



# Grace Episcopal Church NEWSLETTER *Summer 2004*

160 High Street + Medford MA 02155 + 781.396.7215 + www.gracemedford.org

## ***Summer Events at Grace Church***

### **Speaker Series to be held Wednesday, June 2**

The Evening Adult Forum returns on June 2 with guest speaker and parishioner, Agnes Opara, speaking on the topic: *"From Nigeria to the U.S.; One Woman's Journey."* **The Adult Forum will be held at 7:30 pm, following a light supper at 6:30, and a service at 7 pm. Childcare will be provided free of charge.**

### **GraceWorks talent show returns on Friday, June 4**

The children of GraceWorks After School program are presenting their year-end talent show. All parishioners are welcome and encouraged to attend. The festivities begin at 6 pm.

### **Vestry Retreat to be held June 11 and 12**

The Vestry will be meeting on the evening of June 11 and all day June 12 to continue with our Mutual Ministry Review and our work for the vision and ministry of Grace Church. Please keep the Vestry, Wardens and Rector in your prayers this weekend.

### **Parish Meetings to be held on Sunday, June 13**

There will be Special Parish Meetings prior to and following the 10 am Service on June 13. The topic to be discussed is(see p6)

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The newsletter will  
be back in  
September!



## Vestry Bios

### Walter Greene – Treasurer

I am a cradle Episcopalian, born in Brunswick, Georgia, more years ago than I care to discuss. My father was a lay minister and my mother was the organist. I was an acolyte and in the choir starting at age five, and have sung in church choirs everywhere I have been since then.

I spent my earliest years in the South, but I think of Chicago as home. I graduated from the University of Chicago (after detours to the U.S. Army and various semi-academic social environments) with a degree in International Relations, and was all set to go to Law School when I received a Foreign Service appointment. I could not decide which to pursue, so I went into Computer Science instead.

I spent the 60s mostly in Washington working for IBM, *et al*, while deeply involved in civil rights and in liberal politics. Deepest memory: The night of Dr. King's assassination, I was working at Bobby Kennedy's campaign headquarters in Washington. The day of Bobby's assassination, I was at his offices in Los Angeles. It was a very bad year.

I returned to Chicago in the early 70s to do some studies for the Republican Governor and to manage a campaign against Mayor Daley's organization. I returned to the U Chicago Grad Business School, and dove into administrative and financial work in health care, civil rights, and education. By the late 70s, I was back in Washington with the U.S. Office for Civil Rights, then as counsel to an Assistant Secretary of Education. After President Carter left office in 1981, I moved to New York as Exec to the Chancellor of New York City Schools.

In 1983, I heard a formal call, and gave up all that I had (about \$3.50) to become a postulant for the Episcopal priesthood. God told me to go to EDS here in Cambridge, but with that mystical sense of humor that is only His, He failed to mention that He was not coming with me. I left EDS to help run A

Better Chance, a national educational placement service for minority high school students.

I hired my wife, Donna, to work for me at ABC, but when we were married in 1986, I had to let her go. The next year, we moved to the San Francisco Bay area, where I managed the patient information systems at the University of California Hospitals and served as administrator of a public college. Loring was born in San Francisco in 1990, and we returned to this area a few years later.

I still work in health care, but now it is for a profit-making organization. Donna works with our niece, who owns a funeral home in Dorchester.

I have been a member of Trinity downtown most of my time in the Boston area, but I have always sought a local parish where I can be comfortable and can make a difference. I appreciate and enjoy the opportunity to serve as chorister, vestryman, and treasurer here at Grace.

### Margaret Smist – Senior Warden

My life seems quite dull after reading Walter's bio, but I do have a story to tell.

I was born and raised a Roman Catholic in Trumbull, CT. I have six siblings who are scattered along the Eastern Seaboard, and I made my way to the Boston area after graduating from Penn State in 1984.

I had fallen away from the church until a painful divorce brought me to Grace Episcopal in 1995. I had been looking for a 'church family' (not just a place to go to church on Sunday!) for a few years. My grandfather was Episcopal, and I decided to try on a new denomination. It fit and I have been very, happy here for 10 years. I have edited this newsletter for 9 years and have been involved in a number of other ministries over the years.

I moved to Marblehead in 1997 and have become part of an Arts Festival in town. I also work at Liberty Mutual Insurance as an auditor (when I find the time!).

I feel very blessed to be part of Grace and to have such a loving church family.

