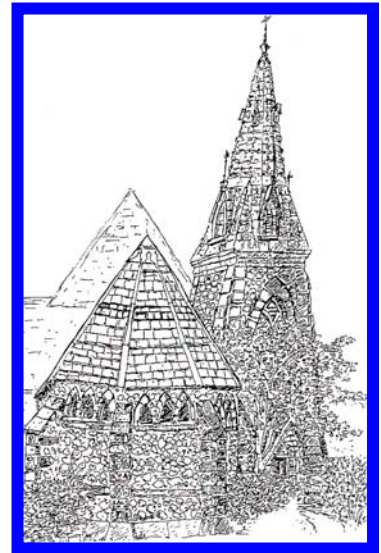


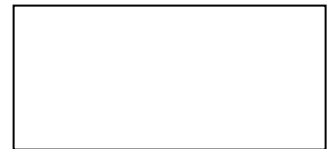
Grace Episcopal Church

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2007

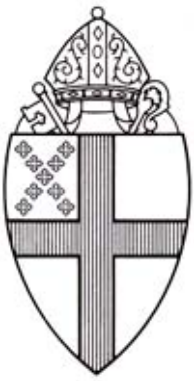


"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?
For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."
Matthew 2:2

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 *January 2007*

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

Dates at a Glance

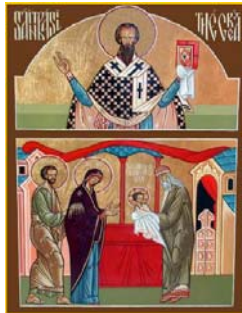
Monday January 1:

*The Holy Name of Jesus
And Happy New Year!*

Tuesday, January 2:

Wednesday, January 3

Renew, Revitalize,
Redevelopment
meeting: 7:00pm-
8:30pm. See
page 4 for details



Thursday, January 4

Friday, January 5

Twelfth Night Open House at Rectory: see
details on page 3

Saturday, January 6: *The Epiphany*



First Sunday after the Epiphany January 7

Eucharist 8 and 10

Food Sunday: bring in
your donations for local
food pantries

Sunday School after the 10am service

Parents of Tweens/Teens view NOOMA
video: 11am. Details on page 5



Monday, January 8

Tuesday, January 9

Wednesday, January 10

Renew, Revitalize, Redevelopment meeting:
7:00pm-8:30pm. See page 4 for details

Thursday, January 11

Women's Book Club: page 5 for details

Friday, January 12

Saturday, January 13

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



Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 14

Eucharist 8 and 10

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

Sunday School after the 10am service

First meeting of the Tween/Teen Group, 6pm
in Common Room. Details page 5

Monday, January 15:

Tuesday, January 16

Wednesday, January 17

Children's Bible Study Winter Session

Begins: 5:30 class for preschool
through grade 1. Dinner 6:30.

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

Older children welcome in 7-
8pm class.

Renew, Revitalize, Redevelopment meeting:
7:00pm-8:30pm. See page 4 for details



Thursday, January 18

Friday, January 19

Deadline for Committee Annual Reports

Deadline for Vestry to post nominations

Saturday, January 20

Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 21

Eucharist 8 and 10

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

Monday, January 22

Tuesday, January 23

Wednesday, January 24

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. Older children welcome in 7-
8pm class. (cont. on page 3)

Renew, Revitalize, Redevelopment meeting:
8:30pm. See page 4 for details

Thursday, January 25

Friday, January 26

Saturday, January 27

Forth Sunday after the Epiphany
January 28

Eucharist 8 and 10

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

Annual Meeting of the Parish, Election of Vestry and Delegates. Details on page 2

Monday, January 29

Tuesday, January 30

Wednesday, January 31

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. Older children welcome in 7-8pm class.

