



Grace Episcopal Church

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2005

“And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21

Grace Episcopal Church
160 High Street
Medford, MA, 02155

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Grace Episcopal Church
NEWSLETTER *December 2005*

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

Dates at a Glance

Sunday, November 27: First Sunday of Advent



First week of December

Nothing scheduled Dec. 1-3

Second week of December

Sunday, December 4: Second Sunday of Advent

Eucharist at 8:00 am & 10 am

Food Sunday: bring your donations for local food

Grace-full Members of Grace Church: 9:00 am in

Sunday School: following the 10am service

Monday, December 5

Monday Evening **Bible Study**, hosted by

Frank Hazel and Oscar Greene: Common Room

Wednesday, December 7

Morning Prayer, 9:00am

Thursday, December 8

Families Know Best hosts **Mass. Advocates for Children:**

Third week of December

Sunday, December 11: Third Sunday of Advent

Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:00 am

The Prayer Group: Common Room 9:15-9:45a

Sunday School: following the 10am service

Monday, December 12

Monday Evening **Bible Study**, hosted by

Frank Hazel and Oscar Greene: Common Room

7:00pm

Tuesday, December 13

St. Anne's Guild, Common Room 12 noon-3pm

Wednesday, December 14

Morning Prayer, 9:00am

Thursday, December 15

DEADLINE for **January** newsletter articles

Fourth week of December

Sunday, December 18: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:00 am

Rector's Coffee Hour for Newcomers and

Inquirers. 9am with Reverend Tom Cook,

Common Room.

Christmas Brunch in the Parish Hall after the

10 am Eucharist. A "mini-fair" will be held

during the brunch.

Monday, December 19

Monday Evening **Bible Study**, hosted by

Frank Hazel and Oscar Greene: Common Room

7:00pm



Wednesday, December 21

Morning Prayer, 9:00am

First day of Winter!

Saturday, December 24, Christmas

Eve: watch Sunday bulletins for information on services the Common Room

Fifth week of December

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day

Eucharist at 10:00 am

Special Education Law: Children on the Autism Spectrum, Pa

Monday, December 26

Monday Evening **Bible Study**, hosted by Frank

Hazel and Oscar Greene: Common Room 7:00pm

Tuesday, December 27

St. Anne's Guild, Common Room 12 noon-3pm

Wednesday, December 28

Morning Prayer, 9:00am

Evening Worship with Healing Prayer,

7:00pm



RUNNING LATE...

I'm sure you have all noticed that the newsletter is not getting to you on

the first of each month – we aren't even close. Donna Gargiulo in the Church Office and I are problem solving this situation with the Bulk Mail people over in the Post Office. We are both relative new-comers to the newsletter and bulk mail circuit and are still learning the ropes. Look for January 2005 to BE ON TIME! Thank you for your patience with the process.

Submitted by Deb Smith

GRACE-FULL MEMBERS OF GRACE CHURCH

Father Thomas Cook is leading a new enrichment series on the first Sunday of each month, for those who wish to pledge to follow the four tenets of a simple Christian life. Entitled “*Grace-full Members of Grace Church*”, the series will continue on **December 4th, Sunday, at 9:00am** in the Common Room. The second topic of discussion will focus on setting time aside on the Sabbath for rest and renewal of faith.

If you are interested, please drop in anytime and check it out. Gatherings are informal; young children are welcome to come with parents.



PLEDGE DEDICATION SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

Our Pledge Dedication will be held on Sunday, December 4th. By now, all parishioners will have received their pledge information in the mail. Pledges may be mailed to the Church Office, but we will be dedicating all pledges at the December 4th Eucharists.

On November 13 and November 20 your Stewardship Committee presented information on the current state of church finances. More information will follow, but please feel free to speak to Dennis Hale, Jane Scherban or Margaret Smist with any pledge questions.

Submitted by Margaret Smist

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH AND MINI-FAIR



Grace Church's annual Christmas Brunch will be held following the 10 am service on Sunday, December 18th. A sign up sheet will be available outside the church office beginning on Sunday, November 27 for all those who plan to attend. Please sign up early so our cooks can plan accordingly. A free will offering will be collected – please give generously!

