



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**160 High Street
Medford, MA 02155**

781-396-7215

WWW.GRACEMEDFORD.ORG

FEBRUARY 2010



A message from Rachael

The season of Lent is just around the corner. Lent is a time of penitence, baptismal renewal, prayer, simplicity, solemnity, confession and reconciliation. Many of us will also choose to fast during this season. Fasting is a spiritual discipline used to help our prayer life and bring us closer in fellowship with God.

But, what if someone is fasting not as a spiritual discipline, but because they do not have food?

There are many people in our community and in this world who go without food on a daily basis, forced to skip meals when food is scarce. People, who wait in line to get into food pantry, people who depend on the generosity of others. Food is a basic necessity of life, something we all need to survive.

This Lent, Grace Church is having a campaign on hunger and poverty issues called "Food for Thought." The campaign kicks off on Wednesday February 10th with a dinner and panel discussion with three local food pantries, St Francis, St Luke's, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford.

From February 24th through March 24th, Wednesdays at Grace Adult Ed Forum will feature speakers from Project Bread, Episcopal City Mission, and one of our parishioners, Esther Brown. They will cover the areas of what hunger and food insecurity looks like in Massachusetts, emergency food programs, food programs for schools; sustainable food through community supported agriculture; ethical eating; charity and justice issues in Boston; and relating social justice and hunger to our faith.

We will also hold a food drive with the goal of filling the stage in our parish hall with food and other donations to give to food pantries in the area.

Our hope through this campaign is that we would unite together to fight against the injustices of hunger in our community and in the world. That we can impact the lives around us by generously giving our time and resources for those who are in need. And that we as a community will continue to share the compassion of God through our service to others in the world.

In place of a fast this year, let's work together to serve those who are hungry in our community. Join us on Wednesday February 10th from 6-8pm to learn different ways in which you can get involved in this fight against hunger in Medford and beyond!

Rachael Pettengill
Micah Project Intern
rachael@diomassintern.org
781-396-7215

Grace Church resumes full-time ministry as of 1/1/10!!

The Vestry and Wardens of Grace Church are pleased to announce that Father Noah became full-time as of 1/1/10. It has been just a little over two years since we cut the priest's position to $\frac{3}{4}$ time ministry due to budget constraints. Through careful planning and a successful stewardship drive, we have been able to come very close to our 2010 goals. Thank you very much to first time pledgers and also long-time parishioners who continue to faithfully financially support this parish. We can not do it without you!

Our stewardship drive continues with the anticipation that we will meet our \$180,000 pledge goal by the end of January. For those of you who have not turned in your purple pledge card, please place in the collection plate or mail to the church office. Also, if you are new to the parish and pledge process, please speak to our Treasurer, Naida Gavrelis or the Wardens, Margaret Smist and Linda Rogers.

Wednesdays at Grace Adult Education

Wednesdays 6:45-8:00PM

5:30: Pre-K Godly Play

6:00: Community Dinner

6:45: Godly Play 1 & 2, Rite 13

Adult Education- 6:45-8:00PM

Wednesday night adult education -Feb 3: Poetry and Christian Spirituality

This program is led by The Rev. Catherine Venkatesh. If you haven't made it to one of Cathy's Wednesday night programs you should make it a point to come. She has shared some wonderful material with our Grace Church family.

3 February -- Contemporary Poets: **Please bring your own favorites and/or your own work to share!**

10 February: The big kick-off event for the Food for Thought Lenten Outreach Campaign!!!
Join us for valuable discussion and great fellowship. 6-8:30 PM in the parish hall. Free and open to all.

17 February – Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 PM. No dinner or Godly Play

24 February: Sarah Cluggish and a primer on hunger from Project Bread

OUTREACH AT GRACE

FOOD FOR THOUGHT LENTEN OUTREACH CAMPAIGN FEBRUARY EVENTS

The purpose of this campaign is to unite the Grace Church community in a fight against the injustices of hunger. The goal is to help eradicate hunger in our local community by giving generously of our time and resources, so that we will continue to share the compassion of God through our service to others.

Join us on **Wednesday February 10th** for a special edition of Wednesdays at Grace, which will mark the start of the Lenten Outreach Campaign, **Food for Thought**. Dinner, hosted by the Outreach Committee, will feature sustainable food (good for the planet and yummy, too!). After dinner there will be a panel discussion on our ministry with different local food pantries and soup kitchens and will feature leaders from St Luke's, St Francis, and the Unitarian Church in Medford. This special kick-off event is open to everyone - please join us even if you're not a Wednesdays at Grace regular. Dinner will be at 6 PM with discussion following at 7.

