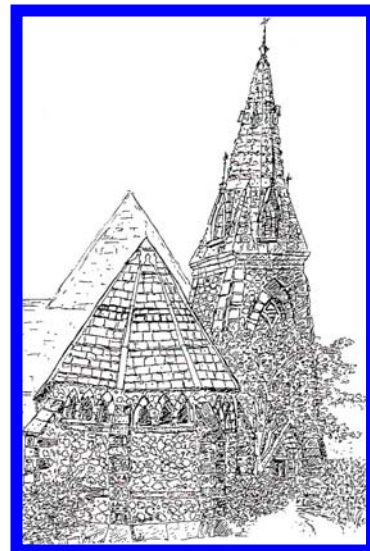


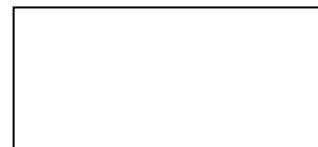
Grace Episcopal Church

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2006



“Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully with a shout of joy.”
Psalms 33:3

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 *November 2006*

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

Dates at a Glance



Wednesday, November 1: All Saints Day

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.

Bonhoeffer Film Discussion: 7pm, see details on page 3

Thursday, November 2

Friday, November 3

Saturday, November 4:

Annual Church Fair:
Grandma's Attic: Parish Hall 9am-3pm
Silver Tea: 11:30-1:30, Common Room. \$4.00 admission



First Sunday, November 5

Eucharist 8 and 10

Food Sunday: bring in your donations for local food pantries

Sunday School after the 10am service

Monday, November 6:

Tuesday, November 7

Wednesday, November 8:

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

Thursday, November 9

Friday, November 10

Saturday, November 11

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



Second Sunday, November 12

Eucharist 8 and 10

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

Sunday School after the 10am service

Monday, November 13

Tuesday, November 14

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

Wednesday, November 15

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

Thursday, November 16

Book Club Meeting: 7:00pm, see details page 4

Friday, November 17

Saturday, November 18

Third Sunday, November 19

Eucharist 8 and 10

Sunday School after the 10am service

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

Monday, November 20

Tuesday, November 21

Wednesday, November 22

Children's Bible Study: NO CLASS

Thursday, November 23:

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Friday, November 24

Saturday, November 25



Forth Sunday, November 26

Eucharist 8 and 10

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

Sunday School after the 10am service

Monday, November 27

Tuesday, November 28

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

Wednesday, November 29

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:

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

Thursday, November 30

GRANDMA'S ATTIC NOVEMBER 4

Trash or
treasure?



DON'T FORGET!.....Saturday, November 4, from 9am to 3pm for the annual church fair!

(Please note the fair will be one day only).

Don't miss out on this annual event, a favorite long-standing tradition of Grace Church. Beautiful gift baskets, delicious baked goods, hand made craft and knit items, wonderful jewelry, original art work, and the ever surprising Trash and Treasure tables. Any questions? Please contact Ruthanne Pearson at 781-438-6889 or Dottie Palladino at 781-391-2096.

SILVER TEA NOVEMBER 4



The Annual Silver Tea will be held in the Common Room of Grace Church from 11:30am-1:30pm. Entrance fee is \$4.00 for tea, coffee, finger sandwiches and sweets. This is a lovely, relaxing event and not to be missed! Please come and experience it for yourself.

MANY THANKS FOR A SUCCESSFUL LOBSTER LUNCH!



This year's Lobster Lunch was a pre-Fair event held on Friday, October 13. A beautiful fall day was the back-drop for the lunch which was held from 11:30am-1:30pm. In addition to a sit-down lunch, many lobster rolls were delivered to area schools and

businesses. A big THANK YOU to the Chairperson, Jean Spiers and her crew, which included Ruthanne Pearson, Dottie Palladino, Ruthie Hall, Bev Convery,

Joan Williams, Jean's sister and Carolyn Rogers. The net proceeds from the Lunch were \$1,200!!!

We are looking forward to a fun-filled successful Fair on Saturday, November 4. Please be sure to invite your friends and family to this important fund-raiser for Grace Church!!

