



GRACE CHURCH BULLETIN

February 27, 2007

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,

We have begun the holy season of Lent -- a time of repentance, reconciliation and renewal. Some people dread Lent because they think it is too somber, too depressing. It need not be either! Consider it spring cleaning for your soul! What a wonderful opportunity to make a "pilgrimage" to the heart of God, to make some time each day to be quiet, to pray, and to listen to what God is dreaming for you.

I know that carving time out of your day is often quite a challenge, so our Staff and Worship Committee have come up with some resources to help all of us keep a "holy Lent." First, if you go on our web site: <http://www.gracenewton.org> and click on Lenten Resources in the left index column, you will find many resources for prayer and meditation. We also have in many places around the church a Lenten meditation booklet from Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) that will take you through the 40 days of Lent. There are also small pamphlets available that have simple devotions for morning, noon and evening that can slip into your purse or pocket.

Finally, we're suggesting a prayer adapted from our Book of Common Prayer that we hope everyone in the parish will pray each day during Lent. It takes less than 30 seconds to pray, so if you're really pressed for time, this is the one thing you can do each day, knowing that many people in the parish are joining with you:

Almighty and ever living God,
source of all wisdom and understanding,
be present with all of us at Grace Church
as we seek repentance, reconciliation, and renewal this Lenten season.
Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory.
Guide us to perceive what is right,
and grant us both the courage to pursue it
and the grace to accomplish it;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

If you're out of practice or want to begin praying on a regular basis, I encourage you to take this prayer and use it as a prayer before one of your meals, or when you first get up in the morning. Praying together can only strengthen our bonds of love and compassion for one another.

I look forward to making the journey with you.

Faithfully,
Miriam



We ask your prayers for all those who guard the peace, especially Brendan Bowen who serves in Iraq, Sean Hoyt, and Darnell Lyman who serve in the Marines, Jeff Barnum, who serves in the Coast Guard, and Brad Leitch, who serves on the Newton Police Force. We also ask your prayers for those in need of healing: Frances Ellsbree, Judy Borowicz, Paula Gorski, Cindy, Sarah, Marty Remsen, Roger Long, Sally McAlpine, Catherine McMahon, Karen Mikulka, Jane Merrill, Peggy Steinberg, Alice Rothchild, Richard Heywood, Martha & Elizabeth Bell, Bruce MacDonald, Sven, Kathy Owen, Kara Johansen, Diana, Jim Kelly, Ann O'Donnell, Chris Strong, Jim, Dan Sullivan, Clare Kenslea, Ed Jacobi, Arlene Thomas, Carolyn Collins, Billy, Mike, and Paul DiCicco, Caroline, Alma Amara, Tim Clancy, Mikinni Ennis, Candace Kraus, Alison Kraus, Donald Stock, Prof. Va'akov Elman, Rabbi, Lynn Landsburg, Nancy, Don McBride, Mavis Sobers, Max Nussenbaum, Andy Alvaro, Caleb Downs, Suzie DeWilde, Sophie, Carol Garcia, Al Sakakini, John, Matt Shea

Evening Prayer

On Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., Evening Prayer will take place in the Chapel.
All are welcome to attend and participate.

Come for the quiet, the candle light, a time to pray and meditate -- and a time to thank God for blessings of the day.

And Those in Service, Sunday, March 4, 2007

Altar Guild:	Melissa Umbsen
Greeters:	Ken and Mary Carpenter
Acolytes:	Katie Wan, Lauren Chase, Christine Chase
Lectors:	Matt Gwartzman, Marian Bruins
Lay Reader	Jane Wan
Chalice Bearers:	Tim Hintz, Yvonne Gomez-Carrion
Counters:	John Ficarelli, Wellington Scott
Hospitality:	Robinson/Reed
Nursery:	Kathy Gould

Pastoral Care Meeting



The Pastoral Care Committee meeting has been rescheduled at Grace on Wednesday, February 21st from 1 to 2:30 in the Small Hall. One action item for the committee is to develop a resource guide that can be provided to folks in need. To that end, Carolyn Sprich has arranged for Kathy Laufer, a social worker from the Newton Senior Center, to meet with us to share her expertise and wisdom. All are welcome. Come one, come all...many hands make light work!

