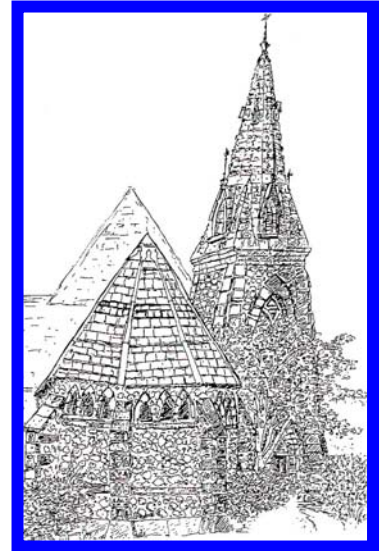


Grace Episcopal Church

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2006

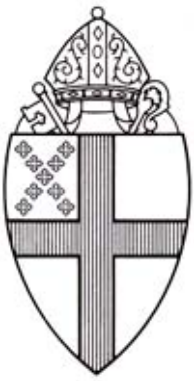


“And the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a savior who is Christ the Lord.”
Luke 2:10-11

Grace Episcopal Church
160 High Street
Medford, MA, 02155



If you do not want to receive the newsletter any longer, please let us know at 781-396-7215.



Grace Episcopal Church
NEWSLETTER *December 2006*

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

Dates at a Glance

Friday December 1:

Christmas wreath orders ready for pick-up 7pm-9pm at Grace Church

Saturday, December 1:

Christmas wreath orders ready for pick-up 9am-12 noon at Grace Church



First Sunday of Advent, December 3

Eucharist 8 and 10

Food Sunday: bring in your donations for local food

pantries

Sunday School after the 10am service

Monday, December 4

Tuesday, December 5

Wednesday, December 6

Children's Bible Study: 5:30 grade 1. Dinner 6:30. Second class: 7:00-8:00pm for grades two through five

Also at 7:00pm: Evening prayers with special intentions for the future ministry and mission of Grace Church

Thursday, December 7

Friday, December 8

Noonday Prayer: 12:00pm

Solemn Evening Prayers and Holy Communion with reflections on the Coming of Christ: 5:30pm

Saturday, December 9

Walk for Peace: meet 9:30 in front of Bestseller's Café

Second Sunday of Advent, December 10

Eucharist 8 and 10

Prayer Group: Common Room, 9:15-9:45am

Sunday School after the 10am service



Newcomers' Lunch: at Rectory after 10am service, details to be announced

Monday, December 11:

Tuesday, December 12

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

Wednesday, December 13

Children's Bible Study: 5:30 class for preschool through grade 1. Dinner 6:30. Second class:

7:00-8:00pm for grades two through five.

Also at 7:00pm: Evening prayers with special intentions for the future ministry and mission of Grace Church

Thursday, December 14

Friday, December 15

Solemn Evening Prayers and Holy Communion with reflections on the Coming of Christ: 5:30pm

Saturday, December 16

Third Sunday of Advent, December 17

Eucharist 8 and 10

Newcomers Inquiry w/Father Tom: 9am , Common Room.

Christmas Brunch, Parish Hall after 10am service; see details on page 3

Monday, December 18

Tuesday, December 19

Wednesday, December 20

Children's Bible Study: 5:30 class for preschool through

grade 1. Dinner 6:30. Second class: 7:00-8:00pm for grades two through five

Also at 7:00pm: Evening prayers with special intentions for the future ministry and mission of Grace Church

Thursday, December 21

Friday, December 22

Solemn Evening Prayers and Holy Communion with reflections on the Coming of Christ: 5:30pm

Saturday, December 23



Forth Sunday of Advent, December 24

Eucharist 8 and 10
 Prayer Group: Common Room, 9:15-9:45am
 Sunday School after the 10am service
 Festival Celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord:
 5:00pm



Monday, December 25
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ:
Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 26

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

Wednesday, December 27

NO CLASS: Children's Bible Study

Thursday, December 28:

Friday, December 29

Saturday, December 30

Fifth Sunday, December 31

Eucharist 8 and 10
 Sunday School after the 10am service

“A CALL TO PRAYER”

To all members and friends of Grace Church:

I invite and implore all members and friends, wardens, officers, and Vestry members of Grace Church to gather each Wednesday evening in the season of Advent, 7:00pm in the nave of the church, to offer prayers of special intention for the ministry of the parish, seeking God's will, guidance, and strength for our future life and service in Christ's name.

