



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

WWW.GRACEMEDFORD.ORG



MAY AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, MAY 4
Walk For Hunger

SUNDAY, MAY 11
Pentecost Celebration

SUNDAY, MAY 18
Trinity Sunday

SUNDAY, MAY 25
Memorial Day

SUNDAY, JUNE 1
Newcomers Reception

SATURDAY, JUNE 7
Clothing Pantry

Please see inside for detailed information regarding listed events

FROM THE PRIEST IN CHARGE:

Each year in the Easter Vigil we hear a series of lessons from scripture; we hear the story of creation, the Hebrew people's exodus from slavery in Egypt, the call of the prophets during the exile of the people of God and, of course, the resurrection Jesus Christ. These individual lessons strung together tell a story, the story of the salvation of the people of God.

Each one of us also has our own story of salvation, a story of how God has worked and is working in our lives. Stories that involve our own life's ups and downs, the ways we have known sin, and the ways we have known forgiveness and healing. For each one of us, these stories are unique. Like the story of the people of God, our stories are unfinished.

These stories are so important because they show us how God has been at work in the past. This helps us to see how God is working in the present. And, it helps us to recognize where God is calling us to go from here.

Parishes and Churches have stories as well. These stories involve different clergy and leadership, things that hold steadfast and things that change, conflict as well as celebrations, achievement as well as loss. These stories are the story of a community that has been touched and formed by God.

On Friday, May 16, we will be gathering together as a parish to tell the story of Grace Church. This will be an evening of reflection about who Grace church has been and what has been great and worked about the past, along with some conversation about what hasn't worked. It will be a time to tell and hear stories of this parish, and begin to see what values and patterns have shaped this community in the past that we want to carry into the future. This evening is for old timers and newcomers alike, to tell and hear these stories together. The Reverend Anne Minton, Interim Rector of Emmanuel Wakefield and former Rector of Christ Church, Somerville will be our **able** facilitator for the evening. Please see the announcement on page 2 for more information.

Building on the great work that many of you have already begun with *Grace Going Forward* over the last year, the Vestry in the next few months will be working on planning for the future of Grace Church. This evening of reflection is one step in this process of discernment.

When the Vestry called me to be your Priest, they asked me to help Grace Church with three things – stewardship and church growth, leadership development, and long range planning. None of these are anything I can do on my own. They all involve the whole parish gathering around a vision for the future of the Church, a vision of who God is calling us to be. The Parish History Night will be an early stop on this journey together. Please join in telling the story together.

Peace,

The Reverend Noah H. Evans
Phone: 781-396-7215
Email: graceclergy@verizon.net

GRACE CHURCH HISTORY NIGHT

Friday, May 16, 6:00-9:00 PM

All parishioners, families and friends are invited and encouraged to come to the Grace Church History Night. This will be an evening of reflection about who Grace Church has been through history, what values have been important to us, and how we have been the people of God in this place. This evening is for every person in the Grace Church family, from old timers to newcomers. This evening of reflection is part of the Vestry's work of planning and dreaming who God is calling Grace to become. The Reverend Anne Minton, Interim Rector of Emmanuel Church in Wakefield and former Rector of Christ Church, Somerville, will facilitate the evening. We will begin with a potluck dinner.

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

There will be activities and childcare for children of all ages, so bring the whole family!

WALK FOR HUNGER

Sunday, May 4

Service Time Change May 4

7:30AM Holy Eucharist and Blessing of Walking Shoes

10:00AM Morning Prayer, led by Deacon Ted

On Sunday, May 4 Grace Church will be doing the Walk For Hunger. We will gather at 7:30AM in the Parish Hall for a pre-walk service. There will not be an 8:00 service that day, and a 10:00 celebration of Morning Prayer led by Deacon Ted.

WALK THE TALK – JOIN THE WALK!