Renew, Revitalize, Redevelopment meeting:
8:30pm. See page 4 for details

*The Rector, Wardens,
and Vestry Wish Our
Grace Church Family a
Very Happy New Year!*



**THE TWELFTH NIGHT OF
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT
THE RECTORY**

The Cook Family cordially invites Grace Church to the 5th "Almost Annual" Open House at the Rectory



Friday, January 5 from 3:00pm-7:00pm
56 Rural Avenue, Medford

Light refreshments and warm cider served up with a smile!

The Rectory is located on Rural Avenue between Lawrence Road and High Street. From the church, turn left onto High Street and take your first right at the rotary. Head straight up the hill and Rural Ave., taking care not to bear right. 56 Rural Ave. is at the bottom of the hill on your left, a brick and white house.

**ANNUAL MEETING
ELECTION OF VESTRY
ELECTION OF DELEGATES**

Several weeks ago you received a letter from Fr. Tom on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Enclosed was a flyer which outlined the duties and time commitments required of the Officers and Vestry for Grace Church, and also Delegates to the Diocesan Convention, the Deanery, the Medford Council of Churches, and the Episcopal City Mission.



The letter requested parishioners to consider accepting the challenge to lead Grace Church by giving some "time" to the life of Grace Church--and its future. While several have responded and agreed to stand for office, there are still a few spots left to be filled. If you have not already spoken to a member of the Nominating Committee about your willingness to be part of our Church's leadership, please do so now. We will be happy to clarify any questions you may have. Our Bylaws require that we post the names of those candidates who have indicated their willingness to serve no later than January 19. Therefore, time is of the essence; please speak to a member of the

Nominating Committee soon. We all have busy schedules. However, serving Grace Church can be one of the best--and most vital--things you do. The year ahead is a critical one.

Nominating Committee: Wes Foote, Jr., Naida Gavrelis, Dennis Hale, Warren Ramirez, Branwen Smith-King, Bill Williams, June Pietrantonio.

Submitted by June Pietrantonio

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2007

The Parish's Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Luncheon will be held Sunday, January 28 following the 10 am Eucharist. In addition to reviewing the budget and committee reports, Grace Church Officers and Vestry members will be elected. All are strongly encouraged to attend this annual business meeting of Grace Church as we make very important decisions for the future of our parish.

In preparation for the meeting, committee chairpeople will need to submit committee reports to Donna in the church office by **Friday, January 19**. All parishioners also received a letter from Father Tom outlining the requirements for serving as on Vestry or as a Delegate to Convention, Medford Council of Churches, Episcopal City Mission and Mystic Valley Deanery. If anyone is interested in being considered for a position in the church, please contact the chair of the Nominating Committee, June Pietrantonio, at e-mail address: June.Pietrantonio@state.ma.us as soon as possible.

A traditional Pot Luck Lunch will follow the meeting. If you last name begins with initial :

A-F bring a dessert

G-OI bring a casserole or main dish

P-Z bring salad or rolls

Called to Serve

Called To Serve

Called to Serve

Called to Serve

RENEW, REVITALIZE, REDEVELOPMENT

During the Vestry's November meeting with the parish, many parishioners asked what they could do and where they could tap into the life of the church. This is **your** chance to come discuss where we are as a parish and where we would like to be in 6 months, 1 year, 2 years and 5 years! A group will be meeting consecutive Wednesday nights (January 3, 10, 17 and 24th) from 7 - 8:30 pm to discuss such topics as:



Who we are as a congregation and do we know our neighbors in Medford?

How can we integrate our neighbors into the life of the church?

What do we do well as a parish?

What can we do better and how do we engage new lay leaders in these areas?

...And much, much more!

After the first 3 weeks, the group will compile a summary of it's findings and present it at annual meeting on Sunday, January 28th. Please join us and share your vision for Grace Church's future!

Submitted by Margaret Smist

THANK YOU FOR A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH!



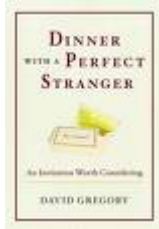
Many thanks to Chuck Brawley and his family and friends for their planning of a delicious Christmas Brunch held on December 17.