Join us on **Wednesday February 24th** for Sarah Cluggish and a primer on hunger from Project Bread

There will be an ongoing food drive and youth activities as well – details coming soon!

If anyone wants more information they can contact Rachael in person or via email at rachael@diomassintern.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON: ST LUKE'S

One of Grace Church's major outreach activities is St Luke's. This month, we're providing an in-depth look at this important ministry.

When Rev. Edgar A. Gutiérrez-Duarte arrived at St Luke's in the summer of 2007, he was told there was a food pantry associated with the church. It turned out to be a file cabinet full of cans, sitting in a hallway. Most of the cans were past their date. In getting to know his new community better, Father Edgar realized that hunger was an urgent issue, and decided to put his energy into the food pantry, such as it was. The congregation provided food and they began serving 10 families. In 2008, another local church closed their pantry, and Project Bread provided St Luke's with a grant to start an official food pantry. Today, the food pantry at St Luke's is part of the Greater Boston Food Bank network and serves over 200 families. They also started the community kitchen, feeding about 100 people breakfast and lunch every Saturday.

The food pantry serves senior citizens and a fair number of immigrants. "Many are undocumented," according to Father Edgar, "and in this economy, there are no jobs for them, and no access to any of the safety nets. They are helpless." He adds though that one of the most startling aspects for him has been the number of white collar families served by the food pantry. In many cases a job loss precipitates a downward spiral leading to hunger. "They have a nice house, a good car, and no food," Father Edgar says. Most of these families are not eligible for food stamps. In any case, they feel too ashamed to apply, and feel more comfortable coming to a church.

One such family was a single father and his two school-age children. The mother had abandoned the family. The father was laid off and couldn't find another job for nearly a year. He didn't qualify for government assistance, and ended up at the doors of St Luke's. His story has a happy ending: he found a job and is back on his feet, and is very grateful for the assistance. "The scary thing is, it can happen to anyone," Father Edgar says. "I wish we could do more, but I know we're making a difference. I get calls all the time from families, letting me know how grateful they are."

There are many ways to help out at St Luke's. Grace Church is regularly involved with the community kitchen on Saturdays, and there are other opportunities as well, large and small. Come to the Food for Thought kick-off on the 10th to learn more.

UPDATES:

Warm Hands Warm Heart: Grace Church contributed 48 gloves and 10 hats to this ministry.

Thanks for all your generous donations to the **Haiti Relief** effort. Grace Church raised \$1,476 as of January 24th. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the people and rescue workers there.

If anyone has any questions or ideas about other outreach activities, please let the Outreach Committee know. We are: Jane Scherban (Chair), Maria Fenn, Sara Folta, Dottie Palladino, Brenda Pearson, and Linda Rogers.

Submitted by Sara Folta

Nominating Committee News

The committee's task is to put together a slate of names to fill Vestry and Officer positions, that are up for reelection, delegates to Convention, Deanery, Medford Council of Churches and the Episcopal City Mission. This could involve finding as many as fifteen people to fill the open posts.

Although your committee will work hard, I know they will...we would like to encourage all parish members, who have any recommendations for these offices, to forward their names to any committee member. Even though the Annual Meeting is not until later this month, we want to complete the task as soon as possible, so please contact us as soon as possible.

For the Committee, Wes Foote

The Restoration Project

Our application for the Save America's Treasures grant was turned down, we are disappointed to learn. This matching grant would have been a strong step towards planning the overall restoration to the original portion of the building and bell tower.

Members of the Restoration Committee have responded swiftly to the news with ideas for moving the project forward. When Noah returns in early February, active planning will begin again.

Some good news to start the New Year... the Restoration Project has received a generous gift of a \$25,000 foundation grant from Andy Anderson. The Anderson family has long ties with Grace. Andy and his family live in Chicago now, but they are in touch and visit when they are in town. He sent a lovely letter of appreciation for the parish and he has been interested in the restoration, especially the bells, since the beginning.