## 'Our Arthur'

A tribute to Arthur Anderson

*Help us to remember all thy love and care,  
trust in thee and love thee always, everywhere.*

William Bourque

Arthur was a quiet person who enjoyed life. He loved music and he loved dancing. Rumor says, when he arrived home from work, he had to take a twirl with Evelyn or there would be no supper.

Arthur was also well traveled, and following many of those trips, he and Evelyn shared these experiences on Sunday mornings at the Adult Forum here at Grace Church.

Because Arthur was so quiet and reserved, Ruby and I did not know him very well. Then he joined us to help with TRASH & TREASURE at the Grace Church Fall Fair.

Preparing for TRASH & TREASURE was no picnic! It was hard work and it was dirty work. All year long we collected items that came from the homes of people moving into smaller quarters, or those leaving our city, or others relocating because of job changes or because of deaths within the family. Other treasurers came in from in front of numerous homes on trash day. Often our eyes would glisten as we felt the pain of those parting with precious memories plus the things they loved and cherished.

The final preparation for TRASH AND TREASURE wound down to those 40 hours before Fair time. How we fumbled, mumbled and stumbled. How we worried as we cleaned, tagged and priced 4,800 individual articles, and we finished on time!

On Fair morning, Evelyn was there to greet those racing in to snatch the bargains while Arthur, at the money table, never allowed anyone to talk him down one penny. He had his finger on the dike, and at his table, he was

sterling as silver, solid as Gibraltar and honest as Abe Lincoln. Yet, he was always the gentleman.

In his quiet manner, Arthur taught us that the world is not ruled by figures, but by feelings. The greatest things are the simplest things, while the most powerful things are the tenderest things. The greatest force is love; the greatest asset friendship.

Arthur, we thank you. Goodbye gentle friend.

Oscar H. Greene

Editor's note: Oscar read this tribute at Arthur's funeral service in April.

## Vestry Notes

In accordance with the By-Laws and the Parish Constitution, the Vestry appointed **Margaret Smist** to fulfill the unexpired term of Doris Johnson (who has vacated to South Carolina). **Lisa Chesnell** has been appointed to complete Margaret's Vestry term which expires January, 2005.

The Vestry asks for your continued prayers but especially for the weekend of our Vestry Retreat , June 11 and June 12'



## One June Morning

*And be ye kind one to another... Ephesians 4:32*

It was ten in the morning and I was at my desk struggling with an engineering report that had to be typed, approved, and delivered to a meeting by two that afternoon. This assignment was dropped on my desk at eight that morning, and I felt rushed.

Then the telephone rang. It was my neighbor who was directing a play. "Oscar," she said, "I know you promised to handle publicity for the play at the end of the week." I gasped. The play with people from the community as actors, would be presented in three weeks with proceeds going to help the West Medford Community Center. My neighbor continued with, "Ticket sales have lagged, so I called the editor of the MEDFORD DAILY MERCURY and I told him you'd have a story on the play ready for tomorrow's edition. If you call him he'll fill you in on the details."

I slipped the phone back on the hook, shook my head, and I dialed the editor. "Yes, Oscar," he said. "I am holding two columns on the front page so you can tell us about the play, the actors, and the like. You'll have it ready won't you? We'll need it before nine."

Again I hung up wondering what I could do? I was not familiar with the play nor the actors. Besides, I was scheduled to take friends to an open-house in Cambridge at six, then to attend a birthday party at eight. Goodness knows what time I would be arriving home.

I called my neighbor and told her I had talked with the editor. Then I asked, "Do you have a synopsis of the play?" "Yes."

A load fell from my shoulders because a synopsis is a brief summary of the play that I could quickly read. "Would you drop it through my mail slot before five this afternoon?"

"I will be glad to."

I felt better knowing that my reading of the synopsis before leaving for the open-house would help me gather my thoughts.

I returned to the engineering report, and following much inner stress, it was delivered five minutes before meeting time. Before I

knew it, it was time to leave for home.

All the way home I thought about the story for the editor. I parked in the driveway, and raced into the house. There was mail, but no promised synopsis of the play. When I left the home for the open-house, it had not arrived. I was disturbed.

Both the open-house and the birthday party were enjoyable, but my mind was on next morning's deadline. The editor was holding front page space and I worried. But then, I hadn't said, no.

We reached home at eleven-thirty and an envelope was at the door. I opened it and my heart sank. To my horror, there was no synopsis but a full copy of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Ernest." Also enclosed was an eight by ten inch glossy photo with neither caption nor identification of any actor. I groaned.

