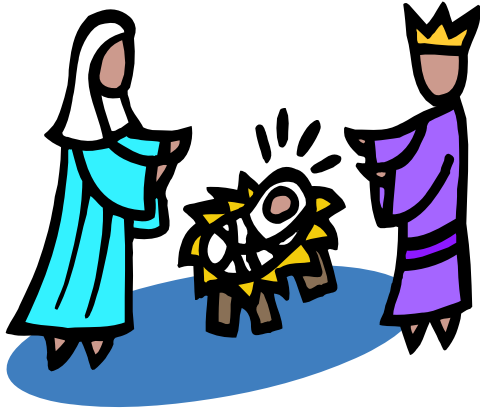


GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

160 High Street
Medford, MA 02155
781-396-7215

WWW.GRACEMEDFORD.ORG



MAKE A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS

This year's giving tree is seeding a relationship between the Grace Church Sunday school and Amor Y Vida, an orphanage in Honduras. Amor Y Vida (Love & Life) is home to 39 children, ages 6 to 18. Many of the children are HIV+ and all have lost parents to HIV/AIDS.

Many of the things we take for granted such as running water, public education, and clothing, are not guaranteed in poor countries. When we asked the Executive Director, Maria, what the children would like for Christmas, instead of asking for toys, she responded with a list of clothing. So the Sunday school invites everyone in the church to join them in making this Christmas joyous for their brothers and sisters in Honduras by taking a star from the Giving Tree on Dec. 2 and purchasing an item of clothing. The star will contain a child's name, age, a clothing item, and size. We request that you return your item wrapped with minimal packaging and marked with the star you took from the Giving Tree.

When you make your purchases, keep in mind that a basic item is a better choice than something fancy and expensive. A t-shirt with a logo or an inexpensive pair of wrangler blue jeans will make good gifts. If you feel inclined to spend more than \$25 on an item, then might we suggest that you take two stars instead?

The Giving Tree will be up on the first Sunday of Advent (Dec. 2). We'd appreciate it if you'd take your star and return your gift as soon as possible ... but no later than Dec. 16. For those who are interested in making an additional contribution or are unable/uninterested in purchasing a gift, we welcome your donations toward shipping and customs charges.

Thank you, in advance, for making this Christmas a special one for the 39 children in Amor Y Vida, all of whom have experienced much heartache, illness and personal loss.

If you have questions, feel free to speak with The Rev. Ted Gaiser or Linda Rogers.

Submitted BY Ted Gaiser

AT A GLANCE

December 5 and 12
Advent Discussion

December 16
Christmas Brunch and
Mini-Fair

December 19
Longing for Light

December 23
The Nativity Story

December 24
Christmas Eve Service

January 6
Christmas Pageant

RICHARDSON LECTURE HELD AT GRACE

The October 18th lecture on architect Henry Hobson Richardson was a success. Over 100 attendees were treated to a talk on the renowned architect, who designed Grace Church in 1867 and went on to prominence and influence in American architecture. The speaker, Allan Galper, included a slide presentation of Richardson's works across the US and in New England especially.

Of note was the wonderful refreshments table, made possible as always, by the delicious donations brought in by parishioners.

The intent of the event was to raise funds for the Bell Tower Restoration Project, but in addition it became an opportunity to share our building, one of Medford's many preserved historical structures, with our wider community.

Thanks are owed to Barbara Kerr of the Medford Public Library and John Lonergan, President of the Medford Historical Society, for bringing the Friends of the Library and the Historical Society to co-sponsor the lecture.

The Bell Tower Restoration Project is underway to restore the nine bells to ringing and to repair the tower structure that supports them. To learn more, contact committee members Allison Andrews, Sarah Cluggish, Warren Ramirez or Wes Foote.

Submitted by Allison Andrews



He is here!

James Brian (named for Jason's two brothers) was born on Thursday, November 8th at 7:38 am. He was 7 lbs. And 21 inches. He is perfect.

We are thrilled, exhausted and so blessed to have had all of your support over the last year and a half.

We'll be in touch soon!

Sarah, Jason, Sam and Jamie

WARM HANDS WARM HEART MINISTRY

As winter descends upon us and chills invade our heated homes, it is important for us to remember those who are less fortunate. The Bread of Life is an organization that helps those of us that are in need. This year there is a great need for new men's large and extra large, winter gloves, hats and long underwear. If you can help, please place your new items in the plastic box labeled "Bread of Life" under the table in the vestibule between the Parish Hall and the back of the church. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Rogers at 781-396-2930. For more information on The Bread of Life, see their website at www.thebreadoflifeonline.org

Submitted by Linda Rogers

ADVENT EVENTS!

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

As we prepare for Christmas during the season of Advent, we will be offering adult formation on Wednesday nights following the Godly Play dinner (from approximately 7pm - 8:30 pm). Please join us for dinner with the children and for the adult program, which will immediately follow.