Submitted by Allison Andrews

FEBRUARY AT GRACE CHURCH

Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 28

Our Annual Meeting will be held on the last Sunday of February. At this time, we review the 2010 budget, elect parish officers and Vestry and also hear from the leadership of the church. During this year's meeting, we will have a presentation on a discernment process that will occur throughout 2010. This process will help Grace Church begin to set future long-term goals for our parish family. Part of the process is also deciding on whether we would like to call Father Noah as Rector of Grace Church (currently he is Priest in Charge, which is a 3 year contract). Please plan to attend this important meeting!

For those of you who are ministry chairs, we would like committee reports e-mailed to Carol in the church office (office@gracemedford.org) by Wednesday, February 3. Lunch will be provided following the meeting and a free-will offering will be collected to cover the cost. Childcare will also be provided.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper planned for Tuesday, February 16

We will again be holding an evening of fun and food at Grace Church as we celebrate the evening before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. The Pancake Supper will be from 5-7 pm. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Ann Frenning-Kossuth at afrenning@gmail.com.

Submitted by Margaret Smist



Ash Wednesday Services

February 17, 2010

There will be Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist with Ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 17 at 12:00 noon (no music) and 7:00 PM (with music and choir).

Looking Ahead.....

Early Communion Classes

In the Episcopal Church all children are invited to receive communion. We offer early communion classes as a chance for children to explore the meaning of the Eucharist and then celebrate their learning with a small ceremony during the 10:00 service on a Sunday. This year we will be holding our Early Communion classes as part of the Wednesdays at Grace Classes. The Reverend Noah Evans will teach these classes. **Pre-K Early Communion Class: February 10 - 5:30PM**, Lower Elementary Early Communion Class: April 7 & 14 - 6:45PM, Early Communion Celebration: Sunday, April 25 during the 10:00AM service. For more information on Early Communion classes, please speak to Noah.

Mission Trip Summer 2010

This summer, from July 4-8, some of our teens are going on a mission trip to New York City. They will be working with the Youth Service Opportunity Project (www.ysop.org). They will work in different soup kitchens and food pantries throughout the week as well as host a dinner party for homeless people. Each day there will be reflections so that the teens can process their experiences. This trip will help provide awareness of some of the issues around poverty and hunger as well as give them opportunities to serve. Stay tuned for fundraisers and other ways to support this trip!

Barbara C. Harris Summer Camp

Come spend a week at the Barbara C. Harris Summer Camp! For kids who are entering 4th grade in the Fall of 2009 and older. Last year more than 10 Grace Church kids attended Camp, and had an awesome time. **The Reverend Noah H. Evans will be a Camp Chaplain the week of July 11-17, 2010 – Let's make that Grace Church Week at Camp!!** Generous scholarships are available; please speak to Noah about them. For more information, and to register, visit www.bchcenter.org.

The Grace Church Community

In Memoriam Connie Foote

On December 16, 2009, Constance "Connie" Foote joined the company of Saints after a short illness. Although brought up at The West Medford Congregational Church, she finally came to Grace, where she joined the rest of the family. She became a faithful member of the intimate eight o'clock congregation and enjoyed her time there. Her main interests were sewing, at which she was a self taught expert and enjoying her four children, eleven grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren and their varied activities. Her Service of Burial was held on December 19th with the Reverend Noah Evans officiating. Her family is grateful for the choir participation, Ruth Roper, ushers Don and Jill and LEM, June Pietrantonio.

Prayer Group

Grace Church Prayer Group meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. in the GraceWorks kitchen downstairs. Come and join us to pray for the Grace family and your specific prayer concerns! Please contact Susan Maltz, amaltz8486@comcast.net if you have questions!

Submitted by Sue Maltz

Bowling League

How many are aware that Grace Church is part of the Medford Church/KofC Bowling League? The league this year celebrates its 100th consecutive years of operation, perhaps the longest consecutive streak in the country. Of course, this is candlepin bowling, real bowling, that is enjoyed mostly in this part of the country. Team members this season are: Jim Pearson (the younger), Don Capuccio, Marty Lord (brother of former secretary), Mike MacDougall (a friend) and Wes Foote (the younger). Former team members that might be remembered were: Cal Carpenter, Fred LeBert, Ken Blodgett, Jim Pearson, Sr., Pete Pearson, Richard Foote, Ed Sherry, John Schlesinger and Emil Schlesinger. Even heard that Don Thompson and Oscar Greene tried one year. The league started with six teams, had as many as sixteen at times and has shrunk back to six. But it continues, not as much representative of the Churches it once was, and is still a fun league. Bowling night has been Wednesday at 6:30 for years.

