



GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of Grace Church, Amherst

January 2007

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Grace Episcopal Church, Amherst, Massachusetts will take place on Sunday, January 28, 2007, for the following purposes:

1. to elect a Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer and Clerk, for terms of one (1) year each;
2. to elect three (3) members to the Vestry for three (3) year terms each;
3. to elect three (3) delegates and alternates to the Diocesan Convention and the Franklin-Hampshire Deanery;
4. to receive the annual reports of Grace Church; and
5. to transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting.

We will begin with Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. in the Church. The Meeting will convene at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Grace Notes publishes news and information about upcoming events, teaching from clergy, and messages from elected and appointed parish leaders. Parish events include those sponsored by groups Grace Church supports by giving them funds or space in our church buildings (as opposed to those who rent our Parish Hall, for instance). If you are unsure whether or not your material is appropriate for **Grace Notes**, please feel free to consult with any member of the Communications Committee.

The Committee is eager to get your comments on the parish's three main methods of communication: the Sunday Bulletin, **Grace Notes**, and our Web site. How are these publications useful to you? What improvements could be made? If you have an idea or suggestion, please send them to any one (or all) of us. We would be happy to hear from you!

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From the Rector

Epiphany is the Greek work for showing, manifestation, uncovering, revelation--you get the idea.

Our baptismal vows ask us, "Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?" and our response is, "I will with God's help." Later in the examination of the baptismal (and confirmation) service, the congregation is asked, "Will you do all in your power to uphold this person in her life in Christ?" And we all respond resoundingly, "WE WILL."

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? This is not a trick question. It asks whether our lives themselves are epiphanies...showings, revelations, manifestations of the Christly-Life-that-is-not-afraid-of-death-because-it-has-already-died-and-now-lives. I asked a couple teenage hockey players how they exhibit that life of Christ on the ice. Ridiculous question, you say? Think again! How does a business woman, a salesman, a restaurateur, engineer, train conductor, a shop clerk, a garbage man, or a priest exhibit God's light into this darkened and broken world? Some may have an easier time of it than others...believe it or not, the priest may have more of a challenge because so many people look for one thing and **always** find another behind that black shirt and collar.

Light comes forth from us whenever we see things done lovingly, carefully, generously, fairly, joyfully, and with integrity. Even checking someone against the boards can be done with grace in sport. It certainly can be done otherwise! How you treat your teammates, how you treat your opponent, your coach, the fellow who runs the Zamboni. All these interactions are moments when Epiphany can happen, where the hope, joy, gratitude, and purposeful stewardship of the gifts God has blessed you with becomes evident.

Years ago a friend wrote a card of encouragement to me at time when I felt very much in the grip of despair and gloom. He said simply, "You have caught my attention, as light always does." I couldn't see much light, certainly not much from me, but this friend's witness to what he saw in me helped enormously. It's one reason why I came back to the church after a long absence. I see so much light in the members of our community. Much of it hidden or obscured by doubt or even fear. I wonder if you see such light as well. Or in the words of that kind of schmaltzy Christmas song, "Do you see what I see?" If you do see it in one of your brothers or sisters here at Grace Church, then do what this season of epiphany asks us—acknowledge it by saying something like, "I see this gift in you. I really appreciate it. It has caught my attention, and I honor you for the light you bring to me and to this Church." I know that sounds schmaltzy, so find your own words. Just encourage the light in one another. It's what churches are supposed to do, right?

Faithfully yours in the God made manifest,



Vestry Notes

Vestry Notes from the December 4, 2006 Meeting

The new chairs of the Outreach Commission, Pat Kelly and Chris Hoffman, joined our meeting to make a presentation on the Christmas Offering. In order to make each gift substantial, commission members decided to focus on just six organizations. They used the Millennium Development Goals as a framework, focusing this year on eradicating hunger. To that end they chose three local and three global charities: Oxfam America, Bread for the World, Episcopal Relief and Development, Amherst Survival Center, Not Bread Alone, and the Interfaith Cot Shelter. 100% of the Christmas offering is going out. The Vestry unanimously approved the proposed slate. Other plans of the commission include developing a web site and soliciting a list of local organizations so that parishioners have information on how to participate.

Jane Wald reported that the nominating committee for new Vestry members has met once with Rob and will meet again soon. A call for nominations to the Vestry, for Diocesan Convention delegates, and for Deanery representatives is being sent out. Forms are available in the church and information will appear in the bulletin. The committee is developing a sequence of steps and process for discernment for creating the roster.

Chris Freitag announced that we have the building permit. The dumpster has arrived and the fencing is in place. The covered walkway through the Garth will be dismantled and the slate roofing removed (and recycled elsewhere). The contractor is still trying to get bids for the dry wall and concrete work. Russ Sprague may consider “self-performing” instead of hiring other contractors for those jobs. Robin Morris has created an online diary that people can check to see what’s going on. Chris and Nancy Lowry are taking photos.

Bruce Stebbins reported that we now have 182 pledges totaling \$376,035. That leaves us with a shortfall of approximately \$30,000. The Stewardship Commission is still working on follow-up. Bruce plans a presentation of our complete financial picture at Annual Meeting on January 28, 2007. As regards Restoration, we have 184 pledges totaling \$1,349,432. Eleven of those pledges are from youth. \$50,000 of the total received so far is from one-time gifts. It was our hope to have \$883,465 by the end of November. We

currently have \$736,347 so we are behind by about \$100,000. Money is coming in, however.

