening process is intentional. There are two ways you can participate. The first option is to attend a parish lunch on Sunday November 7 at 12:15pm. We will share a meal. Then, facilitators will lead each table in a conversation about our values, concerns and hopes. Before we go, we will talk about the major themes that came up.

The second option is to participate in a one-to-one conversation. In a one-on-one, you'd have a 40-minute conversation with a member of Grace's organizing ministry. You can meet in the church, a coffee shop, or any place else that feels comfortable. Again, the goal is to listen to your values, concerns and hopes. Please contact Malia Crawford at mcrawford@post.harvard.edu to schedule a one-to-one conversation.

We want to listen to as many Grace parishioners as we can. 100 would be great. Even more would be better! We want to hear from parishioners coming from all walks of life. We need to hear YOUR voice.

Yours in faith,
Malia Crawford



FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

“ You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off, do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”
-Isaiah 41:9-10

Dear People of Grace,

My reflections this month center on our Church Vestry here at Grace: its role in the life of our parish, as well as the responsibilities and rewards that come with participation in this important ministry of leadership, mission, and governing. As I journey through these days as your Senior Warden I am continually inspired by what so many of you do--- quietly, consistently, and so lovingly for your church. I feel privileged to daily discover through my reading and writing, and personal experience the depth of dedication to ministry here at Grace.

I would like to share with you some additional thoughts on the workings of the wonderful world that is VESTRY. The above beautiful passage from Isaiah provides comfort and reassurance that we are never alone in our ministries, but are always lead and lifted by the watchful and loving hands and heart of God. This is an **expanded** version of **Vestry 101** combining some helpful information about your Vestry, why we need it,- and certainly why it needs us- along with some explanations, guidelines and insights that hopefully will inspire and equip you at the very least to consider it time well spent to take on a Vestry or leadership role.

The Vestry itself is made up of 12 members, each serving staggered 3-year terms. Each year, the term ends for 4 Vestry members. Those outgoing Vestry persons, as directed by the Rector, form a nominating committee to present a slate of 4 new nominees to be presented at the annual parish meeting, held annually at the beginning of each calendar year. The nominating committee should be mindful of providing the congregation with a diverse group of talented, dedicated parishioners who have demonstrated a commitment to the parish and to God's work in the community and in the world.

Our Vestry is the legal, canonical (church laws), and financial governing body of our church. It is responsible for approving budgets and expenditures, leading the parish in setting policies and goals, maintaining buildings, and raising financial support for the mission and vision of Grace. It is challenging work, that of the Vestry-- for its members not only bring **their** voices to the table, but those of the **entire** congregation as well. Communication is in partnership here. The Vestry should endeavor to seek the guidance of the parishioners on important matters and publicize decisions in the newsletter and/or postings within the church. Members of the congregation have the responsibility to keep informed on the parish matters. Vestry meetings are held on a monthly basis at the church, and are open to any member of the parish. While the meetings do deal with

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From the Senior Warden

(Continued from page 2)

major issues, the agenda is not without spiritual reflection and shared time for individual burdens, blessings and insights. Often the serious, sometimes tedious nature of the evening's agenda, gives way to creative, positive and envisioning energy bubbling up through exciting brainstorming and dreaming for the present and future life of our parish. It can be a passionate and joyful exchange of ideas for the continuing or creating of our work here in our part of the Kingdom. The building up of community in this way certainly allows the presence of the Holy Spirit to be a part of and present in the voting process for not just the majority voice, but the minority one as well.

So, let's assume you have been called to serve on your church's vestry. What does it mean, what is expected of you? Here are some guidelines:

1. Regularly prepare for, attend, and participate in vestry meetings.
2. Learn about the mission, goals, programs, services, activities, strengths and needs of the parish, Diocese, and National Church.
3. Serve the congregation as a whole rather than any specific group
4. Assist others who may have issues to talk directly with someone who may be able to help, or inform the Rector or Senior Warden if needed
5. Study financial statements and ask questions
6. Take on leadership roles or other tasks willingly and enthusiastically
7. Help identify new leaders
8. Contribute to the congregation
9. Assist in stewardship education
10. Maintain confidentiality on sensitive issues

My prayer is that many of you will find the time in your busy lives to give the gift of YOU to your Vestry or some other ministry, existing or yet to be here at our beloved Grace. We need all of us, I dare say, to be doing most of the above bulleted items in order to be informed, responsible, caring, compassionate and welcoming congregants.

I recently read the following: ***"The success of a congregation is not measured in terms of numbers of members or size of the endowment, but rather in the degree to which it is working toward the fulfillment of the mission of the Church."***

As Isaiah reminds us, we have already been chosen, guided, protected and strengthened by our loving God...and we will be victorious. So let's be bold in our work here at Grace. We might not know or even see the outcome of our actions or deeds, but our faith demands that we live out our baptismal vows and let our lights shine! What a light we can be in this dark world of ours. Amen and Amen.