Mark Your Calendars!



The next Grace Church Coffee House is scheduled for April 28th
Andrea Lyman will perform her Broadway Lady show.

A Small Request

Our Data Base is not up to date, many Birth Dates are incorrect or not entered at all. I would be very grateful if everyone could email office@gracenewton.org their correct month and date (the year is on a voluntary basis and will not be divulged to anyone).

Thank you,
Susan

Grace Discussion Group

We had a great GDC this week on the topic of social justice, volunteerism and social action. We have decided to follow up on this next Sunday. Miriam and members of the Social Action Committee will lead a discussion of what we as a church are interested and willing to do in the realm of social action for the world community. It will be an ideal opportunity for folks who are feeling overwhelmed by how much needs to be done, and how helpless it feels to be only one person acting alone.

Hopefully, we will leave with a plan on how to get the Grace church community started on this mission

Future Speakers

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 11 | Charles Hefling |
| March 18 | Britta Gill-Austern Mind-body-spirit connection, reflection and meditation |
| March 25 | Jean Marchand, Lenten Messages and spirituality and reflection |

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Class Meeting Times and Places, March 4, 2007, the First Sunday in Lent

Nursery Care by Kathy Gould is available from 9:45 A.M.

<u>10:00 AM</u>	Singing School	Pre-K and up	Large Hall
	Junior Choir		Choir Room
	*Rite-13	Grades 6-8	Conference Room
	*J2A	Grades 9, 10	Conference Room

**Fiona Vidal-White will meet with both Rite-13 and J2A in the Conference Room at 10:00 A.M. She will work with the combined classes to create a Good Friday (April 6) daytime worship experience for the Godly Play/Firelight age children, to be led by Rite-13 and J2A.*

<u>10:45 AM</u>	Godly Play	Pre-K, K	Godly Play Rooms
	Chapel Service	Grades 1-5	Chapel

**Rite—13 and J2A Students who wish to continue working with Fiona Vidal-White may stay on in the Conference room; the rest of the class members can go to the 11 A.M. Church Service.*

<u>11:00 AM</u>	Firelight 1	Grades 1-3	Chapel
	Firelight 2	Grades 4,5	Small Hall

Rite-13 Students are expected to attend the 11 A.M. Church Service.
Please sit near the front.

Godly Play, Firelight 1, and Firelight 2 Students enter the Church Service at about 11:45

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

Looking Ahead

LOOKING WAY AHEAD

April 29, 2007: 5:30 P.M. ***Dinner*** in the Small Hall for all involved in making Sunday School work this year. Child Care will be provided.

RSVP to Ed Pease clarkpease2@cs.com, 508-558-5055.

May 11, 2007 ***Nightwatch***, an overnight experience at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City. All Rite-13 and J2A students, and our high school seniors, are invited to sign up for this trip. Adults are welcome, too. We need to have one adult for every four students.

This very interesting experience includes a time for meeting and mixing, a program highlighting a ministry of the Cathedral and exploration of its space, a candlelight meditation and Eucharist, and a tour that traces both the story of the Cathedral and Christian tradition as it is embodied in this building.

RSVP to Ed Pease, clarkpease2@cs.com, 508-668-5055

GRANT REPORT

Here is a copy of the Lenten Resources on our Website:

Check it out: gracenewton.org

Resources for Lent

Devotional Aids for Individuals, small groups and families

Ash Wednesday begins our journey through Lent. It is the most solemn time in the Church Year, but it need not be depressing! Think of it as “spring cleaning for the soul!” It is a time to look within and go deeper in our journey with Christ. It is a time to find ways to look outside ourselves as well to those around us. How can we be a better person? a more loving spouse, parent, child, friend? How might we reach out to someone who needs our care and attention?”

The Rev. Miriam Gelfer

Themes for our collective Lenten journey:

[Developed Feb. 4th with Fredrica Thompsett, Sunday school leaders and Steering Committee for the grant]

**Reunion with God; penitence and forgiveness; “Saying I’m sorry.”
Reunion with one another; “Getting together and making things right.”**

On this page you will find links to a variety of resources to help you on your Lenten journey: Daily prayer for individuals and families from the Book of Common Prayer, table Graces, poems, prayers, commentaries. Use them as you wish: daily prayer, quiet time at work, meetings with others, family and friends at the dinner table, a minute when you’re on the T or stuck in traffic. Click on the links to other websites for further information. You will find other resources in the Parish Office, too.