Father Tom Cook



FROM THE RECTOR, FATHER TOM COOK

The parish is in a time of extraordinary challenge and change. Grace Church is being called to new life. And we are being called to face head-on the decades-long dependency nurtured by our use of the financial gifts of prior generations to sustain present ministries for ourselves. I can only believe that such a dependency leads ultimately to the spiritual diminution and disempowerment of a people called to do the work of God faithfully. It's time to move on from that place. What shall we become, now that we know we can depend only upon ourselves and upon God? We shall become a people of a deeper faith, I wager.

In faith that God is working to change and challenge us for our own good and the good of Grace Church, I invite and implore all members and friends, wardens, officers, and vestry members of Grace Church to gather each Wednesday evening in the season of Advent, 7:00 p.m. in the nave of the church, to offer prayers of special intention for the ministry of the parish, seeking God's will, guidance, and strength for our future life and service in Christ's name. Let this time of prayer together lead us into a new year of life as a church with a new sense of mission and a new commitment to discovering (and doing) the work God has for us to do. If you can't come, pray for Grace Church during these times wherever you are.

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17



An annual favorite is back at Grace Church - the Christmas Brunch will be held on **Sunday, December 17 immediately following the 10 am Eucharist.**

Our cook and staff are all lined up, but we are still working on the menu!! A sign up sheet will be posted in the back of the parish hall beginning on Thanksgiving weekend so be sure to sign up so we can get a preliminary head-count. A donation of \$7 per person and \$20 per family is requested to cover the cost of the meal. Anyone interested in donating a dessert should bring it to the brunch on December 17.

Various items will also be available for sale for you last minute Christmas shoppers so bring your

appetites, checkbooks and smile as you spend time before the holiday with your parish family

Submitted by Margaret Smist



PLEDGE UPDATE

Many thanks to all those who have submitted their pledges for 2007. To date (November 15), we have received 57 pledges for a total of \$99,000 pledged. For those of you who have not returned your form, follow up pledge cards were mailed the week of November 13th. PLEASE, be sure to return these as soon as possible so the Treasurer and Executive Committee can continue their work on budget.

If you have ANY questions or concerns regarding pledging, please feel free to contact Naida Gavrelis or any member of the Stewardship Committee (Margaret Smist, Jane Scherban, Jean Spiers and Dennis Hale).

Submitted by the Stewardship Committee



A LETTER FROM DEACON TED GAISER

I have had a number of people ask me questions about my schedule and why I'm sometimes around the church for a few weeks ... away for a week or two ... and then back for a few weeks. I'm sure my schedule is confusing to some; it is to me.

As you may recall, deacons in our diocese have "placements" as opposed to "being called" to serve in a church as are our priest colleagues. A typical placement is a 10-12 hour per week commitment serving in a parish setting. A deacon does so at the will and direction of his/her Bishop.

In some cases, deacons are deployed to do something other than serve in a parish. Some deacons are deployed by our Bishop to support the diocesan

mission strategy. I am one such deacon. My official placement is working for Bishop Shaw supporting churches in developing relationships with other churches or organizations outside of the U.S., but within the Anglican Communion. In response to that call, I serve as guest preacher on global mission in other churches around the diocese, lead adult education programs on mission, meet with groups planning to take a mission service trip, and speak on global mission at Diocesan meetings and in national conferences.

In addition, I've recently created a mission leadership development program, supported by Bishop Shaw, through which I will co-lead two mission service trips next summer. The purpose of the two trips is to seed future global mission work in the diocese. In June, I will be going to El Salvador and in August to Tanzania. Both trips will enable us to create a foundation for future mission efforts by engaging with people in those countries and providing us with an experience of working on projects.

We do not have a plan for El Salvador yet ... though anticipate having more details in the near future. In Tanzania, we already know we will do some work in a hospital and school. We'll also be providing some educational training with a presentation on AIDS home-based care, on veterinary care with specific attention to parasitology, and on business and micro-enterprise. In support of both mission efforts, I'll be selling crafts on **17 December**. I hope you'll consider buying some holiday gifts that will serve a multi-purpose in meeting your needs for interesting and meaningful holiday gifts, supporting the mission work of the diocese, and supporting the indigenous craftsmen. Crafts will include pottery, wooden hand crafts, small feather paintings, runners, placements, and other cloth items, as well as Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate.

