



GRACE CHURCH BULLETIN

April 8, 2008

God's grace sustains us as we strive to know, love, and serve others in our daily lives. Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome at Grace Episcopal Church.

Dear Members of the Parish,

At the end of my homily on Sunday I told everyone to "practice resurrection" in their lives this coming week. That phrase comes from the end of a poem by Wendell Berry. The poem is powerful, so I include it here to spur you on this week as you practice resurrection.

Blessings,
Miriam

Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front

Love the quick profit, the annual raise
vacation with pay. Want more
of everything ready-made. Be afraid
to know your neighbors and to die.
And you will have a window in your head.
Not even your future will be a mystery
any more. Your mind will be punched in a card
and shut away in a little drawer.
When they want you to buy something
they will call you. When they want you
to die for profit they will let you know.

So, friends, every day do something
that won't compute. Love the Lord.
Love the world. Work for nothing.
Take all that you have and be poor.
Love someone who does not deserve it.
denounce the government and embrace
the flag. Hope to live in that free
republic for which it stands.
Give your approval to all you cannot
understand. Praise ignorance, for what man
has not encountered he has not destroyed.

Ask the questions that have no answers.
Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.
Say that your main crop is the forest
that you did not plant,
that you will not live to harvest
Say that the leaves are harvested
when they have rotted into the mold.
Call that profit. Prophecy such returns.

Put your faith in the two inches of humus
that will build under the trees
every thousand years.
Listen to carrion - put your ear
close, and hear the faint chattering
of the songs that are to come.
Expect the end of the world. Laugh.
Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful
though you have considered all the facts.
So long as women do not go cheap
for power, please women more than men.
Ask yourself: Will this satisfy
a woman satisfied to bear a child?
Will this disturb the sleep
of a woman near to giving birth?

Go with your love to the fields.
Lie easy in the shade. Rest your head.
in her lap. Swear allegiance
to what is nighest your thoughts.
As soon as the generals and the politicians
can predict the motions of your mind,
lose it. Leave it as a sign
to mark the false trail, the way
you didn't go. Be like the fox
who makes more tracks than necessary,
some in the wrong direction.
Practice resurrection.

[Wendell Berry](#)

Miriam away this weekend

Lisa and I will be travelling to Fredonia, NY for my nephew's Senior Recital beginning Friday evening, April 11 and returning on Sunday, April 13. Ed Pease will preach and celebrate at the 11 AM service and will be on call for any pastoral emergencies. Ed may be reached at 508-668-5055.

On April 16-18, I will be attending our annual Diocesan Clergy Conference in Brewster, MA. Ed has graciously agreed to be on call again during those days.

Those In Service, April 13th

Altar Guild:	Melissa Umbsen, Debra Katt-Lloyd, Becky Hammatt Bradley
Acolytes:	Madeleine Aquilina, Kayla Spangenberg, Isabella Rao, Isabel Meigs
Greeters:	Jamie Heywood, Margaret Umbsen
Lectors:	David Barbrow, Jenny Rosser
Lay Reader:	Harry Rosser
Chalice Bearers:	Yvonne Gomez-Carrion, Don Kennedy
Counters:	Jamie Heywood, Margaret Umbsen
Hospitality:	Rosser, Sprich
Nursery:	Kathy Gould



We ask your prayers for all those who serve our country and local communities, especially Brendan Bowen, David DiCicco, Michael Gould, Sean Hoyt, Calvin Johnson, Brad Leitch, and Darnell Lyman. We also ask your prayers for those in need of healing: Jane Scott, Cindy Grogan, Merle Orren, Matt Shea,

Judy Borowicz, Barbara Stock, Caleb Downs, George Lloyd, Tim Clancy, Sally Lingner, Cali, Mateo Singer-Torres, Ida Elsbree, Carson Johnson, Carol Garcia, Pam Jones, Richard Borowicz, Alison Sprague, Sally McAlpine, Jim McAlpine, Nicole, Mary Eliza McDaniel, Kate MacDonald, Blythe Brown, Mavis Chase-Sobers, Gwen Julia, Neila Gonsalves, Jane Shapiro, Kathy Owen, Hardy, Sven, Liz Hunting, Priscilla Graf, Barbara Karlin, Harry Snyder, Alison, Umbsen, Alhaji Baba Nagada, Richard Sullivan

Please call or email Susan Clancy to add someone to or update the Prayer List. You may also complete the Sign-up Sheet in the Intercession Book in the Church office.

