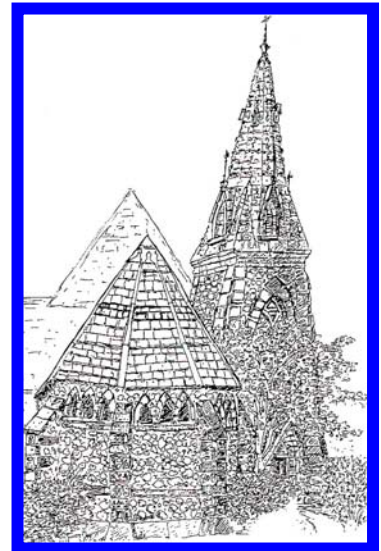


Grace Episcopal Church

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2006



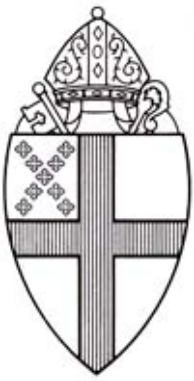
*"Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness;
come before Him with joyful singing.
Psalms 100:1-2*

Grace Episcopal Church
160 High Street
Medford, MA, 02155

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



Grace Episcopal Church
NEWSLETTER *October 2006*

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

Dates at a Glance

First Sunday, October 1

Eucharist 8 and 10

Food Sunday: bring in your donations for local food pantries

Sunday School after the 10am service



Monday, October 2:

Tuesday, October 3

Wednesday, October 4:

Children's Bible Study: class 5:30 (pre-K thr grade 1), dinner 6:30, class 7:00 (grade 2 thr 5)

Thursday, October 5

Friday, October 6

Saturday, October 7

Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund walk, details on page 4

Second Sunday, October 8

Eucharist 8 and 10

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

Sunday School after the 10am service

Kenyan Group meets

Monday, October 9

Tuesday, October 10

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

Wednesday, October 11

Children's Bible Study: class 5:30 (pre-K thr grade 1), dinner 6:30, class 7:00 (grade 2 thr 5)

Thursday, October 12

Friday, October 13

Annual Lobster Dinner!

11:30-1:30; see page 3 for details



Saturday, October 14

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

Third Sunday, October 15

Eucharist 8 and 10

Sunday School after the 10am service

Monday, October 16

Tuesday, October 17

Wednesday, October 18

Children's Bible Study: class 5:30 (pre-K thr grade 1), dinner 6:30, class 7:00 (grade 2 thr 5)

Bonhoeffer Film Discussion: 7pm, see details on page 4 (*Part two of this event* takes place November 1)

Thursday, October 19

Friday, October 20

Saturday, October 21

Fourth Sunday, October 22

Eucharist 8 and 10

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

Sunday School after the 10am service

Monday, October 23

Tuesday, October 24

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

Wednesday, October 25

Children's Bible Study: class 5:30 (pre-K thr grade 1), dinner 6:30, class 7:00 (grade 2 thr 5)

Thursday, October 26

Friday, October 27

Saturday, October 28

Fifth Sunday, October 29

Eucharist 8 and 10

The Parable Players perform "Welcome to the All Saints Convention", after the 10am service. See details on page 3.

Monday, October 30

Tuesday, October 31

All Hallow's Eve. Happy Halloween!



NEWSLETTER WILL BE IN BLACK AND WHITE

Our newsletter copies will be in black and white from now on. Copying in color is extremely expensive, and not the best use of Grace Church's resources. Thanks for your understanding.

Submitted by Deb Smith

GRANDMA'S ATTIC NOVEMBER 4



MARK YOUR
CALENDAR.....Saturday,
November 4, from 9am to 3pm for
the annual church fair!
*(Please note the fair will be one
day only).*

Space is still available for a few more tables. Got ideas? Your help is also needed with setup and cleanup. Whatever time you can give would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Ruthanne Pearson at 781-438-6889 or Dottie Palladino at 781-391-2096.

