



GRACE CHURCH BULLETIN

September 23, 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,

Just yesterday, I was visiting with a young man in his twenties. He's ambitious, hard-working and is on an upward climb in his vocation. He drives a new car, has his own apartment and right now, the world is his oyster.

As we visited, he asked me how things were at Church. I began with great enthusiasm about the life and work of so many of you at Grace. He told me that he knows that his life would be more full if he were connected to a faith community. He observed how involved his own sister is with her church and whenever she's travelling on the weekends, she makes a point to find a place of worship.

We continued our conversation and my young friend admitted that he's well aware of the values that are imparted within a faith community are so important, that they far surpass anything that is learned in team sports. I agreed, of course!

I am well aware of all of the sports activities that compete with worship on Sunday mornings, and how difficult it often is to choose between taking your child to a game practice session or coming to Church.

The gospel of Jesus Christ offers us many lessons to guide us as we travel through our lives. Our Baptismal Covenant and this faith community known as Grace Church offer us strength, courage, prayers and love as we meet head-on all the joys, sorrows and challenges of our lives.

It's hard to find this kind of support anywhere else in our lives and in this age of uncertainty, I can't think of any other place I'd rather be on Sundays.

Blessings and Peace,
Miriam



Get in the Picture!!

Our roving photographer, Carol Robinson, is back again this Sunday, September 28th, and wants to include YOU in the Growing Into the Full Stature of Christ wall. Be there at 10:15 a.m. for a quick picture before seeing Sidewalk Sam.

Those In Service, September 28th

Hospitality: Kennedy/Robinson
Lectors: Carol Robinson, David Barbrow
Lay Reader: Lisa Tieszen
Chalice Bearers: Don Kennedy, Libby Gerlach
Counters: Carolyn 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, Brad Leitch, Darnell Lyman, and Adam Sacchetti. We also ask your prayers for those in need of healing: Greg Bolster, Chad Perry, Tom Gerlach, Sr., Jane Scott, Trudy Kontoff, June O'Brien, George Chapman, Martha Grant, Barbara Karlin, Sally McAlpine, Jim McAlpine, Grace Murphy, Zack McLeod, John Mayfield, Kate MacDonald, Ed Jacobi, Aagot Berg, Paul DiCicco, Liz Huntting, Judy Borowicz, Barbara Baerg, Tim Clancy, Mateo Singer-Torres, Richard Borowicz, Carson Johnson, Harry Snyder, Paul, Marty Hackett, Frances Ellsbree, Alison Sprague.

Twice a year we start with a clean slate for those who are in need of prayers. Please call or email Susan Clancy to put someone on or update the Prayer List. The Intercession Book is in the Church office as well. To add a name please complete the sheet in the beginning of the book.

Grace Discussion Group

This Sunday, September 28th - Substance Abuse.

Matt Skinner, who lives in Newton and grew up here, will tell his personal story about the path of his addiction and his recovery. Hopefully parents and the older children will be able to attend and here about how substance abuse can affect our youth, even those who grow up in "good" families in "nice" communities

Social Action: Opportunities for ministry

Thanks to Carolyn Blanks, Connie Conn, & Peggy Heywood who, along with a short program DVD, illuminated the powerful (& fun) experience of volunteering with the Bishop's Summer Academic & Fun Enrichment Program (B-SAFE). Thanks, too, to Dick Rogers, Outreach Coordinator with Middlesex Human Service Agency, Waltham, who talked with us about the many homeless men, women, & families they are housing and feeding. These are wonderful initiatives and provide opportunities for us to join in.

Our proposal is that we join with Middlesex Human Services to host a monthly birthday party for children in their shelter (Fridays at 4:00 PM or Sundays at 6:00 PM) and that we sponsor a week with the B-SAFE Program next summer.

Please email or call Lisa Tieszen, Libby Gerlach, or David Adams to get further details.

Gift of Grace Endowment Campaign

It has been over four months since that extraordinary banquet to launch the Gift of Grace Endowment Campaign. The memory is still fresh in our minds: the delicious food, that extra glass of red wine (no leftovers), 100 of our closest friends, and the testimonial speeches calling us to meet this challenge.

Thank you very much to all of you who have so generously pledged to this Campaign. At last count, we have received pledges in excess of \$300,000 toward our goal of \$750,000 over the next three years. Thank you also to many of you who are continuing to consider a major commitment to this campaign. Given the recent turmoil in the US and global financial markets, this decision has not been made any easier.

There is a significant amount of fear and uncertainty out there. Bank failures, falling stock markets, homes mortgages in default, layoffs; what will all this mean for the economy, our jobs, our retirement? Let's not forget that we are still fighting a war that is costing billions of dollars and thousands of lives.

