

# Why We Give.

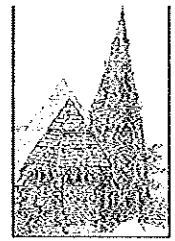
## Grace Episcopal Church Stewardship



*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. The support of many different people in our community has allowed us to strengthen and grow over the past several years. Grace Church has become:

- A community that welcomes all to celebrate the diversity of God's people, as shown by our church attendance **doubling** over the last ten years and increasing by **20%** in just the past two years.
- A community that educates and shapes our children and adults, as shown by not one, but **two**, viable and vibrant children education programs and year-round adult education.
- A community that brings hope to our neighborhood and the other communities we serve, as shown by expanding our mission work and establishing a Mission/Outreach committee in 2009.
- A community that values shared leadership, as shown by our strong Vestry presence and regular teaching and preaching by lay leaders.

Encouraged by these accomplishments, we look forward to the year 2010 with the hope that all of us together can continue to nurture and advance our Grace Church community. In 2010, our parish Vestry hopes to:

- Offer our Priest-in-Charge a full time position (currently this is a part time position).
- Expand our efforts to serve those in need through mission and outreach work.
- Continue to grow and strengthen our Children and Youth Ministries through additional programming and training of lay leaders.
- Continue to work towards fully funding the upkeep of our historic and beautiful worship space.

Your annual stewardship pledge is a crucial part of achieving these goals. Grace Church is a self-supporting parish with virtually no endowment funds. This means that our church's activities and programs are funded almost entirely by our own community's financial giving and pledging. Put another way, what Grace Church is able to do depends almost entirely on what we as the Grace church community are willing to give. By making a pledge, you are saying that you support and want to be a part of the activities and missions of Grace Church. Further, by

---

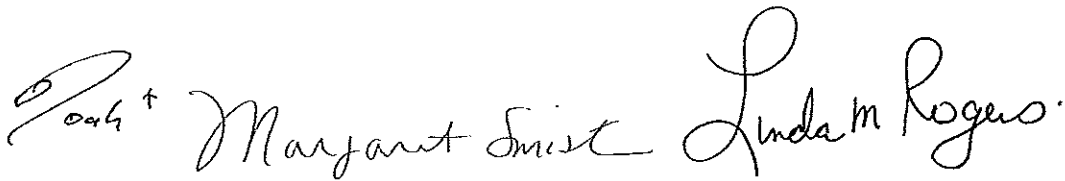
160 High Street, Medford, Massachusetts 02155  
Telephone: (781) 396-7215  
Email: [office@gracemedford.org](mailto:office@gracemedford.org)   [www.gracemedford.org](http://www.gracemedford.org)

pledging in advance, you are giving our parish Vestry the ability to estimate the church's income for the year 2010 and to use its resources in the best possible way.

We invite you to join us in the joy of giving and supporting Grace Church with a pledge this year. In thinking and praying about how much to pledge, take a look at the enclosed Stewardship brochure. If you have been blessed with income security in these economically stressful times, can you contribute an extra portion to offset any reduced support from those who have been less fortunate? Please think and pray about how you can be part of God's generosity in your pledging and giving to Grace Church in 2010.

Thank you,

The Stewardship Committee

The image shows three handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is 'Noah H. Evans', the second is 'Margaret Smist', and the third is 'Linda M. Rogers'.

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

Margaret Smist  
Warden

Linda Rogers  
Warden

*Stewardship Committee:*

Wes Foote, Jr.

Sean Kerans

Steven Viggiani

Cindy Scott

# Grace Episcopal Church

## 2009 Annual Pledges

|     |      |      |      |
|-----|------|------|------|
| 26  | 500  | 1196 | 2080 |
| 52  | 500  | 1200 | 2080 |
| 52  | 520  | 1200 | 2080 |
| 100 | 520  | 1200 | 2080 |
| 100 | 520  | 1200 | 2100 |
| 130 | 520  | 1300 | 2400 |
| 130 | 600  | 1300 | 2600 |
| 200 | 600  | 1300 | 2600 |
| 200 | 600  | 1300 | 2600 |
| 200 | 600  | 1300 | 2600 |
| 200 | 600  | 1300 | 2652 |
| 240 | 600  | 1352 | 2700 |
| 250 | 600  | 1352 | 3350 |
| 250 | 624  | 1560 | 3380 |
| 260 | 676  | 1560 | 3380 |
| 260 | 720  | 1560 | 3380 |
| 260 | 720  | 1560 | 3600 |
| 260 | 750  | 1560 | 3600 |
| 286 | 780  | 1560 | 3600 |
| 300 | 780  | 1620 | 3640 |
| 300 | 960  | 1664 | 4000 |
| 300 | 1000 | 1664 | 4850 |
| 300 | 1000 | 1800 | 4940 |
| 312 | 1040 | 1800 | 5000 |
| 364 | 1040 | 1820 | 5200 |
| 384 | 1040 | 1820 | 5400 |
| 500 | 1075 | 1820 | 6500 |
| 500 | 1092 | 1820 |      |
| 500 | 1100 | 2000 |      |

Average  
Pledge  
\$1464.30

Priest-in-  
Charge's  
Pledge

Median  
Pledge

**Total Number of Pledges: 110**

**Total Pledged: \$161,073**

**2010 PLEDGE TOTAL GOAL: \$180,000**

**AVERAGE PLEDGE NEEDED: \$1636**

### **Why Give? Spiritual Growth.**

At church we hear this prayer during the collection of weekly 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 express our gratitude for it, the more we are able to give freely and unfeigningly 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? Stewardship.**

Grace Church was built in the 1860s and became a parish church in 1873. Throughout its long history – which now spans three centuries! – each generation of Grace Church parishioners made a deliberate decision to support each other and Grace Church through their donations of time, talent, and treasure. These past generations chose to be faithful stewards of Grace Church, and thereby gave us a great gift – a thriving parish and a beautiful church to worship in. Now, it’s our turn to be the modern-day stewards of Grace Church, to give of our resources to preserve and advance our church community and worship space. In so doing, we are giving to future generations of Grace churchgoers just as past generations had the generosity to give to us. This is a very real privilege of stewardship.

### **Why Give? For You.**

Any organization that funds its activities through private donations can say, “We can’t do it without you.” And we can say the same at Grace Church too. After all, we’re a self-supporting parish whose funding comes almost entirely through individual pledged contributions – so it’s true, we can’t do it without you. But as a church, we have something different and far more important to say, which is this: “**YOU** can’t do it without you.” You cannot experience the many blessings that will come from giving unless **you** participate by giving. The spiritual growth that comes from acknowledging and giving back a part of God’s bounty, the satisfaction that comes from being good stewards for our church community – no one else can foster all these good things for you, but you. Truly, you can’t do it without you!

### **How Much to Give? 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. |
|                      | <b>Basic Support</b>  | <b>Participatory Support</b>  | <b>Leadership Support</b>   |
| <b>Annual Income</b> | <b>1% - 2% of income</b>  | <b>3%- 4% of income</b>   | <b>5% - 10% of income</b>   |
| \$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 - 8,000   | \$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 2010. 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!