Submitted by Margaret Smist

BONHOEFFER FILM DISCUSSION (part II) TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 1

"We have been silent witnesses of evil deeds.....Will our inward power of resistance be strong enough for us to find our way back?"



-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

PBS recently aired a feature length documentary film to mark the 100th anniversary of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's birth. Bonhoeffer was a German theologian and pacifist who lived in the first part of the 20th century. As a young pastor he helped organize the Confessing Church, Germany's only true organized challenge to the Nazi State. He became one of the first clear voices to challenge the Christian Churches of Europe to stand with the Jews in their moment of need. In the end, Bonhoeffer paid with his life for his beliefs.

Please plan on attending these two nights of discussion of the documentary. Dinner will be served from 6:30 - 7:00 pm (all welcome to break bread with the youth of the church as they continue their Godly Play studies), and the discussion and viewing of the film will begin at approximately 7:00 pm.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Margaret Smist at 781.639.7822 or mismist2003@yahoo.com. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend!!

Schedule: Wednesday, November 1

6:30 - 7:00 pm : Parish Supper in the church hall

7:00 - 7:30 pm : All Saint's service

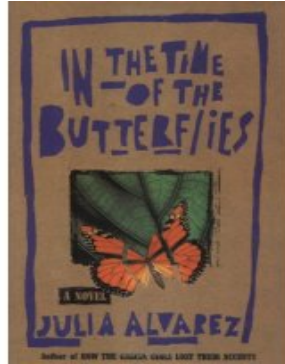
7:30 - 8:00 pm : View remainder of film

8:00 - 8:30 pm : Discussion period

Submitted by Margaret Smist

THE BOOK CLUB MEETS NOVEMBER 16

The Book Club will meet on November 16, 7:00pm at the home of Adele Travisano. This month's selection is "In the Time of the Butterflies", by Julia Alvarez. Please contact Adele for directions to her home. 781-395-7542. Don't miss this opportunity for great company and thoughtful discussion!



THE "P" WORD



Yes, it is Fall, and the time for the parish to continue our reflections on the "P" word. The Stewardship Committee is talking about the life-giving concept of our church called the "pledge". The pledge is life-giving to our parish because if 100+ households did not commit to making and honoring a pledge, we could not begin to do the ministry we do here at Grace Church in Medford, MA.

Can you imagine how much we could do if *everyone* active and involved at Grace Church made that commitment to making a pledge of time, talent and treasure?

God's abundance is very evident this Autumn and making and honoring a pledge is a life-giving

experience. This is the day that we are being asked to 'fill an empty basket' with the spiritual joys of life: a kind word, a thoughtful deed and a gift of time, talent and treasure to your spiritual home, Grace Church.

Over the next month, your Stewardship committee will be mailing you materials to review. Please mark your calendars for these important dates!!!

You will all have received a packet and our pledge dedication was last week. If you have not sent in your pledge please do so as soon as possible so the Vestry can begin the budget process for 2007.

IMPORTANT DATES

Week of October 8 – Stewardship materials to be mailed to homes

Sunday, October 29 – Stewardship Sunday
Please mail your pledge to the church office or bring to church on Sunday for a blessing and dedication

If you have any questions about pledging or stewardship at Grace Church, please feel free to contact a member of the committee (Dennis Hale, Susan Maltz, Jane Scherban, Margaret Smist, Jean Spiers) or our Treasurer, Naida Gavrelis.

God Bless!

Submitted by Margaret Smist

NEW WAY TO MAKE A GIFT TO GRACE CHURCH USING YOUR IRA!

Through December 31, 2007, individuals 70.50 years old and over may rollover up to \$100,000/year from a traditional or Roth IRA directly to charity without incurring tax liability. The rollover counts towards the IRA holder's annual minimum required distribution. Donors do not receive an income tax deduction for IRA rollover gifts. For more information please consult your financial advisor.

Submitted by Margaret Smist

FAQS ON PLEDGING

FAQ's About Pledging

During our Stewardship Campaign and at the annual meeting on January 29, there has been much

discussion and conversation surrounding ‘pledges’. Some newcomers and parishioners have voiced questions about pledging. The Stewardship Committee hopes we can answer some of your inquiries below.