My only route was to read the play and then attempt to identify the actors. It was two-thirty in the morning when I finished reading the play. From time-to-time Ruby called up stairs to see if I was all right. Her concern did little for my concentration. By four in the morning the story was written and the actors were identified with my hope that their names were spelled correctly. Then the story was delivered to the editor at seven that morning.

This was one twenty-four hour day from the life of a writer. But it showed that some people feel that writing is easy and requires little effort. The feeling seems to be that words flow from the mind like water from a faucet. In reality, writing is very hard work. Or as my Guideposts co-worker said, "People don't realize writing is work. They hand me their article and they expect it will move magically into print. They have supplied the water, and I am to add the powder. Then we'll have instant Kool-Aid."

When you ask a writer to assist you, be sure to make it a mutual effort. Promptly provide the promised information; specify a realistic deadline; relax in anticipation of a professional product delivered on-time.

Oscar H. Greene

## Continued from page 2

alarm system which the church is required to install. Please see bulletins for further information.

### “Living with Money” to begin June 19

Heidi Bogner will be offering an adult education program this summer titled “Living With Money.” See details on page 7.

### ....And this Fall

**The Ministry Fair** will be returning again this September (at a date to be announced). John Rogers will be sending last years guide to the various ministry leaders so that they can refresh their write ups in the guide. The guide is available in the church office to anyone who would like to explore ministry opportunities before September. If you have any questions, John is available to answer questions at 781-396-2930 or [johnprogers@netzero.net](mailto:johnprogers@netzero.net).

**The Home for the Holidays Fair** will be held in November with our **Fair Supper** in October. Co-chairs, Lisa Chesnell and Margaret Smist, will be holding a brief meeting in early September. Anyone interested in assisting at the Fair can attend or call Margaret at 781-639-7822 with questions during June, July or August.

### Our Thanks

Following a prayer and recognition by Fr. Tom Cook at the 10 o'clock Service of Worship on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, **Doris Johnson, Ida Stone and Hannah Diozzi** were honored for a combined total of 89 years of membership in Grace Church. At least 39 of those years (combined) were given by these women in leadership positions and service to our parish.

A cake and punch reception organized and executed by Linda Fiorenza, assisted by

Phyllis Allaire, was held in the Parish Hall. Tributes were offered honoring Doris, Ida and Hannah by Frank Hazel, Warren Ramirez, Jean Spiers and Tom Convery. June Pietrantonio, immediate Past Senior Warden, served as leader of the recognition and tributes. Fr. Tom concluded the tribute with thanksgiving for-- and a blessing on--those to whom we paid tribute.

Doris most recently served as Sr. Warden (2002-2004), Jr. Warden & Vestry (1999-2002), fund raiser for Barbara C. Harris Camp & Conference Center, Acolyte, Fair Chairman (2002) and volunteer in the parish office. She has relocated to Buffton, South Carolina.

Ida came to Grace through the efforts of her nephew Aaron. Since coming to Grace she has been the mainstay of St. Anne's Guild, having served many terms as President. She served as Lay Eucharistic Minister, Chairman of the Fair Lobster Luncheon, and on Joe Brunaccini's Breakfast & Lunch team. She also organized many day-trips for the parish to places all around New England. Ida and husband, "Stoney," will be moving in June to Upper Marlborough, Maryland to be near family.

Hannah began serving as a leader almost upon arrival at our Church. Some areas of her leadership were: Clerk of the Vestry, Head Usher and ushers' coordinator, chairman of producing the Parish Directory, Co-chairman of the Grace Church 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and Chairman of the 150<sup>th</sup> High Tea and HistoricTours. She enjoyed a role in the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary's "Time Traveler" musical presentation of the history of Grace Church

Hannah now lives in Salem, Massachusetts, where she is very active in the Salem-area community, and will continue to visit us frequently.

We thank these women sincerely for their gifts of leadership to Grace Church, and wish them well for the future in their new communities. Doris, Ida, Hannah, we will miss you very much. We look forward to staying in

touch with you. Call or write and please visit us often.

## Ministry of Stewardship

On behalf of Grace Church, I was privileged with the honor of attending “Sowing and Growing Seeds of Change in Stewardship, Evangelism and Parish Development” offered for the Province 1 Stewardship and Evangelism Conference March 26 – 28 at the Westborough Wyndham hotel.

When I attended 2 years ago, with Steve Duggan and Jim Pearson Sr., this conference encompassed Stewardship and Evangelism only; but it has since been decided that Parish Development was also closely linked to Stewardship. That decision couldn't be more on-target.