Anyone interested in joining the league in the future should contact Don or Wes. We are always looking for more bowlers.

Submitted by Wes Foote

Grace Church Women's Book Club

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 11 7PM

Monk's Hood by Ellis Peters

Location: TBA

Monks Hood is the third in Ellis Peters' Brother Cadfael mysteries. It's available through the Minuteman library in paperback and on cassette.



Grace Church on Facebook

Join Grace Church on Facebook! If you have a Facebook account, search and join the Grace Church group. Receive church updates, view pictures, connect with other Grace Church friends and more. If you have any questions on how join this group or how to set-up a Facebook account, see Nanci Palladino.

Submitted by Nanci Palladino

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

Elizabeth Branson	02/01	Nathaniel Stinson	02/14
John Zafiris Sr.	02/07	Ray Pardy	02/16
Siobhan Glynn	02/07	Shawn Piper	02/18
Dorothy Battista	02/08	Barbara Hathaway	02/19
Evelyn Masciave	02/08	Ruby Greene	02/20
Warren Ramirez	02/09	Jean Spiers	02/21
Anita Stinson	02/09	Keith Chesnell	02/23
Joshua Davis	02/10	Dennis Hale	02/24
Barbara Povey	02/11	John Zafiris Jr.	02/24
Genita Johnson	02/11	Ariana Scroxton	02/25
Jeff Walsh	02/12	Cynthia Nwachukwu	02/27
Santino Borelli	02/13		

If we do not have your birthday, please contact the church office at 781-396-7215 or office@gracemedford.org

NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Bailey Lee's Girl Scout Troop hosts free community spaghetti dinners

Medford Senior Girl Scout Troop #71187 invites you to attend a free community spaghetti dinner. The dates are February 13th and March 13th. They will be held at the Congregational Church of West Medford at 400 High Street. Dinner will be served from 6 to 7 p.m. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Food donations are welcome. For more information or to reserve a spot contact 781-854-6896 or email medfordgirlscouts@gmail.com. Please pass the word on to those who would welcome a hot meal.

FEBRUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:00 AM H E Rite I 9:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM H E Rite II 10:00 AM Sunday School	1 12:00 PM Al-anon 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 7:30 PM AA Meeting	2 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 7:30 PM AA Meeting	3 12:30 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 5:30 PM Wednesdays at Grace till 8:00 pm	4 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 5:00 PM GW - Karate class demonstration 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:30 PM Safe Place	5 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00	6 9:00 AM Al-anon
7 8:00 AM H E Rite I 9:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM H E Rite II 10:00 AM Sunday School	8 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 7:30 PM AA Meeting	9 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 7:30 PM AA Meeting	10 12:30 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 5:30 PM Wednesdays at Grace till 8:00 pm	11 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	12 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00	13 9:00 AM Al-anon 6:00 PM Babysitting Fundraiser
14 Transfiguration Sunday 8:00 AM H E Rite I 9:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Everyone Sings Sunday!! 10:00 AM H E Rite II 3:00 PM Kenyan Fellowship	15 GRACEWORKS CLOSED PARISH OFFICE CLOSED Presidents' Day 12:00 PM Al-anon 7:30 PM AA Meeting	16 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 5:00 PM Pancake Supper in Parish Hall	17 Ash Wednesday Ash Wednesday Service 12:00 & 7:00 PM 12:30 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM	18 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:30 PM Safe Place	19 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00	20 9:00 AM Al-anon
21 8:00 AM H E Rite I 9:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM H E Rite II	22 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 7:30 PM AA Meeting 7:30 PM GW Oversight Committee Mtg.	23 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 7:30 PM AA Meeting	24 12:30 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 5:30 PM Wednesdays at Grace till 8:00 pm	25 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	26 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00	27 9:00 AM Al-anon
28 ANNUAL MEETING 8:00 AM H E Rite I 9:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM H E Rite II 10:00 AM Sunday School	1 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 7:30 PM AA Meeting	2 11:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 7:30 PM AA Meeting	3 12:30 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 5:30 PM Wednesdays at Grace till 8:00 pm	4 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00 4:00 PM GW in CR till 5:30PM 4:00 PM GW in Parish Hall till 5PM 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal 8:30 PM Safe Place	5 12:00 PM Al-anon 2:45 PM GW in Parish Hall 2:45 - 4:00	6 9:00 AM Al-anon



**GRACE CHURCH - MEDFORD, MA
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2010**

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**