We have all the necessary documents for the bank closing on the mortgage loan scheduled for December 8. Bruce expressed great appreciation for all the pro bono work Don Allison has provided. We passed necessary motions for the handling of the loan.

Tom Baker made an upbeat presentation about “mite boxes” to support financing of the Restoration Project. It brings more people in to the project: even if one cannot make a pledge, it is possible to do this. If everyone was able to contribute \$2 a week in pocket change it could total \$78,000 over three years. That would reduce our indebtedness by 10%. There is also a plan to offer memorial bricks to be placed in the walkway/arcade between the Sanctuary and Parish Hall. Other naming opportunities are being considered.

Rob reported that the Rector’s Discretionary Fund has been replenished after being decimated by giving out Stop & Shop cards during the time that the Amherst Survival Center was struggling. The clergy provide help with groceries, fuel bills, and rent. The upper limit of assistance is generally around \$150-200. The clergy also have the opportunity to provide prayer and counseling support. It has become necessary in recent weeks not to give out the grocery cards, although other kinds of assistance are still being provided. Rob intends to invite Family Court judge Jim Collins to preach some Sunday on the “hidden Amherst.”

The Criminal Offender Registry Information (CORI) process has been initiated and selected staff certified to perform the checks. A letter has been sent to Sunday School teachers, LEVs, and others who work with children alerting them that these checks will be performed. Information from the CORI checks will be held as strictly confidential. If something were to arise from someone’s CORI check, Rob would counsel that person individually and confidentially. These checks are also recommended for Vestry members.

The Liturgy in the Round service worked very well. The prayers were moving, and the kids were involved in all parts of the service. Three new families came, invited by other parishioners. Rob created an Advent wreath from an old car rim. Rob has an idea for Epiphany: Charlie Rose-like interviews so that we can hear each other’s stories. How is God’s life being disclosed? What grace has been given us?

Jane Beebe, Clerk of the Vestry

Senior Warden's Column

Make Your Heart Ready to Sing!

More Planning for the Rector's Sabbatical and Parish Renewal in 2007

You've heard the good news of a clergy renewal grant from the Lilly Endowment. A parish forum in April helped to shape the activities proposed to the foundation, and their grant of \$40,000 will be a tremendous support to refreshment and renewal activities for both rector and parish for a period of several months in 2007. Rob is already thinking further about how he will spend his Sabbath time. And at our Annual Meeting in January, you'll hear more how you can help with the parish's complementary activities. A brief review of our proposal and the hopes it embodies may help to frame our discussion.

The Lilly Endowment posed an intriguing question to applicants: "What will make your heart sing?" Our reply was a desire to reclaim and exercise the creative gifts with which God has abundantly blessed us. What would make Rob's heart sing is the chance to write poetry and paint, to have time for renewal with his young family, and to re-establish healthy habits around work and recreation. A harmonizing response of the parish is to deepen its relationship to God through a variety of artistic activities that will enrich our spiritual lives and reclaim what has been called "the Creativity of Grace." This framework emerged in a flash from the work of Hildegard von Bingen, who imagined Christ as "greenness incarnate," the means by which God continuously recreates, restores, heals, and "makes all things new."

What might these parish activities be? While Rob writes, paints, travels, and finds deep refreshment, we'll be able to exercise our own creative spirits in workshops on painting, dance, writing, gardening, icon-writing—we'll need your input at the Annual Meeting to determine the specific workshop topics, format, and favorable times. In addition, a celebration of this "greening," freshening spirit will take the form of our own "Earth Mass," inspired by Paul Winter's *Missa Gaia*. We imagined in our

proposal that such an undertaking would not only draw on our musical strengths but would also invite contributions from every other kind of artistic endeavor. An Earth Mass opens itself to be danced and dramatized, asks to be decorated with paintings, drawings and fabric arts, and invites responses of prose and poetry. Parish and community members will be encouraged to use musical and textual material from our Earth Mass as a basis for creation of an artistic response in any medium.

Upon Rob's return, a parish arts festival will feature the performance of our "Earth Mass," and include art exhibits, dance or dramatic pieces, or other presentations growing out of our parishioners' individual and collective artistic exploration. Rob and others may share their work and offer discussions of their creative processes, inviting others to share in the experience of how the creative spirit affects their own ways of thinking, believing and living their lives.

This period of renewal will come at an extraordinary moment in our life at Grace Church when we'll be putting the finishing touches on the Restoration Project that is even now rehabilitating our physical plant. After the dust and noise and adjustment required by that kind of project, what better way to turn our hearts toward renewal and spiritual growth than through the release and celebration of our creative gifts.

Our hope is that there will be plentiful ways for every member to find refreshment in a personal or communal creative niche. Workshops in a range of disciplines and at different skill levels will allow each of us to enjoy the challenge and inspiration of exploring an art form new to us, or the satisfaction of deepening our sense of expression in a familiar medium. We have the opportunity to embrace, appreciate, and celebrate the creative expression of every person, of every kind, and of every skill. Performance for some, technical finesse for others, quiet meditation and prayer for still more—all of these creative expressions restore, renew, and make whole. Are there goals or standards for participation? Only these: Make your heart sing. As the church in Corinth heard, "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God," and see as the Galatians did, that the "fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

Jane Wald

Bishop's Visitation

On January 21, the Right Reverend Gordon Scruton, our Diocesan Bishop, will visit us at the 10:30 service. At this time he will preside over the rites of confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation with those who have been studying for this. People to be confirmed include a contingent of students from Eaglebrook School, who have been preparing for this under the guidance of Rachel Blain.