Q. What is a pledge?

A. A pledge is a good faith commitment, usually paid in regular installments throughout the year – weekly, monthly or quarterly – that supports the total ministry of this parish (worship, education, pastoral care, music, property maintenance, outreach etc).

Q. How do I make a pledge?

A. You fill out a pledge card and return it to the church office on Sunday morning or mail it in during the week. You will receive pledge envelopes after completing the card.

Q. What is a ‘fair’ pledge?

A. Giving is a matter of the heart, just like faith. The better question is “How much has your life been enriched by God and by your experience of God here at Grace Church? How much of what God has given to you are you willing to use to support the mission of Grace Church in Medford?”

Q. What if I make a pledge and my situation changes?

A. A pledge is made in good faith. If you have a change in personal situation, you simply adjust your pledge and notify the Treasurer.

Q. I put money in the offering whenever I attend. Why should I pledge?

A. Your pledge allows the leadership of Grace Church to plan. If we can’t forecast our income, we really can’t make a responsible budget. More importantly, your pledge allows you to acknowledge God’s goodness to you in a symbolic way that makes a difference at Grace Church and in our community.

Q. I can’t pledge a lot right now. Will my pledge make a difference?

A. Every gift counts!

Q. Where can I find a pledge card?

A. There is a supply on the back bulletin board and on the Vestry table in the parish hall. The Treasurer, Naida Gavrelis and the Stewardship Chair, Jane Scherban, can also provide you with a pledge card. The office administrator, Donna Gargiulo, is also able to mail copies of pledge cards if you leave a message with your name and address on the answering machine (781.396.7215)

DID YOU KNOW...GRACE CHURCH HAS A CLOTHING PANTRY?

On a quarterly basis, our church has a clothing pantry which supplies in-season clothing to our Medford neighbors who are in need.

The Pantry is operated by Maria Fenn. Donations are always needed as are helpers to set up or break down the night of the event



If you have any questions about the Pantry or would like to volunteer in any way, speak to Maria at church or email her at fennways@verizon.net.

Submitted by Margaret Smist

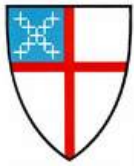
2006 DIOCESAN CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN BOSTON

The 2006 Diocesan Convention was held on Friday, October 27 and Saturday, October 28 at Trinity Church in Boston. The special speaker was the Bishop of Tanga in Tanzania, and the stated focus of the Convention was “Sending and Serving” from the diocesan mission statement.

In addition to the approval of the 2007 budget, there were presentations and discussions of motions, resolutions, and amendments including: amendment changing the number of lay delegates to the convention, resolutions regarding the ministry of blessing marriages, marriage rites, urging the defeat of a same-sex marriage ban, a resolution examining the practice of communion to the unbaptized, a resolution creating a diocesan environmental stewardship action plan and a resolution on Saints Day.

Grace Church's delegates are Sarah Cluggish and Wes Foote, Jr. If you have any questions about the convention Sarah or Wes can help you.

Submitted by Margaret Smist



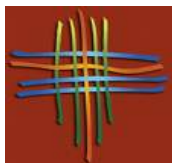
AROUND THE DIOCESE

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

The **Investiture of our new Presiding Bishop, Katherine Jefferts Schori**, will be broadcast live via Webcast on Saturday, November 4 at 11:00am. A direct link will be available on the Diocesan home page of the National Church's web site, www.episcopalchurch.org.



Resource Day at Bentley College: Senior Warden Margaret Smist attended Resource Day on Saturday, September 23rd. She attended workshops on Warden Roles and Responsibilities, Stewardship of Physical Facilities and Stewardship 101. Deacon Ted Gaiser led a workshop on Global Mission



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Your Grace Church Nominating Committee (Dennis Hale, Warren Ramirez, Bill Williams, Branwen Smith-King, Naida Gavrelis, Jane Scherban, June Pietrantonio) have begun meeting to prepare for election of Vestry, Treasurer, Clerk, and various Delegate positions at our Annual Meeting. In the December issue of the



newsletter we will provide a description of each of the positions for your review. In the meantime please consider serving our church by taking an active role in leadership. Some of the Delegate positions do not require a significant commitment of time. On the other hand, we need to elect three Vestry Members for 3-year terms, two members for 2-year unexpired terms, and one member for a one-year unexpired term. Strong, committed leadership is a must for the future of our church.