++Paul the Apostle:" Now, you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it". I Cor.

Peace and blessings,
Paula



WHAT DO YOU THINK?



Do you have ideas or suggestions for cutting expenses here at Grace? Please contact the Senior Warden at: e-mail plcnoah9@aol.com Phone (H) **508-997-1657** (C) **508-287-4892**

Grace Nine Month Financial Report

	Actual 1/1 to 9/30	Budget 1/1 to 9/30	Budget 2010
Pledge and Other Revenue	\$192,896	\$200,000	\$271,500
Offering Income	225,254	215,550	287,400
Endowment and Restricted Income	*9,536	38,625	46,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	16,374	15,000	20,000
Earle and Alice Riley Fund	<u>48,564</u>	<u>50,775</u>	<u>67,700</u>
Outreach Income	\$492,624	\$519,950	\$692,600
Total Revenue			
Expenses	\$137,605	\$139,009	\$185,346
Clergy Salaries and Benefits	13,592	15,375	20,500
Church School Expenses	16,826	20,250	27,000
Youth Activities Expense	35,034	35,301	47,069
Music Ministries Expenses	69,531	71,022	94,630
Maintenance and Utilities	151,017	142,782	189,410
Administrative Expenses	52,746	43,011	57,350
Outreach Expenses	<u>53,159</u>	<u>53,160</u>	<u>70,880</u>
Diocesan Assessment	\$529,510	\$519,910	\$692,185
Total Expenses			
Balance	(\$36,886)	(\$40)	\$415

*\$30,000 budget item from Contingency Fund not transferred.

Please direct any questions concerning our finances to me by leaving a phone message or e-mailing the Church. The detailed line item financials are posted on the Parish House bulletin board.

Fred Smialek
Treasurer

MEMORIAL GIFTS

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST - *In thanksgiving by:* James Bisagni, Sally Ainsworth, and Norma Bossé.

DISCRETIONARY FUND - *In thanksgiving by:* Roberta Berry.

FOOD PANTRY - *In memory of:* Harvey F. Greenhalgh, Jr. and Janice McKeachern ***In thanksgiving by:*** M/M Donald Driesen, Grace Church Thrift Shop, Theresa Brum, Sally Ainsworth, M/M Richard Greenhalgh, Roberta Berry, and M/M Roland Shaw .

MEMORIAL FUND - *In memory of:* Harvey F. Greenhalgh, Jr.

VESTRY HAPPENINGS

-Paula Cabral, Senior Warden

At the August meeting of Grace Vestry, Anna Surma from the Architectural firm of Wise, Surma, & Jones in New Bedford, updated the Vestry on the 3 projects under way for the church building repairs.

Project #1 Three bids were solicited for the rubber roof work (over the connector hallway, north side). It was the consensus of Team Property to contract Flagship Roofing and Sheet Metal Co., Inc. of East Freetown for \$28,400.00 with an additional charge of \$3,800.00 for repair to the outside wooden stairway.

VOTED: to accept the recommendation from Team Property for roof work as described above in Project #1 for \$32,200.00

Project #2 Ms. Surma updated the Vestry on repairs needed for Grace House: bids would be solicited for the work of painting the trim on the south side of Grace House, replacement of some windows as well as work on other windows including glazing, sashes, and insulation. Also out for bid would be the cost of shingles for the south side and the cost to install staging for the work needed. In addition, both chimneys on the north and east side were in need of repair work. All costs would be broken down in the bids according to the different jobs within the project. In this way the work could be addressed by priorities. The consensus of Team Property was to continue to seek bids for the above Project #2.

Project #3 The inspection of the tower would take place on August 20th with a crane in the upper parking lot. (Grace north side). Tower inspection would include the necessary mason and structural engineer personnel. The tower project would require a capital campaign if it was decided that such work was needed.

VOTED: to rescind the Vestry vote that the Toomey fund monies be placed in the Money Market Account and be used instead for the building projects- \$47,000.

VOTED: to accept the June 2010 Treasurer's report as presented by Fred Smialek, Treasurer.

VOTED: to accept the Endowment report of the Trustees of Parish funds who met on June 27, 2010. As of August 9th the value of the Grace portfolio is \$6,670,000. This report was presented by Fred Smialek, Treasurer.

VOTED: to accept the audit report, as submitted by Ed Sylvia, CPA for Grace, for the financial statements as of December 31, 2009 and 2008 for the Grace After School Program. In 2008 there was a profit of \$4,600.00 and in 2009 a \$15,000 deficit.

The Junior Warden, Ben Baker, presented the quote from RPC Audio in the amount of \$1,158.70 for two new mics (bodypack wireless UHF transmitter and receiver) and microphone mixer. The two older wireless mics were deemed usable, as they are on a newly restricted frequency (per the Federal Communications Commission) that is now used only for public safety entities. It was the consensus of Team Property to purchase the new mics and mixer for the church's sound system.

