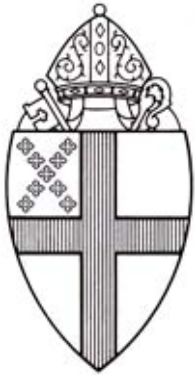


Grace Episcopal Church
NEWSLETTER APRIL 2005

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths. *Proverbs 3, 5-6*

Grace Episcopal Church
160 High Street
Medford, MA, 02155

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Grace Episcopal Church
NEWSLETTER March 2005

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS EDITION!

CONFIRMATION

TRINITY CHURCH MELROSE
SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 10:00 A.M.

WALK FOR HUNGER WITH FATHER TOM

SUNDAY, MAY 1ST

THE VESTRY CORDIALLY INVITES YOU...

TWO VIEWINGS OF AN INSPIRATIONAL VIDEO TO HEAR THE ADDRESS OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER FROM THE 2004 DIOCESAN CONVENTION, SUNDAY, APRIL 10 & SUNDAY, MAY 15. A POT-LUCK LUNCH WILL BE SERVED DURING THE EVENT.

VISION PLANNING BEGINS AT MARCH 6TH MEETING

**CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA (Nicaragua) April 17th.
THE REV. TED GAISER, DEACON.**

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**Grace Church Newsletter is now available to read on-line.
www.GraceMedford.org**

FROM THE RECTOR

CREDO

CREDO is a vocational development conference for clergy of the Episcopal Church and is sponsored and subsidized by the Church Pension Fund. I will be participating in **CREDO #76** in Roslyn, Virginia from April 17 – 25. I would appreciate your prayers for me as I undertake this exercise in reflection and evaluation of my vocation.

SUNDAY, MAY 1ST ANNUAL WALK FOR HUNGER

While Grace Church has had walkers participating for the past several years, this will be the first year in which I will personally take part. I anticipate the following schedule for May 1st.

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist is at Grace Church for walkers and others supporting our Grace Church team
- 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, Rite I – the Rev. Ted Gaiser officiating
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, Rite II – The Rev. Ted Gaiser officiating.

I hope my participation in the Walk will serve as a means of encouraging more participation and financial support from the parish. I would welcome the Vestry's participation as well and wonder if there maybe some creative means by which we could turn out a host of Grace Church walkers. Might the Vestry Walk? Maybe a group challenge? Also, I would like the Vestry to consider designating a special offering or open plate offerings on a Sunday or two as our parish gift to the Walk for Hunger.

CATHERINE SMITH is coordinating the Walk for Hunger again this year.

CONFIRMATION HELD AT TRINITY CHURCH, MELROSE SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 10:00 a.m.

I anticipate presenting three or four members of our parish to the Bishop for confirmation or reception from the Roman Catholic Church. I encourage your support of these individuals through your prayers. I intend to recognize them at the 10:00 a.m. service with Grace Church on April 3.

JANICE DEBLOSI AND JUDITH KARPOWICH, preparing for Reception into the Episcopal Church on April 2.

KAREN STAPLES, preparing for Confirmation on April 2.

HOLY BAPTISM ON EASTER SUNDAY

ROBERT PALMER, preparing for Holy Baptism on Easter Sunday.

COLE RUDOLPH OWEN, MOLLY FENN AND MICHAEL FENN, to be baptized, on Easter Sunday.

MICHAEL WELCH, preparing for a renewed Commitment to the life of Christian Faith and Service on Easter Sunday.

'A WORD TO THE CHURCH'

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

House of Bishops adopts 'Covenant Statement'

The House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church adopted, by nearly unanimous vote late this afternoon, "A Covenant Statement" that includes "a provisional measure to contribute to a time for healing and for the educational process called for in the Windsor Report" (full text of Covenant Statement follows below).

Preparation of an additional "Word to the Church" document to accompany the Statement is

a priority for the bishops' agenda tomorrow, March 16, the final day of their six-day meeting of retreat and private reflection at Camp Allen, an Episcopal conference center in Navasota, Texas.

The bishops have widely praised the spirit of collaboration and collegiality that marked their framing of the Statement.

The Episcopal News Service will post March 17 wrap-up interviews about the bishops' meeting.

The House of Deputies, to which clergy and laity are elected, and the House of Bishops together comprise the General Convention, the chief legislative body of the 2.3 million-member Episcopal Church. The General Convention, which meets every three years, will next convene in June 2006 in Columbus, Ohio. General Convention's work is carried out between triennial meetings by the Episcopal Church's Executive Council, to which representatives are elected from both the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops.