By now, I'm sure you have some idea of why it is you don't see me very often. Some of you may even be asking yourselves how it is that you see me at all ... wow, what a schedule! When I accepted the Bishop's placement to support the mission strategy, I knew there would be times of the year that would be slower than others. I also knew that I was used to living in community. I knew it would be important to me to have a relationship with a church community so that I would have a spiritual place to call home. That's how it is that I came to Grace Church. You and Tom have graciously offered me that spiritual home, welcoming me into your midst, and enduring my complex schedule. I look forward to continuing to

worship together and to journeying with you as we move in to a new liturgical year.

Submitted by Ted Gaiser

GRANDMA'S ATTIC

Thanks to the Grace family of volunteers who worked so tirelessly and gave so much to make the fall fair the great success that it was. We reached out to the community; laughed a lot and had fun; got some great buys; hugged a few folks we hadn't seen in a long time; enjoyed a special lunch at the Silver Tea; and, most importantly, raised some money for our parish home. Again, thank you.

Submitted by Dottie Palladino and Ruthanne Pearson

SILVER TEA

Many thanks to everyone who donated food to the Silver Tea. The Tea was a great success; we couldn't have done it without you!

Submitted by Britton Cook and Allison Andrews

PARISHIONER NOTES

Beginning October 30th **Madeline Blodgett** will be living in Atria Maplewood Place, a Senior Living Home. Her new address will be **Atria Maplewood Place, Apt #102, 295 Broadway, Malden, MA 02148** Madeline's new phone number will be **781-397-7593**.

Submitted by Elaine Young

Congratulations to **Oscar H. Greene** for having one of his writings accepted for publication in The Gem! You can read his story on pages 9-10 of this newsletter issue!

FROM THE ROGERS FAMILY

Dear Friends,

We don't know where to begin to express our gratitude for your generous donations. Perhaps this story might help.

Several days before the walk Hannah was taking a bath and Linda over heard her say she didn't want to have diabetes anymore. Linda asked her who she was talking to and she replied God. Linda thought to herself "well, that's one request He'll never be able to answer". Since diabetes is a life long illness. Over the next couple of days as Linda was sending in donations people so generously gave to the JDRE, it dawned on her that maybe God could answer Hannah's prayer, through a CURE.

While we have to deal with diabetes 24 hours a day every day of the year, we know we are not alone. You all care. You can't really help with the shots and all that. But you could help with donations and you did, together we raised more than \$5,000!

During the walk we met other people whose family lives have been affected by the harsh realities of diabetes. We walked and talked about how we cope and what techniques have worked well for each other's families. Members of Hannah's health care team walked too. We even got drinks and snacks from the Fox25 news team. The weather was great and the day was a big success. Ironically, as a result of the walk, around 1:00AM that night we had to wake Hannah up and feed her because her blood sugar dropped to low. Even this was different than the day before because as we were up in the night feeding Hannah, John thought of all the others we had met that day and how most likely they were up feeding their children too.

We are truly blessed to have such wonderful friends and family. So perhaps you have helped answer Hannah's prayers for a better life. Thank you.

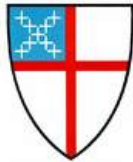
Love,

John, Linda, and Hannah
(check out the picture on page 6!)



2006 DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Wesley Foote, Jr., Sarah Cluggish and The Rev. Tom Cook represented Grace Church at the 2006 Diocesan Convention at Trinity Church, Copley Square.



Highlights from the two-day Convention included presentations on the new assessment formula and budget for FY 07, and resolutions on same-sex marriage.

The Convention approved a \$7.5 million balanced budget to support the work of the Diocese. The Diocesan Council approved a new assessment formula earlier this year – focusing on operating expenses, instead of reported income. Although this resulted in an overall decline in assessment income of 3.1%, many congregations (including Grace Church) are facing an increase in their assessment owed for FY07. Grace Church will pay \$21,356 in assessment this coming year.

*The Best Butterflies are:
Front row: Sue, Hannah, Liz, Emily and Joey.
Back row: John, Linda, and Carolyn.*

2006 Diocesan Convention, continued

Three resolutions were approved by the Convention regarding marriage.