To Grace Church one and all, bottomless, heartfelt thanks; For Miriam's ever constant caring and leadership; To Linda and the Choir, the music was sublime/transcendent; the soloists soared. Appreciation to the precious and attentive ushers: Paul and Linda Bicknell, Jean Papalia and Jay Burke, and Vicki Danberg. The remarkable eulogies by Don Kennedy and Jamie revivifying Bruce in all his marvelous complexity. The attentive perceptiveness and organizational acuity of Ellen Sheehy, Carolyn Sprich, Peggy Heywood, Carolyn Wong, Jenny Rosser and numberless parishioners in offering a resplendent reception presided graciously over by Edith Fenton and Carol McNally at either end of the bountiful spread. The enfolding embrace of Grace Church community welcoming guests from the multiple facets of Bruce and my life. I have just violated all of Bruce's precepts about avoiding giddy adjectives and adverbs but I cannot contain myself.

With much love and gratitude to all particularly those I have missed in the complication of these days.

Overflowing love,
Alice MacDonald

A huge and heartfelt "thank you" to all who contributed time, talents and comestibles for Saturday's reception after the service for Bruce MacDonald. So, so many people were instrumental to the cooking, setting up, serving, and cleaning up that we dare not try to produce a comprehensive list of names! Everyone's willingness to jump in to help was tremendously valuable....exhibiting once again the caring community of Grace.

Submitted by Carolyn Sprich and Ellen Sheehy on behalf of the Pastoral Care Committee

Grace Discussion Group

People of Faith, Markets of Fear

During Grace Discussion Group on Sunday, Paul Wong, Andréé Saulnier and Lisa Garcia, Certified Financial Planner, Attorney and CPA respectively, discussed the current economic environment and how we may act to ensure that our financial foundations are strong enough to weather the current conditions.

The discussion will continue this coming Sunday and is appropriate for all age groups.

Their suggestions from Sunday's discussion included the following:

- Everyone should have a Health Care Proxy and a Durable Power of Attorney;
- Periodic reviews of budgets and estate plans are suggested, including a review of pertinent documents, insurance policies, bequests and other parts of your "plan." Consider current and future needs, expenses and sources of income; evaluate whether long-term care insurance is appropriate;
- It is important to seek the advice of a professional in order to ensure that your plans are appropriate given your circumstances and up to date in terms of tax laws, marital status, children, etc.; be in communication with your advisors to make sure that your current and expected needs are considered;
- Review the asset allocation of your investments to ensure that you are not overexposed or underexposed to various asset classes given your circumstances;
- If your intention is to leave a bequest or something special to Grace Church or a particular family member or friend, those intentions need to be formalized in the appropriate document;
- Discuss plans with family and other beneficiaries so that there are no surprises.

April 20th	Hearing the Word with Ed Pease
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April 27th	Miriam will talk about planning your funeral
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Vestry Notes

At Sunday's meeting, Warden Ann Fletcher summarized highlights of the Vestry's day-long retreat at St. Mary's in Newton Lower Falls in March. Among topics discussed were "What are you passionate about?"; evangelism, and encouraging leadership within Grace Church by asking additional parishioners to take active roles in organizing events and serving on committees; and finding ways to cooperate among the eight Episcopal churches in Newton (a topic discussed with Bishop Shaw in February). The retreat also focused upon apportioning our time "to keep the main thing the main thing". Most of Sunday's Vestry meeting was spent on topics related to business and financial matters. The Vestry voted to authorize Russ Dunning to go forward with a proposal for another five-year lease of the Rectory by Riverside Community Health and Retardation. The Grace Church endowment was \$1,770,090 as of our Annual Meeting. The Vestry voted to accept the Finance Committee's restatement of accounting categories, in accordance with Massachusetts law. Also, the Vestry voted the Endowment Gifts and Bequests Policy which has been revised by George Whitehead to be consistent with a model policy of the Diocese. On Saturday, May 10, Grace will sponsor a celebration dinner to announce the kickoff of a campaign to add to the Grace Church Endowment. The Vestry for two years has been working with a consultant recommended by the Diocese, to plan for the Endowment campaign. Visitors Paul Wong and Carol McNally attended the meeting to assist in discussing the Endowment. Next meetings of the Vestry are at 12:30 on Sunday, May 4 and Sunday, June 1. Meetings are open, and visitors invited.