House of Bishops' Spring Meeting
Camp Allen, Texas
March 15, 2005

A Covenant Statement of the House of Bishops

We have received the Windsor Report as a helpful contribution to our relationships with Anglican brothers and sisters across the world. We recognize its recommendations as coming from a broadly representative commission inclusive of bishops, clergy, and laity and as an attempt to speak as equals to equals. We experience it as being in the best tradition of autonomy within communion and as helpful in our efforts to live into communion. Likewise, we appreciate receiving the communiqué from the February meeting of the Primates and take seriously the perspectives and convictions stated therein.

It is our heartfelt desire to be responsive and

attentive to the conversation we have already begun and to which we are being called and as a body offer the following points.

1. We reaffirm our commitment to the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral of 1888 and each of its individual points. We reaffirm our earnest desire to serve Christ in communion with the other provinces of the Anglican family. We reaffirm our continuing commitment to remain in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury and to participate fully in the Anglican Consultative Council, the Lambeth Conference, and the Primates' Meeting, and we earnestly reaffirm our desire to participate in the individual relationships, partnerships, and ministries that we share with other Anglicans, which provide substance to our experience of what it is to be in communion.

2. We express our own deep regret for the pain that others have experienced with respect to our actions at the General Convention of 2003 and we offer our sincerest apology and repentance for having breached our bonds of affection by any failure to consult adequately with our Anglican partners before taking those actions.

3. The Windsor Report has invited the Episcopal Church "to effect a moratorium on the election and consent to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate who is living in a same gender union until some new consensus in the Anglican Communion emerges" (Windsor Report, para. 134). Our polity, as affirmed both in the Windsor Report and the Primates' Communiqué, does not give us the authority to impose on the dioceses of our church moratoria based on matters of suitability beyond the well-articulated criteria of our canons and ordinal. Nevertheless, this extraordinary moment in our common life offers the opportunity for extraordinary action. In order to make the fullest possible response to the larger communion and to re-claim and strengthen our common bonds of affection, this House of Bishops takes the following provisional measure to contribute to a time for healing and for the educational process called for in the Windsor Report. Those of us having jurisdiction pledge!

to withhold consent to the consecration of any person elected to the episcopate after the date hereof until the General Convention of 2006, and we encourage the dioceses of our church to delay episcopal elections accordingly. We believe that Christian community requires us to share the burdens of such forbearance; thus it must pertain to all elections of bishops in the Episcopal Church. We recognize that this will cause hardship in some dioceses, and we commit to making ourselves available to those dioceses needing episcopal ministry.

4. In response to the invitation in the Windsor Report that we effect a moratorium on public rites of blessing for same sex unions, it is important that we clarify that the Episcopal Church has not authorized any such liturgies, nor has General Convention requested the development of such rites. The Primates, in their communiqué "assure homosexual people that they are children of God, loved and valued by him, and deserving of the best we can give of pastoral care and friendship" (Primates' Communiqué, para. 6). Some in our church hold such "pastoral care" to include the blessing of same sex relationships. Others hold that it does not. Nevertheless, we pledge not to authorize any public rites for the blessing of same sex unions, and we will not bless any such unions, at least until the General Convention of 2006.

5. We pledge ourselves not to cross diocesan boundaries to provide episcopal ministry in violation of our own canons and we will hold ourselves accordingly accountable. We will also hold bishops and clergy canonically resident in other provinces likewise accountable. We request that our Anglican partners "effect a moratorium on any further interventions" (Windsor Report, para. 155; see also 1988 Lambeth Conference Resolution 72 and 1998 Lambeth Conference Resolution III.2) and work with us to find more creative solutions, such as the initiation of companion diocese relationships, to help us meet the legitimate needs of our own people and still maintain our integrity.

6. As a body, we recognize the intentionality and

seriousness of the Primates' invitation to the Episcopal Church to refrain voluntarily from having its delegates participate in the Anglican Consultative Council meetings until the Lambeth Conference of 2008. Although we lack the authority in our polity to make such a decision, we defer to the Anglican Consultative Council and the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church to deliberate seriously on that issue.