LOBSTER DINNER OCTOBER 13!

The Annual Lobster Dinner continues to be the best deal in town! The cost this year will be \$9.00; the dinner will be held on Friday, October 13 from 11:30-1:30pm. This



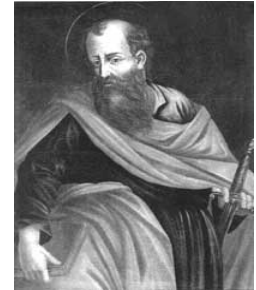
year chicken salad will also be available. Desserts and drinks cost extra. For reservations please contact Donna in the church office: 781-396-7215. Don't miss this delicious event!

THE PARABLE PLAYERS ARE BACK!

The Parable Players of Grace Church are coming back on October 29th! They will perform a new play written by Laura Duggan entitled "Welcome to the All Saints Convention" after the 10:00am service, on the Parish Hall stage. Don't miss this "saintly" comedy which brings to you St. Francis, St. Bridget, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Paul, and others. If you are interested

in working on this latest Parable Players production, contact Laura Duggan at 781-395-4397.

Submitted by Laura Duggan



OCTOBER 28, 2006 A VERY SPECIAL DAY INDEED!

This year the date of October 28 is quite special and important! Dennis Hale and Adele Travisano will see their daughter Lucy Hale wed Christopher Carcerano in Las Vegas, Nevada. AND...Bill and Joan Williams' son, Gregory Williams, will wed Joyce Enright at St. Mary at the Nativity Church in Scituate Harbor, Massachusetts. (I think these families should definitely consider playing these numbers!) Congratulations to both families and both soon to be wed couples.



Submitted by Joan Williams

JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FUND (JDRF) WALK: OCTOBER 7

As most of you may already know, our daughter Hannah was diagnosed with type 1 (insulin dependant) diabetes last year. Linda, Hannah and I are walking in the JDRF walk to cure diabetes on October 7, 2005. If you are interested in sponsoring us please make your check payable to JDRF and see us after church, or contact us at 781-396-2930. Hannah also has a web page where you can donate to the JDRF through our team, "The Best Butterflies". Thank you.



Submitted by John Rogers

BONHOEFFER FILM DISCUSSION TO BE HELD OCTOBER 18 AND 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 msmist2003@yahoo.com. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend!!

Schedule:

Wednesday, October 18

6:30 - 7:00 pm : Parish Supper in the church hall
7:00 - 8:00 pm : Viewing of first 2/3 of the film
8:00 - 8:30 pm : Discussion period

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

YOUTH EDUCATION NOTES

Both Godly Play and Sunday School started the week of September 10. The Godly Play curriculum and the Sunday School curriculum will complement each other. Godly Play, which is held on Wednesday nights, focuses on Bible stories from the old and new Testaments. It has a very hands-on, concrete, and visual approach to learning. Thanks to Deborah Smith and Maria Fenn for putting so much thought and effort into this program.

The Sunday School curriculum is based on the gospel reading of the day. We also will have several "love your neighbor" and church stewardship activities in order to teach the children that they should put their Christianity into action. Examples include the Walk for Hunger, making Valentines cards for the elderly, serving sandwiches to the homeless through the Common Cathedral, and working on the church garden. Alison Andrews had a good idea for a project that would promote



dialogue between the kids and our more senior parishioners. Also, this Fall, Laura Duggan will lead kids of all ages in putting on a play to celebrate All Saints Day. The performance is on October 29, and we will be

using some of the Sunday School sessions in October to practice. **We will need one volunteer to help keep**

the smallest children occupied for one or more of the play practice sessions (the smallest children can be in the play, but they won't need to be at all the practice sessions).

Please contact Laura Duggan [Laura Duggan <lrduggan@aol.com>](mailto:Laura.Duggan@aol.com), if you can help her out.