Thank you also to the teens who assisted with set-up, decorating and break-down. Mike Welch did his usual great job of DJ'ing. Deacon Ted and volunteers ran a craft table full of beautiful handmade goods which enabled our parish family to do some last minute Christmas shopping. And Saint Nicholas made a surprise appearance to join in the festivities and meet our youth!



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB JANUARY MEETING

Have you ever thought about what it might be like to have dinner with Jesus? In our next book, the author does just that! Read *Dinner With A Perfect Stranger*, by David Gregory, and come chat about the book at our next women's book club meeting:



January 11, 2007 @ 7PM @ the home of Adele Travisano, 145 Winthrop Street, Medford. Call ahead for directions and to RSVP at 781-395-7542. Our second meeting of 2007 will be March 8 at 7PM; location to be announced. We'll be discussing *The Great Divorce*, by C.S.Lewis, so start reading!

PARENTS OF TWEENS & TEENS!

Your sons and daughters have been invited to a brand new weekly event, designed especially for their age group. The Tween/Teen Time will begin on January 14, 6:00pm, in the Common Room. Please see the next news item for more details. Right now, **YOU ARE INVITED** to preview and discuss the short video that your children will be shown in that first get-together. The DVD series called NOOMA has been selected as a tool to get your children thinking and talking about their lives as Christians.

Please join Maria Fenn, who will be the leader of this new group for our older youth. She will be previewing the DVD "Rain" (approx. 15 minutes long) **for parents only**, on the following dates:

December 31, Sunday: 11:00am,
Common Room
January 7, Sunday: 11:00am,
Common Room



You can find more information on the NOOMA series on the web, at <http://www.christianbook.com/Christian/Books/>

Please make the effort to come to one of these informational sessions to see the video and talk with Maria about her plans for this important group. If you have questions please contact Maria Fenn at 781-391-4825, fennways@verizon.net.

ARE YOU IN JUNIOR HIGH OR HIGH SCHOOL?

A new group is beginning just for you! Beginning January 14, Sunday evening, 6:00pm – 8:00pm, Maria Fenn will be leading **The Tween/Teen Time**. Meet in the Common Room at 6:00pm to see a short video, "Rain", and then have open discussion on the life issue featured in the video. Light refreshments will be served. The evening will end with a period of silent reflection in the Church.

Please arrange to have a parent pick you up at 8:00pm. If you need a ride home contact Maria Fenn BEFORE January 7. at 781-391-4825, fennways@verizon.net.

Please come! Bring a friend! Give this new group a try – it's just for you.

P.S. Help plan a dance, to be held in February!



PRESIDING BISHOP JOINS IN CALL FOR RENEWED EFFORTS AT MIDDLE EAST PEACE

By Mary Frances Schjonberg

[ENS] *Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori* is one of 34 Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders who wrote to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice December 12 asking for a meeting with her to discuss the "urgent situation in the Middle East" and calling on the United States to make peace in the region an "urgent priority."

The leaders, acting as the National Interreligious Leadership Initiative for Peace in the Middle East, issued a statement the same day, saying that "as Jewish, Christian and Muslim religious leaders, our shared Abrahamic faith compels us to work together for peace with justice for Israelis, Palestinians and all peoples in the Middle East."

"As Americans, we again ask the United States to make peace in the Middle East an urgent priority," the statement's preamble concludes. "Our nation has an inescapable responsibility and an indispensable role to provide creative, determined leadership for building a just peace for all in the Middle East."

Quoting from the religious texts of all three faith traditions, the statement says that "building peace through justice is simultaneously an urgent human challenge and a gift of God."

Please note that this story is an excerpt from the Episcopal News Service
Full story:
http://www.episcopalchurch.org/3577_80534_ENG_HTM.htm



ONE PRESIDENT'S LEGACY

By Oscar H. Greene

Dr. Theodore Ledyard Cuyler, a famed Presbyterian Pastor in 1862, entered the White House and he gasped. Boxes were piled everywhere and the place was so untidy. The First Lady was no housekeeper.

