

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

160 High Street

Medford, MA 02155

781-396-7215

WWW.GRACEMEDFORD.ORG

From the Priest In Charge

I recently read an article that claims that the average American will spend five years of his or her life waiting in line and six months sitting at red lights. It often time seems that the time between events—the wait—is seen as lost time, not really there, like the Styrofoam peanuts of a Christmas package.

Advent is a season of waiting, a season where we embrace waiting. We wait and we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas – the coming of God here with us, Emmanuel. In this season we also look forwards to a future that is not consummated, where Christ's reign of peace, justice and harmony will be complete over all of creation. We wait for that promise, too. In Advent we join with saints of ages past who have waited with hope for Christ's coming again.

Ironically, the waiting we become aware of in Advent draws us to the here and now of our life on earth. We are always living in “in-between” times, between “Christ has Died, Christ is Risen and Christ will Com Again.” We also live between the events of our own lives. Waiting is not just filler; it is the place where we spend our lives. In embracing the wait, we begin to glimpse that the signs and wonder of God are right here, right now.

What are you waiting for? Maybe it's a new job or career, the renewal of a relationship with an estranged family member or friend, or the results of a test, or a treatment to take effect, or to get pregnant, or to have a child, or for your children to be a little bit older, or your career to take a turn, or for the economy to turn around, or to retire, or to finally feel comfortable in the life you now lead.

Advent is a season to pray for what it you are waiting for – to live into the questions and the promise of what is not yet. Take time out of this busy season to pause and reflect on what you are waiting for.

Advent is an amazing time of prayer and celebration here at Grace Church. On Wednesdays At Grace we will be Exploring our Sacred Stories. Each week adults will explore a sacred story, using the Godly Play method. The time will include a presentation by one of Grace Church's Accredited Godly Play teachers, along with contemplative creative reflection time. Come to one or all three of these Advent mini-retreats! On December 21st, come and join us as members of our parish retell the Christmas Story in our Christmas Pageant, followed by an all parish potluck supper. On December 24th, Christmas Eve, we will gather at 5:00 for Carol singing and our Christmas Eve service at 5:30. We will continue our celebration of the 12 days of Christmas on December 28th at 10:00 AM with our Christmas Lessons and Carols service. Invite a friend or family member to join us during this season of preparation and celebration!

Peace,

The Reverend Noah H. Evans

graceclergy@verizon.net

781-396-7215

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 30
Open Conversation with Noah

Wednesday, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17
Godly Play for Adults

Sunday, 12/7
Manna for Medford

Sunday, 12/7
Christmas Cookie Recipe Swap

Saturday, 12/13
Open House at Noah's

Friday, 12/19
Christmas Shopping Child Care

Sunday, 12/21
Bake Sale

Sunday, 12/21
Christmas Pageant & Dinner

Wednesday, 12/24
Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, 12/28
Christmas Lessons & Carols
NO 8:00 AM SERVICE

Please see inside for detailed information regarding listed events



An Open Conversation with the Priest in Charge

Sunday, November 30, 11:30AM

Following the 10AM service on this first Sunday of the Church Year there will be an open conversation with Noah Evans, our Priest in Charge. He will discuss our Advent liturgy, and the liturgical texts being used during this season of preparation for Christmas. This is also a time to bring questions, comments and ideas about the ministry and direction of the parish, questions about "what is going on in the service," nagging questions about our faith and religious practices, or questions about what is going on in the larger Church (diocese, Episcopal Church, Anglican Communion).

Advent Worship Booklet

During the four Sundays of Advent we will be using a worship booklet with prayers from the Episcopal Church's Enriching Our Worship, a supplement to the Book of Common Prayer. The General Convention of the Episcopal Church approved these texts for use by parishes in 1997. These texts seek to use more expansive language, metaphors and images in describing God and the story of our faith. These texts seek to bear witness to a God who transcends all categories of knowing, including those of masculine and feminine. Please come to the forum on November 30 to learn more about these liturgical texts.