The Sunday School is seeking volunteers to teach and run special activities. We have lost two teachers in the last year, which means that we will only be having one class for all ages until more people volunteer to teach. Opportunities for Middle and High Schoolers:

I urge those of you with kids in Middle and High School to check out the following opportunities; maybe you can get a group of kids to attend:

-- Junior High Retreat at the Barbara Harris Camp from Friday 6:30p.m.-Sunday 1:00 p.m., November 17-19, 2006: This is organized by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. Contact Suzy Spessert at (617)482-4826 ext. 230 or at sspessert@diomass.org. Cost is \$100.

-- High School Retreat at the Barbara Harris Camp from Friday 6:30p.m.-Sunday 1:00 p.m., February 9-11, 2007: This is organized by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. Contact Suzy Spessert at (617) 482-4826 ext. 230 or at sspessert@diomass.org. Cost is \$100.

-- City Reach: This is an overnight program sponsored by Ecclesia Ministries that brings together young people from area churches and homeless people in Boston. The program gives young people the opportunity to learn about homelessness from people who are homeless or who have been homeless. During the two-day session, participants join City-Reach staff in street ministry and offer hospitality, food and clothing to the poor and the homeless. Apparently, the kids sleep on the bumpy pews in the Cathedral so they can get a taste of what it is



like to sleep on benches. Ted Gaiser, our deacon, said that this program is an incredible experience. From what I hear, this experience is more appropriate for high school-age kids than middle school-age kids. There are three sessions: Friday-Sat. October 20-21, January 19-20, or April 27-28. Contact Ecclesia Ministries at 617-247-4927 or info@ecclesia-ministries.org Cost is \$35.

-- Finally, I am hoping that we can get a volunteer to put together a trip to *Heifer Project's Overlook Ranch in Rutland, Mass.* The Heifer Project is a non-profit that provides farm animals to impoverished

families worldwide. At Overlook Ranch, Heifer Project runs programs to teach kids about poverty, world hunger, and how to solve these issues.

Go to www.heiferproject.org for more information. If we can book a program in the Fall or Spring (i.e., before the end of October or from April on), the group can have the opportunity of preparing a meal in the typical third world village that Heifer Project has constructed at Overlook Ranch, using the methods and supplies that are traditionally available to limited resource families in the developing world.

Peace!

-- Catherine Smith
(617) 918-1777 or smith.catherine@epa.gov



photo taken from heifer.org website

MY GROWING UP

By Oscar H. Greene

**Courage must come from the self within.
The person must furnish the will to win.**

George Washington Carver

From 1925 until 1965, the thought of owing money frightened me, and there seemed to be a reason.

Father built our eight room bungalow in 1925, and we were debt free. Then early 1929, when the stock market was booming, many were caught in the "get rich quick fever". Prosperity soared and the President promised two cars for every garage and two chickens for every pot. Street sweepers, custodians, clerks, and taxi drivers boasted of their stock market earnings. They were paper rich.

Also in early 1929, Father felt we needed an automobile. Of the forty different American auto makers, and the 300 different models available, Father selected a \$1,320 Buick. His seven-passenger purchase was considered a luxury. We had no money so Father mortgaged our home for \$2000. From 1929, until the home was sold in the 1970's, that loan was unpaid. Yet we paid thousands of dollars in interest.



I recall that debt hanging over us like a dark cloud. We couldn't attend a movie because we owed money, even though admission was only .35 cents. There were no summer vacations, no summer camps, and no out-of-state motor trips. The feeling was we had to be careful lest others think we were wasteful and extravagant.

Following high school I attended an out-of-town school where the lack of money haunted me. Fortunately I obtained a scholarship and I worked my way through school graduating debt-free. Then I vowed, if I ever found a job, I would pay cash for everything.



Then came that evening in April 1965. I was nestled in bed reading a book and feeling fine. I was an engineering technician on Project Gemini of the Space Program. Our son was an honor student at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. Our apartment was comfortable, or landlord was a dear friend, and we were debt-free!