1. The first calls the Diocese to engage in a study about the theology and ethics of Christian and civil marriages and the role of clergy in each.
2. The second asks the 76th General Convention to “authorize use of the rites for Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage and The Blessing of a Civil Marriage in the Book of Common Prayer for same-sex couples in those civil jurisdictions that permit same-sex marriage (such as Massachusetts), and to authorize modifications of gender references in the rites to accommodate such marriages.” The

resolution also makes recommendations on language – striking “husband and wife” for “two adults”, etc.

3. The third urges the Massachusetts Legislature to defeat the ballot initiative that would allow a constitutional amendment to ban civil marriages for same-sex couples.

Other approved resolutions included:

- A resolution calling for each parish and mission to conduct **an in-house environmental audit** of its energy use, consumption patterns, and plant and management use to be reported at the 222nd Convention (2007).
- A resolution to examine **the practice of communion of the unbaptized**.
- A resolution to add a **feast day for Saints Andronicus and Junia** on May 17th for diocesan trial use.

Additional information on the events of the 221st Convention can be found at the following website: www.diomass.org/convention. We will also submit a full report to the Vestry and the Annual Meeting in January.

Submitted by Sarah Cluggish and Wesley Foote, Jr.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

The **Cathedral Crossing Bookstore** will close on December 2, 2006. Check out their website at www.cathedralcrossing.com for information on close-out sales.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY FALL SESSION ENDING DEC. 20

The Fall session of the Children's Bible Study will come to an end on December 20th, completing its series of 14 classes with the Advent IV (fourth week of Advent) lesson.

Our Winter Session, a series of 11 classes, will begin on January 10 through March 28. Registration for the Winter Session will be held during coffee hour on December 17th.

If your child is older than 5th grade, you may still want to consider enrolling him/her in Maria Fenn's class (grade 2 through 5). Maria's class has evolved into spending quite a bit of time on discussion, driven entirely by the students and their

questions about the lessons. Speak with Maria if you are interested in enrolling an older child.

As the plans stand right now, we will cover the following lessons for the older group: Epiphany, The Good Shepherd and World Communion, Jesus and the Twelve, Easter Eggs, The Mystery of Easter, The Faces of the Journey (this series of Lenten lessons uses four class times) and the Synagogue and the Upper Room.

The younger group will cover: Epiphany, The Good Shepherd and World, Jonah the Backward Prophet, Easter, Journey, the Upper Room, and Easter Eggs.



The Mystery of The Faces of the the Synagogue and Room, and Easter Eggs.

UPDATE ON THE BELL TOWER

The Bell Tower Committee has been working hard this fall!

We received an initial set of quotes from Robert White, a construction consultant in Medford who has been working with us pro bono. Bob separated the project into two phases – the first includes cleaning and stabilizing the tower and repairing the bells, and the second is a more comprehensive restoration of the bells and tower.

The Committee – Warren Ramirez, Sarah Cluggish, Wes Foote, Allison Andrews, and Jim Pearson, – has met to determine which pieces of Phase 1 we can complete ourselves (e.g. replacing the flooring, temporarily shoring up the 2nd floor, etc.). We are also seeking alternate quotes for cleaning up the pigeon remains and installing screening.

The Committee's plan is to complete the pigeon clean up and screening before making a decision about how to proceed. Two generous donations from the congregation will cover the cost of this initial project and give us seed money to help with additional phases. Our goal is to seek grant money and private donations to cover the costs of the restoration phase and we would like to have the entire project completed by Fall 2008 to celebrate the church's 160th anniversary.

Meanwhile the Committee has engaged in two small fundraisers this fall to bring awareness of the project and raise some additional funding. We are

selling copies of the book *The Incredible Ditch: A Bicentennial History of the Middlesex Canal* by Carl and Alan Seaburg and Thomas Dahill – donated to us from the Medford Historical Society. The book normally goes for \$30, but you can have your own autographed copy for \$10. Please see Sarah Cluggish or Allison Andrews during coffee hour.

We are also offering opportunities to purchase memorial plaques to go on the candlesticks that are used on the pews on high holy days. Please see Allison Andrews (Allison.Andrews@comcast.net) if you are interested.

Please continue to check back for more updates!