Annual Meeting will take place on January 28th after the single morning service at 9:30 that day. At this meeting, members of the church elect new members of the Vestry to replace those whose terms have expired.

The Diocesan canons state: "Officers of the Parish shall consist of the Rector, a Senior Warden, a Junior Warden, a Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, if any, a Clerk, and six, nine, or twelve members of the Vestry (as each Parish shall determine). All of the above shall be confirmed adult communicants of the Church in good standing."

If you have recently begun attending, and wish to be considered a voting member of the parish, please speak to a member of the clergy or the vestry to find out the procedure for transferring membership.

The last pages of the current directory (still available from the office!) and the "information for newcomers" section of our website www.gracechurchamherst.org, also address many questions about membership or serving on the Vestry.

All committee and commission chairs: please submit your Annual Reports by January 16.

The Restoration Project Construction Plan

- ✓ **SEPTEMBER** Clean out Undercroft and Connector.
- ✓ **OCTOBER** Build temporary access ramp to Church and temporary wall between Old Rectory and Connector. **Route from Old Rectory to other Grace Church buildings is public sidewalk.**
- ✓ **NOVEMBER** Build ramp to Old Rectory.
- ✓ **DECEMBER** Building permit issued from Town of Amherst.

IN PROGRESS

- Removal of current cloister walkway.
- **Connector** demolition.

JANUARY

- **Garth:** Sitework and utilities, then re-grading and landscaping.
- **Undercroft:** Asbestos abatement, installation of rough mechanical, electrical, plumbing systems, cleaning of stone walls. **Parish labor needed for this task.** Installation of walls, doors and windows, and floor.
- **Cloister:** Set footings and walls, begin and complete structural framing, construct roof, install windows and doors.
- **"Grace Hall" (the new Connector):** Set footings and walls, begin structural framing, construct elevator shaft.

Go to www.gracechurchamherst.org/OfficeDiary.htm for updates!

Pastoral Commission

Kathy Shaw, Chair

The Grace Church Aelred Fellowship

The Aelred Fellowship is a men's spiritual friendship group that meets every Thursday evening from 7:30 to 8:45. We take our name from the 12th century monk, Aelred of Rievaulx. The following is an excerpt from his most famous work, the treatise **On Spiritual Friendship**:

Friendship heightens the joys of prosperity and mitigates the sorrows of adversity by dividing and sharing them. Hence, the best medicine in life is a friend.

The goal of the fellowship is to support each other through gatherings in which we experience the joy, trust, and openness of spiritual friendship. Our meetings include discussion, prayer, and a brief period of silence. We meet in confidence, and refrain from taking positions on issues both within and outside the Church.

We encourage anyone who is interested to join us, whether it's one time, on occasion, or regularly. I promise you will feel welcome. If you would like to find out more about our fellowship feel free to contact Steve Abdow (256-4885, [steveabdow at yahoo.com](mailto:steveabdow@yahoo.com)) or Steve Atkinson (335-6168, [Steve.Atkinson at kmn.kaman.com](mailto:Steve.Atkinson@kmn.kaman.com)).

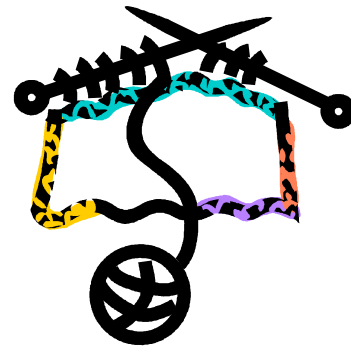


January Yarn Drive

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is calling for yarn donations. We are particularly looking for donations of two or more skeins of one type. Worsted weight is best but other weights are okay. (Please no remnants of skeins.) So look through those forgotten projects and see if you can find any goodies for the Shawl team. If you would like to donate money that we can use to purchase yarn, that would be most appreciated as well. Bring all yarn donations to the Parish Hall and look for the large basket that is marked "Yarn for Shawls." Money donations can be made out to Grace Church and earmarked "Prayer Shawl Ministry" and mailed or delivered to Grace Church Office.

Call For Knitters

We could always use more people to knit or crochet on the Prayer Shawl Ministry team. The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets twice monthly: **second Tuesday of the month (January 9) evening meeting: 7:30-8:30 p.m.** at Pat Andrews' home (for directions to Pat's, talk to Melinda Williams) and the **third Tuesday of the month (January 16) daytime meeting** from 11-1 (come for all or part of the time; we'll have prayer at noon) in the Grace Church Parker Room with pizza and drinks available (or bring your own lunch).



If you find you cannot come to meetings but are interested in knitting a shawl, you can be part of the team in that way. We have patterns and hopefully yarn to choose from and we can supply you with some prayers to get you started. Just talk to Melinda (413-259-0090 or [melindaw at external.umass.edu](mailto:melindaw@external.umass.edu)). You can check out the National Prayer Shawl Ministry website at www.shawlministry.com to get info on what the shawl ministry is all about.

Christian Formation & Education

Scott Jackson, **Commission Chair** : Patricia C. Andrews, **Sunday School Director**
Catherine McGraw, **Youth Minister** : The Rev'd Ton Whiteside, **Adult Education Coordinator**

Sunday School News

Epiphany

"You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14)

Epiphany is the season of cold clear light: the light of baptism, the clarifying of vocation and mission. We observe Epiphany on the Sundays of the church year between Christmas and Lent. Christmas is a fixed date on the church calendar, and Lent depends on the date of Easter—which "is always the Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after...March 21" (See p. 880ff of **The Book of Common Prayer**). Therefore, Epiphany fills up as many Sundays as there may be in between—as few as five or as many as nine. This year there are seven.