Exploring our Sacred Stories: Godly Play for Adults Wednesdays - December 3, 10 & 17, 6:45-8:00PM

Join us for Wednesdays at Grace Advent Adult Education, Exploring our Sacred Stories. Each week we will explore a sacred story, using the Godly Play method. The time will include a presentation by one of Grace Church's Accredited Godly Play teachers, along with contemplative creative reflection time. Come to one or all three of these Advent mini-retreats.

December 3: God's Family, Maria Fenn

December 10: The Exodus and Exile, Deb Smith

December 17: The Ten Best Ways, Linda Rogers

Christmas Recipe Swap and Giving Tree to be held on Sunday, December 7

You won't want to miss this coffee hour at Grace Church. Following the 10 am Eucharist on 12/7, we will be holding our first **Christmas Cookie Recipe Swap!** Every family should bring about 1-2 dozen of their favorite holiday cookies or bread to share with fellow parishioners. Be sure to make plenty of copies of the recipe so your church family can add your recipe to their home holiday celebration.

During the coffee hour, we will have a **Giving Tree** displayed in the parish hall. This year the Tree will have stars with requests for \$10 gift cards from various establishments in the greater Medford/Malden area. Because these cards are easily lost, please only give them to John or Linda Rogers or Father Noah. Most of the collected cards will be given out at the **Bread of Life** Christmas dinner and the remaining portion of the cards will be saved for Father Noah to give out during the year. Most of these cards are from places you will be visiting during the Christmas season, but if you are too busy or unable to get out, you can make a contribution and we will buy the cards. Thank you in advance for helping to make Christmas wishes come true, God Bless.

Manna for Medford

If you have ever felt overwhelmed by the needs of the community and world around you, but never knew where to begin, here is your opportunity. The idea is to prepare bread and baked goods for our shut-in's, shelters, hospitals in the Medford area and wherever else a need is found. Our first meeting will be on **Sunday, December 7** from 6:30-8:30 PM in the Parish Hall kitchen where we will enjoy fellowship and the blessing of sharing the works of our hands with someone in need. A few bread recipes and ingredients will be provided, but I would encourage everyone who can, to bring a favorite recipe to prepare with thanksgiving. Manna for Medford is open to all ages and skill levels, and if you have never baked before, we will show you how. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Norton at (734) 604-4652 or gallienk@hotmail.com

Advent Open House at Noah's House December 13, 1-4PM

The entire Grace Church community is invited to an Advent Open House at the Rev. Noah Evans and Sara Irwin's house in Waltham. Please know, unfortunately, our house has 10 steps to enter, so it is not very accessible to those who have trouble with stairs. We live about 15 minutes drive from Grace Church at 28 Hillcrest Street, Waltham. Phone #: 781-893-2681. Directions: Take Route 2 west to Waltham Street Exit (Exit 54A). Turn right on Waltham Street, continue to Lake Street (CVS on the corner), turn right onto Lake Street and drive to Princeton Street, turn left onto Princeton, at the end of the block turn right on to College Farm Road and a quick right onto Hillcrest Street. We are a few houses up at the top of the hill. Due to limited parking, you may need to park at the bottom of the hill and walk up.

Guest Preacher December 14th

Margaret Smist will be our preacher on Sunday, December 14th.

Attention Grace Church Parents!!!! Need Some Time?

Maria Fenn will sit with your child/children on Friday evening, December 19th.

Time: 6:00 – 10:00 PM

Location: Parish Hall

Cost: \$20 per child (family cap will be \$35 per family)

All proceeds will be allocated to the Parish Mission.

Bake Sale!

Sunday, December 21st, after the 10:00 service there will be a baked goods sale in the Parish Hall. All proceeds will be allocated to the Parish Mission

Christmas Pageant and Dinner

On Sunday, December 21st at 5:00 PM Grace Church will have its Christmas Pageant, directed by Laura Duggan. Following the Pageant will be a pot-luck dinner to celebrate the season with the singing of Christmas songs and a visit from a **very** special guest.