Don Kennedy, Clerk

GRACE GREEN TIPS

Inspired by the leadership of Religious Witness for the Earth, the Social Action Committee provides weekly recommendations for environmental preservation.



Tip 28: Buy a programmable thermostat.

Replacing your manual thermostat with a programmable one ranks as one of the top three ways to reduce your carbon footprint at home, next to better insulating your house and upgrading to a more efficient boiler. A programmable thermostat can adjust the temperature of your home many times a day, as well as seven days a week. This prevents our inevitable instances of forgetting to lower the temperature when we leave the house or retire for the night. The newer programmable thermostats have a feature that enables you to temporarily over-ride the programmed setting, if you come home early, for instance, and want to bump up the heat. Besides helping to avoid the hassle of making continuous adjustments, programmable thermostats can save up to \$150 per year in heating and/or cooling costs. One other advantage is that because they are digital, programmable thermostats do not contain any mercury as the manual ones do.

Programmable thermostats are inexpensive and relatively easy to install. Be sure to get an EnergyStar model. A good guide to the various features of these units, as well as proper use guidelines can be found at: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=thermostats.pr_thermostats

For more information about programmable thermostats and other ways of reducing your carbon footprint at home, visit the Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light website at <http://mipandl.org>

Submitted by David Adams

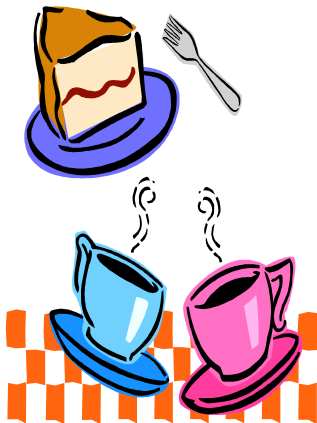
Social Action Committee Updates

Join the Grace Church Newton SERVES Team by signing up with David Adams at dadams9@aol.com or 617-965-9831. We will be meeting at City Hall after church on Sunday, April 13, wearing yard work clothes, and ready to rake, pick up trash, and mulch Commonwealth Avenue.

Feel free to contact Lisa Tieszen at ltieszen@rcn.com or 617-965-9831 with any ideas for the Social Action Committee. We are looking to join together—youth and adults—putting our faith into action. Our focus is multi-faceted with a particular commitment to the environment.

Grace Notes Coffee House

April 12, 2008



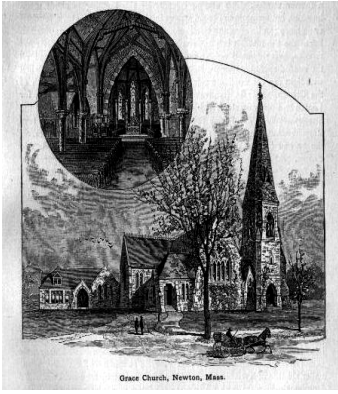
Grace Notes Coffee House is presenting two outstanding a-capella groups on Saturday Evening April 12th, doors will open at 7 p.m. The Newtones, from Newton South High School will sing first, followed by a half hour intermission, where you can socialize and sample home made desserts. The second group are The Voice Males, from Brandeis University, who just this weekend won the NE collegiate a-capella competition, they are funny, exciting, and playful to watch. We need people to bake, help with clean up, and set up, and help with refreshments that evening.

Looking forward to seeing you and your friends there.