VOTED: to accept this quote and move forward with the purchase of the equipment.



A special meeting of the Vestry was held on September 15, 2010 to discuss the Stewardship plan for the Fall of 2010. The Stewardship Commission, headed by Rick Bowie came up with a plan to challenge the parish to be a part of and supporters of the continuing on-going ministries of Grace by increasing pledges for 2011 through the use of a cross icon. Mr. Bowie stated he would write an article for the October Newsletter regarding the stewardship plan. Ben Baker, Junior Warden, reflected on his time as chairperson of the Stewardship commission, and the theological approach to stewardship.

GRACE - The Buildings

-Ben Baker, Junior Warden

Our Historian Jerré Croteau, has compiled an excellent history of Grace Episcopal Church, New Bedford. (The complete History is located in the South Room of Grace House.) The building we now occupy is the third building owned by the parish. It's now 130 years old and Grace House is 120 years old. The rebuilding after the fire rebuilt parts of both buildings, however, much of both buildings remains "original".

We are, together as a parish, learning anew about GRACE. This word is packed with meaning. In fact, to discover all the meanings of grace is a discovery of one's faith one's theology. Rev. Bradbury's sermon, months ago, puts forth the concepts, but one finds when further inquiry takes one to the scriptures, prayers, hymns, commentaries, and other references both current and historic that there are many facets to "grace". Sort of like a diamond with many facets.

Diamonds get polished from time to time and our faith, like Grace the building, needs maintenance from time to time. Look at Grace, the building, as a metaphor for your participation as a member of Grace Episcopal Church, the parish. From day to day cleaning to repainting, fixing worn out or broken elements, to more major rebuilding, repairs, and in some instances some changes. All this being done within the theological basis which goes back thousand of years.

A church building is a building that facilitates the meeting of a church. Before Christianity there were temples and synagogues. Jesus participated in services as a reader and commentator (Luke 4:16-24). In the time between the destruction of the Temple (70AD, approx) until the 3rd century, church-the building has a history which is not well reported, but does show that meetings were held outside and often in residences. Scholars have found references in wall paintings and writings that there were places where worshipers met as a "church". As christianity spread, the church-the people found a variety of places to meet in what we might agree is church - the building.

Notice that the history of these several thousand years is difficult to piece together as writing was not an activity done by many. That which was done has not survived the "test of time". How often we learn of paintings on walls. These walls were in caves, temple structures, and when church buildings became more frequent of their walls and even in their windows. Here at Grace this tradition continues. Look above the altar. In the transept there are four windows that have an artist's rendition of the four gospel writers. Next you pass close to the pulpit look at the carvings and imagine what is being said by them. Or when in the chapel look at the "Saints Windows". Each one tells a story. Years ago, those that did not read learned the stories of these saints by listening and recognized the different saints by the symbols used to distinguish each one.

By receipt of this newsletter the repair of the roof between Grace House and Grace Church will be well underway. This area was done in the rebuilding period and its over twenty years since the work was completed. Time which means the passing of the seasons and the weather that wears on the roof to the point where replacement is necessary. Work on the exterior of Grace House needs doing. Painting, siding, windows need replacement, redoing, and in some cases there are items missing. Review of the details is being reviewed by Team Property (Property Committee).

Last winter we saw the leaks entering both the Chapel and main sanctuary when entering the front door. There was an inspection of the tower structure which shows need for repairs. However, before the exact course of action there is need for further inspection, which may have been completed by the time you read this newsletter. After these inspections, the detailed course of action will be developed.

Around Labor Day, the work on the Rectory got underway and it's soon to be completed. This has made some changes on both the outside of the building. This work has been needed to update equipment and facilities.

Our historian has provided us with a history of the tower, bells, and various times that the Vestry considered action to repair which follows



THE SAGA OF THE TOWER OF GRACE

-Jerré Croteau

When entering Grace Church through its front doors and into its narthex, few people think of the fact that there are four stories above their heads constructed of tons of rock and brick, and that almost six tons of cast bronze are housed in the belfry four stories up. It is one of the miracles

of the survival of the fire of 1987, that it stopped short at the tower, from which only a paneled wooden door separated it. For had it not done so, those magnificent bells would have rung the church's death knell as they cascaded to the

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The Saga of the Tower of Grace *Continued from page 6*

ground amongst rubble and stone. But instead, today the tower still stands and the bells continue to call us to worship with familiar hymns, welcome the new born Christ Child and Christ Resurrected with ancient carols, peal out our joys and toll our sadness.