The bonds of affection are not ends in themselves but foundations for mission. Therefore, we re-commit ourselves to work together throughout the communion to eradicate HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other diseases, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and to address the other efforts mentioned by the Primates' Communiqué (para. 20). We dedicate ourselves to full and open dialogue in every available venue through invitations for mutual visitation, intentional exploration of the theological perspectives and spiritual gifts that our diverse cultures offer, and collaborative partnerships for the purpose of shared mission in Christ.

MEETING PEOPLE WITH PURPOSE

Black bishops are focus of new poster, booklet

[Episcopal News Service] Through the past 130 years, there have been 37 black bishops consecrated in the Episcopal Church. These bishops hail from the African Diaspora, as well as Africa, and they are the focus of a new poster and booklet just released by the Office of Black Ministries at the Episcopal Church Center.

In recognition of these leaders, the Episcopal Church's Office of Black Ministries has updated its Black Bishops of the Episcopal Church 1874-2004 wall poster and for the first time added a 37-page booklet containing biographical sketches of each bishop's contribution to the church and community. A 38th bishop in this sequence will soon be consecrated now that Edward A. Gumbs was elected on January 29, bishop of the Virgin Islands.

Beginning with the late Bishop James Theodore Augustus Holly, the first bishop of Haiti and

ending with Bishop Gayle Elizabeth Harris, of Massachusetts, the poster and booklet list each bishop according to his or her date of consecration. (Please see full listing of bishops below.)

The poster and accompanying booklet are available through Episcopal Parish Services (online: <http://www.episcopalparishservices.org/>; telephone 800-903-5544.

Leadership for the distribution and development of these resources was provided by the Episcopal Church's Center's Bishop Arthur Williams Jr., who provides oversight for ethnic congregational development, and the Rev. Angela S. Ifill, missionary, Office of Black Ministries.

The poster and booklet feature these bishops:

- * James Theodore Augustus Holly, Diocese of Haiti (1829 - 1911)
- * Samuel David Ferguson, Diocese of Liberia (1842 - 1916)
- * Edward Thomas Demby, Diocese of Arkansas (1869 - 1957)
 - * Henry Bard Delaney, Diocese of North Carolina (1858 - 1928)
- * Theophilus Momolu Firah Gardiner, Diocese of Liberia (1870 - 1941)
- * Bravid Washington Harris, Diocese of Liberia (1896 - 1965)
 - * Dillard Houston Brown, Diocese of Liberia (1912 - 1969)
 - * John Melville Burgess, Diocese of Massachusetts (1909 - 2003)
- * Cedric Earl Mills, Diocese of Virgin Islands (1903 - 1992)
- * Richard Beamon Martin, Diocese of Long Island (1913-)
- * George Daniel Browne, Diocese of Liberia (1933 - 1993)
- * Luc Anatole Jacques Garnier, Diocese of Haiti (1928 - 1999)
- * John Thomas Walker, Diocese of Washington (1925 - 1989)
- * Lemuel Barnett Shirley, Diocese of Panama (1916 - 1999)
 - * Telesforo Alexander Isaac, Diocese of

- Dominican Republic (1929-)
 - * Quintin Ebenezer Primo, Jr., Diocese of Chicago (1918 - 1998)
- * Harold Louis Wright, Diocese of New York (1929 - 1978)
- * Henry Irving Mayson, Diocese of Michigan (1925 - 1995)
- * Walter Decoster Dennis, Diocese of New York (1932 - 2003)
- * Henry Boyd Hucles, III, Diocese of Long Island (1923 - 1989)
 - * Clarence Nicholas Coleridge, Diocese of Connecticut (1930-)
 - * James Hamilton Ottley, Diocese of Panama (1939-)
- * Sturdie Wayman Downs, Diocese of Nicaragua (1947-)
- * Arthur Benjamin Williams, Jr., Diocese of Ohio (1935-)
 - * Egbert Don Taylor, Diocese of the Virgin Island (1937-)
- * Orris George Walker, Diocese of Long Island (1942-)
 - * Herbert Thompson, Jr., Diocese of Southern Ohio (1933-)
 - * Franklin Delton Turner, Diocese of Pennsylvania (1933-)
 - * Barbara Clementine Harris, Diocese of Massachusetts (1930-)
- * Chester Lovelle Talton, Diocese of Los Angeles (1941-)
- * Victor Alfonso Scantlebury, Diocese of Panama (1945-)
 - * Jean Zache Duracin, Diocese of Haiti (1947-)
 - * Theodore Althelbert Daniels, Diocese of the Virgin Islands (1944-)
 - * Wendell Nathaniel Gibbs, Jr., Diocese of Michigan (1954-)
 - * Michael Bruce Curry, Diocese of North Carolina (1954-)
- * Lloyd Emmanuel Allen, Diocese of Honduras (1956-)
 - * Gayle Elizabeth Harris, Diocese of Massachusetts (1951-)