-Ann Fletcher for Grace Notes

A History Minute

(#26 in a series)



Through the months preceding Rev. Tom Lehman's retirement after 22 years at Grace Church, the Vestry and committees had expended considerable energy concerning the replacement of carpeting in the sanctuary...as opposed to the search for a new rector. Tom departed in January, 1982, yet it was not until June that a decision was made regarding flooring...one Vestry person from the era recalls "I found myself wondering 'What the heck is this hullabaloo all about?'"...and suggests this period might be entitled "How Each Person Proved That 'I can hang in longer than you'". By fall, 1982 the new carpet and tile were in place, and the search for a rector pressed on. As reported in our last History Minute, Rev. Vienna Anderson, the Search Committee's recommended candidate was not called by the Vestry in June, 1983, causing a firestorm not entirely quenched by a six-hour parish meeting with Bishop

Coburn on June 23, 1983. The search for a rector had to begin anew, and by November the committee published an addendum to the Parish Profile describing Grace to candidates: "...Who decides about change? The lay people in our parish want to participate in decisions about change....We are not high or low in churchmanship. We are looking for a rational ecclesiastical style in our rector, a style that involves shared decision-making." Interim Revs. Norm Faramelli and Jay Newbury wrote of Grace "We are grappling with hard issues; there is reconciliation and redemption taking place; the spirit is good and it is fun to be here". The toughest of the "hard issues" was the exodus of parishioners.

Although the carpet caper had caused a Vestry family to exit, the upset in June, 1983 caused other families to leave Grace Church. A long-time parishioner recalls: "What happened after Tom left, was that the differences about worship style, women in the priesthood, gender, governance, all issues that parishioners' love and loyalty to Tom had plastered over, now emerged. Everyone wanted the church to be the way they had always wanted it...fervently. The moneyed traditionalists had long since gone; they had disliked Tom's social activism. Most of those who left [in 1983-84] were in one way or another profoundly disturbed by the controversy and anger that the Vienna episode stirred in the parish. For a time the church became deeply political. Election to the Vestry became a way to influence the parish, and was therefore important--imagine people competing to get on the vestry! Those who left --some newer members, some stalwarts--were disappointed in their church. Those who stayed in various ways believed that we could learn and grow from the upset; Grace was their church and very beloved to them."

By Spring, 1984 all reached consensus regarding the call of Rev. James McAlpine as Rector #12...who proved to be a wise choice, remaining at Grace for a decade, until his retirement in 1994. The new rector got high marks by organizing and attending a series of dinners in homes, evenings where he could meet with parishioners, and listen. "I did a lot of listening" says Rev. McAlpine. A longtime parishioner remembers: "Jim was chosen, I believe, as he was a seasoned and experienced rector. Also, his wife, Sally, had grown up at Grace Church and at that time, continuity with our past and having a rector who really cared for Grace was important. Jim was wise, listened, and did not force his own agenda. Another Vestry person recalls "...the parish had been through its major upheaval by the time Jim arrived. Several parish families left with the Vienna decision and the aftermath of that, many of them quite active previously, many of them on the Search Committee whose recommendation of Vienna was rejected by the vestry. I don't know why some of the totally disenchanted stayed and some left. Most who left stayed away permanently, though some have come back in more recent years. Those who left (and also those who stayed) were on both sides of the fence -- some supporters of Vienna, some who opposed her candidacy. A third person notes that "...Jim had some strong supporters in the congregation, and people not only liked him but thought Sally would be an asset -- which she was! Jim exercised relatively strong leadership -- running meetings, chairing Vestry meetings, etc. -- but in a participatory manner that was supportive to lay leadership. His rectorship was keeping the parish afloat after the events preceding his call."