Last Epiphany is always celebrated as the Feast of the Transfiguration.

Learn About RCL

At their planning meeting on December 2, Sunday School and youth leaders learned about the Revised Common Lectionary.

Our Christian worship began in temple and synagogue, and our first apostles' lectionary came from the Hebrew Scriptures. Soon the letters of Paul were read aloud in services, and the Gospels grew out of celebration of the major feasts of the Christian year. Through the centuries, lectionary readings were included in missals and prayer books.

Prayer Books are always undergoing revision, in whole or in part. The first American Prayer book pioneered the idea of trial use from 1786 to 1789. In 1928 the General Convention appointed a Standing Liturgical Commission for prayer book revision, the latest official Prayer Book being adopted in 1979. Now has come the time that our lectionary is revised.

The Revised Common Lectionary is an ecumenical project that dates back to Vatican II. The Commission on Common Texts published the first version in 1983, followed by the RCL in 1994. The recent General Convention directed "that the

Revised Common Lectionary shall be the Lectionary of this Church, amending the Lectionary on pp. 889-921 of the Book of Common Prayer, effective the first Sunday of Advent, 2007...." At Grace Church we made the change to the RCL on December 3.

The Revised Common Lectionary lets us hear more of the Old Testament in worship, and it includes more about the role of women in salvation history. However, true to ourselves, the Episcopal Church retained some of the readings from our own 1979 lectionary for special occasions (mainly for times that the RCL does not provide readings). Check [The Lectionary Page](#).

Exploration Class Has Broken New Ground

Exploration Class, Grades 8 and 9, have been a very important group in the Sunday School. They have been together in the same classroom for the past four years, exploring Christian Education with history, Scripture, art, and field trips. Beginning next month, the Exploration group will leave their room; those who so choose will move on to prepare for Confirmation in April '08.

One thing that bonded this group together was the teaching of the late Wade Evey, who used to lecture on Biblical topics, Church History, and iconography. Wade was a pioneer of bringing liturgical arts into the Sunday School, inviting Gillian Duda to help this class create icons. They produced treasures that were blessed in church by Rob and which many of the children lovingly carried at Wade's funeral in December of 2004.

As Wade would have wished, his class continued strongly and inspired growth in the other parts of the Sunday School program. Gillian continued liturgical arts, and expanded it into other grades with the help of Edie Allison. With vital support of their parents and under leadership of Donna Schneider, these young people became the first class to experience a Rite-13 Ceremony in the fall of 2005, marking the end of childhood and beginning their journey to adulthood.

Donna, assisted by Betsy Mathews and Charlie

Continued next page

Tebbetts, invited the class on a spiritual journey that included sermon preparation, journaling, and a trip to the Empty Bell retreat center. When Matt Charity joined the leadership last fall, Donna and Glen Franklin introduced the Grace-13 program to upcoming teens in grades 6-7.

The Exploration class re-decorated the Wade Evey room, and they painted a mural there, leaving space for succeeding classes to add to it. They have left a strong example for younger classes to follow.

Grades 4-5

We are investigating the nature of kindness.

What is kindness? Who has it? Is it in something one does? How do we know kindness when we see it?

We investigate by looking at short movies each Sunday and discussing them. We then see whether anything in the movies applies to our lives. Finally, since this is Sunday School, Melanie Freitag and I try to say something about where Infinite Kindness comes from.

This class is relationally and not cognitively based. Thus, we try to convey to each child that he or she matters to everyone else in the group. (In itself, this is an uninterrupted application of kindness.) We are not teaching Church history or liturgy.

In December, we constructed wreaths and took them to an old-age nursing home.

In January, we will begin making our own film on kindness. We may ask a student to interview you. Parents: We may ask you to host a "meeting" at your house of your child's friendship group. We expect to complete this work in May and present it to the congregation as a Homily from Grades 4 and 5.

If you have some particular ideas about kindness, or examples in the Bible about kindness, please let me know.

Here are some of the films we have seen so far this fall:

Paws. A hilarious movie about a dog left at home, who orders his own meals to go and switches dog food for sirloin steak. If you were a dog left at home all day, what would you do to amuse yourself?

Joe. A very well-made Canadian movie about a Caribbean black man who changed racial attitudes in Vancouver by teaching kids to swim. All of the

children in the film loved Joe, but not the adults. Why do you think that was?

Dance, Lexie, Dance. An Irish widower and his 9-year-old daughter live in the shadows of her mother's death, until she decides she wants to learn Irish dancing. At first her father, frozen in grief, can do nothing. By letting her dance, he unfreezes.

El Dia de los Muertos/The Day of the Dead. A Los Angeles grandmother conveys to her grandchildren traditions that express connection with those who have died. Do we really think that spirits live after people die? Are these spirits different from the Spirit that Christians talk about?

Sweet Potato Pie. An American documentary about Pearl Mallory, who brings her faith into the kitchen at an old-age home by baking sweet potato pies. While she makes her pies, she sings sweet African-American hymns, and puts into her pies all the love she wants the old folks to feel coming their way. Is it true that kindness is more a way of life than a specific act?