Do not hesitate to speak with a member of the Nominating Committee regarding any questions, or in order to nominate yourself or someone else. The next meeting of the Nominating Committee is Sunday, November 5th.

Submitted by June Pietrantonio

ACOLYTES

The role of the Crucifer, Torch carrying the processions for service has been the youth of our



Acolyte, either Bearer or Gospel in the our worship traditionally undertaken by church.

Recently we have been blessed with a number of young people who have been willing to perform that task. Right now we can list Matthew Fenn, Ivy Smith, Ebby Akiba, Christian Cook, Conor Daly, Genita Johnson, Caroline Daly, Taylor Beebee, Molly Fenn and William Cook, who are all handling these duties on a regular basis. However, there is always room for more! Ideally we would like to have at least one Crucifer and two Torch Bearers at every 10:00am service without anyone being scheduled more frequently than once/month. Currently we can't do that, so, as I've stated, there is room for more!. For anyone who is interested training will be provided before anyone initially takes part in the service. Any young people age 8 and up, or any parents who want to encourage their child to participate in this ministry should contact Wes Foote (781-396-5487) or leave their name with Father Tom. You will not be disappointed in the deeper appreciation for our worship service that results.

Submitted by Wes Foote, Jr.

13 FOREST, A NEW MEDFORD ART SHOP



There is a new arts and crafts shop in Medford, which carries the work of many Medford artisans. It's called 13 Forest, and that's where it is: 13 Forest Street, across the street from the Medford Square post office. Stop in to find wonderful gifts and support Medford artisans at the same time!

Hours are MTWF 11-6; Th 11-8; Sat 1-5.

Submitted by Adele Travisano

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY THRIVING



Grace Church's Bible Study sessions for children are going strong, with great attendance by adults and children alike. This year we have two classes, a 5:30-6:30 class for preschoolers through grade one, and a 7:00-8:00 class for grades two through five. In between classes everyone shares a meal provided by one of the participating families, Vestry or other parishioners.

The efforts of Carolyn Rogers, Nancy Palladino and Allison Andrews have brought a wonderful sense of order to the event. These three women have stepped forward to help the evening stay on track and to stay timely. For example, they make sure that dinner happens at 6:30 sharp, so that the 7:00pm class can start on time. Their work is the reason the evening goes so smoothly!

Dinners have been generously provided and served by our parishioners. The mealtimes create the sense of community among children and adults. And they've been delicious!

Teachers Maria Fenn, Deb Smith and Catherine Smith have spent hours learning the Godly Play stories, and enjoying the focused attention, playfulness and thoughtfulness of the children who attend class. Being a Godly Play teacher is a unique experience. Being able to communicate the power of Sacred Stories, Parables, Liturgical Action through storytelling is an amazing and rewarding experience.

And the children...they make the evening worthwhile for us all. They arrive for class full of energy, enthusiasm, questions and observations despite being at the end of a long school day! The children of Grace Church are the reason we are all pulling together in so many ways to provide a fine evening event. Please feel free to join us. All are welcome!

This fall the children have been learning about how the church tells time (the colors that change with each liturgical season), many of the sacred stories (Creation, The Flood and the Ark, The People of God, The Exodus, The Ten Best Ways, The Ark and the Tent, Baptism, and other stories. Ask them what they think!

Submitted by Deborah Smith

THANKSGIVING

By Oscar H. Greene

Be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18



Thanksgiving Day was two weeks away and I was agonizing. The fifteen children in our Sunday school class eagerly awaited each lesson I enjoyed preparing. On this Holiday I did not want to let them down, especially Richard.

Richard was enthusiastic, bright, alert, and blind. His disability prevented him from sensing the distractions the other children noticed. Richard listened to my every word asking me for an explanation when my statements were incomplete or unclear. Richard was my barometer concerning each lesson, each Sunday.



I wanted a good lesson for the Sunday before Thanksgiving. I researched, studied, and read most of the Sunday school material available. Most dwelled on family, the turkey dinner, and some history of the first Thanksgiving. But there was nothing suggesting a role for children. I did not know what to do. As the Sunday before Thanksgiving approached, I was struggling.