The History Minute continues

Stabilizing the membership, which did occur, was a major achievement, yet more was accomplished. The Grace Discussion Group (then called "Adult Ed") thrived; the Sunday School did well; Rev. Bailey Whitbeck returned as Pastoral Assistant in 1985-87; Constance Hammond became a Deacon and went on to found the Refugee and Immigration Ministry (RIM) in 1986; in 1991, the renovated and restored organ with six rows of pipes as antiphonal organ was added at the rear of the sanctuary to give greater support for singing by the congregation; the Great West Window was restored, as was the south transept window; and 1993 saw the dedication of the Isabel Coleman Memorial Garden. *Bell Labs invented megabit memory chip; Agent Orange poisoning admitted and payments made to disabled veterans; Southern Baptists split; "America's Most Wanted" on TV; fall of the Soviet Union; South Africa ended policy of apartheid; "Unforgettable" and "God Bless the USA"; "Schindler's List" and "Jurassic Park".*

Increasingly, Newton was becoming an expensive community for young families, with fewer children in the schools...and Grace parishioners were growing older. Prior to Rev. McAlpine, Grace had an extraordinarily difficult time replacing a long time rector. What would happen in the next rector search? Learn in the next "History Minute".

Don Kennedy, Parish Historian



The Grace Church Kitchen is once again overflowing with your generosity.

If you have brought a plate or dish to Church recently, please check the kitchen to see if your item is still here.

Thank you



SINGING SCHOOL, 10 – 10:40 AM IN THE LARGE HALL

This is an opportunity for children ages 4 – 6 to learn how to sing. We work on rhythm and matching pitches. We work with a child's natural love of singing. Parents and children of all ages are invited to attend these sessions. At this age, children learn best by watching adults. Besides – what could be more fun than being childlike for about 40 minutes! More information forthcoming! Any questions? Contact Linda Clark or Ed Pease, clarkpease2@cs.com

PS: there are pictures of the Singing School on Grace Church's website. Check them out!

YOUTH & SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thanks to the many who helped with Youth and Sunday School activities on April 6: Singing School leaders Linda Clark, Miriam Gelfer, with Bill Bruins and the Noah song, Shepherds of elementary students Chris Samuels and John Heywood, Rite-13 teacher Richard Signore, Godly Play teacher Margaret Crook, Firelight 1 Teacher Deb Perugi and Doorkeeper Mary Arbuckle, Firelight 2 Teachers David Barbrow and Julia Talcott.



Sunday School Helpers and Teachers are needed! If you can serve as helper or teacher for at least one Sunday this year, please get in touch with Ed Pease. Call the church at 617-244-3221, extension 14, or Ed at home 508-668-5055, or email to clarkpease2@cs.com.

Class meeting times and places, April 13, The Third Sunday of Easter

<u>10:00 AM</u>	Singing School Junior Choir Rehearsal Rite 13 J2A J2A, Members not in Confirmation Class	Ages 4-6 Grades 6-8 Confirmation	Large Hall Choir Room Conference Room Miriam's Office Kitchen
<u>10:45 AM</u>	Godly Play Children's Chapel	Pre-K and K Grades 1-5	Godly Play Rooms Chapel
<u>11:00 AM</u>	Firelight 1 Firelight 2	Grades 1-3 Grades 4,5	Chapel Conference Room

Godly Play and Firelight Classes (Pre-K--Gr. 5) enter the church service approx 11:45 a.m., at the Greeting of Peace

Rite-13 and J2A Members attend the 11 A.M. Service.

For Safety, children leaving church during the service should always be accompanied by an adult.

April 20, 2008, The Fifth Sunday of Easter:

No classes are scheduled due to the beginning of school vacation week. The regular schedule resumes on April 27, 2008.

Ed Pease, Assistant for Christian Education.

New Community News



Faith & Advocacy

*A workshop for clergy and lay leaders, hosted by
Social Action Ministries, a program of the
Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance.*

Thursday, April 10, 2008

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Church on the Hill

140 Bowdoin Street, Boston

(Located across the street from the State House)

Featured Speakers:

Elizabeth M. Norman, Esquire, Ropes & Gray LLP

Abigail Baird, Esquire, Ropes & Gray LLP

Clergy and lay leaders are invited to join us for a discussion of the basic IRS regulations for advocacy by faith communities. We will talk about why the involvement of faith communities in advocacy to *end* homelessness is both necessary and empowering!

The workshop is free, and lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP to Caitlin Golden at cgolden@mhsa.net or 617.367.6447 ext. 28 as soon as possible.

Social Action Ministries

Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance

www.mhsa.net