Join us on May 4, 2008 for Project Bread's annual Walk for Hunger. As we do every year, Grace Church will sponsor a team of walkers. Sign up in the parish hall to either walk with the team or contribute your financial support. Walkers may also pick up a pledge form in the parish hall. Project Bread funds food pantries, soup kitchens, and school food programs with the money raised from this event. For more information, contact Catherine Smith at 781 306-1243 or go to www.projectbread.org.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sunday, May 11

Pentecost, May 11, is the birthday of the church and the festival where we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples and their speaking in all of the languages of the world. Don't miss it!! There will be special music and decorations for this high feast day. **Do you speak another language?** We will be reading one of the lessons that day in many different languages. If you speak another language and are willing to participate, please let Noah know (Graceclergy@verizon.net or 781-396-7215). You will only have two read two lines, so amateur linguists are welcome.

TRINITY SUNDAY

Sunday, May 18

On Trinity Sunday we welcome the Very Rev. Jep Strait, Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston as our guest preacher at both the 8 and 10:00 services. At the 10:00 service we will also celebrate the Holy Baptism of Jamie Cluggish, Charlie DePalma and maybe others.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Sunday, May 25th

The veterans and honor guard from American Legion post 45 in Medford will be in attendance at the 10:00AM service in recognition of the national holiday marking the memory of those who have died in service to our country.

NEWCOMERS RECOGNITION SUNDAY AND RECEPTION

Sunday, June 1

Please join us during the 10:00 AM Service and in the Commons Room following to welcome newcomers to Grace Church. The Grace Church Newcomers Committee is sponsoring this event. For more information, please contact David Lee (Contact info)

GO TO CAMP!

The Diocese of Massachusetts' Barbara C. Harris Camp is one of the finest Christian camps in the country. It is open to all kids, grades 3 -10. Noah is on the Board of the Camp, and has served as a camp chaplain for a week during the summer the last few years, and will be a Camp Chaplain during the week of July 13-19 this summer. Please look in the parish entryway for brochures, or visit www.bchcenter.org for more information. Generous Camp scholarships are available. Please see Noah if for more information. THIS SUMMER LET'S MAKE JULY 13 -19 BE GRACE CHURCH WEEK AT CAMP!!!

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT - GGF UPDATE

It has been almost a year (!) since the last GGF (Grace Going Forward) group gathered to meet. During that time we have moved through a period of transition with Father Tom's departure in August and a time of decision making and discernment for the Vestry, which continued through the summer, fall and into the holiday season. Grace Church warmly welcomed Father Noah Evans as our 3/4 time Priest in Charge in March. We are very excited with the level of energy and enthusiasm that he brings to assist our parish family in our areas of opportunity and challenge.

Many of these areas were initially discussed at the GGF meetings, which began last January. The group spent one or two evenings discussing what they enjoyed about Grace Church and why they would like to see Grace Church grow. Ultimately, there was a general consensus that we know we need to grow to survive financially, and we also need to share our faith and all we have found at Grace with the Medford community.

The GGF group identified some of the following as our **strengths**: involvement in worship, children's education, true diversity at all levels, trust in Vestry, GraceWorks, individual mission work, ability of one individual to feel they could do something and then make it happen. Our **challenges** included: overall communications, follow through on tasks, corporate mission focus, adult education, Sunday School structure, parish pastoral care, leadership development and empowering future leaders, organized newcomer's group, and finding TIME to do all we need to do!

I am happy to report that we have made strides in many areas - see below:

- E-mail lists, updates, newsletter, WEB, PR are all being worked on. A new website should be operational by the Fall (if not sooner). Donna, our office administrator, is becoming the 'hub' for the Grace Church **communication network**. Jude Walsh took over the newsletter last spring and has done a great job. E-mail updates are now sent weekly and include a reminder of upcoming events and reminders to those participating in the Liturgy that Sunday. The parish should be seeing more information going out in a timely manner. Please let us know how we are doing!

- David and Hallie Lee agreed to chair the **Newcomer's Committee** last spring. The Committee had a few events from the spring through the end of 2007. With the arrival of Father Noah, the committee is focusing on some basic items that need to be dealt with (i.e., new pew cards, new welcoming brochure, etc.). You will see lots more from this committee in 2008.