Then on the Wednesday, before the Sunday before Thanksgiving I was helping Ruby with the supper dishes. As I was drying the stainless steel, a

fork slipped from my fingers and fell to the floor. Instantly, I had my lesson.



That Sunday morning, I appeared in class with a large shopping bag. The class stared wide-eyed



as I removed two place mats, two sets of stainless steel dinnerware, two plates, two cloth napkins and two drinking glasses. One voice popped up, "Are we going to eat, Mr. Greene?" I shook my head.

"No, we are going to look into a way you can help with Thanksgiving dinner." With that we began the step-by-step method of setting a table.

First we placed a mat at each side of the table, making sure the designs were identical and not upside down. Then we folded each napkin into a triangle.

We made sure Richard folded the second napkin. I was surprised that one-half of the class had never set a table.



We then placed the forks, the knives, and the spoons, making sure the cutting edge of the knife was toward the plate. Richard felt this and he smiled. We placed the glasses making certain they were grasped at the bottom. When we finished we wished we had prepared something to eat.

But we were not through. Using Richard in the role of Mother, we had each young man hold the chair and seat Mother at the table. We worked on the cooperation of Mother grasping the chair and pulling



as the young man gently pushed. There was also comment on keeping the left hand in the lap when eating (unless the person was left-handed). We

agreed never to start eating until the host or hostess began. In other words, we were polishing our good manners.

As the lesson ended I glanced at Richard who was beaming.

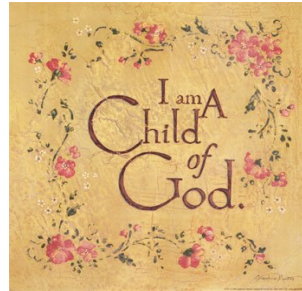


The Sunday after Thanksgiving the children bounced into the classroom eager to chat. One little girl said, "When I offered to help set the table my Mother blinked. When I set it correctly, she gasped. She couldn't believe this."

A lad raised his hand and waved it vigorously. "I held the chair for Mom, and she almost fell on the floor. She couldn't believe what she saw."

Another lad giggled and said, "Mr. Greene, after I held the chair my Mom wanted to know what kind of rinky dink Sunday class were you running? She is coming to see you." She never did.

I wonder how many children remember that lesson of long ago? Come this Thanksgiving I will be applying all those lessons. I do hope my family will not be surprised. At age 88, I am still a child of God.



A BABY BOOMER'S ADVENTURES IN GRAD SCHOOL Part I

By Laura Duggan

My adventures in grad school at Emerson College were preceded by a "dress rehearsal" at the Tufts Symphony Orchestra. While playing the violin with them as a "community player" I gained some valued experience on how to survive as a "Baby Boomer" among "Generation Y." I knew that I was different from the other college players, but that was underlined when I kept being asked if I was "a professor or something." I would usually become cryptic and answer, "I'm something." That would get things going depending on the background of the "Y" person.



The lessons I learned at TSO became formulated into an informal manual to myself entitled "A Baby Boomer's Guide to Grad School." BBGGS contained the following rules:

- (1) If a "Yer" has a bad relationship with their mother, look out!
- (2) If a "Yer" loves their mother, they would give you a chance.
- (3) Never give advice unless asked.
- (4) Be brave enough to be yourself.

- (5) Keep a sense of humor.
- (6) It's never too late to learn.

It was the BBGGS that I took with me when I started Grad School at Emerson College in 2004.

At this point, you may be wondering why a 50 plus person would decide to subject herself to the



GRE's and want to study Theatre Education. Actually, it's the fault of my friend, Ruth Carr. She had seen me

do theater projects around my hometown of Medford and had thought that I should pursue that interest at Emerson College. She was a graduate of that school and told me that I would fit right in. To convince me, she had dragged me to an "Open House" at the college. There, I met Dr. Robert Colby and Bethany Nelson who welcomed me along with the "other" prospective students. I was sold!