In the midst of all these troubles, we are even more certain of why we have embarked on this campaign. We look for a place to step in from the storm, a place for support, a place to heal, a place of community. I know we have all found that place at Grace.

Thank you for your support,
Paul Wong and Carol McNally



MUSICAL ACTIVITIES

Several things to note in the new few weeks:

Sunday September 28th: The Senior choir sings Frank Pesci's setting of that wonderful hymn, "God be in my head."

Sunday October 5th: Benjamin Britten's Cat and Mouse reappears as the Offertory anthem, thanks to Eileen Callahan and Diane Droste. The Junior Choir sings an anthem "I sing the mighty power of God" at Communion, joined by Dawn Dreisbach, violin.

Thanks to our Eldredge Chime ringers:

Laura Johnson, Jean Papalia, Dawn Dreisbach, Carolyn Wong,
Debra Katt-Lloyd and Becky Barbrow.
If you wish to join us, contact Linda.

The New Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship “Grace Church: a Baptizing Community”

**Meeting of the Grant Steering Committee: September 28th after church.
A light luncheon will be served. We will meet in Miriam’s office.**

**Topics of discussion: J2A plans, October’s events, history project for
November 16th, St. Andrew’s Day.**

OCTOBER EVENTS

**OCTOBER 12th: Join Ed Pease and Linda Clark at Grace Discussion Group on October 12th at 10:00 AM
for bible study and discussion of the project.**

**OCTOBER 26TH: Welcome the Rev. Dr. Charles Hefling to the Grace Discussion Group.
He will provide information about the Anglican understanding of Baptism as the rite that
commissions us for our vocations as Christians.
He will also preach at the 11:00 AM service.**

Twice a month the people at the Calvin Institute post a story on their web site that highlights how Christian leaders, pastors, and congregations are seeking to renew worship. Their current story features Grace church prominently. It’s called “From Confirmation or Profession of Faith to Multiple Milestones of Faith.” You can read it at their website [www.calvin.edu/worship/stories/profession_faith.php] You can also access this story by going to our Website www.gracenewton.org, clicking on Worship Grant. Then scroll down to Calvin’s Grace Church interview and click.

Notes on “The Baptizing Community” by Richard Signore

The parish family is the place where the faith in Christ and his story are retold and cherished. We are transformed by the hope of resurrection and become people empowered to strive in difficult times. This hope spills out to all areas of life where injustice, bigotry, and hatred rob the freedom and happiness of others. In short, we thirst for the promised Kingdom and chafe where ever it is denied. In the sacrament of baptism, we are given this mission of hope.

There are many historical expressions of how the parish family taught Christian mission. In the early days of the church, converts to Christianity were adults. And when they drew near to the church, they entered a three year preparation for baptism called the “catechumenate” (recognize the word ‘catechism’!). For three years, adult inquirers were taken under the wing of experienced church members, and their growth in reading scripture, prayer and spirituality, and charitable acts were overseen and guided to maturity. At the third Easter vigil, the adult convert was baptized, along with his or her spouse, children, and household servants. By the time of the establishment of Christianity as a religion of the state, baptism was generally a given fact. So the event was more and more focused on children.

Is it possible that children come to baptism with a developed faith, or a comprehension of the mission bestowed in baptism? Clearly not; but the church recognizes that the principle actor in any sacrament was God who creates and blesses. In baptism, the Spirit embraces the infant candidate. But the baptismal event also needs to be undergirded in the ongoing exposure to the faith-stories and faith-practices afforded by contact with the parish family. Baptism is like stepping through a door that leads to a life-time process of sanctification—growing into the full stature of Christ. Every person in the community is grafted into that process.

We are a community of people struggling to understand the ramifications of our baptism and to live into who we are in Christ. By our practices we encourage others in the same struggle. We mold young believers in the content of the faith we cherish, and extol the behaviors that embody the responsibilities and freedoms we enjoy now in Christ’s Love.

GRACE GREEN TIPS

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



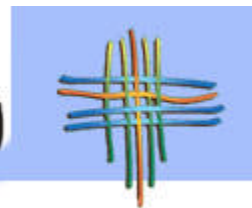
Tip 40: Know where the presidential candidates stand on the environment

Which of the two major candidates would better protect the environment as president? Despite their campaign rhetoric, it's somewhat difficult to discern the true commitments of Senators McCain and Obama in this regard. Both have avowed to do more than President Bush to counter global warming. Both support a cap and trade policy to limit domestic greenhouse gases. But while Obama would require polluters to buy allowances, McCain would distribute them at no charge. There is a bigger difference between the two candidates on offshore drilling. McCain says that he would lift the ban on drilling except in environmentally sensitive areas. Obama has said he would keep the federal ban in its entirety. Both candidates say they would substantially increase federal investments in alternative energy. Obama has pledged \$150 million over the next ten years to promote wind and solar power as well as advanced biofuels. McCain has not specified how much he would allocate. He opposes government subsidies for ethanol production and supports nuclear energy.