Bring something you love to cook and love to eat!!! If you are unsure of what to bring, use this guide below:

If your last name begins with:

A-D: Bring a salad to the pot luck

E-F: Bring drinks for kids and adults (coffee will be provided)

G-J: Bring a side dish (vegetables, rice, pasta)

K: Bring rolls

L-R: Bring a main dish

S-Z: Bring a dessert

This is a multi-generational event, so please come and bring your friends and family. If you need a ride or help with transportation, please call the Reverend Noah Evans, 781-396-7215.

Christmas Eve Service

Grace Church will gather for our celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve, December 24th. Carol singing with procession to the manger and trimming of the Christmas Tree begins at 5:00; the service begins at 5:30PM. Children: Please bring an ornament from home for the Church Christmas Tree. All attendees are invited to bring a non-perishable food donation for Medford's Food Pantry. "Come Let Us Adore Him."

Christmas Lessons and Carols

A Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols will be on Sunday, December 28th at 10:00AM. THERE WILL BE NO 8:00AM SERVICE THIS SUNDAY.

Conservation Underway at Grace

With the high cost of heating fuel, gas, water and electricity this coming winter, our Grace Church family will need to make a 'team' effort to conserve.

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 is 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!

Annual Meeting just around the corner!!

The annual meeting of the parish will be held on **Sunday, January 25, 2009**. At this time, we approve the 2009 budget, elect our Vestry, Officers and other delegates and handle other church business. Soon after Christmas, all Chairmen of church committees will receive a notice requesting submission of their annual reports. The reports are due in the office by Thursday, January 15. Thank you for your cooperation!! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Senior Warden, Margaret Smist.

Confirmation Class

The Confirmation Classes will meet again for several weeks in January, and again for a service project in the spring. There is also a required Diocesan Confirmation retreat with Bishop Shaw at the Diocesan Camp and Conference Center March 20-21. Grace Church will also be hosting the Mystic Valley Deanery Confirmation service on May 30, 2009 (mark your calendars!). For more information, please speak to Noah Evans.

New Prayer Books

The Anderson Family has given a large number of new prayer books to the Church in memory of Arthur and Evelyn Anderson to replace prayer books that are worn or missing pages. The Anderson family would like to invite anyone who wishes to join them in giving prayer books in memory of Arthur and Evelyn, so that all of the church's prayer books may be replaced. Prayer books are \$17.50; please contact the parish office for more information.

Food Pantry Items of the Week

The **Food Pantry** is in need of the following donations: Please bring the week of 11/23 was **Cereal**, the week of 11/30 bring **White Rice**, the week of 12/7 bring **Spaghetti Sauce** and the week of 12/14 bring **Canned Soups**. Thank you, Bev Convery

Shaw's Receipt Rewards Program

Shaw's Receipt Rewards Program is a unique fundraiser that returns 1% of purchases to a non-profit organization such as Grace Church!

Shaw's has approved Grace Church for this program.

There is no limit to the amount of register receipts you can collect and submit. However, only **original register receipts** will be accepted. Register receipts will **not be returned**.

Some items are excluded from this program, including but not limited to tax, postage stamps, money orders, lottery tickets, gift cards, phone cards, prescriptions, photo processing, milk, tobacco and other items prohibited by law.

Please start collecting Shaw's register receipts from family, friends, business associates, relatives, neighbors, and anyone who shops at a Shaw's or Star Market!

You will find a large manila envelope labeled Shaw's Receipt Rewards Program on the bulletin board outside Donna's office (in the hallway alongside the kitchen). Please place all of your receipts in this envelope and we will start making some free money.

The money raised from this program will be used to help fund adult and youth educational programs here at Grace Church.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Linda or John Rogers at 781.396.2930

Thank you, Linda Rogers

2008 Children and Youth Program Schedule and Needs

After meeting with parents and hearing a lot of feedback, it has been decided to make some change to our Sunday School and Godly Play schedules starting last Fall. In addition, in order to comply with Diocesan Safe Church standards we need to have at least two adults in every classroom. Preschool – 4th grade Sunday School class during the 10:00 o'clock service until the Peace when they come back to church. 5th-7th grade Sunday School class who will be in church and leave after receiving communion for their class. For more information, please speak to Catherine Smith or Fr. Noah.