Moments later, Dr. Cuyler was escorted into the room where the Cabinet usually met. There in front of the fireplace stood the President. He was tall, gaunt, and dressed in a seedy

frockcoat. His hair was long and unkempt, his face drawn and a dark mass of worry.

His large, melancholy eyes had a solemn far-away look because of the turmoil surrounding him. He gazed at the hand-written document before him and recalled how he lacked the courage to enact this three times before. He turned and said, "I have been driven to my knees (in prayer) by the overwhelming conviction that I had



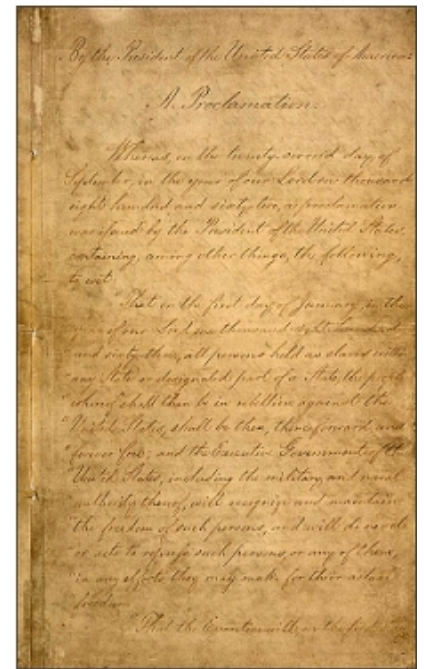
nowhere to go; my own wisdom and that of all around seemed insufficient for the day."

The tall person was President Abraham Lincoln. The hand-written document was the Proclamation of Emancipation. On September 22, 1862, it was signed.

This document declared that on January 1, 1863, some 3,063,392 slaves living in ten states would be freed. Another 871,780 living in eight states would be freed by the Thirteenth Amendment.

These brave enactments were done in hopes of preserving the Union. These happenings continue to touch my life today.

In the 1860's many of the of the former slaves were without church or school, and there was little training for life. Later, a former Union General, Samuel Chapman Armstrong, founded Hampton Institute in Virginia on October 1, 1867.



Women making barrel furniture, Hampton Institute

The purpose was to train the freed slaves through hard work and self-reliance. There would be training of the head, heart, and the hands. One of the better known Hampton graduates was Booker T. Washington, the founder of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.



On September 13, 1937, I entered Hampton Institute. Then on Sunday, September 19th, my eyes were opened. I was attending evening chapel when a clear voice began singing “Roll, Jordan Roll!” Instantly the over-flow congregation responded with “I want-er go to heav’n when I die – to hear ol’ Jordan roll!”



I sat wide-eyed and mute as the voices rose, swelled and filled Ogden Hall. Never had I heard such emotion, such joy. Never had I heard the singing of a spiritual. During my undergraduate days I grew to love, “Walk Together Children”, “We Are Clim’ in’ Jacob’s Ladder”, and “Joshua Fit De Battle ob Jerico”. For four years I tried to sing, but I could never carry a tune.

1. ROLL, JORDAN, ROLL.

1. My brudder* sit tin' on de tree of life, An' he yearde when Jor-dan
roll; Roll, Jor-dan, Roll, Jor-dan, Roll, Jor-dan, roll!
O march de an-gel march, O march de an-gel march; O my
soul a-rise in Heaven, Lord, For to yearde when Jor-dan roll.

In 19863, many of my people believed in God with a desperate courage. They knew God saved Daniel, and delivered the people of Israel out of bondage. God, too, had led my people out of 250 years of slavery. The spirituals were their ways of praising and thanking God.

President Lincoln might have been pleased to meet our grandson Shawn, born February 12, 1973, 110 years following the enactment of the Proclamation of Emancipation.

President Lincoln would have been surprised to learn Shawn had more books in his bedroom than Lincoln had in his law office.