The church and its tower were designed by the firm of Ware and Van Brunt, in 1880 one of the last buildings commissioned to this firm before their partnership was severed and they went their separate ways. The building was erected in a remarkably short time. Construction began in July of 1880; the building first occupied in November of 1881 and consecrated October of 1882. Like the church, the exterior walls of the tower are constructed of boulder granite arranged as broken masonry interspersed with rubble laid in red mortar. The angles, buttresses, door and window jambs are constructed of brick, the caps and sills of brown freestone. This same technique was later extended to the first floor of Grace House. The tower's interior walls above the second floor are rough stone with brick in the support arches. There is a projection with an apse wall attached to the north of the tower where the nursery and the staircase are. The tower and apse room are above a separate undercroft. The tower rooms have been used for different purposes over the years. The apse room has been an office, a reception room and now a nursery. The room on the second floor was the rector's study and office, a classroom, a J2A room, and now a storage room. The forty foot high room on the third floor was once the bellringer's chamber, where there was a huge levered clavier to ring the bells in the tower. The open fourth floor is, of course, the belfry itself. The cone or cap of the steeple above the belfry is constructed of solid stone (though there is a space in its center core) with brick corners and is topped with a cross, restored by the Ainsworths after the fire.

In 1882 a vestryman, Stephen Driscoll, whose portrait hangs above the fireplace in the library of Grace House, left \$5,000 for the installation of a chime of bells. The structure of beams that holds the bells up emanates from the floor of the belfry. A pillar between the front two Gothic openings had to be removed temporarily in order to get the bells into the tower. They first rang on Christmas Eve of that year.

Early on there began to be problems with the tower structure. In 1909 bricks and stone fell from the upper part of the tower and extensive masonry had to be executed. Again in 1923 the vestry minutes of that year reflect that additional work was necessary to the masonry, In 1937 the interior of the tower was refurbished. There was a destructive hurricane in 1938 which again damaged the tower. (This same hurricane took away a second smaller steeple or lantern that originally was above the crossing of the church just in front of the chancel, which was never replaced.) Again extensive masonry work was needed.

In the 1960s the manual mechanism that activated the bells was in grave disrepair, so a new electric system was

installed which was activated by a keyboard and actually had rolls that would play the bells like a player piano. At this point the largest bell, was mounted in a fixed position; it had been rung by a wheel so that it could swing, which caused great strain to the structure.

In 1977 again extensive work was needed to the tower. The vestry minutes mention metal sheeting and repointing of the masonry. There was grave concern about the weight of the stone steeple above the belfry itself and it was actually suggested at the time that it be replaced with a "fiberglass" replica! The cable system and bell structure also needed to be repaired as many of the fittings were rusted. While this work was in progress, lightning struck the tower in June of 1979. Large chunks of stone and brick crashed down onto the County Street sidewalk. Again the steeple was repaired. At the time a grant was received from the Historic Preservation Society which helped to defray the cost. Since that time the leaks that have plagued the tower throughout its history have periodically damaged the interior. Whenever there was a particularly violent storm water would seep into the narthex.

Then came the Great Fire of 1987 from which the tower was spared. By that time the bells' system had ceased to function, though they rang out by themselves as the heat from the fire rose among them. Some work was done to the tower and the bell structure after the fire, but it was obviously not the priority at the time. Later Robert Brenneke spearheaded a movement to have the bells restored to working order, and so we enjoy them today.

In the last year all of us have witnessed the leaks into the narthex. When it happens it is now worse than ever before. Many remedies have been tried to stop the leaks in the tower over the years, including sealing the outer walls, which in retrospect was a mistake. Stone needs to breathe. Sealing the outside merely held the water within and allowed it to sometimes cascade like a waterfall in between the inner and outer layers of stone, or down the rough stone walls of the bellringer's chamber. In the last decade or so, serious damage to the interior walls and ceilings of the old rector's office and the narthex, though cosmetically repaired from time to time, is a symptom of more serious problems than are apparent to the naked eye. This aesthetic damage is one of two concerns, the second is, of course, the weight of the stone steeple and the integrity of the four brick buttressed supports at the corners of the belfry which hold the steeple up above us.

The Property Committee is currently studying this matter with grave concern. The tower has recently had a preliminary inspection by architect Anna Surma and a team of masons and other construction people. You will be hearing more about this in the near future. It is hoped that we can arrive at a safe and architecturally sensitive solution to this dilemma.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

CHURCH SCHOOL

The Children's Sunday School Program is teaching from the Old Testament for the Fall time frame. These lessons will include:

- Creation** – God made the whole world
- Noah's Ark** – God keeps promises
- Abram's Call** – God shows us the way to go
- Abraham and Sarah's Visitors** – God's promises make us happy
- Isaac's Blessing** – God blesses all of us
- Free from Slavery** – God has a job for me
- The Red Sea** – God is with me when I'm scared
- The Ten Commandments** – God tells us the rules
- The battle of Jericho** – God is strong.

There is one Lesson Focus statement for each lesson so the children know the point of every lesson. All lesson activities reinforce the Lesson Focus. The children leave Sunday school confident in what they have learned.

