

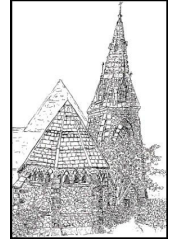
Visions of GRACE



Grace Episcopal Church is a multigenerational, diverse and welcoming Christian community that values shared leadership, service to those in need and nurturing all in the love of God.

Grace Episcopal Church

A Congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts



Dear Friend:

On behalf of the entire Grace Church community, thank you for your prayers and support of our ministry here together. We all know that 2010 has been a difficult year in many ways. But in the midst of this, the Grace Church community has continued to thrive and grow – with increased membership, expanded mission and outreach work, and strong children and adult education. The sharing of financial resources, time and talent has enabled and sustained this growth and allowed our parish to meet many of the goals we set as a community last year. Among our highlights for 2010:

- Our Priest-in-Charge has moved from part-time to full-time status, which has enhanced our ability to offer pastoral care to our growing membership, manage our church's staff and interns, and help guide our many ministry committees.
- Mission and outreach work has continued to expand, with support for local food pantries such as St. Luke's Soup Kitchen and the Greater Boston Food Bank, the Hunger Justice youth mission trip, our "GreenUp CleanUp" work in Medford parks, the Grace clothing pantry, and a new English language teaching program.
- A part-time children and youth education director has been hired to help manage the Sunday school and Wednesday night youth educational programs, which have grown to eight separate classes requiring 16 teachers and assistants per week!

With great anticipation, we look forward to the coming year. With God's help, we will continue nurture and grow our parish. To ensure a warm welcome to all who come to Grace Church, our Vestry hopes to expand our newcomer outreach events and provide more introductory Episcopal classes. We also hope to further strengthen our child, youth and adult education programs, enhance our outreach ministries, and train lay leaders for the future of Grace Church. But even as we expand to accommodate new growth, we must also begin to "catch up" on past years of deficit spending and endowment depletion. We also need to fund gravely needed repairs and maintenance for our historic and beautiful church building.

160 High Street, Medford, Massachusetts 02155
Telephone: (781) 396-7215
Email: office@gracemedford.org www.gracemedford.org

To accomplish these goals, your annual stewardship pledge is vitally important. Grace Church is a self-supporting parish whose activities and programs are funded almost entirely by our own community's financial giving. By making a pledge, you are saying that you support and want to be part of the activities and missions of Grace Church. Further, by pledging in advance, you are giving our parish Vestry the ability to estimate the church's income for the year 2011 and to use its resources in the best possible way.

Some in our Grace Church community have experienced new or continued financial hardship over this past year. In this light, if you have been blessed with income security in 2010, please consider whether you could contribute an extra portion to offset any reduced support from those who have been less fortunate. For all our members, please think and pray about how you can be part of God's generosity in your pledging and giving to Grace Church in 2011. We hope that the act of pledging will bring you blessings of joy and satisfaction in our growing Grace Church community.

Thank you,

The Stewardship Committee



The Rev. Noah H. Evans
Priest-in-Charge



Margaret Smist
Warden



Linda Rogers
Warden

Wes Foote, Jr.

Sean Kerans

Steven Viggiani

Cindy Scott

Grace Episcopal Church

2010 Annual Pledges

| | | | |
|-----|------|------|------|
| 12 | 500 | 1300 | 2400 |
| 25 | 520 | 1300 | 2600 |
| 52 | 520 | 1352 | 2600 |
| 52 | 520 | 1440 | 2600 |
| 100 | 520 | 1456 | 2860 |
| 200 | 520 | 1560 | 2964 |
| 200 | 600 | 1560 | 3000 |
| 200 | 600 | 1560 | 3600 |
| 208 | 600 | 1560 | 3640 |
| 240 | 600 | 1640 | 3640 |
| 240 | 600 | 1800 | 3900 |
| 240 | 624 | 1820 | 3900 |
| 250 | 676 | 1820 | 3900 |
| 250 | 700 | 1820 | 4000 |
| 250 | 840 | 1820 | 4160 |
| 250 | 900 | 2000 | 4400 |
| 260 | 900 | 2000 | 4800 |
| 260 | 1000 | 2040 | 5200 |
| 300 | 1040 | 2080 | 5200 |
| 300 | 1040 | 2100 | 6000 |
| 312 | 1040 | 2100 | 6000 |
| 350 | 1080 | 2100 | 6032 |
| 360 | 1144 | 2250 | 7800 |
| 450 | 1200 | 2340 | |
| 500 | 1296 | 2340 | |
| 500 | 1300 | 2340 | |
| 500 | 1300 | 2400 | |
| 500 | 1300 | 2400 | |

Average
Pledge
\$1670

Priest-in-
Charge's
Pledge

Median
Pledge

Total Number of Pledges: 108
Total Pledged: \$179,895

2011 TOTAL PLEDGE GOAL: \$200,000
AVERAGE PLEDGE NEEDED: \$1,800

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts Average Pledge: \$1733
Episcopal Church National Average Pledge: \$2300

Why Give? To Foster Spiritual Growth.