Shawn, too, could have learned from President Lincoln who said, “I believe the Bible is the best gift God has given men. All the good from the

Savior of the world is communicated to us through this Book.”

Today, I still have difficulty carrying a tune. Yet, I always pray, “Heavenly Father, let me life do the singing!”



A BABY BOOMER'S ADVENTURES IN GRAD SCHOOL Part III

By Laura R. Duggan

After two years at Emerson College, I have come to the end of my journey through Grad School. My final class is finished, and I have successfully defended my thesis which was a reflection



paper on the writing of my one-woman show, *Tea with Mary Cassatt*. Also, I have staged a production of my play at Emerson's Greene Theatre. Did I have to do that to get my Master's? No. I chose to do that. Call me crazy. It was like being in a candy store. I wanted to try some of the lovely candy before I left!

It has always been a secret dream of mine to star in a show. Yes, I have been in plays, but I have never starred in one. Now, I had my chance. Was I scared? Yes!!! It wouldn't be easy. Writing the play wasn't the difficult part, committing it to memory

would be. Just because you write a play doesn't mean that you have it memorized. Also, I would need to get some help with my acting. I knew that to carry a show, I could not be just o.k., I would have to be good.

David Carr agreed to be my acting coach. He is the husband of Ruth, the same lady who had talked me into going to Emerson College in the first place.



David had done a lot of acting and directing in the past. He had a big bag of acting tricks. I would need them all!

I blocked out two months to both learn all my lines and practice the blocking. Along the way, I found my props so that I could start practicing with them. Then Ruth and I started working on the media part of my production. I wanted to use two picture frames for the rear-projection of Mary Cassatt's paintings during the play. We had pioneered the use of rear-projected pictures in my *Passion of Christ* play last Palm Sunday at Grace Church. Someone told me that I needed to use a "Power Point" program. First, I had to find out what that was.



frames for the rear-projection of Mary Cassatt's paintings during the play. We had pioneered the use of rear-projected pictures in my *Passion of Christ* play last Palm Sunday at Grace Church. Someone told me that I needed to use a "Power Point" program. First, I had to find out what that was.

While waiting for my husband to have a medical procedure at the Mt. Auburn Hospital, I ran into John Rogers. In talking, I learned that he knew what a "Power Point" program was. He also had his laptop computer with him and proceeded to turn it on and demonstrate it to me. While John couldn't teach me everything, he did help me to be able to ask intelligent questions. I was ready to work with Emerson's Media Center.



Ruth and I arrived at the Media center with two CDs containing the scanned paintings and pictures. First, we talked one young man into helping us create our program and burn it. The second day, we did the same to another tech fellow. Then, we got a third young man to burn some customized sound effects onto some CDs. Later, Ruth's son, C.J., combined all of the music and sound effects onto one CD. We still had one major problem. With just one more week before my play went up, we still hadn't found the two technicians needed to run the two laptops controlling the two projectors. I had advertised for help around Emerson College, but hadn't gotten any bites. Just when I thought it was time to panic, Ruth told me she knew someone who could do the job. Holding my breath, I asked, "Who?" She replied, "Jonathon."



Jonathon is Ruth's oldest son who studied film making at Emerson College. He is a genius with media equipment. I told him about the rear-projection thing that I wanted to do in my play. When Ruth asked him if he could do the job, he replied, "Yes."

Also, he said that he could run both laptops. To prove it, he quickly put up a sheet in his mother's living room and set up the equipment that I had checked out from the Media Center. He put in the power point CDs. Mary Cassatt's paintings started appearing before my eyes as I had imagined it. That night, I ran the play for the first time with the pictures. Jonathon did not miss a cue. His mother also ran the sound effects. With just five more days left, it looked like I might be ready for Friday's tech rehearsal. The entire Carr family had helped me get to this point.