Wednesday Godly Play

Wednesday Night Godly Play dinner is from 6:00-6:45, and then Godly Play Class I (pre-k Godly Play Class is from 5:15-6:00) & Class II (4th-7th grade) will meet from 6:45-7:45. There will also be occasional adult education at 6:45 on Wednesdays throughout the year. For more information, please contact Deb Smith, Maria Fenn or Noah Evans



The Lobster Luncheon and Thanksgiving Faire.....

This year our Thanksgiving Faire and Lobster Luncheon were successes in many ways. First, the Grace Church Family came out to both work and attend both events. Second, attendance by the Medford Community was outstanding. Operation Outreach was accomplished! Third, we surpassed last year's fair and luncheon income by more than \$1,000! At last count (Christmas wreath money is still coming in), we have made \$7,700. Wow!!!



Steve and I are very pleased. We want to thank all of you who helped do what Wes Foote said, "**Keep the light burning.**" Projects like a Lobster Luncheon and Thanksgiving Faire only succeed when many hands are involved.

God Bless!

Laura and Steve Duggan
Faire Co-Chairs



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	Maria Fenn	12/19
Helen Sweeney	12/04	Adele Hale	12/20
Laura Duggan	12/05	Benjamin Wirz	12/21
Clarence Ligon III	12/06	Victoria Spence	12/23
Hanna Rogers	12/08	Rebecca Spence	12/23
Alexander Stinson	12/09	Jone' Marceau	12/25
Sharen Brown	12/13	John Buonaugurio	12/27
Charles DePalma	12/16	James Kossuth	12/29



WHEN ASKED, WHY DO I/WE GIVE?

This is what you said.....

**I GIVE SO THAT THE GRACE CHURCH FAMILY CAN
CONTINUE TO WARMLY WELCOME AND EMBRACE ALL
THOSE IN NEED OF A SPIRITUAL HOME IN THE
COMMUNITY**

NOAH'S SERMON ON GIVING WAS INSPIRING!!

**MY CHILDREN MICHAEL AND KATHY GREW UP AS
MEMBERS OF GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH! I'VE BEEN
A MEMBER OF GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH FOR OVER
40 YEARS. I NO LONGER LIVE IN MEDFORD BUT STILL
FEEL CLOSE TO GRACE**

**WE GIVE TO HELP GRACE CHURCH ACHIEVE ITS MISSION
STATEMENT! GRACE CHURCH ROCKS AND IT GOES TO
ELEVEN!!!!**

**BLESSED ARE THE FAITHFUL WHO WALK IN CHRIST
THROUGH THE STRUGGLE OF EVERYDAY LIFE, HELPING
AND CARING FOR OTHERS, FOR THEY SHALL BE
REWARDED AND BLESSED WITH THE GOODNESS OF THIS
LIFE AND FIND A PLACE OF PEACE AND LOVE IN THE
KINGDOM OF GOD.....**

**I GIVE MOSTLY BECAUSE I AM PROUD TO BE PART OF THE
DIVERSE CARING COMMUNITY I FIND AT GRACE CHURCH.
I GIVE TOO BECAUSE I AM AWARE OF THE EXPENSES NEEDED
NEEDED TO RUN THE CHURCH AND WANT TO GIVE MY FAIR SHARE.**

**THANK YOU GRACE EPISCOPAL FOR ALL THE PRAYERS
YOU GIVE FOR MYSELF AND MY HUSBAND. I LOVE THIS
CHURCH. I FEEL ITS LIKE A FAMILY TO ME**

**I GIVE BECAUSE GOD HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME, AND MY
MEAGER PLEDGE IS GIVEN TO DO GOD'S WORK**

**BECAUSE WE LOVE OUR CHURCH AND THE PEOPLE
THAT ATTEND.**

TO THANK GOD FOR OUR BLESSINGS!