Another way of evaluating Obama's and McCain's environmental commitment is to look at their records as senators. The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) tracks the environmental voting records of all United States Senators and Representatives. According to the LCV, Obama voted for the environment 67% of the time during the most recent (109th) congressional session when there 15 key environmental bills under consideration. Obama missed four of those votes and voted against a bill to create federal Water Resource Commission that would prioritize water resources. For his part, McCain had a score of 0% (the lowest of all 535 members of Congress) since he missed all 15 votes. Perhaps a more true indicator of McCain's and Obama's respective environmental records is their LCV ratings before they were candidates. During the 108th session, Obama had a LCV rating of 93% while McCain's was 41%. (McCain's ratings during the two previous congressional sessions were 56% in 2005-2006, and 36% in 2004-2005. Obama was not yet a Senator during these sessions.)

Senator Biden's LCV rating has been consistently high, ranging from 93% in 2007-2008 to 96% three years ago. How about Vice Presidential Candidate Sarah Palin? LCV does not provide numerical ratings for state governors though it does provide information specific to environmental issues in their respective states. In examining her record, the League has raised concerns about Governor Palin's commitment to protect the environment. One reason is that, until recently, she has proclaimed that global warming is not caused by humans. As Governor, she promoted expanded exploration for oil and natural gas, including drilling in the Artic National Wildlife Preserve. Palin filed suit over the listing of polar bears and beluga whales and endangered species. She also helped enact a law that permits the hunting of wolves from helicopters, and the placing of a \$150 bounty on wolves. Wildlife activists filed suit and a state judge found that this new bounty was illegal.

Submitted by David Adams



Calendar of Diocesan & Parish Events

- September 25th:** Lambeth Conference review with three New England bishops, Episcopal Divinity School (also live webcast), Cambridge, 6 p.m.
- September 26-27th:** New England Beijing Circle Conference, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge.
- September 27th:** Congregational Resource Day: "Tools for Parishes," Bentley College, Waltham, 8:30 a.m.
- October 4:** Conversation on Slavery and Liturgy of Purpose, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 10 a.m.
- October 7th:** Bethany House Refreshment Day, Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington, 9 a.m.
- October 7th:** Introduction to Centering Prayer, Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington, 7 p.m.
- October 9th:** Poetry as Prayer: Bethany Poets, Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington, 7 p.m.
- October 10th:** Happening of Massachusetts: High School Youth Retreat, Cathedral Camp, East Freetown.
- October 10-12th:** An Invitation to Explore a Religious Life with the Sisters of St. Margaret, St. Margaret's Convent, Boston.
- October 10th:** St. Bartholomew's, Cambridge centennial banquet, Anthony's of Malden, 6 p.m.
- October 10th:** Coltrane at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 7:30 p.m.
- October 12th:** Grace Church, New Bedford celebrates its 175th anniversary, Grace Church, New Bedford, 10 a.m.
- October 12th:** Anniversary Homecoming Service, St. Bartholomew's, Cambridge, 10:30 a.m.
- October 17-18th:** Worship Learning Party, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 5:30 p.m.
- October 16-19th:** Fall Foliage Weekend, hosted by St. John's Church, Portsmouth, N.H., in its 200th anniversary year
- October 21, 23, 28, 30th:** Pre-Diocesan Convention Delegate Forums – Grace Church, New Bedford; St. Anne's, Lincoln; Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston; Calvary Church, Danvers; all 7 p.m.
- October 25th:** Alewife Jubilee Walk/Blade/Bike, The Minuteman Bike Trail, 10 a.m.
- November 7-8th:** Diocesan Convention, The Resort & Conference Center, Hyannis.

For more information on these events please visit http://www.diomass.org/news_events/calendar/diocesan

COMMUNITY NEWS



Newton Symphony Gala Season Opener:

**October 5th at 7:30 PM,
Grace Church, 76 Eldredge Street, Newton**

George Whitefield Chadwick:
Jubilee, 1895, from Symphonic Sketches

Antonin Dvorak:
Symphony No. 4 in D minor, Op 13

Tchaikovsky:
Piano Concerto # 1,
Op 23 in B minor with soloist Michael Lewin

www.newtonsymphony.org