Before the tech rehearsal, Steve and I drove to the Carr house to pick up all of the props. We loaded the car and drove into Boston. My cell phone rang. It was Ron DeMarco from the Emerson set shop. He told me that he and four of his freshmen students were on their way to the Greene Theatre with the scenery. I couldn't wait to see it! We rendezvoused in the alley between the Cutler Majestic Theatre and the college. Looking at the stage door of the Majestic, I remembered my youngest son, Matt, going through that door when he was nine-years-old and performing with the Boston Lyric Opera company in their production of Bizet's *Carmen*.



All of the props were piled into a large elevator which deposited everything at the back entrance to the Greene Theatre. The four freshmen began to put up the flats and attach the supporting struts. They then hung the two framed projection screens over the windows built into the flats. Jonathon Carr arrived and started to set up the media equipment with the quiet authority of someone who knew what he was doing. I reviewed the sound and light cues with our technical manager. Ruth and I arranged the props and furnishings on the stage. I noticed that I had forgotten two props and one costume piece. Steve jumped into his car and raced back to Medford to get them.



Months of work were coming together, and a dream was taking shape. With Ruth at my side, I ran

the show twice. This was only a tech rehearsal, but it was very exciting. I felt like I was starting to climb a beautiful mountain. I couldn't wait to see the view from the top!

The day of my performance came. I had one moment of fear. Why had I put myself into such a scary situation? What if my show became a train wreck? I pushed those thoughts away and began running my lines. At the theatre, we made one final run through. I tried to save my voice and stifle a cough that was threatening my throat. Ruth had thoughtfully brought me a bottle of water. I took a drink. I focused. The character of Mary Cassatt found me. After being Mary at so many rehearsals, she was a comfortable fit. I liked her. She and I became one so that her story could be told. I stepped out onto the lighted stage cocooned in darkness. It felt



something like Dorothy stepping out from a black and white Kansas into the magical world of Oz. The experience was all and more than I had imagined. It was a dream come true.



When you are a little kid and you're standing on some stage wearing a silly costume, it is so helpful to look out at the audience and see your mother waving to you. That really doesn't change with time.

We all need encouragement no matter what our age. My mother, Ruth Ritter, had flown out from California to see my show along with my brother, Bob Ritter. Also, my son, Andrew, and his wife, Alice, were there from New York City. My husband, Steve, was sitting in the first row by Mary Cassatt's tea table. Ruth and David Carr were smiling from the other end of the row. Many of my church family had made their way into Boston to see my play. Friends and classmates were there too along with Professor Robbie McCauley who had chaired my thesis project. You really can't go after a dream alone.

My adventures in grad school are now over but their memory and lessons linger. I am glad that I chose a path less traveled. This Baby Boomer now wonders. What new road will loom out in front of me? Which way will I go? Stay tuned. I still have miles to go before I sleep...



January 2007 Birthdays

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



- Jan 04 Owen Bouchie
- Jan 05 Branwen Smith-King
- Jan 08 Inez Hazel
- Jan 09 Julie Collins, Reginald Graham, Julie Quick, Kathleen Beebee
- Jan 10 Gail Corcoran, Jr.
- Jan 13 Janice DeBlosi
- Jan 15 Jean Swan, Albert Swan
- Jan 17 Hallie Lee
- Jan 18 Sarah Bouchie, Thomas Stinson III
- Jan 23 Jeffrey Corcoran
- Jan 25 Stephanie Duarte, Joshua Welch
- Jan 26 Molly Fenn
- Jan 30 William Corcoran, Jr., Brad Clompus

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 Church Fair: RUTHANNE PEARSON AND DOTTIE PALLADINO

Annual Pledging & Stewardship: JANE SCHERBAN

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

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

Music Director: RUTH ROPER

Newcomers: MARGARET SMIST

Newsletter: DEBORAH SMITH, DONNA GARGIULO, RUTH HALL & VOLUNTEERS

Vestry 2007 Nominating Committee: WESLEY FOOTE, JR., NAIDE GAVRELIS, WARREN RAMIREZ, BRANWEN SMITH-KING, BILL WILLIAMS, DENNIS HALE, JUNE PIETRANTONI

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

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