BOOK REVIEW BY LOUISE EASTMAN

Infidels, a History of the Conflict Between Christendom and Islam

By Andrew Wheatcroft

On September 11, 2001, Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m. brought me to Grace Episcopal Church. After the service, I went over to greet the group of ladies of St. Anne's Guild, preparing a lunch in the church kitchen for that afternoon's meeting. From their anguished discussion, I learned about the attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. I attended two more services that day, an impromptu prayer service at noon, and an ecumenical service that evening at Chevalier Auditorium. We prayed for peace, we prayed for tolerance, and we prayed for an answer as to how things could be set right. We prayed for the dead, for their families, which included the perpetrators and their families.

In the following months and years, our prayers, like a mist that dissipates with the rising sun, were rolled away. Peace became war; tolerance became anger; the perpetrators, their families, and any country that harbored them became "evil ones." We waved thousands of flags as voices called out to God to bless America, neglecting to include in our requests blessings for all. And we still don't understand why this, and other terrorists' acts since then, happened.

Andrew Wheatcroft's book begins in Morocco with a personal tale. A lone traveler stranded on the side of the road, he was hoping for transportation to Tangier, when two Arabic men, brothers, picked him up in their old truck. They showed him kindness and hospitality. They insisted he stay with them and they showed him all of their local haunts. He stayed with them several days until his departure for Malaga. All in all, he was very thankful for the relationship he had known with his Arabic friends. It was after that event that acquaintances cautioned him about robberies in Morocco, and he wondered if taking the ride from these strangers might have been a foolhardy thing to do. Eventually, he realized that some of these accounts were not true and

some were exaggerated. It occurred to him that his hosts had taken a great risk in picking him up. That he might have been one to claim that they had stolen from him, or worse.

Infidels is a book of histories, European and Arabic. This book demonstrates that history is often written to manipulate, convince and skew. But Wheatcroft gives equal time to all. He brings us through history from the beginning of Islam to the events of 9/11 and thereafter. There are descriptions of events linked one to the other, events that boggle the mind and break the heart with the horrifying level of brutality one human being can inflict upon another. Righteous and decent people pursuing unthinkable destruction in the name of God. In this book, no one is the "good guy." There are no white hats.

Some books are well crafted, some are well researched and some are well written. Wheatcroft has blended all three of these elements into an informative, artistic and interesting picture of two cultures locked in the grip of hate. Two cultures which used and still use "God" to further the cause of hate. Wheatcroft says of those who point to past injuries to justify more violence: "Here is a deeper truth. Blindness of superstition, old stories embellished, retold and then made still more bitter in the retelling, lie at the heart of these journeys through history."

In contrast, he quotes from James Creagh, *Over the Borders of Christendom, 1867*, a traveler in the Balkans, "The traveling philosopher will find men and women... the same everywhere. There is the same ambition in every heart; the same credulity in every mind; the same roguery in every priest; the same desire to domineer in every woman; and the same selfishness among all. Their languages and education are alone different."

And in reference to the "evil ones", Wheatcroft adds a golden quote from Alexander Solzhenitsyn, "If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being."

This book talks about the language of hate, cultures of hate and the perpetuation of hate. Wheatcroft points out that the west and east are very different in culture, language and customs, and that is just the way it is. But our similarities in values, or as he quotes Abraham Lincoln, “the better nature of our angels,” are what make us all human. Wheatcroft suggests that we too might take a risk, and not see the “other”, but see only our own humanity. It is a choice we all have.

CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA (Nicaragua)

We are all called to live into our baptismal covenant through engaging in God’s mission in the world. One of the ways I take up that responsibility is through supporting the Center for Development in Central America (Nicaragua), which I’ve done since the mid-1990s. CDCA is a non-profit organization that seeks to address human needs created by poverty by helping communities to become self-sufficient, sustainable, democratic entities.