Godly Play – is also used to help lead our children in their journey of faith. *Godly Play*, a method of Christian Education and spiritual formation and direction for children aged 2-12. The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using religious language, parable, sacred story, silence, and liturgical action to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence around them and in their lives. We have used Godly Play in chapel, Children's Liturgies, Baptismal and Eucharistic instruction, and in the classrooms for a number of years, and are excited this year to be integrating it more into our lower elementary curriculum. We now have two Church School staff who have been trained and certified or have had extensive experience with the Godly Play program.

Godly Play lessons are taught through story, reflection and creative response. The telling of stories is supplemented with the use of manipulatives and props.

Bittersweet Bazaar - Grace Church School will be sponsoring a "Make and Take" table at this year's Bittersweet Bazaar. You are welcome to join us to make - and take home - a special memento in commemoration of the Bazaar.

Church School children, J2A youth and parents – we could use your help at the table! Please consider donating some time that day to help. Speak with Melissa Botelho if interested.

Church School Staff - The following individuals have volunteered to assist in the Children's Sunday School Program here at Grace.

Cynthia Barnum will be coordinating the administrative aspects of the program. This will include the registration process, Cori Forms, Safe Church training, newsletter and teaching Kindergarten/Grade 1 on Sunday at Grace Church School.

Melissa Botelho will be responsible for the Chapel learning and teaching Preschool on Sunday at Grace Church School.

Caroline Blais will be coordinating the Children's Church School Program on Sunday mornings.

As always, we would like to thank these individuals for supporting the Children's Program here at Grace.



NOTES

-Charlie Morse, Youth Minister

I am happy to announce that our YAC Group collectively took the Religious Knowledge Quiz from the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life and scored in the top 3% of those previously surveyed. Evidently they are paying some attention.

The Rite 13 has begun their studies. Bill, Malia, and Katie Gilfeather will all be participating in the classes which will lead up to the Rite 13 Service on January 16.

Excitement is building as both J2A and YAC have begun their research for their respective Pilgrimage and Mission Trip. Our goal is to have our destinations picked out by the first week in December so that we can plan our itinerary and establish fund raising goals.

Remember our coffee hour bake sales: November 7 J2A, November 21 YAC

We will have Dinner for Two Books available, so don't buy them from anybody else

GRACE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

-Donna Pires, Program Director

We currently have 16 students enrolled in the After School Program. Homework is first priority! We also offer computer time along with scheduled activities both fun and educational.

If you are interested in enrolling your child in The After-School Program, please feel free to call Donna L. Pires at 508-961-1622.



HARVEST SUNDAY November 20 & 21

Remember to bring canned goods and non-perishables to church on Saturday, November 20th and Sunday November 21st for our annual Harvest Sunday. Donated items will be given to the Food Pantry and used to fill Thanksgiving Baskets and to stock the Pantry's shelves.

NEW BEDFORD ORGAN FESTIVAL November 4-7, 2010

Concerts around the city.
Events are free and open to the public.

Schedule

Thursday, November 4th, 8pm Recital
Organist: Barry Turley (Casavant Freres organ)
St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
51 Duncan St. and Acushnet Ave.

Friday, November 5th, 8pm Recital
Organist: Philip Jones (Sipe Organ)
Grace Episcopal Church
133 School & County Streets

Saturday, November 6th, 5 & 7pm
First Unitarian Church
74 Eight Street

5pm Pedal, Pipes and Pizza
Free organ demonstration, a fun event for children and aspiring organists of all ages. Young pianists welcome.

6pm Free Pizza Supper
7pm Recital
Organist: Steven Young AAGO (Flentrop organ)

Sunday, November 7th, 3pm Recital
Organist: Richard Hill (Casavant Freres organ)
St. Anthony of Padua
1359 Acushnet Avenue

For further details about the "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza" event, contact Philip Jones at 508-427-0081.

JOIN US THIS THANKSGIVING

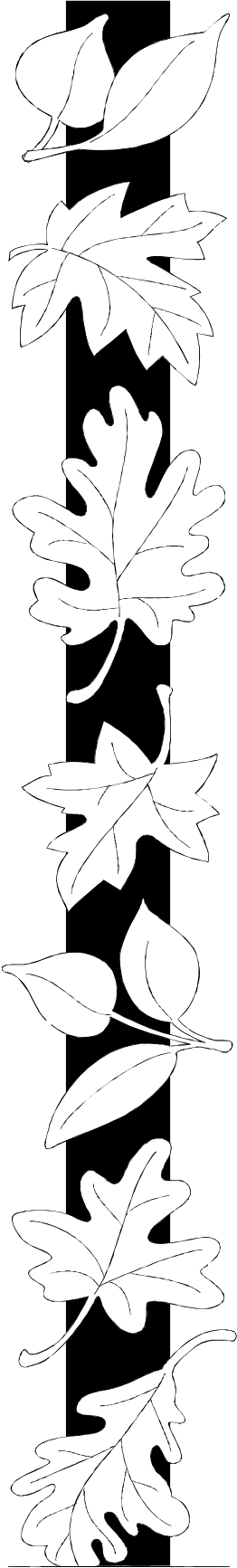
Grace will again be hosting a free community dinner for Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 23, 2010, beginning at 6pm in Grace House. All are welcome to attend. We will be serving turkey and all the fixings.