- **Adult Education** was offered during both Advent and Lent - many thanks to Maurice Lee and John Rogers Jr. for their leadership. Another class will be offered beginning this month - please take advantage of these learning opportunities. More information will be forthcoming on ways to get involved in adult formation.

- The **Sunday school** was re-structured this past fall at the suggestion of Catherine Smith. The children attend class from 10:00 - 10:45 am. And then join the adults in the church during the Peace. Attendance has increased and there has been an increase in the number (and job satisfaction!) of teachers. We have **two weekly** education opportunities for our children as Godly Play continues to thrive on Wednesday nights thanks to Maria Fenn and Deb Smith. That is an *amazing achievement* for a church our size!!

- The Lay Eucharist Ministers and Ruth Hall met in the Fall and organized our **parish visitation** list. This schedule of visitations continued through the remainder of 2007. With Father Noah's arrival, a process has been put in place for continued visitations by LEM's. We must continue to find ways to reach out to those in their homes or others in our parish family in need. Please call the church office if you would like (or know of someone) a visit or a call.

I encourage everyone in the parish to participate in our upcoming PARISH HISTORY NIGHT on Friday, May 16. This evening will be a fun night, but will also give the Vestry further information to assist us in our Vestry Planning Retreat. We have done alot as a parish, but there is so much more to do!!

*God Bless,
Margaret Smist*

THE BELL TOWER PROJECT

The Bell Tower Committee continues to meet to plan for necessary repairs to the interior of the tower and restoration of the bells.

Recently, we visited the interior of the tower with a representative from the Verdin Company, bell restorers, to make an updated and thorough assessment of the work needed. Not surprisingly, we found that there is more to be done than we had previously realized.

With this information, the committee will apply for a matching grant offered by an organization called Save America's Treasures, which is available for restoration to buildings with historic landmark status, such as ours. Future fundraising will be needed as well.

We are pleased to have the continued interest and support of the Medford Historical Society in our efforts. This project will take time to plan, fund and complete, but we can look forward to a sturdy tower and ringing bells.

Submitted by Allison Andrews and Committee

KOKA SCHOLARSHIP

KOKA is intending to award a Scholarship this year. Eligibility is open to any Parish member going on to College this Fall. Those interested should contact John Schlesinger for more details.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Noah discussed how he plans to spend his time in the next few months, which include plans to meet with all of the leaders of the church as well as various “constituency groups” such as seniors, parents, 20’s, 30’s group etc. He encouraged “a spirit of openness and conversation” within the Vestry and in the larger parish noting that transitions are exciting, but also anxiety-provoking. Noah emphasized how much he enjoys meeting people and that he looks forward to getting to know us all.

Vestry discussed a plan for a spring retreat. Past retreats were discussed and suggestions about an upcoming retreat were generated. Noah suggested that we start the retreat with a parish history night and pot-luck dinner, which would include all parishioners. The following day Vestry will meet to sort out what they heard. Noah noted that this would be the beginning step of a long-range planning process.

Status of the Rectory rental was discussed. Vestry agreed that we need to be more aggressive in our advertising as it is important from a financial aspect that we rent the Rectory ASAP.

It was agreed that we will do as we did last summer and hold one service at 9AM during the months of July and August.

Submitted by: Jane Scherban, Clerk

2008 SUMMER SUNDAY SCHEDULE SET

It has been decided to again hold one 9 am Eucharist from Sunday, July 6 through Sunday, August 31 (11 weeks). This gives our 8 am parishioners the opportunity to meet our 10 am parishioners, and it also allows us all to enjoy a bit more of those long, lazy days of summer. If you have any questions regarding the summer schedule change, please feel free to speak to Father Noah or any member of your Vestry.

Submitted by Margaret Smist

POETRY CORNER

A family is the cornerstone of all that man holds good;
A family is a symbol of universal brotherhood.