- Submitted by Sarah Cluggish

ABOUT CHRISTMAS EVE

By Oscar H. Greene

Often on December 24th, my mind reaches back to when, as a lad, I wished everyday was Christmas Eve. To me, those hours were precious, filled with hope, dreams, and expectations. My wants were few, and I hoped for a gleaming toy airplane under the tree. Sometimes Santa would leave socks, underwear, and shirts. When this happened, I would smile, swallow my disappointment, and I would play with my old toys.



One Christmas Eve Mother handed me twenty-five cents for my Christmas shopping and I was overjoyed. (That was in 1932). I rushed to Stacey's General Store where I purchased box of Bisquick and a muffin tin. On Christmas morning, I handed these to Mother unwrapped. She smiled and gave me a huge hug. I felt so proud.

Today, almost eighty years later, I see Christmas through different eyes. I now feel Christmas has many meanings for those who give and those who receive. Also for those who hope and do not receive, and for those who neither hope nor receive.

A famed doctor was at his desk an evening before Christmas Eve. He looked up as his wife



approached and he asked, "What would you like for Christmas, dear?"

Without hesitation she said, "A little of your time." He was weighted down with consultations, lectures, correspondence and writing assignments. Time was the only gift he could not share.

There can be delightful surprises on Christmas morning. Among them is the joy of guessing what is inside a wrapped package as it is felt, squeezed, turned over and pressed between the fingers.



This is because long before Christmas there is the excitement of hope the gifts received are given with love.

Sometimes we are hesitant to ask for what we really want. Often we are incapable of expressing our deepest feelings. This is because we cannot enjoy a gift unless it is unexpectedly and spontaneously given. Then, too, writing out a Christmas list could bring resistance, criticism, or ridicule. Also, we can sense if a gift is given from the heart within an instant.



For many of us, the price of a gift is unimportant. Instead, it is the inspiration that guided the gift. We admire the genius, imagination, sincerity, and pleasure that fostered the gift. At Christmas, originality is priceless.

When it comes to gift giving, we cannot give what we have never received. We should avoid trying to dominate others through gifts. Giving an expensive and unexpected gift can bring a sense of power. On the other hand, it can humiliate the one receiving. Then, too, many who are most generous often shy away from receiving.

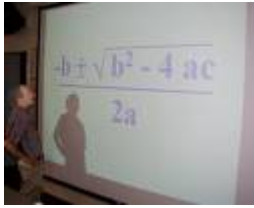
At Christmas giving is expected. But when giving, it is impossible to place a price on devotion, attention, personal contacts, and the sense of belonging. The hunger for gifts is really a desire for pleasure, acceptance, and affection. Each of us wants someone to be interested in us, dependant upon us, trusting of us. We do have that Person in God, who has given us the world. Something He did not have to give.

On Christmas Eve we can be noticed, loved, and respected as these are gifts of the spirit. If we shop with these in mind all will be well. A Merry Christmas to all!



THE SACRIFICE

By Oscar H. Greene



As a junior in high school I was losing the battle with algebra. I couldn't get it. I couldn't balance an equation and I couldn't untangle those word problems. To me, the subject was in impossible maze!

Finally, Mr. Flinton, our math teacher, said, "Come back after school and I will help you." Without this, passing was unlikely.

But my problems were far from over. The first afternoon selected by Mr. Flinton was the same afternoon for football squad picture to be taken. This would appear in the class yearbook forever. I couldn't miss that!

What a tangle. If I attended football practice and had my



picture taken with the team, I flunk algebra and I'd be off the team. If I accepted Mr. Flinton's offer my photo would not be in the yearbook. What should I do?

I anguished before reporting to Mr. Flinton who helped me several afternoons. Missing having my image appear with the team photo broke my heart.

After an uphill climb, I did learn algebra. Later this was a boost for college chemistry and physics. It was a constant tool for my years as a manager in technical writing.

I still feel a twinge because my picture was not in the yearbook. But the lesson learned was about making hard decisions and choices and looking beyond the present. Let me share another.

In 1964 our son entered the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. I worried. How would I meet the five-year costs on my meager salary? Then, unexpectedly, I was offered a position with Project Gemini, the second space step to the moon. But there was a catch. Accepting the job meant leaving job security and union protection. If Project Gemini was terminated, I was unemployed.



Again, I anguished then I accepted. When Project Gemini ended I was promoted to plant management, enabling me to meet all educational expenses and to improve my skills. This success was assured because of a lesson learned from Mr. Flinton and from trusting in God. God balanced my life's equation and He solved my word problems. All He expected from me was trust and appreciation.