Also, there is Evening Prayer in the Chapel at Grace
at 6:30 - 6:55 PM every Thursday evening

Daily Prayer

The vision of “Prayer around the World” exists among Anglicans and other people of faith. We can join this practice by praying daily. While we are not at prayer, given the normal round of activities, we rely on others to take up the daily round. Thus at all times someone somewhere is praying.

“Future Grant activities for congregation, steering committee and staff”

03/04/07: Ms. Vidal White meets with youth on Good Friday liturgy; 10 – 11:45 AM
03/11/07: The Rev. Charles Hefling at GDG and 11:00 AM service.
The sacrament of Baptism in the Anglican tradition.

Greetings to the Deacons of Grace, from your intern

Yesterday, you, the deacons of Grace, taught me how to be a deacon, and as your intern, I thank you!

Sitting in Adult Discussion at Grace we had two deacons; one social activist, and one teacher/mentor, talk to us of how they preach the Gospel with their lives. The teacher/mentor shared a letter from a former student that was off living her own ministry of healing the sick, clothing the naked, and feeding the hungry, the likes of which brought to life, the passage of Mt.25; 34-46. One of the fruits of diaconal ministry is that the deacon leads others into fulfilling their own ministry and the letter which was read was a testament to the tutelage the student received... well done good and faithful servant.

The Social Activist presented a couple of issues that she is involved in with the idea of encouraging others to pick a passion and do something. For her, two areas of concern were the ongoing war for oil and the commercialization of bottled water that denies many of the inhabitants who depend on that particular water source of potable water for themselves. (Water scarcity is predicted to be the next BIG commodity that will lead to world wide aggressive behavior and wars. An example of which is that one of the leverages that continues to be used in the fighting amongst the habitants of the Middle East is that those further up the river and water supply have denied those down stream from the water and are effectively killing people by thirst). From this short presentation there were community voices of, "lets organize as a group instead of making 'piddy advances as individuals"... *a deacon is called to organize the community around an issue and work for change.* People requested another meeting of this group; subsequent discussions on similar issues; more people witnessing to what they are doing; greater discussion so that those not present would also know about this and be able to participate.... *a deacon is called to inform the larger community of the need identified; this is evangelism.* Several voices spoke up, "lets not leave here today without knowing what our next step is going to be", "lets have an organization meeting around this, how about a Sunday afternoon, how about next Sunday, what about this date'..... *a deacon is called to act once the need has been identified.*

We heard, 'lets get the outreach committee involved, they should be involved in this' and a response of 'yeah, let's tell them about this and invite them, but it is something that we are deciding to do ourselves'... *a deacon realizes that the work depends on themselves and those that they can mobilize and not, the overworked "George", (let 'George' do it).*

So, once again, I am reminded of how fortunate I am to be in the presence of a community of deacons as I strive to emulate, practice, and live the Gospel as well as many of you do. I thank you for all of your hard work in teaching me on how to become a deacon.

Peace,
Michael

THE SINGING SCHOOL BEGINS MARCH 4TH
The Singing School

March 4th to March 25th

FOR CHILDREN FROM 3 TO 6 YEARS

AND FOR ADULTS OF ALL AGES

10:00 AM TO 10:45 AM
The Large Hall and Chapel

The Singing School will be in session for 4 Sundays this spring. It is designed for the littlest children, but all are welcome. **The children must be accompanied by an adult.** In addition, adults – children of all ages – are also invited to attend and to participate. With children this young, the clue to success is adult participation.

Leadership [with Linda Clark]

March 4: Richard and Nina Signore, Bill Bruins

March 11: Dawn Dreisbach, Eileen Callahan and Ramsey Meigs

March 18: Miriam Gelfer

March 25: Richard Saltus

Please note: we need “Song ladies and gentlemen” and
“Instrument ladies and gentlemen” to volunteer to lead a song.