A mini-fair will again be held during the Brunch. Personalized Christmas ornaments will be available from resident artist Naida Gavrelis and baskets will again be sold. Anyone else interested in hosting a table during the mini-fair should contact Margaret Smist. Plan on finishing off your shopping at the Grace Church mini-fair!

NOTE: if anyone would like to donate a basket to the mini-fair please bring it to the Brunch on the 18th.

Submitted by Margaret Smist

GRAMMA'S ATTIC FAIR FINANCIAL RESULTS

Net proceeds for the weekend fair were **\$7,500.**

Net proceeds for the Coffee/Dessert Silent Auction were **\$2,600.**

Knights of King Arthur (KOKA) Christmas wreath sale results will be available later in December. We will keep you posted.

Thanks to our organizers and volunteers!



Sample Thank You Note

**220th DIOCESAN CONVENTION,
NOVEMBER 4TH AND 5TH, 2005**
Inviting Forming Sending Serving



Father Tom Cook, and Delegates June Pietrantonio and Wesley Foote, Jr. represented Grace Church at the annual Diocesan Convention held at the Holiday Inn in Mansfield, MA on Friday and Saturday, November 4 and 5. It was reported that approximately 800 Episcopalians were in attendance during the 2-day event.

On Friday, following the customary protocol, including determining a quorum, seating special guests and accepting an order of business, Bishop Tom Shaw presented the first part of his message to the conferees. He spoke of his trip to Africa, including stops in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda this past summer, showing a video of his visits with orphans in Kenya. He reported that our Diocese is strong, and urged that we each invite others to join our parishes. Our Diocesan staff's mission is to make us even stronger. "Life and hope is the new reality," he said.

State Senator Jarrett Barrios was the guest speaker on Friday. He spoke of his perception of the mission of all Christians as being involved in making the community and the world a better place. He suggested our involvement and Christian actions should focus on treating our neighbors as ourselves. The Senator mentioned issues currently on the agenda on Beacon Hill: in-state tuition provisions for undocumented immigrant students who meet the standards set forth, health care reform and affordable housing. He currently serves as the Senate Chairman of the Public Safety Committee and talked of the need for prison reform. He stated that 98.5% of those incarcerated will eventually be released from prison and returned to society. Currently there is little rehabilitation provided—either in the prison system or when prisoners are released. Recidivism occurs when there are no jobs, no housing, no health care and no ways for those released to provide for themselves. Many former prisoners find it easier to commit serious crimes that return them to the care of the criminal justice system. It was noted that the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization is working with communities to find some solutions for these social issues which affect so many.

Report of Committees, including the Benefits Committee, were approved. The Diocesan budget was approved.

Time was allowed for discussion of resolutions to be proposed at the Saturday Session. Saturday's session began at 8:30 am with the Convention Eucharist. The Covenant Players provided the sermonette; the Players provided other biblically-based vignettes throughout the day.

The morning session included welcome from the Taunton Deanery and reports of Diocesan Committees. Ms. Diana Butler Bass, graduate of Gordon College, 1983, highlighted the morning with her presentation, "Christianity for the Rest of Us", which chronicled the results of her 3-year research study on what is happening in the "vital, main-line church congregations". Ms. Bass had held a workshop on the results of her study prior to the opening of Convention on Friday, and Father Tom attended that session. She spoke about emerging Christianity as being on the cutting edge, not a place of fear, noting that history is changing the Church.

Reverend Harald Roberts of Biloxi, Mississippi told the poignant story—complete with slides—of hurricane Katrina's devastation of his town and his church, The Church of the Redeemer.

In Bishop Tom's Saturday afternoon presentation he gave praise and thanks to the many people who are working hard and making a positive contribution to the life and spirit of our Diocese. Bishop Tom begins a 5-month sabbatical this month which includes 2 months to be spent in Africa, in part for the work of the Anglican Communion. He reminded us that he prays for us every day, and asked that we pray for him too.