A MESSAGE FROM THE HART FAMILY

I began this message for Grace Church in my thoughts nearly eleven months ago. It was January. In my head were all the phrases and "thank you"s I couldn't bring my hand to deliver into text. I knew I would be leaving with my immediate family in February, and in order to say goodbye before departing, I would have to make something materialize by the 15th to make the February newsletter.

Each time words tried to slip from my thoughts onto a page, they were abruptly stopped. Was Nina crying? Did the dog need water? Shouldn't I be writing lesson plans for my substitute? Any interruption, real or imagined was excuse enough. Nothing got written. The farewell stayed in my head where it couldn't wrestle its way to a reality unwilling to be accepted. February emerged. With its arrival came the enlightenment regarding our daughter and an unfamiliar birth defect. We put away the boxes, tucked away the bubble wrap, and cancelled the moving company. Relocation would have to wait.

During those days, when we dreaded phone calls from hospitals and doctors, Father Tom and Britton became voices providing relief. We knew that our extended family at Grace Church would hold our daughter and us in its prayers as we struggled not to understand, but to manage each day. Daily, we were

provided an epiphany of some sort, a recognition of a small incident that delayed our departure and ultimately resulted in doctors being able to discover Nina’s defect; blessings in wolf’s clothing...another week to spend at Grace, another chance to be with our community.

How thankful we are to have been given this extended time to be a part of Grace Church. How grateful are we that Nina’s first community of faith, the home where she was baptized, was as unique as our Grace family. She is comfortable, happy--safe when we step into the familiar building of stone. She is loved here, and she feels it, basks in it, and tries to return that love to all of you.

How blessed Brian, Nina, and I have been to be a part of this body, Grace, of this beautifully warm, loving, and accepting family with many differences. How difficult it is to begin saying goodbye...but it’s the 14th, and it’s 11:30pm. A deadline looms, and we will be leaving in several weeks. If I don’t say it now, if I don’t write the words, will you know how much all of you mean to me...to us, how much you are loved, and how much you will be missed? Thank you, Grace-----from the depths of our hearts. Nicki, Nina, and Brian Hart

New address:

**91 Ethelburt Avenue, Bassett Green
Southampton, Hants S016 3DF
United Kingdom
[email:ednasgrand05@aol.com](mailto:ednasgrand05@aol.com)**

Submitted by Nicki Hart

**BEST PRAYER I HAVE HEARD
IN A LONG TIME**

Origin unknown



Heavenly Father, Help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.



Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our

worst nightmares.



Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got

back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together .

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love . It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear.



Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love.

If you send this to people, then you have a chance to touch people. You won't get any wish for material things, however you might just find a piece of serenity and the warmth of God's touch.

Working for God on earth doesn't pay muchbut His retirement plan is out of this world !

Submitted by Barbara Povey



A Baby Boomer's Adventures in Grad School, Part II

By Laura R. Duggan

During the last two years, this "Baby Boomer" has taken classes at Emerson College which have given me the opportunity to do things like direct the second act of "Inherit the Wind." My cast included some very talented Emerson acting students plus my husband, Steve, who played the Bailiff! I offered him a chance to join in the fun, and he took it! I have also coached a young boy who wrote his own play, transcribed "The Odyssey" into a Chinese theatrical format, and acted in a friend's play. It was all very exciting and challenging. Finally, I have made it to my last semester. I am currently in my final class which is an acting one with Gail Burton exploring the



Boal techniques of "The Theatre of the Oppressed." Also, I'm in the midst of both writing my Master's paper and staging a one-woman show entitled "Tea with Mary Cassatt." It is scheduled for a performance at Emerson's Greene Theatre on December 2nd at 8:00 P.M. I will playing all the characters.

How have I become so willing to jump off cliffs? Certainly, writing, staging, and acting in a one-woman show should qualify as that. While I have written plays before, I've never written one for one actor. Also, I've never been the lead in any play. I'm still getting some surprised looks from people about doing this. Bless those around me who actually believe that I will "fly" when I jump off my "cliff." I know who you are and will never forget you! Where has my courage or craziness come from? I believe that I have to blame "Generation Y." They've infected me!