December 5 and 12 - Parishioner, Maurice Lee, will lead a discussion of the Advent and Christmas readings in Scripture and tie the scripture into some of our modern renderings of the Christmas story (i.e., the movie, The Nativity Story). Maurice is currently a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Divinity School. He is a participant in Harvard's Evolution and Theology of Cooperation project, a three-year dialogue between evolutionary biologists and Christian theologians on the significance of cooperation and altruism for science, religion, and philosophy.

December 19 - Our Advent offerings will be culminating in a worship/meditation service, "Longing for Light," led by Ruth Roper, MTS, Music Director of Grace Church. This short candle-lit service of readings, prayer, silence, and music will acknowledge the struggle for courage and faith in the darkening times, and offer an invitation to enter the season of Christmas with renewed hope.

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Our traditional Christmas Brunch and Mini-Fair will be held on Sunday, December 16 following the 10 am Eucharist. The menu will include omelets, french toast, ham and other goodies. During the brunch, last minute Christmas gifts can be purchased from Deacon Ted who will be selling Central American goods and gift items. Holiday baskets and hostess baskets will also be available for purchase for our last minute shoppers. Other fun activities for the children (and adults!) will include a carol sing and a visit from Santa Claus. A sign up sheet will be available in the Parish Hall in December.

THE NATIVITY STORY

On December 23rd our Teen Group will be sponsoring a supper and movie for the children and teens in our parish. Because of space limitations, only children and teens may attend. Supper will be served at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall followed by the movie, The Nativity Story. Parents are requested to supply snacks for the movie. We also request that the young people attending be capable of sitting quietly for the length of the movie, which is 1 ½ hours. There will be a sign up sheet posted in the Parish Hall. A head count is very necessary, please sign up for attendance. Any questions should be directed to Maria Fenn, 781-391-4825.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Father Norm Faramelli and Deacon Ted Gaiser will celebrate Christmas with the Grace Church family at a 5 pm Eucharist on Monday, December 24th. More details will follow on the service and celebration.

CONSERVATION UNDERWAY AT GRACE

With the high cost of heating fuel, gas and electricity this coming winter, our Grace Church family will need to make a 'team' effort to conserve oil, gas and electricity. Some tips for us all this winter:

Please be sure heat is lowered to 60 degrees in all rooms, which you vacate. NOTE: The church is on a timer and the thermostat does not need to be touched on Sunday morning!

Please make every effort to maintain heat at no higher than 68 degrees in the Parish Hall, common's room and basement rooms.

Please keep windows and doors closed whenever possible.

Please turn off lights in rooms which you are vacating.

If you are the last person to leave the building, conduct a walk-through to insure that the heat is down and the electricity if off.

If you enter the building in the morning and lights or heat have been left on, please notify the church office so we can address the situation.

THANK YOU for your cooperation!

Submitted by Margaret Smist

BOOK CLUB

The next book we'll be reading is *Lying Awake* by Marc Salzman. It's a fabulous little novel, contemplative, thought-provoking and very slim!

We're meeting on February 7, 2008 at the home of Ann Frenning Kossuth.
88 Winthrop Street, Medford, MA 02155, 781-395-2482

2007 DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Sarah Cluggish, Margaret Smist, and Branwen Smith-King represented Grace Church at the 2007 Diocesan Convention in Fitchburg.

This year's theme was "Partnerships in Ministry: Holy Partners in a Heavenly Calling." There were a number of presentations offered about international, local, and youth-based partnerships with churches in the Diocese along with time for representatives to reflect on ways their own churches can become involved.

The Convention approved a \$7.7 million balanced budget to support the work of the Diocese – a 2.7% increase over 2007. Grace Church will pay \$22, 637 in assessment this coming year – a 6% increase over the 2007 assessment.

Three resolutions were approved by the Convention:

- 1) A resolution urging the defeat of any legislation allowing for the expansion of gambling in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- 2) A resolution on a New Geographical Reference (from Rhodesia to Zimbabwe) for Bernard Mizeki, Catechist and Martyr
- 3) A resolution to develop a Spanish language antiracism training program for the Diocese of Massachusetts

Two Resolutions were sent back to committee for clarification about expectations of action:

- A resolution for the Adoption of the Covenant on Mutual Interdependence in Mission (assessing churches' vitality and viability)
- A resolution on the United States Military (to engage in a comprehensive analysis and discussion of the current U.S. military system – particularly around recruitment tactics)

Additional information on the events of the 222nd Convention can be found at www.diomass.org

Submitted by Sarah Cluggish

NOMINATING COMMITTEE WORK TO BEGIN

The 2008 Nominating Committee is now accepting names for the following positions at Grace Church:

Senior Warden (3 years)

Vestry (2 years - 1 open position)

Vestry (3 years - 3 open positions)

Deanery (1 year - 4 open positions)

Delegate to Convention (2 years - 1 open position)

Alternate Delegate to Convention (1 year - 1 open position)

Delegate to Medford Council of Churches (1 year - 3 open positions)

Delegate to Episcopal City Mission (1 year - 1 open position)

Please speak to a member of the Nominating Committee if you are interested in serving.