The Center works directly with the poor in Nicaragua. They organize small farmers into a cooperative businesses to market their organic crops. They’re currently working with five cooperatives of workers who mostly live in a poverty stricken resettlement community (created in response to Hurricane Mitch in 1998). They also provide management aid, capital, problem solving and marketing to these cooperatives. In Ciudad Sandino, one of the poorest neighborhoods in Managua, they have established a health center and provide care to the community. To give you some sense of the area in which they work, according to Nicaraguan government statistics [2002], Nicaragua suffers from 54% unemployment – this neighborhood has 80% unemployment. Ciudad Sandino also has an infrastructure designed for only 40,000 people and yet houses 147,000.

The Center was founded by a small group of Presbyterian clergy from the United States and welcomes volunteers from all walks of life. Their

focus and purpose is sustainable development. For example, Center staff has assisted in the development of a women’s sewing cooperative. They have a community loan fund from which the cooperative received its seed money. As the women repay their debt, the money is reused to fund new community business ventures.

The Center staff doesn’t seek to support individuals, but prefer to focus on sustainable development within communities. As such, they help organize communities, if needed, into democratically elected entities, which means they don’t go into a community and appoint leaders or work with self-appointed leaders. They help these communities identify their own needs and priorities so that they aren’t imposing “outside” values or ideas on the communities in which they work. In the words of the Center staff, “It’s their job to create their own lives; it’s our job to provide aid.” Their current track record is quite remarkable, with the leader of the women’s sewing cooperative representing small businesses at the CAFTA negotiations.

Other than sustainable development, Center staff is involved in various humanitarian efforts. After Hurricane Mitch, staff helped construct temporary housing for the dispossessed, assisted in food distribution, and provided basic medical care. In their current surrounds, they live in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Managua – and to give you some idea of what I mean by poor, Managua has averaged 75% - 80% unemployment for quite some time. Center staff and volunteers have slowly increased healthcare in this neighborhood by constructing and staffing a health clinic. In their clinic people are treated either in exchange for a *bono*, which represents a donation of a half-day of community service, or for a donation of 30 *cordobas*, the equivalent of an unskilled laborer’s daily wage of \$2.20. The labor in exchange for *bonos* is encouraged. Cleaning up trash, attending health education classes, and working hard at school are some of the ways community members can earn *bonos*.

I’m sharing this information not only to educate you about life in Central America (Nicaragua

specifically) and one organization's efforts to provide sustainable, self-help opportunities to the poor, but also to let you know that Sarah Woodard, one of the Center's senior staff, will be in the Boston area in April. Grace Church will host Sarah on **Sunday, April 17. Sarah will give a presentation and lead a discussion after the 10:00 service.** She will also have crafts for sale made by Nicaraguans to support the work of the Center (check or cash, so be sure and bring your checkbook). The crafts include pottery, clothing, jewelry, paintings, children's toys, and more.

I hope you will consider staying after church to hear about the Center's work in Nicaragua.

The Rev. Ted Gaiser
Deacon

SUNDAY LEARNING SERIES

The Sunday Learning Series brings topics of interest before the community of Grace Church on a variety of issues from the Arts and Sciences, Holy Scripture, World Religions, Spirituality and Faith, Community Issues, and more. Speakers from unique backgrounds share their knowledge and experiences and provide time for questions and answers. Sundays 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. year round in the Nave of the Church. See the Church Bulletin.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Monday Evenings 7:30 P.M. in the Common Rm.
Will you join us?
Frank Hazel, Oscar Greene

WE NEED YOU!

As reported in the September newsletter, the Vestry has been hard at work setting up a committee structure to support the ongoing activities of the church. To date, we have a number of specific ministries that could use some additional support. PLEASE, consider making a commitment to one of the ministries listed below.

Speak to Senior Warden, Margaret Smist (781) 639.7822, if you are interested in serving your Grace Church family in this capacity or any other area not listed below!!

Administration and Personnel Oversight – this ministry Group is responsible for establishing and maintaining policies for church employees and also assisting with the hiring process.

Communications – Editing and production of the monthly newsletter, signage, hanging posters, updating bulletin boards, submitting articles and pictures to local newspapers, update the WEB and obtaining local cable exposure all fall under the Communication ministry.

In addition to the above, **the GraceWorks Oversight Committee** is being re-formed. The group meets once every one or two months with the GraceWorks Director to provide support and guidance to the Director of this important ministry at Grace.