**ALTHOUGH I'VE HAD A LOT OF SORROW IN MY LIFE
THE LORD HAS TRULY BLESSED ME IN MANY DIFFERENT
WAYS. TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION, THANKFULNESS AND
GRATITUDE, I GIVE!**

**FIRST OF ALL, GRACE MET ME WITH GRACE IN APRIL 04'
WHEN I NEEDED IT. SINCE THEN, I FEEL BLESSED TO BE PART OF THIS
WARM COMMUNITY WHICH SEEMS TO BE GROWING IN EVERY WAY.
FINALLY, I LOVE THE BEAUTY OF THIS BUILDING WHICH WAS CREATED
FOR AND DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD!
ALSO **** MUSIC ** MUSIC ** MUSIC!!** THE HYMNS STAY WITH ME ALL WEEK
LONG. **THANK YOU RUTH!!!****

**BECAUSE I CAN'T IMAGINE RAISING MY CHILDREN IN A
MORE LOVING CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT**

**TO HELP PAY FOR OUR CHURCH AND ALL THE ACTIVITIES
NECESSARY FOR AN ACTIVE PARISH AND TO LEND A
HELPING HAND TO THOSE IN NEED. GRACE CHURCH IS A
BEAUTIFUL BUILDING AND MUST BE KEPT UP IN REPAIRS
SO THAT IS WILL BE READY TO SERVE PEOPLE FOR MANY
YEARS TO COME.**

I WANT TO. IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

**IN THANKSGIVING FOR ALL WE HAVE AND THE STRENGTH
TO GET THROUGH THE HARD TIMES. IN SUPPORT OF
OUR CHURCH-MINISTRY, GROUNDS, OUTREACH ETC.**

I GIVE BECAUSE GRACE CHURCH IS MY SPIRITUAL HOME

**TO GIVE BACKFOR ALL GOD AND MY GRACE
CHURCH FAMILY HAS GIVEN ME, AND TO HELP KEEP
THIS WONDERFUL COMMUNITY GOING FOR
GENERATIONS TO COME.**

**BECAUSE I WANT TO AND GOD IS EVER PRESENT
IN MY LIFE. I AM THANKFUL TO GRACE CHURCH;
ITS WONDERFUL BUILDING, WORSHIP SERVICES AND
MOST IMPORTANT THE PEOPLE.**

BEATITUDES OF GRACE CHURCH
-From Bishop Bud's visit in November-

- ✚ Blessed are our young families, for they bring us joy!
- ✚ Blessed are our parents, for they take care of us and help us grow!
- ✚ Blessed are our children, for they let us be born again!

- ✚ Blessed be the children of Adoption, for they will know their full worth and strength in the world and in God.

- ✚ Blessed be Maria, whose warmth, loving care and deep faith has touched the hearts of our children and teens. She will find joy and peace in God.

- ✚ Blessed are the children of Grace Church, for they are welcomed and loved here.

- ✚ Blessed are the faithful who walk in Christ through the struggle of everyday life, helping and caring for others, for they shall be rewarded and blessed with the goodness of this life and find a place of peace and love in the Kingdom of God.

- ✚ Blessed are my son Jonathan and his family, for all the joy they have brought me, for they are living examples of Christ's love.

- ✚ Blessed is Grace Church for all the good work it does. We pray it goes on forever.

- ✚ Blessed is Lenny, filled with love and gentleness, for he will know safety and joy in God.

- ✚ Blessed is the Grace Church FAMILY, for they shall know and experience true community.

- ✚ Blessed is my family, for persevering in coming to church despite their stubborn procrastinations, for eventually it will be worth the struggle.

- ✚ Blessed are the worshipers of God because they will be greeted as good and faithful servants.

- ✚ Blessed are those who struggle with addiction, for they will find true peace in the Lord.

- ✚ Blessed is the Junior Altar Guild for they shall know the love of serving God.