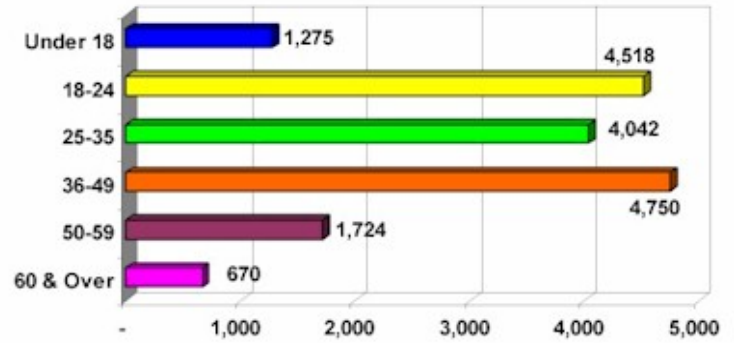
After studying for the GRE's for a month, I took the plunge and registered to take the test. My husband, Steve, kept saying to me, "You're so brave." That would always make me laugh which kept me going. Interestingly enough, my two sons, Andrew and Matt, were also taking the GRE's at the same time. It gave us something to talk about! While my math score was no where near that of my sons, my English score was respectable. With my entrance



essay and letters of recommendation, I found that I was good enough to get that wondrous acceptance letter from Emerson College. Yes, this "Baby Boomer" was dancing all over the house the day that letter arrived! Refer to Rule #6 of the BBGGS.

I started things off slowly at Grad School by taking just one course: Theatre Tech. I gritted my teeth when working with the giant buzz saw but shone when making my "soft prop" which was a butterfly. When two young women in the class started to tell tales of their awful mother, I quietly drifted away. When another young woman sought me out to talk, I stayed and listened. I only replied when she directly asked me my opinion on her matter. See rule #1, 2, and 3 of the BBGGS. One of the women in my class who was probably only ten years away from me, welcomed me into her circle of friends. The younger instructor of the two men running the class, took time to help me out with the computerized props. He was able to do this without going too fast or making me feel stupid. Thank you, Ron DeMarco!

Student Population By Age



This was a promising start to my graduate school adventure.

My next class was entitled "Multiculturalism" taught by the very talented teacher, Bethany Nelson. This was the same Ms. Nelson whom I had met at the "Open House." I had signed up for her class as I was then teaching for the Department of Youth Services and hoped to gain greater insight in reaching the variety of students who came my way. I followed rule #3 and tried to remember rule #4 and #5 of the BBGGS. Then during the third class, several "old



Sign language for

"hurt feelings"

people" jokes were told in front of everyone. I looked around and saw all of my classmates laughing. I was the only one who wasn't. As the only senior person in the class, I felt singled out and stereotyped. I was no longer "Laura." I was just an "old woman." It hurt. I remember sitting in the Boston Public Garden, trying to figure out what to do. Then, I decided that I would write about my feelings in the next paper that I would turn in.

My paper was entitled "A Walk in the Hood." We had been instructed to write an essay that described being a minority in another neighborhood. That was easy for me as I was a white teacher at a Roxbury treatment center for DYS boys. When walking around the "hood," I was always the minority. I then added a postscript to my paper. I wrote about how no one ever seemed to bring up my age at the treatment center. They just saw me as their teacher. In a moment of uncertainty, I thought it might be better if I excluded my "postscript." I showed my essay to my students and asked them their opinion on whether I should include the "postscript"

or not. Unanimously, they told me to turn in my paper with the “postscript.” I followed the recommendation of my DYS students.

The very night after I had turned in my paper, my instructor called. She wanted to talk to me about my essay. She was deeply concerned about my inference that charged age discrimination. As she is a sensitive teacher, she wanted to work things out. We talked at length. We both listened. In the end, my instructor assured me that I would not be marginalized again. Her word was good. For the rest of the term, Ms. Nelson maintained an environment where I could just be one of the students. It was a great class and still is the best that I have taken at Emerson. I was able to relax and just be myself and find my humor again. I made friends in that class. See rule #4 and #5. of BBGGS.



Postscript: Tune in next month for more adventures of A Baby Boomer in grad school. Hang onto the BBGGS! See what happens when our Boomer decides to write and stage her own one-woman play entitled “Tea with Mary Cassatt.”