We are looking for donations of both time and talent. Folks who helped last year found it a wonderful experience and it is a truly meaningful service to our whole community.

If you have any questions, or want to volunteer, please contact David or Janet Miranda at dmiranda@comcast.net or 508-997-1656 or call the Church Office at 508-993-0547.

TOP OF THE HILL FELLOWSHIP

The Top of the Hill Fellowship group will not be meeting in November. With so many events scheduled for this month, it was decided at the October Murder Mystery that we would skip November and plan our next meeting for December 17th (the usual third Saturday of the month). December's event will be "**Christmas around the World**" and we invite all our friends 21 and over to join us for some interesting food, customs, music and an "Old Fashioned Yankee Swap". We will have more information in the December newsletter and bulletins. If you are looking for something to do on the 20th of November, the church is hosting a concert by Sine Nomine. See you all in December.



31st ANNUAL BITTERSWEET BAZAAR

-Nina Catelli-Vincent, Chairperson

It's time for the 31st Annual Bittersweet Bazaar! This year's Bazaar will take place Saturday, November 13 here at Grace Church. All the familiar booths and activities are being planned including our famous luncheon!

As you know, Grace is facing a large budget short fall. The Bittersweet Bazaar is more important this year than ever! Past Bazaars have provided funding for new tables for the Library, youth retreats, the food pantry, landscaping and more. Many of these expenses are not part of the regular operating budget at Grace. That is why this is such an important event for the parish. But we can't do it without everyone's support.

We are looking for donations of:

- items for Grandma's Attic (household items, books, toys, etc.)
- good quality items (antiques, etc.) for the Silent Auction
- new items/gift certificates for the Chinese Auction
- holiday and general craft items
- baked goods
- jewelry
- monetary donations to help pay for advertising, printing and other expenses.

There is also a need for people to help with:

1. set up the week prior to the Bazaar (Wednesday evening through Friday afternoon) and break down Sunday, November 14th
2. transporting donated items to the church for those who are unable to do so themselves
3. kitchen help
4. assist at any of the tables/areas
5. floaters to assist directing people, running the elevator and lunch relief for the booth workers

You can donate as little as an hour or make a day of it.

All items donated for the Bazaar may be dropped off at the Church. Please call the Church Office if you need assistance transporting items. If you have any further questions, please contact Nina Catelli Vincent at home 508.758.6353 or ncvincent@comcast.net or you can call or text 508.742.5210.

LITURGY AND LITURGICAL MINISTRY

-*Jerré Croteau, Verger*

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

When several years ago Fred Smialek suggested that we borrow the giant puppets for the St. Francis procession from Sara Peattie's studio in the undercroft of Emmanuel Church, little did we know that we would establish a well-loved tradition here at Grace. As I commented to our Director of Music, "We've created a monster." But as monsters go it is a happy and joyful one. In the last few years, we have added to our own collection of animal costumes, but have continued our yearly trek to Boston. But we could not keep this up without the diligent and enthusiastic participation of the members of our Acolyte Guild. We thank our young people for bringing St. Francis' friends to life.

LAY LITURGICAL MINISTERS

On Acolyte Sunday, October 31, 2010, Lay Ministers who have joined the ranks of the **Acolyte and Lay Minister Guild**, or have advanced to another ministry in the last year, are recognized. This year seven Acolytes, and one Eucharistic Minister are commissioned: New Acolytes **Holly Haggerty, Hollie Czapiga, Autumn Luth, Mia Morgan, Christopher Ng, Kaitlyn Ng, and Diego Velázquez** receive their crosses; Acolytes **Damien Montague** and **Phoebe King** are advanced to the rank of Lead Acolyte. In addition Eucharistic Minister **David Spoor** is commissioned. There are now a grand total of 67 active lay liturgical ministers in the guild, including 37 active Acolytes. (In addition there are over 20 "Acolytes Emeriti" who are no longer active, some of whom serve occasionally at holidays or when they are home from college.) There are five Subdeacons, 20 Eucharistic Ministers, most of whom are also lectors, and 14 other lectors. Many Lay Ministers have more than one role but are only counted once in the grand total. We thank all our Lay Ministers and Acolytes for their devotion and service at the altar and to the congregation. Special thanks go to the acolytes who helped to train and mentor our new acolytes, particularly Lead Acolyte **William Boyce**, who, in addition to mentoring, has volunteered on several occasions to help organize special services.