We all need to take a new look at what “Stewardship” actually means. It is more than a pledge drive conducted at the end of the year to help us project our budget for the following year, as we know we “should” do. Bruce Rockwell of the Western Massachusetts Diocese explained that it should be thought of as more of a “Trusteeship”. True “Stewardship” changes hearts; thus it is a true ministry of conversion.

A working definition of Christian Stewardship, as defined in the conference material, is “...*grateful and responsible use of God's gifts in the light of God's purpose as revealed in Jesus Christ. Christian stewards, empowered by the Holy Spirit, commit themselves to conscious, purposeful decisions.*”

“Stewardship is lived out in:

- Living and telling the Good News;
- Sharing God in seeking justice, peace, and integrity of creation in an interdependent universe;
- Wisely employing God-given human resources, abilities, and relationships;
- Sharing the material resources we hold and giving them in service, justice, and compassion;
- Providing for future generations, sharing in life, worship, and responsible

stewardship of the Church and of its mission

*“Both for the individual and for the community, stewardship is a joyful act for the sake of God's world.”*

During the conference we embraced Bruce Rockwell's much more simple definition, that is easier to remember, *“Everything we do, with everything we have, all the time, after we say we believe.”*

I hope we, as responsible parishioners of Grace Church, focus our attention on this very important matter during 2004.

I wish to offer my services as a “Money Companion” by facilitating a 6-week program this summer, entitled “Living with Money.” This program is non-judgmental, and provides a safe place designed to break down the taboo of talking about money. *“The goal of this program is to help individuals understand the influence of money in their lives and to achieve a balanced, wholesome money life.”*

You do not need to be in “good financial shape” or “bad financial shape” to participate in this program. If you (and/or your financial-decision partner) discern this is important in your life, and wish to co-facilitate or to be part of this pilot group, please contact Heidi Bogner at 617-320-6205 and let her know. **Space is limited.**

9:00am – 11:00am Saturday “Living with Money” Dates are as follows:

June, 19 = Week #1 (Introductory Session)  
June 26 = Week #2 (What is Money?)  
July 10 = Week #3 (Know Your Money Life)  
July 17 = Week #4 (Making Peace with Money)  
July 24 = Week #5 (Balancing Life's Ledger)  
July 31 = Week #6 (Summary Session)

Thank you for taking the time to read this article. I look forward to seeing you soon.

“A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.” -Erin Majors

## Parishioner Newsnotes

The Somerville Board of Aldermen, at a recent televised meeting, presented a Citation and words of tribute and thanks to **June Pietrantonio** for her more than 30 years of volunteer service to the Somerville Community. June is a lifelong resident of Somerville.

June has been a Library Trustee for 9 years, the last 5 as Trustee President. She is the founder and president of the very active Duhamel Education Initiative. She was the founding President of the Community Action Agency of Somerville, formerly a member of the Somerville-Cambridge Economic Opportunities Commission, a Director of the Elizabeth Peabody House, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Health Department, and a member of the Human Services Advisory Council. June has also been a community activist and political organizer

Congratulations to **Akilah King**, the recipient of a Medford High School Scholarship. Akilah will be attending Brown University in the fall. **Warren Ramirez** will be presenting the scholarship to Akilah King at Medford High School Awards Night.

**Hannah Diozzi** has recently started a new walking tour business in Salem, MA. "Salem Strolls" offers guided architectural tours of downtown Salem. Check out the website at [www.SalemStrolls.com](http://www.SalemStrolls.com) or to obtain a brochure, call Hannah at 978-741-1154.

**Mercy Kibe and Akilah King** were recently honored at an Academic Awards Ceremony for top achievers in their grade level. Mercy is a freshman and Akilah is a senior at Medford High School

Godspeed to **Jane Kenyon and Peter Thuesen** who will be moving to the Mid-West with their three children, **Isaac, Johanna and Margaret**, in June.

Many thanks to the American Legion Post 45 for joining our Grace Church Family on the May 30, Memorial Day weekend, service.

## A Point to Ponder

### Contextual awareness crucial to church planting success

[ENS] Understanding the 'unchurched' and cultivating the ability to communicate in broad contexts are essential for the Episcopal Church to achieve its objectives to take seriously Jesus' command to "build my church" and to "spread the Gospel."

That was the message that 170 participants took home from the first annual Plant My Church conference, held in Lansdowne, Virginia, May 13-15.

The three-day training event, which focused on new church development, included special learning opportunities for bishops and diocesan staff members, 'launch team' members, new and experienced church planters, and those less experienced or exploring a call to church planting.