Stephen Armstrong

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes will meet with the Rector on one Sunday afternoon per month from 4:00-5:30 p.m., beginning January 7. The following Sunday students meet with two lay leaders, Betsy Mathews and Matthew Charity, to follow up. Please bring a parent to the first meeting, on January 7, at 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. This will be an introductory session to explain the Confirmation process at Grace Church, in which students will be paired with a "sponsor" and undertake service projects outside of class work.

Children's Worship Schedule

January 7, I Epiphany--Sunday School as usual.
Baptism at 10:30.

January 14, II Epiphany--10:30 Liturgy in the Round in Parish Hall especially for families and children. Sunday School Grades 2-9 meet as usual. No Atrium.

January 21, III Epiphany – Sunday School as usual.

January 28, IV Epiphany – No Sunday School.
All worship in the church at 9:30 a.m. Annual Meeting after church.

Upcoming Event for GECKOS

All 7th to 12th graders are invited to participate in the lock-in at Grace Church on Saturday, January 6. We will "lock" the doors at church from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. and spend the night in the Parish Hall. There will be a midnight Eucharist plus a pizza dinner, movies, and games together. Contact Catherine McGraw for more information at 256-4781 or cmcgraw@alum.emory.edu.



L.A.O.S. Interfaith Center & Bookstore

Call for VOLUNTEERS

Interested in books? World Religions? Interfaith Mission & Ministries? Are you willing to host a book-table? Know members of other faith communities who'd be interested? Could you serve as an occasional substitute bookstore clerk? Or better yet, as a regular bookstore clerk?

L.A.O.S. Bookstore is a fully-volunteer organization.

"KnitLit Reads": 7 p.m. on the 4th Thursday of every month.

Creative Writing Workshops will resume in Jan '07. (phone Nancy Rose at 413.256.8836 for info & to register).

Don't forget to stop by for your 2007 Calendars!

Author Readings & Books Discussion Groups.

413.548.3909

www.laosbooks.org

L.A.O.S. Interfaith Bookstore
in the Carriage Shops
233 North Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01002

Adult Education

Wednesdays at Grace

Each Wednesday, we gather (now in the Parish Hall) for a light supper at six o'clock followed by a class at six-thirty. The class adjourns no later than eight. In order for the parents of families with children to participate, last year we sought offerings for childcare from those attending. This method seemed to work well, so we will do so again this year.

Creating Peace with Our Tongues

One way all of us can be active peacemakers in our homes and in the world is by giving careful attention to the way we speak. The way we talk with another either furthers Life or not. In Epiphany, the season when we celebrate the Christ making himself known to the world, we at Grace will have the opportunity to learn more about how we can further the mission of Peace by learning and sharpening our communication skills. As a part of the Wednesdays at Grace Series, Ann Augustine will be joining us in January for a five-part series based on Marshall Rosenberg's Nonviolent Communication (NVC). Ann is a licensed psychotherapist who has studied and taught NVC since 2001, most recently assisting in a year-long leadership training in the Bay Area. During our time together, Ann will introduce the basic concepts, assumptions and intentions of NVC, as well as provide ample time for questions, practice, and role play of situations raised by participants. Sessions will build on each other, so attending all or most is recommended.

The dates for classes are January 10, 17, and 24, and February 7 and 14. Each session will take place in the Parish Hall and will begin with a light supper at 6:00 p.m. Donations will be received to cover the cost of the program. Childcare will be provided.

Outreach Ministries Commission

Patrick Kelly & Chris Hoffman, Co-Chairs

Update on the Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue

Pilgrimages are an ancient practice in many religious traditions. Buddhists journey to the Buddha's birthplace; Muslims travel to Mecca; Jews to the Wailing Wall; Christians go on pilgrimage to the Via Dolorosa. Pilgrimages have also been linked to movements for social change "from the plains of India to the highways of the American South," as Bill McKibben points out in his letter endorsing the Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue.

Why not plan a Lenten pilgrimage this year? We will leave Northampton on Friday, March 16, and arrive in downtown Boston on Saturday, March 24. You can walk for an hour, a day, or the whole 9 days. The Episcopal Church will be playing a big part in this Walk - retired Bishop of North Dakota, Andrew Fairfield, will bless us as we leave Northampton, and Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Massachusetts, Bud Cederholm, will welcome us in Boston. We will spend the last night of the Walk at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge.

Guess which church will host the pilgrims after their first day of walking? Grace Church, of course! Keep a lookout for news of a festive potluck supper on Friday, March 16, to feed everyone before we settle down to sleep in the Parish Hall. It may even be another 100-mile meal, though what local foods are available in March remains to be seen. Please consider how you'd like to help - by walking, cooking a meal, inviting friends and co-workers to join the Walk, or anything else. Please talk to Margaret Bullitt-Jonas if you have ideas about how to make the Walk a success.

You can also go to religiouswitness.org for more information about the Walk. We will soon figure out how to register a Grace Church Team. And now is a great time to break in those walking shoes.

--Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

Mountaintop Removal

By the time you read this, many of us will be fresh from hearing Brooks Williams and his musical colleagues offer a Festival of Lessons and Carols at Grace Church, with music from Appalachian, Irish, Southern Harmony, and other musical traditions. We will have listened to those thrilling words from Isaiah, "A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord... Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low'" (Isaiah 40: 3, 4b).

Lowering mountains is a wonderful metaphor for the upheaval that announces God's arrival, as the rich and proud are brought low and the poor and humble are lifted up. But the literal removal of mountaintops is hardly a holy enterprise. In the coalfields of Appalachia, mountaintop removal - a relatively new form of coal mining that began in the 1970s - is causing social and environmental havoc.