NOVEMBER SERVICES

Though All Saints' Day is actually November 1st, we celebrate it on the first Sunday of the month November 7th. Thus the color will be white, and we will be using the readings for All Saints instead of the Twenty-fourth after Pentecost. It is also one of the rare occasions when we use Eucharistic Prayer D, an adaptation of one of the most ancient Eucharistic prayers. It is a Sunday when we honor the souls of everyone past and present. It is one of the feast days when baptism occurs. The next weekend is the Twenty-fifth after Pentecost. November 20 and 21 is the Last of Pentecost, the Feast of Christ the King, and, at Grace, Harvest Sunday. It is also coincidentally Children's Sunday. It is the tradition at Grace to decorate the altars with the fruits of the harvest, a tradition that dates back to the earliest days of our parish. One of the oldest photographs of the chancel of this building, shows it decorated for this Sunday.

The last weekend of November begins the church calendar year. It is the First of Advent, a season we will learn more about in next month's article.

On Wednesdays in November, at the Holy Eucharist and Healing service, we will be celebrating **William Temple**, Archbishop of Canterbury, on November 3rd; **Leo the Great**, Bishop of Rome, on November 10th; **Hugh**, Bishop of Lincoln, on November 17th; and **C.S. Lewis**, Apologist and Spiritual Writer, on November 24th.

On **Thanksgiving Day**, Thursday November 25th, Holy Eucharist will be celebrated in All Saints' Chapel at 10:00 a.m.

ALL SAINTS' DAY REMEMBRANCE

Name(s) of deceased to be remembered and placed upon the altar on November 6th & 7th. **Completed forms may be placed in the offering plate on these dates.**

CARING FOR ELDERS CARING FRIENDS

-Linda Pope

The Caring for Elders group was initially signed up to meet only six weeks. We wound up meeting for about a year and a half! During this time we enjoyed fellowship, heard several speakers talk with our group about area resources, and offered two Sunday forums for the wider Grace community. As time went on we became more interested in offering practical assistance to elders at Grace who occasionally needed a helping hand. With that in mind, we initiated a volunteer system through the "I Can do That" leaflet and were able to compile a list of people to call on to occasionally help with such things as buying groceries, delivering meals and assisting with other errands. What we are hearing now is that more people, not just elders, need help occasionally. We would, therefore, like to broaden our support to people of any age at Grace who find themselves in a time of stress, illness or transition. Therefore, we are going to change our name from Caring for Elders to Caring Friends. The "I Can Do That!" leaflet will have an expanded list of tasks that volunteers are willing and able to do, from shoveling snow, to doing errands, to making a meal. Anyone who needs a helping hand, or knows of someone who does, just needs to call the church.

We would also like to mention how important we think flower delivery is to those who are confined to nursing homes, a hospital or their own homes. Flowers always bring cheer and brighten up any room! A couple of guidelines: the phone numbers are always on the card with the address and name. It's OK to call ahead to see if they would like a visitor. It's also OK to deliver the flowers another day. Finally, if you prefer to go with someone, by all means, take a friend. Teenagers are encouraged to participate in this important ministry.

The last bit of news is that we will be having a "Kristkindl" weekend November 20th. This will be another opportunity to reach out to the homebound! We will have a board in the back of the church with names of parishioners who are not able to attend services. Please take a name and write to the parishioner each week during Advent, beginning November 28th, signing "from a Grace Church parishioner." Then at Christmas, send a card or small gift, perhaps including a photo, identifying yourself as "Kristkindl."

ANOTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

-Norma Bossé

You can help Grace Church and your community by becoming a volunteer with the Grace Episcopal Church Thrift Shop, located in the lower level of the Parish House, opposite the offices. No experience required!

We especially need someone on Tuesdays, immediately! However, if Thursday or Saturday fits into your schedule, you will be welcomed there also. The hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am to 2pm and Saturdays 9am to 12 noon. The chief duty will be at the "check-out" desk, receiving customers' payments and bagging their purchases. "Busy work", as you are able, consists of reviewing the clothes racks, removing empty hangers, and putting articles back into the correct locations. As time allows, you might also ready clothing for sale by attaching size/price tags and putting them on appropriate hangers.

Since its inception after the great fire, the Thrift Shop has contributed well over \$100,000 to Grace Church, initially for expensive items in the rebuilding, such as stained glass windows, the altar, organ and bells, and throughout the years for carpeting, drapes, furniture and fixtures. We contribute monthly to the general fund for operating expenses and to the Food Pantry, as well as other outreach programs. Our current goal is to contribute toward urgently needed repairs to the Parish House.

With a few hours of your time, you will be rewarded by knowing that you have contributed towards helping people obtain good quality clothing and household items at low prices, especially in today's economy, and, in turn, contributing towards Grace Church's operating and maintenance expenses.

If you are moved by the spirit to volunteer, please call Norma Bossé at 508-999-1787, or you may drop by the Thrift Shop during hours of operation, or leave a message at the Church Office.