As I warmed in my thoughts the telephone rang. It was Mr. Rogers the real estate agent. He said, "Mr. Greene, I'm calling for Mrs. Berry, your neighbor. She is selling her home and she wants you and Mrs. Greene to purchase this. Could you and Mrs. Greene come down to my office?" I froze.

I had seen the home and I liked it. But memories of my parents' ordeal still troubled me. When Ruby returned home, she enlisted our friend, Mayland Fields. Together, they dragged me screaming and kicking to the real estate office. With Mr. Roger's aid they sat on me until I signed the purchase agreement.

That night I lay in bed thinking, "We will owe \$12,000! How can we pay this when my parents never repaid the \$2000? I felt we owed the national Debt.

The next day I chanced upon my five year diary. There in the year 1937, I discovered my handwriting. "Take no thought...for what ye shall eat or drink...you must never think of defeat!" These words, partly Scripture, had guided me, a penniless lad through college. Why not use them again?



All at once, a load fell from my mind. Yes, we owed money, but we had made a decision. Once in our new home we felt joy. There was no tension. We could play our radio, take a shower, have

company, and prepare a meal without disturbing others.

We began by keeping up our payments. We kept to a budget, and all our bills were paid. Our son completed his education, and within years our home was paid for. Each day I realize the folly of allowing boyhood fears discolor our lives.

Do you sometimes let the past crowd out your present joys? Take courage. There is always an opportunity if you knock, ask, and believe. "Say to them that are fearful of heart. Be strong, fear not..." *Isaiah 35:4.*

MARY MAGDALENE: SAINT OR SINNER?

By Laura Duggan

Anyone who has read Dan Brown's book, The Da Vinci Code, or seen the movie, has been intrigued by the mystery surrounding the identity of Mary Magdalene. Was she the sinner found in Luke 7:36-50? Was she the sister of Martha and Lazarus of Bethany? Was she the wife of Jesus as suggested by Dan Brown and others? According to what is written in the scriptures, "no", "no", and "no".

Because Mary Magdalene is mentioned by name in the Bible 14 times in all four gospels, why would someone attach "unnamed woman" and other Marys found in the Bible to Ms. Magdalene? Why indeed? Some of the trouble stems from the presence of so many Marys in the Holy Book. However, the real trouble started when Pope Gregory of Gregorian Chant fame decided to tell a homily which fused (confused?) Mary Magdalene with Paul's unnamed prostitute who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11), and Lazarus' sister who was from Bethany, not Magdala, who anointed the Lord's head with costly perfume (Mark 14:3-9, John 11:2). This "error" was then perpetrated in countless artistic presentations. You can find Mary Magdalene everywhere as a sinner with long flowing red hair, holding an alabaster jar. While the Pope finally corrected this misrepresentation in 1965, the damage done to Mary Magdalene's identity continues. Just ask someone who Mary Magdalene is, and they are bound to say, "Oh, she's that repenting lady of ill repute in the Bible."

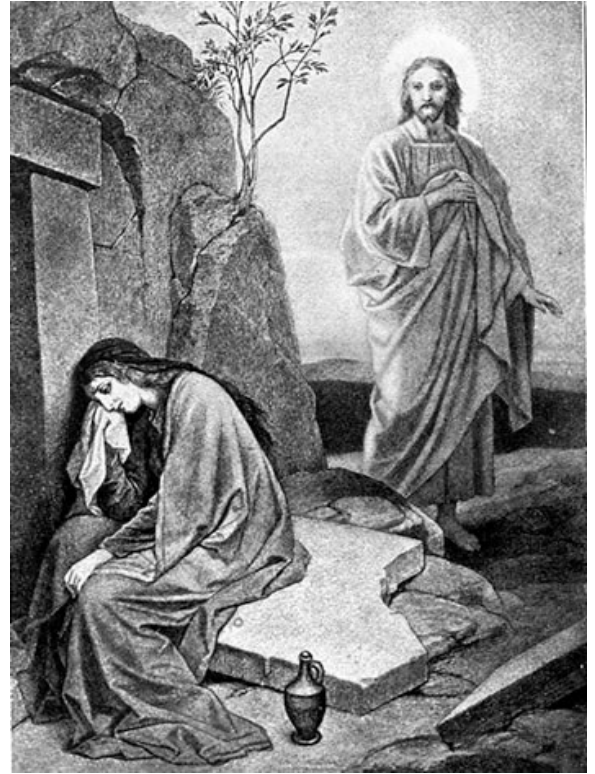
If Mary Magdalene wasn't a repenting prostitute, then who was she? The answer is found in all four gospels of Mark, Matthew, Luke and John. First, she was a disciple of Jesus. Mary Magdalene became a devoted follower of Jesus after he rid her of