Contact Linda Clark or Ed Pease clarkpease2@cs.com for information and questions.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Women’s Connection

The InterFaith Counseling Service is sponsoring a group for women and by women to investigate women’s lives, strengths, trials and help make better relational connections to everyone and to each other!

Bring a cup of tea or coffee and join them on Monday mornings at 9:30 AM for some real-time conversation about real-time issues. The Group is held at The Second Church in Newton, 60 Highland Street, West Newton. Call Sarah Weston at 978-302-8126 to sign up.



Patrick McNally will be performing the role of Marcello in La Boheme
(a concert production)
with the Boston Opera Collaborative
at River Works Theatre in Hyde Park on Saturday, March 31st.
Tickets are available on line at info@rtwboston.com or at 617-361-7024.

“Miserere Mei, Deus: A Day of Meditation and Reflection on the 51st Psalm”

On Saturday March 3, 2007. The Rev. Mpho A. Tutu (daughter of Desmond Tutu) will be leading a Lenten Quiet Day retreat for the Charles River Deanery. The retreat will be held at **Christ Church, Needham**, 1132 Highland Avenue. Registration begins at 9:00 and will end at 2:00 pm. The cost for the day is \$20 per person.

The Rev. Tutu will preach at Christ Church, Needham on Sunday, March 3rd at the 8:15 and 10:00 AM services.

The Rev. Mpho A. Tutu, an Episcopal priest, is the founder and Executive Director of the Tutu Institute for Prayer and Pilgrimage.

For five years, Rev. Tutu was Director of the Bishop Desmond Tutu Southern Africa Refugee Scholarship Fund of the Phelps Stokes Fund. That program provided full four-year college scholarships to refugees from South Africa and Namibia.

Rev. Tutu is the chairperson of the board of the Global AIDS Alliance and a member of the boards of Rocky Mountain College and Reinvest in South Africa (RISA) and the New Neighbors organizations which teaches English as a second language to immigrants to the US.

She holds a Master of Divinity Degree from Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA She is married to Joseph Burris; they have two daughters, ten- year old Nyaniso and one-year old Onaleena.

Please contact The Rev. Karen Coleman, at 781-444-1469 for further information.

“Explaining Dying & Death to Children & to Ourselves”

Thursday, March 1, 2007 8:45-10:30 AM

Circle of Caring Office,

2042 Beacon Street, Newton

(A Continental Breakfast will be served)

Rabbi Earl Grollman, DHLD and Sandra Bertman, Ph.D., FT

will describe the ways children and adolescents may understand death at different ages,
Assess grief interpretations and responses, Identify support strategies to assist in grief work,
Facilitate awareness of one’s own feelings and responses to drath/dying

1.5 Category 1 Social Work CEU’s and 1.5 Nursing CEU’s

For further information please call (617) 969-6130

Pray, gather, act

The Diocese of Massachusetts' [vision statement](#) says: "We will advocate publicly and powerfully as individuals, as congregations and as a diocese—for just peace, the healing of creation and economic development that respects the diversities and seeks the health of global cultures, communities and ecosystems."

There are at least three opportunities to do this next month:

Be a lobbyist for a day. Join Bishop Tom Shaw and fellow Episcopalians for Episcopal City Mission's annual Lobby Day on Tuesday, March 27, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston and the State House. Participants will share stories and hear from community advocates and policymakers on affordable health care and immigration issues, and many will use the occasion to meet with their legislators. All are welcome; no advocacy experience is necessary. Check [Episcopal City Mission's Web site](#) for details or call interim public policy director Elizabeth Green at 617/482-4826, ext. 224.



Walk and witness for the Earth. Bishop Bud Cederholm invites others to join him and the individuals, families and teams who will be walking and witnessing for public awareness of global warming as part of the March 16-24 Northampton to Boston Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue. It is sponsored by Religious Witness for the Earth. Participants can join the walk for an hour, an afternoon, a weekend or the whole nine days. Bishop Bud will do the Cambridge to Boston leg on March 24, and then take part in the walk's culminating interfaith service at 2 p.m. at Old South Church in Copley Square, Boston, and a rally. Get more information and sign up by March 5 at www.climatewalk.org.