A resolution repudiating anti-Semitism and urging congregations in the Diocese to enter into conversations with Jewish congregations in their locations passed. A substitute resolution regarding the Windsor Report requiring the Diocese to submit the resolution to the 75th General Convention and requiring all parishes in our Diocese to study the Report was passed by the convention delegates. Our Delegates would be happy to discuss this with you at any time.

We closed Convention on Saturday with a final message from the Covenant Players and Benediction about 4 pm.

We live in a wonderful Diocese and Conventions bring Episcopalians from around Massachusetts together for a renewal of spirit, camaraderie and rejuvenation—as well as the business of the Diocese! It's a great and fulfilling experience serving as a Delegate to Diocesan Convention.

Submitted by June Pietrantonio

FAMILIES KNOW BEST

A ministry for families raising special needs children

Thursday December 8, 7-9pm in the Parish Hall,
Families Know Best is hosting

Massachusetts Advocates for Children
Presenting:

**Special Education Law:
Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

This workshop will address the rights and procedures to ensure children with ASD receive educational opportunities which reflect competency and potential. The discussion will include:

- Current trends
- Legal standards
- Evaluation – rights and procedures
- Eligibility determination – rights and procedures
- IEP development – rights and procedures
- Special education service options for children with ASD
- Examples of court cases

Invite a friend, and come join us!

Registration is strongly encouraged; the workshop is free. To register, phone Deb Smith at 781-306-1431, or email her at Deborah.smith4@comcast.net

Submitted by Deb Smith

PARISHIONER NEWS NOTES

Arantxa King - Track & Field Update

Back in June 2006 Arantxa King competed in the Nike National Scholastic High School Championships at North Carolina A & T University in Greensboro, North Carolina. Much to her surprise Arantxa was victorious in winning both the girls triple jump (41' 10") and long jump (19' 9 1/2"). In doing so she set two new Massachusetts state records, even though this was



only the third time she attempted the triple jump. These performances earned her USA Today All American honors.

In mid July Arantxa traveled to Marrakech, Morocco to compete in the IAAF World Youth Championships. Even though Arantxa did not make the final in the triple jump (top 12 advance) she came back with vengeance in the long jump. During the qualifying round she jumped over 20' for the first time ever with a leap of 20' 2 1/2", which earned her a spot in the finals the next day. Not favored to even place in the top 12, Arantxa peaked when it counted by jumping 20' 11 1/2" on her third attempt in the finals. Her unexpected victory earned her World Champion status for youth under 17. She also set national junior and senior records for Bermuda.

After tweaking her left hamstring at the worlds, two weeks later Arantxa traveled to Windsor, Ontario to compete in the Pan American Junior Track & Field Championships (under 20). Participating only in the long jump, Arantxa had a tough challenge competing against athletes older than her. On her fourth jump she leaped 20' 6" good enough to earn her a gold medal.

On her return to Massachusetts Arantxa was named Athlete of the Month by USA Track & Field New England. She was also named Gatorade Athlete of the Year for high school track and field athletes in Massachusetts.

Submitted by Branwen Smith-King

Congratulations to Arantxa for a great year from all of us at Grace Church!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS HARD AT WORK



The Nominating Committee has begun its search for nominees to fill the following positions at our Annual Meeting in January:

- * One Junior Warden for a term of 3 years.
- * One Treasurer for a term of 1 year.
- * Three Vestry members for a period of 3 years each.
- * One Vestry member for a period of 1 year.
- * One Delegate to the Diocesan Convention for a 2-year term.
- * One Alternate Delegate to the Diocesan Convention for a 1-year term.

- * Five Delegates to the Mystic Valley Deanery of the Diocese for a 1- year term.
- * Two Representatives to the Medford Council of Churches for 1-year terms.
- * Three members of the Nominating Committee (not currently serving in Vestry Office) for a 1-year term.
- * One representative to the Episcopal City Mission for a 1-year term.



In addition to these formal positions, the parish is in need of volunteers to handle urgent tasks related to Stewardship:

1. Manage a planned giving campaign, informing members of the Grace Church family how they can remember Grace Church when drawing their wills.
2. A permanent Stewardship Committee (with a membership of at least 5) to work on stewardship throughout the year.

What is involved with these elected positions?