The **Newcomers Ministry** is responsible for revising and updating a newcomer's pamphlet, assisting with the hosting of Newcomers Lunches at the Rectory and assisting with the organization of Name-Tag Sundays. There is much more to be done in this area and if you have some creative ideas on ways to continue to welcome our Newcomers, this is the Ministry for you!

Parish Life

Are you able to organize a dinner or brunch for the parish? We have many long-time volunteers who are able to assist with day-of set up, preparation and clean-up. The parish family just needs someone to plan a menu, buy the food and organize the kitchen crew!!

Fundraising Brainstorming Group – are you interested in coming up with new ideas to raise fund for the church and also for Outreach Programs for the church? A new group will be forming – please speak to Margaret Smist or Genita Johnson if you are interested in working on this new ministry!

Positions are open to serve on **the Mystic Valley Deanery and the Medford Council of Churches** – if you would be interested in serving on one of these diocesan groups, please contact Father Tom or Margaret Smist.

WORD

Feast of Pentecost

Formerly called Whitsunday, a movable feast day that occurs fifty days after Easter and marks the end of the Easter season. It is the day on which the church celebrates and remembers the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles (Acts 2:1). Pentecost derives from the Greek name for the Jewish Festival of Weeks, fifty days after Passover, when the giving of the Law was celebrated. Because this event signaled the beginning of the apostles' public proclamation of Jesus as the Christ, it is often called the birthday of the Christian church. It is also a traditional day for baptisms, and the color of the day is red, the color of the Holy Spirit.

Piscina (pih.SEE.neh)

Term derived from the Latin word for "fish pond" or "swimming pool." Usually found in the sacristy of a church, it is a small sink that empties into the ground rather than into a sewer or septic system. It is used for the reverent disposal of consecrated wine, water used to rinse the eucharistic chalice, and the blessed water of baptism.

THE MINISTRIES FAIR IS COMING! THE MINISTRIES FAIR IS COMING!

Grace church will be having a Ministries Fair in late spring. This will be a time for our Grace Church family to come together and celebrate the fruits that our works have produced and to share with each other the gifts that God has given each of us. Spring is a great time for this, as nature comes alive and we drink in the sunshine and warmth of the season. While the flowers start to bloom, we come alive too, shaking off the cold of winter we reach into our hearts and give thanks to God that summer is just around the corner and we

have made it through another winter. This vitality lends itself to expressing our joy through recreation. That recreation is a ministry. Yes a ministry. Your life is a ministry, a living testament to God. The joy you feel when you do that thing that you love to do, that's a living psalm to God in heaven. That joy is your heart singing, and when your heart sings God loves the music. That warm feeling is God smiling down on you like heavenly sunshine. Now when two or three come together in Jesus' name and their hearts are singing, that's truly music. So do what you love to do, feel the joy, share it with others, double that joy, share it with those less fortunate, and be overwhelmed with joy.

That thing that God has tuned your heart to sing. Bring it! Bring that joyful thing to the ministries fair and let your heart sing loud in the chorus, that joyful chorus of the family of Grace.

Love,
John Peter Rogers

THANK YOU'S ARE IN ORDER!

Our new Grace Church parish directory is in production. Many thanks to Ruthie Hall who worked with Tatiana Beato to organize all of the volunteers. Jean Spiers, Beverly Convery, Carolyn Rogers, June Pietrantonio, Elizabeth Branson, Anne Deveney, Carol Ryba, Ruthanne Pearson and Joan Williams.

A spring flower sale was held on March 13, and all proceeds will support the Barbara C. Harris Camp. Ruthie Hall organized the sale with assistance from Bill Williams, Nancy, Elise, Connor and Carolyn Daly. Thanks to all who helped make this fundraiser so successful.

Many thanks from Grace Church to Betsy Blair and the Broken Stem for donating plants to the church for the spring flower sale

A Lenten study of the Life of Joseph was held each Wednesday evening for the past six weeks. All those participating thank John Rogers, Jr., for

all his preparation and leading of the book study each week. And thanks to his wife, Linda, for all the wonderful snacks!

BRANTWOOD CAMP

After shoveling after yet another storm, it is difficult to imagine that it is now time to be considering arrangements for summer camping programs. I have just received the registration information for attending Brantwood Camp, located in the hills of Peterborough, NH. The camp is starting its second century this year. The cost of a camping stay is \$250 for a 16 day term, which includes transportation to and from the camp from the greater Boston area. Age limitations are: Girls and boys must be 11 years or older by June 1, 2004 and must not have turned 16 by the same date. We have been sending boys to Brantwood as far back as the 1920s and girls since their program started about 20 years ago. Not to worry. The buildings are relatively new, nothing dating back a hundred years. Also, scholarship help is available if that becomes a consideration. Anyone who is interested in having their child attend Brantwood this summer, please contact **WES FOOTE** (781-396-5487) and I can give you more detailed information.