In mountaintop removal, native hardwood forests are clear-cut. Dynamite is used to blast away as much as 800-1200 feet of mountaintop. Waste is dumped into nearby valleys, often burying streams. The families and communities near mining sites - who live in the poorest counties of the U.S. - must contend with the noise of continual blasting, with airborne dust and debris, with flooding, and with the contamination of their water supply.

The people, forests, and mountains of central Appalachia are suffering because of this brutal form of coal mining. Appalachian Voices (www.appvoices.org) is working to end the practice of mountaintop removal and has launched a campaign to educate Americans about what has been called "the dirty secret behind cheap energy."

To learn more, please visit: www.ilovemountains.org. The site includes prayers from religious leaders across the country, beginning with one by the Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Alaska.

--Margaret Bullitt-Jonas



Book Review

What Can One Person Do? Faith to Heal a Broken World, by Sabina Alkire and Edmund Newell. Church Publishing, New York, New York. \$18.00

Here's a book which makes it easier to "do the right thing." It's a lively book about what we can do individually, as a group (any group), and as a world community to overcome extreme poverty in the world by 2015. It is a thorough and profound book about how we can achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in this time frame. It is a helpful book in that while it is filled with statistics, facts, graphs and charts about poverty and need in the world, it is also very specific about real actions each of us can take.

The book begins: "In 2000 all the member states of the United Nations pledged to achieve eight goals by 2015; the goals are 1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. 2) Achieve universal primary education. 3) Promote gender equality and empower women. 4) Reduce child mortality. 5) Improve maternal health. 6) Combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases. 7) Ensure Environmental sustainability. 8) Develop a global partnership for development. But these are all abstractions. What this book does is to put meat on the bones of these abstractions by giving us stories of real people and their daily struggles to feed their families, to educate their children, to avoid illness and death from nutrition, and so forth. We meet people from all over the world, some of whom have found ways to improve their situations by banding with others, and some of whom are still struggling because help is yet to reach them.

But while part of the focus is on people in need, another emphasis is on us, those privileged to have our basic needs well supplied. This is not just a "how to" book about where to send a check, though it does do that. It also contains some profound theological insights, especially about why our Christian ministry calls us to a "preferential

option for the poor." The book's analysis of liberation theology, which brought us that concept, is as clear and profound as I have seen anywhere. Its conclusions make it clear why the call to give 0.7% of our family income, parish, and diocesan income to reducing poverty is so critical.

However, don't be put off by the book's specifics or requests. It is also rich in prayers, stories, meditations, and questions for discussions. It is also quite beautifully written and well documented. Treat yourself to **What Can One Person Do?** You won't be sorry.

Ruth Hooke

(This book review is an edited version of one which appeared in the fall Newsletter of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross.)

Eco-Tip of the Month



Village Green is a relatively harmless ice melt. It sells at Amherst Farmers Supply (South Pleasant, just south of Amherst College) for \$10.45 for a 50-lb. bag. Contents are urea, lime, and potassium chloride, which Clean Water Action thinks are relatively safe. A suggestion: sweep it up and use it again and again!

Grace Church Peace Fellowship

Notes from our last meeting, recent activities, and upcoming events:

Western Mass Social Forum: The Forum, which is a symposium of peace and social justice groups, is in the planning stages. The Grace Church Peace Fellowship has voted to be a co-sponsor, and Ruth Hooke has volunteered to serve as our representative to the steering committee. Watch for more information about the forum, which will take place this spring.

Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue: Join this pilgrimage from Northampton to Boston, March 16 to 24. Walk a mile or the whole route, or anything in between. Grace Church will host the pilgrims for their first night in our Parish Hall. (I'm planning to bring my **Canterbury Tales** to read along the way.)

Silk for Sisters: Our Peace Fellowship has joined with the Peace and Social Justice Committee of the First Congregational Church to sponsor a collection of silk scarves to donate to the members of the Hampshire Mosque for use as head coverings. Brightly colored scarves are sought, but none should have pictures of humans or animals. Information on where and how to donate will be announced shortly.

School of the Americas witness and protest: Ruth Hooke reported on her journey to Ft. Benning Georgia, where she took part in the annual November witness and protest against the notorious School of the Americas, a training facility that teaches guerilla warfare and torture techniques to Central and South American military personnel. Ruth predicted that due to the notoriety the School has been receiving from the annual protests and from the changes that are now taking place in Congress, the School would likely be closed in the near future

Torture Awareness: Mary Matthews reported that our Torture Awareness Group is still active and has more bookmarks to distribute. Each bookmark has the names of two torture victims to pray for. To obtain a prayer bookmark, see Mary, or you may find them in a basket in the back of the church.

Plan to attend the March and Rally to End the War. on the weekend of January 27, in Washington D.C., organized by United for Peace and Justice.

Bob Hawley, Chair,
Grace Church Peace Fellowship

Stewardship Commission

Doug Adler, Jane Buckloh, **Co-Chairs**

A January Update from Stewardship

Grace Church is very grateful for the 186 pledges received for this fiscal year: July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. As of December 12, we must report that \$30,700 in pledges is still needed to meet this year's budget commitments for Grace Church's operating expenses. We hope that those who have pledged in the past, but have not for this year, will soon do so. We invite those who have not pledged before and newcomers to consider pledging. Pledge forms are available in the back of the church, from the church office, or by contacting Doug Adler at 256-6113 or Jane Buckloh at 413-625-9365. Pledge forms can be put in the Sunday offering plate, dropped off at the church office, or mailed to the church. Please contact Doug Adler or Jane Buckloh with any questions.