GRACE CHURCH PARISH LEADERSHIP

Clergy & Staff:

THE REV. NOAH EVANS, Priest in Charge
COREEN GAUVIN, Director, GraceWorks
DONNA GARGIULO, Office Administrator
RUTH ROPER, Minister of Music

Officers:

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

Vestry:

MICHAEL FENN, WES FOOTE, JR, DAVID LEE, KATHY MUMMA, JUNE PIETRANTONI, WARREN RAMIREZ,
LARRY ROGERS, BRANWEN SMITH-KING, JEAN SPIERS

Ministries:

Acolytes & Ushers: WES FOOTE, JR., LINDA FOOTE, JILL CAPUCCIO
Altar Guild: CAROLYN ROGERS, DIRECTRESS, RUBY GREENE, DIRECTRESS EMERIT A
Annual Church Fair: LAURA & STEVE DUGGAN
Annual Pledging & Stewardship: JANE SCHERBAN, MARGARET SMIST, NOAH EVANS, WES FOOTE, JR.,
STEVE VIGGIANI, SEAN KERANS
Book Stall: NANCI PALLADINO
Building Restoration Committee: ALLISON ANDREWS, SARAH CLUGGISH, STEVE DUGGAN
WES FOOTE, JR., BRANWEN SMITH-KING, JIM NORTON, JIM PEARSON, JR., JUNE PIETRANTONI,
WARREN RAMIREZ
Children's Formation (Sunday School): CATHERINE SMITH
Clothing Pantry: MARIA FENN
Communications: MARGARET SMIST
Deanery Representatives: ALLISON ANDREWS, BRAD CLOMPUS, DOTTIE PALLADINO,
JANE SCHERBAN
Diocesan Delegates: JAMES KLASSEN, MARIA FENN
Episcopal City Mission: SUE MALTZ
Executive Committee: STEVE DUGGAN, NAIDA GAVRELIS, MARGARET SMIST, JANE SCHERBAN
Facilities Care: JIM PEARSON, JR., STEVE DUGGAN
Food Donation Ministry: BEVERLY CONVERY, SARA FOLTA
Gardens: STEVE VIGGIANI
GraceWorks Oversight Committee: STEPHANIE BRADY, MIKE FENN, LISA MCCARTHY, BRENDA PEARSON,
BRANWEN SMITH-KING, JANE SCHERBAN, ABBY WILLIAMSON
Hospitality: NANCY & LARRY ROGERS
LEMs/Lectors: BRENDA PEARSON
Medford Council of Churches Representative: CATHERINE SMITH
Newcomers: DAVID LEE
Newsletter: JUDITH WALSH, EDITOR, DONNA GARGIULO, VOLUNTEERS
Nominating Committee: STEVE DUGGAN, MIKE FENN, DENNIS HALE, BRANWEN SMITH-KING,
KRISTEN SPENCE, JEAN SPIERS
Office Volunteers: RUTH HALL
Prayer Group: MARGARET SMIST
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

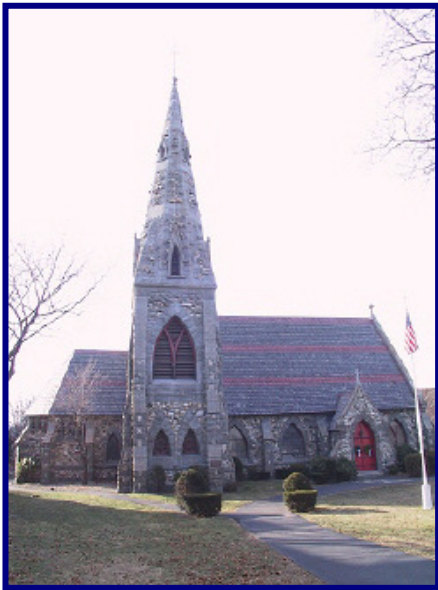
Grace Church is a congregation of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

THE RT. REV. M. THOMAS SHAW, SSJE, Bishop
THE RT. REV. ROY CEDERHOLM, Bishop Suffragan
THE RT. REV. GAYLE E. HARRIS, Bishop Suffragan

GRACE CHURCH - MEDFORD, MA
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2008

MISSION STATEMENT:

*Grace Episcopal Church is a multigenerational, diverse
and welcoming Christian community which values
shared leadership,
service to those in need
and nurturing all in the love of God.*



Grace Episcopal Church
160 High Street
Medford, MA 02155