A family is a sacred gift, a gift of God’s pure grace ...
Abiding in its presence, you feel His warm embrace.

*From poem by Eleanor Fiock
Submitted by Mildred Spencer*

CLOTHING PANTRY

Our semi-annual clothing pantry will be held in June. The Teen Group will be setting up for the pantry on Friday, June 6th at 4:00 pm. I will need help from any available parishioners in sorting clothing for the pantry. Sorting will continue on Sunday May 18th, after the services. Please let us know if you available to help with sorting on either of this date. I can be reached at 781-391-4825. Leave a message with Mike, my mother, Jude, myself or on the answering machine. There is a lot to be sorted and I really need and would appreciate any help. Thanks.

Submitted by Maria Fenn

The Alice V. Johnson Scholarship Program-Providing financial assistance for young people of the Episcopal faith. If you are interested, application forms are located in the church office.

Submitted by Genita Johnson

MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

Hunter Hourihan	05/01	Elianna Viggiani	05/21
Laura Owen	05/04	Hailey Welch	05/24
June Pietrantoni	05/05	Jane Scherban	05/26
Myra Skeete	05/06	Daniel Nwachukwu	05/26
Anthony Rizzo	05/06	Oscar Greene	05/28
Chioma Opara	05/16	Frank Burger	05/29
Ann Bogrette	05/17	Janna Davis	05/31
Ann Kossuth	05/19		

AND LET'S NOT FORGET.....



MOTHERS DAY

MEMORIAL DAY....



ONE FLAW IN WOMEN

*Women have strengths that amaze men.
They bear hardships and they carry burdens,
But they hold happiness, love and joy.
They smile when they want to scream.
They sing when they want to cry
They cry when they are happy
and laugh when they are nervous.
They fight for what they believe in.
They stand up to injustice.
They don't take "no" for an answer
when they believe there is a better solution.
They go without so their family can have.
They go to the doctor with a frightened friend.
They love unconditionally.
They cry when their children excel
And cheer when their friends get awards.
They are happy when they hear
about a birth or a wedding.
Their hearts break when a friend dies.
They grieve at the loss of a family member,
yet they are strong when they
think there is no strength left.
They know that a hug and a kiss
can heal a broken heart.
Women come in all shapes, sizes and colors.
They'll drive, fly, walk, run or email you
to show how much they care about you.
The heart of a woman is what
makes the world keep turning.
They bring joy, hope and love.
They have compassion and ideas.
They give moral support to their
family and friends.
Women have vital things to say
and everything to give.*

*HOWEVER, IF THERE IS ONE FLAW IN WOMEN,
IT IS THAT THEY FORGET THEIR WORTH.*

GRACE CHURCH PARISH LEADERSHIP

Clergy & Staff:

THE REV. NOAH EVANS, Priest in Charge
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, DAVID LEE, KATHY MUMMA, JUNE PIETRANTONI,
WARREN RAMIREZ , LARRY ROGERS, BRANWEN SMITH-KING & 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 Representatives: ALLISON ANDREWS, BRUCE CLOMPUS, DOTTIE PALADINO, JANE SCHERBAN
Diocesan Delegates: JAMES KLASSEN, MARIA FENN
Alternate Delegate: HALLIE LEE
Episcopal City Mission: SUE MALTZ
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 Representative: CATHERINE SMITH
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