Create a [culture of peace](#). Learn about the national March 16 Christian Peace Witness for Iraq and the many resources offered by the Episcopal Peace Fellowship at www.epfnational.org. Among those resources is "Creating a Culture of Peace" training that encourages the practice of active peacemaking in daily life.

In a sermon given at Trinity Church in Concord on Jan. 28, the Rev. Timothy E. Crellin, Vicar of St. Stephen's Church in Boston, tells of being humbled and inspired by the April 1967 preaching of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on why King had made ending the war in Vietnam a primary goal. Crellin makes the connection between current inner-city violence and the violence used "to solve problems in the global political arena" today. Listen to the sermon at trinityconcord.org/sermons.shtml.

Excerpt from the February issue of "Episcopal News", enews@diomass.org

ARS & AMICI
Sacred Music of Orlando Gibbons
Saturday, March 3, 2007 8:00 PM
at Grace Episcopal Church, 76 Eldredge Street, Newton Corner

Sheila Beardslee, Director

Eileen Callahan & Beth Spaulding, *sopranos*
Craig Thomas, *tenor*
Michael Lauer, *bass*

Sheila Beardslee & Barbara Carvey, *altos*
Charles Dale & John Nesby, *baritones*
with organist, Lee Ridgeway

Suggested Donation \$15, \$10 st, sr, low income
For information cal (978) 264-0584 or www.arsetamici.com

**Memorial for Former Grace Discussion Group Speaker
Ambassador Hermann Eilts**

A Memorial Service has been scheduled for March 23rd at 3:30 PM in Marsh Chapel. Marsh Chapel is located at 735 Commonwealth Avenue in The Boston University Campus. Further details will be posted on their website in March. For information and directions please check the BU website: <http://www.bu.edu/chapel/facilities/memorials.html>.

Hermann Eilts of Wellesley was a retired diplomat whose rapport with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat helped smooth the way for the 1978 Camp David peace accord. Mr. Eilts was in the Foreign Service from 1947 to 1979. After retiring from the Foreign Service, Mr. Eilts had been a professor of international relations at Boston. Ambassador Eilts died in October leaving a wife, two sons and four grandchildren.



Coping Skills for Caregivers

Saturday, March 10th, 10:00-11:30 AM, Springwell, 125 Walnut Street, Watertown

Saturday, March 24th, 10:00-11:30 AM, Wellesley Public Library, Wakelin Room 2

Attend one of our presentations to **Learn** practical information on how to deal with the physical and emotional responsibilities, **Gain** control over a demanding daily routine, Reduce Stress, **Prevent** burnout or “compassion fatigue”, and **Acknowledge** natural feelings of helplessness, anger, resentment and guilt.

Registration and continental breakfast begin at 9:30 AM. All events are FREE and open to the public. RSVP to events@springwell.com or call (617) 926-4100

Support Group

March 13-April24, 10:30-11:30 AM

at the NWW Offices, 1301 Centre Street, Newton

Springwell and Newton-Wellesley-Weston Committee for Community Living are offering a 6 week support group facilitating discussions about:

- Aging and Disability Resources
- Working with Social Service and Legal Professionals
- Future Planning
- Grief and Loss
- Communication

Transportation and respite assistance is available at no additional charge as well as free parking.

This support group is free of charge and open to the public, but pre-registration is requested. For more information or to sign up, please contact Carrie Loce at NWW, 617-964-6860.

The Israel-Palestine Conflict



Personal Witness: Putting a Face to the Struggle

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Watertown Free Public Library

Watertown Savings Bank Meeting Room

Three Watertown residents recently visited Israel-Palestine: two participated in a Sabeel International Witness Trip; the third

traveled with the American Friends Service Committee/Interfaith Peace-Builders Olive Harvest Delegation.

Come and listen as they tell about their experiences: what they saw, what they heard, what they learned. Speaking from their own place of wisdom about a volatile place in the world that touches all of us, they will help us not only to deepen our understanding of this complex conflict but also to “put a face” to the populace involved.

The aim of the evening is to educate as well as foster peace building and a sense of community and connection.

Sponsored by:

Watertown Citizens for Environmental Safety (WCES)

Watertown's Voice for Peace, the Environment and Social Justice