Parish Life Commission

Katie Schendel, Lucy Robinson, **Co-Chairs**

Young Families' Potluck

Plan to join other families for a monthly potluck!! This group presents a wonderful opportunity for Grace families (children and parents) to spend time with each other. We are planning to meet the second Saturday of each month from 5-7:30; usually for dinner and a chance to visit and let the children play, but occasionally we may include a family-friendly theme! **For January we will meet Saturday the 13 in the Parish Hall.** Plan to bring a dish to share, or just yourselves if life is too hectic to bring anything. If you have questions about the potlucks, contact Beth Brown at nhbrown at aol.com. See you there!!

Clergy

The Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld, Rector
arh## gracechurchamherst.org
The Reverend Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Priest
Associate

mbj ## gracechurchamherst.org
The Rev'd H. Burton Whiteside, Priest
Associate

Hbw ## gracechurchamherst.org

Vestry

Jane Wald, Senior Warden

jhwald## comcast.net

Chris Freitag, Junior Warden cfreitag
##wnec.edu,

Bruce Stebbins, Treasurer bsteb51 ##
aol.com,

Jane Beebe, Clerk jabeebe ## amherst.edu

Tom Baker the1baker_ ## comcast.net

Robert Kelly rjkelly ## crocker.com

Sam Lowry ballymena ## comcast.net

Jack Pemberton jpemberton ##
amherst.edu,

Maria Dye mdye ## servicenetinc.org

Steve McKelvey stmckelvey ## charter.net

Maureen Ryan maureenryan ## yahoo.com

Phebe Sessions psession ## smith.edu

Jennifer Soper jjksoper ## yahoo.com

Elizabeth Duda (youth member)

Lizduda ## comcast.net

Staff

Patricia Andrews, Sunday School Director
pca ## gracechurchamherst.org

Elizabeth Hart, Director of Music & Sr. Choir
beth## gracechurchmusic.org

Dick Damon, Organist

Robin Morris, Parish Administrator

Grace ##gracechurchamherst.org

Steve Hasbrouck, Assistant Treasurer

Smh ##gracechurchamherst.org

David Ulen, Sexton

Ministries

Mary Hocken, Angel Choir Director
Mhocken ## verizon.net

Nancy Lowry, Director of Acolytes
nancylowry## earthlink.net

Janet Moore, Director of LEMs & Lectors

Lemlec ## gracechurchamherst.org

Janet Teng, Director of Altar Guild

jteng01002 ## yahoo.com

January Birthdays

- 1 Sarsh Hanke, Eliot Moss, Jennifer Read,
Lucas Denit
- 2 Eugene Sheehan
- 3 Tony Morse, Ronald Jacque
- 4 Bud Lichtenstein, Samuel Chase
- 7 Arline Wright, Jana Winthers Zide
- 8 MJ Fowler, James Kelly, Judith Todd
- 9 Polly Gabriel
- 10 Judith Demerath, Rob Hirschfeld, Lee
Williams, Ella Liversidge
- 11 Nora Gallo
- 12 David Williams, Emma Wilburn
- 13 Sandy Lillydahl, Erik Abdow
- 16 Tom Shaw
- 18 Jack Goodell, Susan Haight, Henry
Hirschfeld
- 19 Michael Kulp, Rob Spence
- 21 Mary Goodwin, Nathaniel Buckley
- 23 Deborah Jacque
- 24 Mary Hocken
- 26 Dee Dee Niswonger
- 28 Mark Johnson, Brett Schneider
- 29 Nancy Rose-Weeber
- 30 Helen Leung, Julianna Klosson
- 31 Tom Baker, Susan Schaeffer, Georgie
Brown



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please leave rooms as you found them! During this time of space crunching, we need to be mindful of leaving rooms and the objects in them in the order in which we found them. Thank you!

Mittens for Our Children. Children attending the Liturgy in the Round on January 14 will be invited to receive a pair of hand-knit mittens made by a member of our parish. These small gifts represent many hours of prayer offered to God in gratitude for the children among us. As we pray for the safety and well-being of children throughout the world, may we recognize Christ smiling back at us through the faces of the children in our midst. Yarn has a special way of connecting all beings, children and adults, loved ones from the past and the present to the mystery of the family of Christ. Blessed be the yarn that binds our hearts and lives in Christian love. May these mittens be warm reminders to our children that they are deeply loved, that countless people pray for their protection and their future, and that the Holy Spirit uses our hands to bless the world. Amen.

Bement/Waterfield Educational Grants are offered by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts. These are for young people who are active in the Episcopal Church to pursue their educational post-secondary school goals. Forms are available from the Diocese: Bement/Waterfield Educational Grants Committee, Diocese of WMA, 37 Chestnut St., Springfield, MA 01103. The deadline is February 15.

To schedule a meeting, please send an email to Robin Morris or fill out a room request with your name and place it in her mailbox. To schedule an event, fill out the Parish Life's event information form, found on their bulletin board or on our website.

Angel Choir is a choir for all young people starting at age 3 and up. The choir will be singing at the Liturgy in the Round and at Easter. For more information, please contact Mary Hocken mhocken at verizon.net or 549-8773.

Parishioners' Column: Members of Grace are invited to submit articles of fewer than 600 words to this column. Please be aware that submissions are used at the discretion of the Communications Committee and may be edited for length.