FOOD PANTRY

-Martha Reed, Coordinator

October brought more people to our door in need of food resulting in many trips to local vendors to purchase over \$3,000 worth of food. November is always our busiest month. We are currently signing up clients for Thanksgiving turkeys and chickens which will be distributed on November 9th along with potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, a variety of fresh vegetables from the Boston Food Bank and Friends Academy, canned vegetables, gravy, bread and pastries. In addition, we are able to provide Thanksgiving Baskets to members of our Parish Family who are in need and to those from the community who are referred by Social Service agencies. If you or someone you know would appreciate a Thanksgiving Basket, please speak with the clergy, staff, or Martha Reed.

We have recently received a \$3,000 grant from Project Bread/Walk for Hunger which we applied for in January. We are grateful for this award and will use it to purchase items for the Thanksgiving Baskets and to stock the Pantry's shelves.

Thanks to those who purchased Macy's Shop for a Cause card. The proceeds will come directly to our Food Pantry. Many thanks to **Janet Doe** and **Polly Mort** for pushing sales of the tickets. It would be nice if one of our supporters would win the \$500 gift card!

We will celebrate Harvest Sunday on November 20th and 21st. Please give an extra non-perishable, or more, to help stock our shelves for the holiday season. We are grateful for your contributions.

UPDATE ON THE RECTORY RENOVATIONS

-The Property Sub-committee

We are in the midst of a major renovation project at our church rectory which began the day after Labor Day this fall. No major work has been done with this property since the 1960's and the time had come to restore and update this gem on Arnold Place. The project, I am pleased to report, is right on target for progress and within budget as submitted to the Vestry.

Construction/demolition began the day after Labor Day with various crews coming in to gut the kitchen and do necessary work in the lavatory, small hallway and butler's pantry. Insulation was installed in the north and west walls where there was none, and this will help with heating the area. NStar is installing a 200 amp system from the street. New plumbing and electrical circuit box are in place as well as any e/p needs for a new kitchen. ALL CODE VIOLATIONS have been addressed and inspectors have given us clearance to continue on.

Cabinets, counter tops and flooring are in place and painters are currently putting the finishing touches in these areas. Appliances will then be put in place.

The second floor bathroom has a new energy efficient toilet, shower controls, new tub and enclosure and a new vanity, sink and flooring. No major leaks were found which was a blessing cost and construction wise.

The final step is to refinish wood floors on the first floor, install carpeting on the stairs, and have the cleaners come in to do a massive cleanup before the Rector moves back in.

Peter Mathieu of Kitchens by Design, Rob Bobola the contractor, Dave Gonsavles the electrician, Williams Plumbing, Steve Remick, the painter, LeBlanc Floor Refinishers, and Jeff Ollivierre's Carpets, have been extremely cooperative in working together and addressing any concerns this sub-committee had during the renovation project.

It has been our privilege and pleasure to serve on this committee and bring up to date a beautiful early 1900's historic home that Grace Church possesses.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit that they may have courage and hope in their troubles. Bill Bancroft (Member), Michelle Luth (Member), Olivia Grace Mann (Grandaughter of Joan Ann Niles), Marion Morse (Mother of Charles Morse), Richard Tinsley (Friend of Karen Maciulewicz), Richard Chase (Bill Bradbury's Father-in-law), Stephen Yates (son of Debra Yates), Marianne McGregor (Wife of Carl McGregor), Dorothy Scieszka (Member), Alice Pheninger, Roger Holmes (Cousin of Janet Miranda), Catherine Wilbur (Sister of Harriet Shaw), Paige Gauthier (Friend of Sondra Reid), Jay Raposo (Brother of Rui Raposo), Glenn Martin (Member), Gladys Lomas (Member), Pat Buckles (Member), Alexis Morel (Grandaughter of Claire Morel), Sally Ainsworth (Member), Irene Tunstall (Member), Kate Towers (Sister-in-law of Marilyn Saint Aubin), Liz Kelley (Friend of Nancy Mularczyk), Joy Nichols (Member), Dolores Desrochers (Friend of Paula Cabral), Yvette Gracie (Cousin of Terri Nowell), Marilyn Bradbury (Brother and Sister-in-law of Bill Bradbury), Armstead Christian (Son-in-law of Eloise Pina), Michelle Lopes (Member), Scott Seavey (Brother of Diane Doe), Norman Lopes (Member), Alzira (Friend of Gerry Lopes), Kara Haney (Daughter of Jack Haney).

Pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in God's eternal Kingdom. Janice McKeachern (Member), Darlene St. Julien (Member), Nettie McGowen (Member), Susi Smith (Friend of Elaine O'Neill).

Pray for our servicemen and women....those who may be mobilized to the region around Iraq as well as those who are standing in at other international or domestic military installations. Nathan Haws (Stepson of Dennis Beck, II), Ted Steliga (Nephew of Barbara Bachand), Shawn Souza (Member), David Monteiro (Member), Thomas Storer (Grandson of Ronald and Judy St. John), Jorge Lee Vega, Sasha Knezevic (Nephew of Diana Ukleja), Dana Gilmour (Grandson of Peggy Fellouris), and Craig McGregor (Grandson of Carl McGregor).