At church we hear this prayer during the weekly collection of donations: “All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.” The meaning is simple: everything we have comes from God – including our talents, jobs and income – and consequently, anything we give to God we’re really just giving back. The act of donation thus becomes an act of spiritual recognition and gratitude. And these acts build on themselves: the more we practice generous giving, the more we recognize the great truth of God’s bounty – and the more we recognize this bounty and give thanks, the more we are able to give freely from it. When we pledge to make donations over an entire year’s time, we make a commitment to sustained giving that can grow, with God’s help, into a wonderful and liberating spiritual practice.

Why Give? To Support Our Growing Parish.

What a blessing it has been to be part of Grace Church this past year! In the midst of these difficult times, our Grace Church community has thrived and grown with increased membership, expanded mission and outreach work, and strong adult and children education. Our Priest-in-Charge has moved from part-time to full-time status. We have hired a part-time education director to manage our growing youth and children education programs – eight classes per week and counting! We now have weekly adult education offerings on Wednesday nights. We have also greatly increased our support for local food pantries and helped clean up local parks. Special worship services and events have been a joy and inspiration: the Lenten “Food for Thought” campaign, the Pentecost multi-lingual service, the Children’s service, and many more.

As we look to the coming year, we hope, with God’s help, to continue to nurture and grow our parish. To do so, our Vestry plans to expand our newcomer outreach and further strengthen our youth and adult education programs and ministries. But as we expand to welcome new members, we also must face the need to “catch up” on past years of deficit spending, endowment depletion, and deferred but gravely-needed repairs and maintenance for our historic church building. To achieve all this, your annual stewardship pledge is vitally important. Grace Church is a self-supporting parish whose activities and programs are funded almost entirely by our own community’s financial giving. By making a pledge for 2011, you provide the resources to support our growing parish and preserve our worship space.

How Much to Give? To Reflect Proportionality.

Proportional giving has its foundation in what God has given us, both in our private lives and in our lives together as members of Grace Church. To practice proportional giving, we need to consider our financial resources together with the role of Grace Church in our lives. For your consideration, the next page contains a Proportional Giving guide:

Proportional Giving Guide

| Annual Income | Role that the Church Plays in Your Life | | |
|----------------------|---|--|---|
| | For an individual or family who participates in some Church activities, attends services or uses programs occasionally, and views the Church as their basic religious home. | For an individual or family who is actively involved, attends services regularly, uses the Sunday school or adult and youth education programs frequently, and views the Church as a channel for the expression of their social, spiritual and family values | For an individual or family who is deeply committed to the support of the Church's religious initiatives and programs, who views the Church as a central focus of their spiritual life, and who values their leadership role in our community of faith. |
| | Basic Support | Participatory Support | Leadership Support |
| Annual Income | 1% - 2% of income | 3%- 4% of income | 5%- 10% of income |
| \$25,000 or less | \$250 - \$500 | \$750 - \$1,000 | \$1,250 - \$2,500 |
| \$50,000 | \$500 - \$1,000 | \$1,500 - \$2,000 | \$2,500 - \$5,000 |
| \$75,000 | \$750 - \$1,500 | \$2,250 - \$3,000 | \$3,750 - \$7,500 |
| \$100,000 | \$1,000 - \$2,000 | \$3,000 - \$4,000 | \$5,000 - \$10,000 |
| \$150,000 | \$1,500 - \$3,000 | \$4,500 - \$6,000 | \$7,500 - \$15,000 |
| \$200,000 & up | \$2,000 - \$4,000 | \$6,000 - \$7,000 | \$10,000 - \$20,000 |

We hope that you will use this Guide to help determine your level of financial support to Grace Church for the year 2011. In these continued difficult economic times, we recognize that some of our Grace Church community have experienced particular financial hardship over this past year, or may have other special circumstances or obligations that call for a different pledging approach. As you think about a specific level of support, please consider whether that level is truly proportional to the importance of God and our church in your life, and how it compares to other ways that you spend money.

A Final Request – Please Pledge in Advance. Sometimes people ask why they should pledge in advance for the year rather than just give the same amount without pledging it. The answer is simple: without advance pledging, the Grace Church Vestry cannot accurately estimate the church's income for the coming year and cannot properly manage the church's operations. It just makes sense: we need to know how much money Grace Church will have next year so that we can use our resources in the best possible way. Advance pledging provides this critical information – so please pledge in advance this Fall for the coming year!