VISION PLANNING BEGINS AT MARCH 6 MEETING

A meeting was held on Sunday, March 6 following the 10 am Eucharist. The Vestry would like to thank everyone who participated in this high-energy vision planning and informational meeting. The Vestry would like to detail the staffing changes which were discussed at the meeting and request additional information from interested parishioners.

STAFFING CHANGES: A balanced budget was passed at the January annual meeting. With a balanced budget, the parish will be required to make cuts in the three staff support positions.

Effective 4/1/05, the custodial position will be a 15 hour position and will pay \$7,500. The administrative assistant will work 20 hours a

week for an annual salary of \$15,000. The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts publication, Minimum Living Wage, was used to determine the above rates.

Grace Church will proceed to acquire supply musicians as ably as possible and compensate them for long or short term assignment at a rate of \$150 per week. Furthermore, Grace Church will support the planning and offering of Parish Musician Sundays, inviting and encouraging people of the church to offer their gifts in music to support Sunday worship. Total annual budget for a church musician in 2005 is \$8,000.

I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA: During the small group discussion, many ideas for activities, ministries, services and fundraising were discussed Let the Vestry know your ideas by completing the form which is now available outside the church office. Please complete the entire form and submit it through the slot in the office door. All forms will be read and **you will hear** from a Vestry member!

THE VESTRY CORDIALLY INVITES YOU....

At the first Vestry meeting of the 2005 year, the group viewed an inspirational video which we would like to share with YOU. The Vestry cordially invites all parishioners and visitors to hear the address of the keynote speaker from the 2004 Diocesan Convention. The Reverend Bonnie Perry is the Rector of a Chicago area parish which is continuing to experience a re-birth and transformation during the past 5 years. A pot-luck lunch will be served during the event. The first viewing of the tape will be on **Sunday, April 10** and it will again be shown on **Sunday, May 15** ---- pick whichever day works for you, but please plan to attend!!!

Pot Luck Lunch: if your last name begins with:

A – F: bring a dessert

G – L: bring a side dish

M – R: bring a salad
S – Z: bring a main dish

PARISHIONER NEWSNOTES

Join the **Coffee Hour** ministry. We need volunteers to serve as hosts. Sign up to make coffee or to contribute a snack on a specific date. Remember – “When serving others you are serving Christ.”

Women’s Book Club

Next Meeting: April 12, 7:30 P.M.

Book to be discussed: The Color of Water

Author: James McBride

Where: the home of **Adele Travisano Hale**
All welcomed!

Congratulations to **RUTHANNE AND JIM PEARSON** on their 50th wedding anniversary (March 23). An anniversary party was held on Sunday, February 27, and Ruthanne and Jim will be taking off on a cruise in Holland to celebrate on March 19!

Laura Feldman has settled into her new position in Indianapolis, IN. For those wishing to keep in touch, Laura’s new address is: 3603 N. Washington Blvd, Apt 8, Indianapolis, IN 46205
E-mail – lrfeldman@gmail.com

If you would like to contribute to the monthly Newsletter, please contact Jill Galluccio at JillJoAnn6@aol.com or 781.395.4370. Thank you.

PRAYER GROUP TO MEET BI-MONTHLY

Come join the Grace Church Prayer Group which is meeting **in the Commons Room on the second and fourth Sunday’s of each month from 9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.** Understanding that some parishioners may not feel comfortable with small group prayers, all are welcome to sit quietly in prayer, pray as you feel led, observe or just relax for the 30 minutes. There is a prayer box outside the nave if you would like to leave your

petitions for the group. If you have any questions about the prayer group, feel free to speak to Father Tom, Margaret Smist, Ruthie Hall, Brenda Pearson or June Pietrantonio.

April Prayer Groups will be held on April 10 & April 24

SINCE YOU ASKED

Q: I hear that Choral Evensong is being revived in some Episcopal parishes. What is the history of Choral Evensong and its significance today?