Nominating Committee members include: Dennis Hale, Genita Johnson, Ray Pardy, David Lee, James Pearson Jr. and Margaret Smist.

NOTES FROM TED

MISSION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM TO ECUADOR

As many of you may already be aware, I will be leading a Mission Leadership service trip to Ecuador in August, 2008. What you may not know, however, is that Matt Fenn is going to be one of the participants.

I'm currently making arrangements for the team to work in a small community in Santa Rosa (near Pilahuin) with a new Episcopal community that is currently emerging (they worship in someone's house at the moment). They are going to build a chapel in the next year, and so their diocese has suggested that we consider joining them in working on that project. The area is also representative of some of the Andean indigenous realities in Ecuador, making it a good place for us to learn about the country and its' people.

To support our efforts, Matt and I will be holding some fundraising events throughout the winter and spring. Our first such event will be a CRAFT SALE held after church on DECEMBER 16. We will have a variety of handmade items from Central America available for purchase along with Equal Exchange products. So hold off on some of your holiday shopping and spend a little supporting our work in Ecuador.

Submitted by Ted Gaiser

GRACE CHURCH PARISH LEADERSHIP

Clergy & Staff:

THE REV. Norman Faramelli, (Sept. & Oct.)
THE REV. DR. TED J. GAISER, Deacon
COREEN GAUVIN, Director, GraceWorks
DONNA GARGIULO, Office Administrator
RUTH ROPER, Director of Music

Officers:

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

Vestry:

MICHAEL FENN, WES FOOTE, JR., BRANWEN SMITH-KING, DAVID LEE, RAY PARDY,
JIM PEARSON, JR., WARREN RAMIREZ & JEAN SPIERS

Ministries:

Acolytes & Ushers: LINDA FOOTE, JILL CAPUCCIO

Altar Guild: CAROLYN ROGERS, DIRECTOR, RUBY GREENE, DIRECTOR EMERIT A

Annual Church Fair: LAURA & STEVE DUGGAN

Annual Pledging & Stewardship: JANE SCHERBAN

Bell Tower Restoration Committee: ALLISON ANDREWS, SARAH CLUGGISH, WES FOOTE, JR., JIM PEARSON,
JR. & WARREN RAMIREZ

Children's Formation (Sunday School): STEVE DUGGAN & CATHERINE SMITH

Clothing Pantry: MARIA FENN

Communications: MARGARET SMIST

Deanery: JANE SCHERBAN

Delegate to Convention: SARAH CLUGGISH & MARIA FENN

Episcopal City Mission: MARIA FENN

Facilities Care: JIM PEARSON JR.

Executive Committee: STEVE DUGGAN, NAIDA GAVRELIS, MARGARET SMIST & JANE SHERBAN

Food Donation Ministry: BEVERLY CONVERY & CAROL THOMPSON

GraceWorks Oversight Committee: STEPHANIE BRADY, LAURA DUGGAN, MIKE FENN, LISA MCCARTHY,
BRENDA PEARSON, BRANWEN SMITH-KING & JANE SCHERBAN

Hospitality: NANCY & LARRY ROGERS

Medford Council of Churches: HALLIE LEE

Newcomers: DAVID LEE

Newsletter: JUDITH WALSH, EDITOR, DONNA GARGIULO & VOLUNTEERS

Scholarship Committee: BRANWEN SMITH-KING

Tween/Teen Group: MARIA FENN

Web: JASON CLUGGISH

Wednesday Night Children's Bible Study: MARIA FENN & DEB SMITH

Women's Book Club: JULIA LISELLA

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

Jim Pearson Jr.	12/02
Helen Sweeney	12/04
Laura Duggan	12/05
Clarence Ligon III	12/06
Hannah Rogers	12/08
Alexander Stinson	12/09
Charles DePalma	12/16
Maria Fenn	12/19
Adele Hale	12/20
Benjamin Wirz	12/21
Victoria Spence	12/23
Rebecca Spence	12/23
Jone' Marceau	12/25

Newsletter Editor

Please continue to send any articles you think may be fitting to our new section, HEART STRING TUGGERS. This section was very well received by many of our parishioners. Other articles may be birth announcements, prayer requests, cute stories, recipes, etc. They will be used as fillers according to their size when I have a short month with space to fill.

Please be advised that any photos or articles of personal nature/news/announcements MUST be submitted with consent of the persons involved, pictured or mentioned.

I hope with your help to be able to make our newsletter interesting and informative for all. My email address is delphine3738@yahoo.com; address is 541 Fulton Street, Medford, MA 02155; telephone 781-391-4825. You may also give me or Maria and Mike Fenn any articles after the 10:00 service on Sunday.

Respectfully yours,

Judith A. Walsh

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