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 – MAY 2008



Grace Episcopal Church
160 High Street
Medford, MA 02155



MAY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 <u>8:00 AM H E Rite I</u> <u>9:00 AM Choir Practice</u> <u>9:15 AM Prayer Group</u> <u>10:00 AM H E Rite II</u> <u>10:00 AM Sunday School</u> <u>11:45 AM LEM/Lector Meeting</u> <u>3:00 PM Kenyan Prayer time</u>	28 <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>7:30 PM AA Meeting</u>	29 <u>10:00 AM Noah/Donna Meeting</u> <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>7:30 PM AA Meeting</u>	30 <u>12:30 PM Al-anon</u> <u>5:45 PM Godly Play I</u> <u>6:40 PM GP Dinner</u> <u>7:10 PM Godly Play II</u> <u>7:15 PM Adult Class/Book of Revelation</u>	1 <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>7:30 PM Choir Practice</u> <u>8:30 PM Safe Place</u>	2 <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u>	3 <u>11:00 AM MFN Literacy Breakfast</u>
4 <u>WALK FOR HUNGER</u> <u>7:30 AM Worship/Blessing of Shoes</u> <u>9:00 AM Choir Practice</u> <u>10:00 AM Morning Prayer</u> <u>10:00 AM Sunday School</u>	5 <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>7:30 PM AA Meeting</u>	6 <u>10:00 AM Noah/Donna Meeting</u> <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>7:30 PM AA Meeting</u>	7 <u>12:30 PM Al-anon</u> <u>5:45 PM Godly Play I</u> <u>6:40 PM GP Dinner</u> <u>7:10 PM Godly Play II</u> <u>7:15 PM Adult Class/Book of Revelation</u>	8 <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>7:30 PM Choir Practice</u>	9 <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u>	10 <u>9:00 AM Al-anon</u> <u>9:30 AM Peace Walk</u>
11 Mother's Day Pentecost <u>8:00 AM H E Rite I</u> <u>9:00 AM Choir Practice</u> <u>9:15 AM Prayer Group</u> <u>10:00 AM H E Rite II</u> <u>10:00 AM Sunday School</u> <u>12:00 PM Kenyan Fellowship</u>	12 <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>7:30 PM AA Meeting</u>	13 <u>10:00 AM Noah/Donna Meeting</u> <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>7:30 PM AA Meeting</u> <u>7:30 PM Vestry Meeting</u>	14 <u>12:30 PM Al-anon</u> <u>5:45 PM Godly Play I</u> <u>6:40 PM GP Dinner</u> <u>7:10 PM Godly Play II</u> <u>7:15 PM Adult Class/Book of Revelation</u>	15 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>7:30 PM Choir Practice</u> <u>8:30 PM Safe Place</u>	16 <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>6:00 PM Parish History Night</u>	17 <u>9:00 AM Al-anon</u> <u>9:30 AM Vestry Retreat</u>
18 Trinity Sunday <u>8:00 AM H E Rite I</u> <u>9:00 AM Choir Practice</u> <u>10:00 AM H E Rite II & BAPTISMS</u> <u>10:00 AM Sunday School</u>	19 <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>7:30 PM AA Meeting</u>	20 <u>10:00 AM Noah/Donna Meeting</u> <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>7:30 PM AA Meeting</u>	21 <u>12:30 PM Al-anon</u> <u>5:45 PM Godly Play I</u> <u>6:40 PM GP Dinner</u> <u>7:10 PM Godly Play II</u> <u>7:15 PM Adult Class/Book of Revelation</u>	22 NOAH - AWAY FROM OFFICE <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>7:30 PM Choir Practice</u>	23 <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u>	24 <u>9:00 AM Al-anon</u>
25 <u>8:00 AM H E Rite I</u> <u>9:00 AM Choir Practice</u> <u>9:15 AM Prayer Group</u> <u>10:00 AM H E Rite II</u> <u>10:00 AM Sunday School</u>	26 Memorial Day <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>7:30 PM AA Meeting</u>	27 <u>10:00 AM Noah/Donna Meeting</u> <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>7:30 PM AA Meeting</u>	28 <u>12:30 PM Al-anon</u> <u>5:45 PM Godly Play I</u> <u>6:40 PM GP Dinner</u> <u>7:10 PM Godly Play II</u> <u>7:15 PM Adult Class/Book of Revelation</u>	29 <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u> <u>7:30 PM Choir Practice</u>	30 <u>12:00 PM Al-anon</u>	31 <u>9:00 AM Al-anon</u>

SEE CALENDAR ONLINE AT WWW.GRACEMEDFORD.ORG