seven demons. She is there at the crucifixion, she went to the tomb, and most importantly, she was the first to see the Risen Christ. It was she whom the Lord instructed to go and tell the other disciples the “Good News” that He had risen. Also, when Mary saw the risen Jesus, she didn’t call him “Honey” but “Rabboni”, which means “my great teacher”. This sounds like a devoted disciple of Jesus and not his wife as fictionalized in The Da Vinci Code.

The question still hangs in the air: why would the identity of Mary Magdalene be sullied for so many years? From what I can glean from the current literature on the subject, Mary Magdalene was marginalized because many established churches were and are “uncomfortable” about attaching importance to women. It should be remembered that the men disciples of Jesus were also upset when Jesus freely associated with women of all sorts, sinners and saints alike. His actions supported equality for men and women. Jesus showed a new way. His greatest commandment, “Love your neighbor as yourself” was not just meant for men. It was for women too! So how have men “uncomfortable” with this dealt with the situation? They have chosen to paint Mary Magdalene in a bad light, starting with Pope Gregory.

You may ask, why didn’t those who wanted Mary Magdalene to disappear from the scriptures just erase her? This would have been hard as it was to Mary Magdalene whom the Risen Lord first appeared. It is clearly written that our Lord told her to go to the men disciples and give them the Good News. While this account appears in all four gospels, there was an attempt to erase Mary Magdalene. Her gospel didn’t make the final cut for the Bible. If you are interested in reading what we have on that, just “google” the Gospel of Mary Magdalene. While you’re at it, check out the other gospels which also didn’t make the cut.

So what are we left with on Mary Magdalene? For me as a woman, she’s a great role model. When the going got tough, she didn’t flee like many of the other disciples of Jesus. She had the courage and tenacity to stay with Christ during the dark days. She then received the ultimate award: Mary Magdalene was the first to see the light of the Risen Lord. You go girl!



October 2006 Birthdays

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



10/01 Ivy Smith
Jean Zafiris.
10/2 Inez Reese
David Lee
10/4 Joan Williams
Walter Greene
10/7 Imani Chambers
10/8 Donald Capuccio

10/12 Viktor Brillati
Clarence Ligon
10/13 Paul DuRoss
10/14 Marjorie Smith
10/15 Barbara Perry
10/16 Evelyn Anderson
Mary Rizzo
Carol Ryba
Barbara Mootrey
Matthew Duggan
10/17 Cheryl Schlesinger
Diane Schlesinger
Paul Eastman
10/18 Matthew Anderson
10/19 Michael Chiodi
10/20 Wendy Anderson
Britton Cook
Zachary Mobbs
Solomon Nwachukwu Jr.
Audry Nanyombi-Mbuga
10/21 David Rogers
10/22 Martha Gleason
10/23 Robert Spindler
Dorothy States
10/24 Naida Gavrelis
10/26 Laura Feldman
10/28 Ralph Gillum
Margaret Gnad
10/29 Anne Deveney
Richard Perrotti
10/31 Roberta Brown

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