Post Postscript: This is what I wrote in my infamous essay:

“Bridges between people are built when we take the time to know each other. Telling jokes that stereotype a particular group of the population can make this difficult. Today’s world of violence teaches us to be cautious at times. Through a quirk of fate, I’m teaching at the Hillside Treatment Program in Jackson Square. I have never had someone make fun of me for being the oldest person at this facility. I am not subject to jokes about intolerant old women who don’t take the time to get to know how to pronounce a child’s name correctly. I know the names of my students, and they know me simply as Laura.”

CAURA CAURA CAURA
CAURA CAURA

A LETTER FROM SENATOR JOHN EDWARDS

I just returned from a trip to Uganda and wanted to share my experience with you. Uganda is home to one of the greatest unreported humanitarian crises in

the world – millions of people have been displaced from their homes and subjected to horrific violence. And with the exception of extraordinary groups, like the International Rescue Committee (IRC), whom I traveled with, most of the world is ignoring this tragedy.



Uganda has been plagued by a long civil war and a rebel army/terrorist group called the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). Among other things, the LRA abducts children, turns them into soldiers, forces them to commit atrocities, and in some cases, turns them into sex slaves.



We first went to an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp outside Kitgum, just over 30 miles from the Sudan border. The people at the IDP camps are just the same as refugees, but they have not crossed a country border. This camp was one of the hundreds throughout the region, and many of the people in this camp have been stuck there for several years, some for twenty years.

I sat under a tree with three adults and lots of children. They told me the stories of what they’d been through and what their hopes were. I met a little girl, about a year old, whose mother said she never smiled – her father was killed by the LRA. I tried to get her to smile and almost got one.

The living conditions at the camp were awful – open sewage, little water, malnourished children. There were children that had been abducted by the LRA, forced to commit atrocities against others, including their own families, but had escaped and come back to the camp.

The next day we flew to Lira, another region of northern Uganda. There, I visited with a family that had taken in a young girl, an orphan, named Lilly. Lilly’s parents had been killed by the LRA. She was eight or nine years old – around my daughter Emma’s age. Lilly carried one baby in her arms and one on her back. It was heartbreaking to see her providing childcare for babies instead of going to school.

We then went to the Kira school, which is run by the IRC. In spite of everything they’d been through, the children at the school were remarkable – they still had hope and lots of love to give. A 14-year



old boy performed a song that he had written. He had lived on the streets for 13 years, and a year ago had been taken in by the IRC. In front of us and hundreds of his classmates, he sang a song about how happy he was to have a new life.



I also had the opportunity to meet with the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni. I talked with him about what I had seen, the critical importance of the peace process and what we can do to help it along, and all the suffering we had witnessed in

Northern Uganda.

Although I am back in the United States, I know I will never forget the faces of the people I met in Uganda, especially the children.

What's happening in Northern Uganda is similar to conditions elsewhere, like Darfur. But with a peace process underway, this is a great opportunity for Americans to show we care about the suffering of people around the world. But before people can care, they have to know what's gone terribly wrong. You can help spread the word about what's happening in Uganda by forwarding this message to a friend. Please help us spread the word.

Thanks for taking a moment to read this message.

Message first printed by One America Committee

www.oneamericacommittee.com

Submitted by Jane Scherban



November 2006 Birthdays

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



11/01 Shirley Corcoran
11/02 Scott Corcoran, Kendric Lewis
11/03 John Schlesinger
11/04 Scott Trepaney
11.05 Alice deVos
11/06 Sonia Ellefsen, Julia Lisella

11/08 Renee Howard
11/09 Edward Smith
11/10 Diann Collins, Marcus Fahey
11/11 Mayland Fields
11/12 George Fiorenza, Heidi Bogner
11/16 Mary Saragosa
11/17 Una Davis, Patricia Dow
11/18 James Dervishian
11/19 Cole Owen
11/22 Leonard Branson
11/23 Mildred Spencer, Dan Barber
11/24 Melanie Silva
11/26 Hope Rossi, Wes Foote, Jr.
11/27 Brenda Pearson, Arantxa King, Conor Daly
11/28 Lawrence Sullivan, Charlene Chiodi
11/29 Eileen Mahoney

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