If you wish to make a spoken announcement during a church service, you must arrange to do so, prior to Sunday, by consulting the Rector. Thank you for cooperating with this policy.

Sunday Bulletin Deadline: Each week, announcements are due on the **Tuesday** before the Sunday bulletin in which you'd like them to appear. Email preferred.

You rang? Or I hope you did! If you came by the church office during quiet times, the door may have been locked. Please ring and identify yourself through the speaker when someone answers. Thank you for helping to ensure the safety of all.

Not Bread Alone. The second Saturday of each month is Grace Church parishioners' turn to help out at this soup kitchen that offers meals to anyone who wants them. Please arrive at 10:30 at the back of the First Congregational Church in Amherst.


Cot Shelter for the Homeless: The Hampshire County Cot Shelter in Northampton resumes operation in November. Grace Church is committed to prepare and serve the evening meal on the second Thursday of each month throughout the winter. You can help this vital ministry either by preparing or by serving or both. Please talk to Mary McCarthy or Bob Hawley or call them at 253-3582.

Submitting to *Grace Notes*. All material more than 20 words long should be submitted electronically. The deadline is the 12th of each month.

Receive *Grace Notes* by email! To sign up for electronic delivery, please email Robin at grace@gracechurchamherst.org.



January 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:30 Evening Prayer 7 pm AA (PH)	2 5:15 AA (PH) 5:30 Evening Prayer	3 12:10 HE & Healing 4 pm Centering Prayer (1 st Ch) 5:30 EP 6:00 Supper (PH) 6:30 Adult Ed	4 4 pm Wise Women (PR) 5:30 EP 7:30 pm Aelred (PR) 7:30 pm: Choir Practice (CL)	5 7 am Men's Group (PR) 5:30 pm Evensong & HE	6 Epiphany 9 am Property Committee (PR) 5:30 GECKOs lock-in (PH)
7 Baptism of Our Lord 8 am, 10:30 am & 6 pm: Holy Eucharist 9:15 am PBS (RO); Sunday School (Parke) 10:15 am Catechesis (FR) 4 pm Confirmation Meeting (PH)	8 5:30 Evening Prayer 7 pm AA (PH) 7 pm Vestry (FR)	9 5:15 AA (PH) 5:30 Evening Prayer 6:30 Liturgical Co. (PR) 7:30 pm: Shawl Ministry	10 12:10 HE & Healing 4 pm Centering Prayer (1 st Ch) 5:30 EP 6:00 Supper (PH) 6:30 Adult Ed	11 4 pm Wise Women (PR) 5:30 EP 5:30 Cot Shelter (Noho) 7:30 pm Aelred (PR) 7:30 pm Choir Practice (CL)	12 7 am Men's Group (PR) 5:30 pm Evensong & HE	13 10:30 Not Bread Alone (1 st Church) 5 pm Family Potluck (PH)
14 8 am, 10:30 am & 6 pm: Holy Eucharist 9:15 am PBS (RO); Sunday School (Parke) 10:30 Liturgy in the Round (PH) 12 pm EPF (PR)	15 MLK Day Office closed 5:30 Evening Prayer 7 pm AA (PH)	16 11:00 Shawl Ministry (PR) 5:15 AA (PH) 5:30 Evening Prayer	17 12:10 HE & Healing 4 pm Centering Prayer (1 st Ch) 5:30 EP 6:00 Supper (PH) 6:30 Adult Ed	18 4 pm Wise Women (PR) 5:30 EP 7:30 pm Aelred (PR) 7:30 pm Choir Practice (CL)	19 7 am Men's Group (PR) 5:30 pm Evensong & HE	20
21 8 am, 10:30 am (Bishop's Visitation) & 6 pm: Holy Eucharist 9:15 am PBS (RO); Sunday School (Parke) 10:15 am Catechesis (FR)	22 5:30 Evening Prayer 7 pm AA (PH)	23 5:15 AA (PH) 5:30 Evening Prayer	24 12:10 HE & Healing 4 pm Centering Prayer (1 st Ch) 5:30 EP 6:00 Supper (PH) 6:30 Adult Ed	25 4 pm Wise Women (PR) 5:30 EP 7:30 pm: Aelred (PR) 7:30 pm Choir (CL)	26 7 am Men's Group (PR)	27
28 9:30 am & 6 pm: Holy Eucharist 11 am Annual Meeting	29 5:30 Evening Prayer 7 pm AA (PH)	30 5:15 AA (PH) 5:30 Evening Prayer	31 12:10 HE & Healing 4 pm Centering Prayer (1 st Ch) 5:30 EP 6:00 Supper (PH) 6:30 Adult Ed	PH = Parish Hall RO = Rector's Office PR = Parker Room CL = Choir Loft L = Library FR = Fireplace Room HE = Holy Eucharist PBS = Prayerful Bible Study 1st Ch = First Congregational Church on Main Street EP= Evening Prayer; HE = Holy Eucharist		



Grace Episcopal Church
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Amherst, MA 01002-2301

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Return Service Requested

The Liturgical Week at Grace Church in January

Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Monday: 5:30 PM Evening Prayer

Tuesday: 5:30 PM Evening Prayer

Wednesday: 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist (Rite I) with Healing
5:30 PM Evening Prayer

Thursday: 5:30 PM Evening Prayer

Friday: 5:30 PM Evensong & Holy Eucharist

Sunday January 28: 9:30 AM and 6 PM, Holy Eucharist