- * The Junior Warden assists the Senior Warden in overseeing, administering, and implementing activities of the church.
- * The Treasurer keeps track of the flow of money and prepares reports, at his own initiative and at the request of the Vestry, on the state of parish finances. As an Officer of the parish, the Treasurer is an ex officio member of the Vestry and participates in Vestry meetings.
- * Vestry members provide spiritual and organizational leadership to the parish, meeting at least once a month. The Vestry is responsible for matters such as the distribution and use of funds, maintenance of property, Christian education, and the organization of special events.
- * Delegates to the Diocesan Convention will concern themselves with the broad aspects of the Episcopal Church within the Diocese. The Convention is generally held in November.
- * Representatives to the Deanery participate in Deanery meetings, two times a year (Spring and Fall).
- * Representatives to the Medford Council of Churches attend approximately 6 meetings a year; the Medford Council sponsors two

major events each year -- the University of Life and the Annual Meeting.

- * The Episcopal City Mission works for social and economic justice in Massachusetts; representatives attend meetings, which are usually held in Boston.

More information about these positions will be available on handouts in the Parish Hall. The Nominating Committee -- Warren Ramirez; John Rodgers; and Dennis Hale -- will be happy to accept volunteers for these positions. We will also be coming to YOU to ask you to volunteer. Please consider becoming a part of the leadership of Grace Church. It isn't a burden, and you will find yourself working with some wonderful people.

*Submitted by Dennis Hale
For the Nominating Committee*

SUNDAY ONCE-A-MONTH SERIES NEEDS A COORDINATOR!



If someone will step forward and offer his/her services, the Sunday Lecture and Speaker Series on issues of Life and Faith can resume! The Series is tentatively scheduled for the last Sunday of each month, 11:40am – 12:30 pm in the Nave.

Topics and programs can include Forms of Prayer, Vestry Open Forum (quarterly?), topics in Church History, Human Sexuality and Faith, Comparative Religions, Evangelism, Stewardship, and much more.

If you are interested in becoming the coordinator of the Series, please contact Father Tom at 781-396-7215, or email him at graceoffice@verizon.net.

OFFICE INFORMATION

Grace Church's Office Administrator is Donna Gargiulo. If you have any questions and/or need assistance, feel free to contact Donna at (781) 396-7215, or visit her at the church office. You can email Donna at graceoffice@verizon.net.

Donna's office hours are:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday:
9AM – 2PM



December 2005 Birthdays

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

Dec. 2 Janet Smith, James Pearson Jr.
Dec. 4 Helen Sweeney
Dec. 5 Laura Duggan
Dec. 8 Hannah Rogers
Dec. 9 Alexander Stinson
Dec. 10 Paula Vadala, Thomas Dow Jr.
Dec. 13 Sharon Brown
Dec. 18 James Sherry



Dec. 20 Adele Travisano
Dec. 21 Sarah Meinhardt
Dec. 22 Toni Candow
Dec. 23 Rebecca Spence, Victoria Spence
Dec. 25 Jone Marceau
Dec. 27 Jessica Marino, John Buonaugurio

GRACE CHURCH PARISH LEADERSHIP

Clergy & Staff:

THE REV. THOMAS R. COOK, Rector
THE REV. TED J. GAISER, Deacon
ANNA AGUAYO, Sexton
CHRISTINE GNADT, Director, GraceWorks
DONNA GARGIULO, Office Administrator

Officers:

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

Vestry:

BRANWEN KING, RAY PARDY, JIM PEARSON, JR., WARREN RAMIREZ, JOHN ROGERS, JR., JANE SCHERBAN, 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: JANE SCHERBAN
Christian Formation / Education: STEVE DUGGAN, JOHN ROGERS
Communications: MARGARET SMIST
Evangelism: BRENDA PEARSON
Facilities Care: JIM PEARSON JR.
Finance Committee: N/A
Food Donation Ministry: CAROL THOMPSON, BEVERLY CONVERY
Hospitality: BEVERLY CONVERY
Newcomers: MARGARET SMIST
Newsletter: DEBORAH SMITH
Families Know Best: DEBORAH SMITH
Fair: RUTHANNE PEARSON AND DOTTIE PALLADINO

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