My new daring started during my Intercultural Theatre class. This was the mid point in my grad school career. My "Baby Boomer's Guide to Grad School" manual had safely guided me to this place. However, the time had come to throw it away. I was inspired to do this by one of my classmates. She was a very attractive young lady who sat to my right. Our instructor, the wonderful Jackie Romeo, had wanted to start our class with a "getting acquainted game" We were asked to write down three things about ourselves: two were to be true, and the third was to be false. The class would then have to guess what was true or false. The young lady to my right volunteered to go first. Her three things were: (1) She had traveled

around Europe with her mother (2) She had had breast reduction surgery and (3) She was fluent in French. I was astounded at her daring! When I gave her a surprised look, she gave me a big smile back. I decided that I would follow her lead.

My three things were: (1) I traveled to Southeast Asia and China with my mother (2) I use to be a sword dancer and (3) I'm a genius with computers.



Reader, have you found the truth? For your edification, the two false answers given were not statement #2. It was #3 for both of us. We had a big laugh and became fast friends after that. Actually, some of the students in that class who had never talked to me before now approached me. I think that I was no longer "Mom" to them. This silly incident incited me to just join in with whatever came my way in grad school. My friend who wasn't fluent in French was later recruited by Disney to work as a singer and actress in their shows at Disney World in Florida. You go girl!

The biggest thing that I have learned as a "Baby Boomer" in grad school is to meet that adventure with daring. Dare to learn. Dare to realize your dream. Dare to meet the challenges. Just keep telling yourself, "If not now, when?" If you decide it's not over, it won't be!



Post Script: If you would like to see "Tea with Mary Cassatt" on December 2nd at 8:00 P.M. at Emerson's Greene Theatre in Boston, contact Laura Duggan at 781-395-4397 or by e-mail <lruggan@aol.com >.

December 2006 Birthdays

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



- 12/02 James Pearson, Jr.
- 12/4 Helen Sweeney
- 12/5 Laura Duggan
- 12/6 Clarence Ligon III
- 12/8 Hannah Rogers
- 12/9 Alexander Stinson
- 12/13 Sharon Brown
- 12/16 Charles DePalma
- 12/20 Adele Travisano
- 12/22 Toni Candow
- 12/23 Rebecca Ann Spence, Victoria Mae Spence
- 12/25 Jone Marceau
- 12/27 John Buonaugurio

GRACE CHURCH PARISH LEADERSHIP

Clergy & Staff:

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

Officers:

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

Vestry:

MICHAEL FENN, BRANWEN KING, RAY PARDY, JIM PEARSON, JR., WARREN RAMIREZ, JEAN SPIERS, BILL WILLIAMS

Ministries:

Acolytes & Ushers: LINDA FOOTE, JILL CAPPUCCIO

Altar Guild: CAROLYN ROGERS, DIRECTOR, RUBY GREENE, DIRECTOR EMERITA

Annual Pledging & Stewardship: JANE SCHERBAN

Christian Formation / Education: STEVE DUGGAN, JOHN ROGERS

Communications: MARGARET SMIST

Deanery: MARIA FENN, DAVID LEE, CAROLYN ROGERS, CATHERINE SMITH

Delegate to Convention: SARAH CLUGGISH

Convention Alternate: JUNE PIETRANTONI

Episcopal City Mission: GENITA JOHNSON

Evangelism: BRENDA PEARSON

Facilities Care: JIM PEARSON JR.

Finance Committee: REV. TOM COOK, MARGARET SMIST, JANE SCHERBAN, NAIDA GAVRELIS, STEVE DUGGAN

Food Donation Ministry: CAROL THOMPSON, BEVERLY CONVERY

Hospitality: BEVERLY CONVERY

Medford Council of Churches: ANNE DEVENNEY, DOTTIE PALLADINO

Newcomers: MARGARET SMIST

Newsletter: DEBORAH SMITH, DONNA GARGIULO & VOLUNTEERS

Annual Church Fair: RUTHANNE PEARSON AND DOTTIE PALLADINO

Bell Tower Restoration Committee: WARREN RAMIREZ, SARAH CLUGGISH, ALLISON ANDREWS, JIM PEARSON, WES FOOTE, REVEREND TOM COOK

Wednesday Night Children's Bible Study: THE VESTRY, FATHER TOM COOK, MARIA FENN AND DEB SMITH

2006 Nominating Committee: WESLEY FOOTE, JR., DENNIS HALE, JUNE PIETRANTONI

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