William Wunsch, organist and choirmaster at St. Nicholas Church in Encino, Calif., who also serves as the editor of *The Journal of the Association of Anglican Musicians* and was the editor of *Wonder, Love, and Praise* a supplement to the *The Hymnal 1982*, responds:

The Canonical Hours are daily times of prayer, historically offered in an orderly course eight times each day. As services apart from the Eucharist, these Daily Offices include psalms, canticles, antiphons, responsories, hymns, versicles and responses, readings and prayers.

Since 1549, with the first prayer book of the Anglican Communion, this cycle of eight offerings of daily prayer has been simplified and telescoped to form liturgies called Morning and Evening Prayer, or Matins and Evensong. This corporate worship, offered twice a day, includes the recitation of psalms, the reading of Scripture, the singing of canticles and prayer. A hymn may be sung after the collects.

Choral Evensong is sung Evening Prayer, the choir sings the preces and responses, the psalmody, the canticles (Magnificat and Nunc dimittis) and an anthem while congregation participates vicariously – listening attentively to the choir’s and precentor’s offering of music and to the proclamation of the Scriptures.

In the Daily Office, the church offers perpetual praise, thanksgiving and prayer to God. Time is sanctified by this continuous offering. In the Baptismal Covenant, we promise, with God’s

help, to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in these prayers.

The significance of the service today, in addition to sanctifying the day with an offering of praise and prayer, is as a means of outreach and evangelism. Where Evensong is well done, people will climb every step of a cathedral or church to hear it. It is also a means of edification – the “beauty of holiness” is nowhere more easily to be found than in this rite when it is carefully sung, when the readings are thoughtfully proclaimed and when ceremony is provided exquisitely. What is more, our ears and souls can be bathed in beautiful music; some of the most significant Anglican choral music has been written for Evensong.

A statement from Coventry Cathedral says: “Evensong... is a very tiny fragment of something else: It is a fragment of the worship which is offered to God by Christian people every hour of the 24 in every part of the world. When you come to Evensong... it is as if you were dropping in on a conversation already in progress – a conversation between God and [people] which began long before you were born and will go on long after you are dead.

Evensong is drawn almost entirely from the Bible. Its primary purpose is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in history and in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Its secondary purpose is to evoke from the worshiper a response of praise, penitence, prayer and obedience.”

April 2005 Birthdays

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

April 2 Frederick Smith
April 4 Arthur Miles
April 6 Julia Wilson
April 9 Emily Capuccio, James Deveney
April 10 Christian Cook, Carol Thompson
April 11 Francesca Viggiani
April 12 John Rogers, Sr.
April 13 Madeline Blodgett
April 14 Christopher Walker
April 19 Nicole Northern
April 20 Michael Gaughan
April 22 Tony Hale, Genita Johnson
April 23 Candy Cook
April 25 Jill Capuccio
April 27 Joseph Perry, Carolyn Rogers
April 29 Elaine Young
April 30 Grace Perrotti, John Rogers, Jr.

GRACE CHURCH PARISH LEADERSHIP

Clergy & Staff:

THE REV. THOMAS R. COOK, Rector
THE REV. TED J. GAISER, Deacon
ANNA AGUAYO, Sexton
TATIANA BEATO, Parish Administrator
CHRISTINE GNADT, Director, GraceWorks

Officers:

MARGARET SMIST, Senior Warden
STEPHEN DUGGAN, Junior Warden
WALTER GREENE, Treasurer
NAIDA GAVRELIS, Parish Clerk

Vestry:

JILL GALLUCCIO, BRANWEN KING, RAY PARDY, JIM PEARSON, JR., WARREN RAMIREZ, JOHN ROGERS, JR., JANE SCHERBAN, CAROL THOMPSON, BILL WILLIAMS

Ministries:

Acolytes & Ushers: LINDA FOOTE, JILL CAPPUCCIO
Adult Bible Study: FRANK HAZEL, OSCAR GREENE
Altar Guild: CAROLYN ROGERS, DIRECTOR, RUBY GREENE, DIRECTOR EMERITA
Annual Pledging & Stewardship: CAROL THOMPSON
Christian Formation / Education: STEVE DUGGAN, JOHN ROGERS
Communications: JILL GALLUCCIO
Facilities Care: BILL WILLIAMS
Finance Committee: WALTER GREENE
Food Donation Ministry: CAROL THOMPSON, BEVERLY CONVERY
Hospitality: BEVERLY CONVERY
Newcomers: 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