Hosted by the Episcopal Church's Office of Congregational Development under the leadership of the Rev. Charles N. Fulton and in partnership with the diocese of Virginia, more than 30 presenters held workshops designed to help participants gain expertise in church growth in various contexts and a chance to "capitalize on the experience of others' successes and failures."

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## June Birthdays

*Remembering we are all children of God, let us pray for those having birthdays during the month of June*

- 5 Michele Allen
- 7 Santo Brillati
- 9 Robert Curtin, Mary Gavrelis, Robert Perry
- 11 Eva Doherty
- 12 Frank Bonitz, Rachel Deveney
- 13 James Dervishian, Meredith DuRoss, Karen Smith, Donald Thompson
- 14 Brian Branson, Sheila Graham, Allan Greene, Brianna Nwachukwu
- 15 Ida Stone
- 17 June Sbuttoni
- 18 Frank W. Brown, Mirabel Collins
- 23 David Branson
- 24 Virginia Kurth, Lillian Maddock
- 27 Christian Burger
- 29 Calvin Carpenter, Bernice Rice

## July Birthdays

*Remembering we are all children of God, let us pray for those having birthdays during the month of July*

- 1 Sidney Burger
- 3 Eliyah Godfrey, Janise Hurley
- 4 Jane Kenyon, John Schlesinger
- 5 Gretchen von Mering
- 6 Barbara Moser, James Pearson
- 7 Ruthanne Pearson
- 8 Lisa Chesnell, Aiden Traub
- 9 Ruth Hall
- 10 William Cook, Suzanne Henson, Mercy Kibe
- 18 Caroline Daly, Lucy Hale
- 19 Patrick DuRoss, Verna Skeete
- 20 Albert Swan, Laura White
- 22 Betty Branson, Jill Russo, Bill Williams
- 25 Aiden Gnadt, Bryan Gnadt, Cory Gnadt
- 26 Stephen Duggan, Eva Jackson, Ethel Silva
- 27 Phyllis Allaire, Dorothy Perry
- 28 Maraland Shermaine
- 30 Robert Ellefsen
- 31 Cynthia Biswanger, Steve Viggiani, Alan Wilson

## August Birthdays

*Remembering we are all children of God, let us pray for those having birthdays during the month of August*

2	Jean Wilson	25	Natasha Brillati, Linda Foote
4	Edith Cameron, Thomas Daly	26	Adam Pearson
5	Dorothy Barros, Samantha Candow, Mary Thompson		
6	Sally-Ann Heil	27	Christina Laskey
10	Louise Eastman	29	Andrianna Broomes, Maya Broomes,
11	Betsy Blair		Thomas Cook, Colin DuRoss
15	Thomas Dow		
16	Grace Kibe, Mabel Wagner		
17	Elaine Gaughan		
18	Joan Pappalardo		
19	Barbara Blair, Vaun Moser		
20	Kerry Sweeney		
21	Jill Galluccio		
22	Keith Corcoran		
23	Lori Schlesinger, Juliette Whatley		
24	Gordon Candow, Michael Whatley		

## Grace Church Parish Leadership

### Clergy & Staff:

THE REV. THOMAS R. COOK, Rector

ANNA AGUAYO, Sexton

JILL RUSSO, Interim Secretary

CHRISTINE GNADT, Director, GraceWorks

### Officers:

MARGARET SMIST, Senior Warden

STEPHEN DUGGAN, Junior Warden

WALTER GREENE, Treasurer

LAURA FELDMAN, Parish Clerk

### Vestry:

DEBRA BRILLATI, LISA CHESNELL, TOM DALY, JILL GALLUCCIO, FRANK HAZEL, JULIA LISELLA, BRENDA PEARSON, JOHN ROGERS, JR., CAROL THOMPSON, BILL WILLIAMS

### Ministries:

Altar Guild: RUBY GREENE

Adult Bible Study: FRANK HAZEL, OSCAR GREENE

Children's Formation / Education: STEVE DUGGAN

Food Donation Ministry: CAROL THOMPSON, BEVERLY CONVERY

Acolytes and Ushers: LINDA FOOTE, JILL CAPPUCCIO

Hospitality: BEVERLY CONVERY & STEPHANIE DUATO

Property: WES FOOTE, JR.

Newcomers: MARGARET SMIST

Fair: LISA CHESNELL, MARGARET SMIST

*Grace Church is a congregation of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Massachusetts.*

THE RT. REV. M. THOMAS SHAW, SSJE, Bishop

THE RT. REV. ROY CEDERHOLM, Bishop Suffragan

THE RT. REV. GAYLE E. HARRIS, Bishop Suffragan