



GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of Grace Church, Amherst

April 2007

From the Rector

One of the supreme fruits of Christ's passion and resurrection, of the whole Paschal mystery that we celebrate at the end of Lent, is the invitation to know in the deepest place of the self that no matter what we have done that has distorted the divine image in ourselves, that divine image, the *imago dei*, is being restored, renewed and refreshed by Christ's rising from the dead. The One who suffered rejection, failure and revulsion on the Cross, and then descended to the place of corruption, also rose, victorious, healed, glorious.

This is the promise of Easter, and we are to be an Easter people, a people who rejoice in the marriage of God and humanity in the Paschal Feast. The Easter Liturgy is a wedding liturgy. The priests (and the people, too!) wear white. Instead of rice or confetti or birdseed, we are showered with the water of our baptism, by which we are joined to the Bridegroom. The flowers are fragrant as the most costly perfume, and they look like the trumpets of a royal wedding. It is the feast of Satan's defeat—the evil one who has kept all of us feeling so lonely and isolated from God. It is the banquet of our own victory over the powers of evil, separation, and alienation from our selves, from one another, and from God. In Christ we are all made one, regardless of the catalogue of labels we use to identify ourselves as separate.

This Easter we will welcome a goodly number of adults and infants to the Body of Christ. To heck with the "wedding fast" on that day! For on Easter, we will all renew our "wedding" promises to God and each other on that day in the most important, most essential way for Christians, whether married, partnered, divorced, celibate, or single. On Easter we celebrate our union in heart, mind and body to Christ, the One who gives us eternal life. How

wonderful to have come across an ancient source from the Orthodox tradition to support this way of experiencing Easter. This comes from an ancient Paschal homily from an unknown author who seems to be preaching to us here at Grace Church:

O heavenly Easter! By you, O Christ, the darkness of death has been destroyed and life poured out on every creature. The gates of heaven stand open: God himself is revealed in human form and humanity has ascended and become God!

Thanks to you the gates of hell have been shattered. Thanks to you the great banqueting hall is full for the marriage feast, the guests are dressed in their wedding attire, and no one will be cast out into the darkness. Thanks to you the fire of love is burning in all, in spirit and body, fuelled by the very oil of the risen Christ.*

As the holy women came early to the Sepulchre and found the Risen Christ, so may you and I find him in our Easter Communion and know in our lives, and in our Church, the power of Christ's Resurrection.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,



* Atwell, Robert. *Celebrating the Seasons*. Norwich: Canterbury Press, 1999 (pages 240-241).

A NOTE FROM THE DEACON

Thank you for welcoming John and me into your midst. I look forward to getting to know all of you, but it will take a while, so in the meantime, I also thank you for being willing to re-tell me your name, if I forget it.

As it is a few years since you had a deacon at Grace Church, I thought it might be helpful to talk a little about the ministry of that particular member of the clergy. I use the term “deacon”, in this instance, to mean vocational or perpetual deacon, rather than the transitional deacon, whose intention it is to become ordained as a priest. First and foremost, deacons act as a “bridge” between the church and the world. While a deacon has a role in the sacramental life of the church, he or she has a ministry in the secular world also. In my case, this is as an interfaith chaplain at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton (more about this another time). The latter position is the source of my income, not the church, where services are on a volunteer basis. A deacon is appointed by the bishop and serves directly under the authority of the bishop, although one also serves under the leadership and guidance of the rector of the parish.

Knowing that a deacon serves both “in the church” and “in the world”, it becomes easier to see what roles a deacon might play in the life of the church.

- Spreading the Good News of Christ – in hearing the Good News of Christ in the words of the Gospel, we not only pay heed ourselves, but are also encouraged to spread God’s word outside the church walls into the world in which we live and work. Hence, it is the joyful task of the deacon to read the Gospel.
- The diaconal ministry is one of servanthood – thus the deacon prepares the table.

- Lay Eucharistic Visitors take the sacrament out into the world as they visit with those who are unable to be in church. The deacon takes responsibility for the training and scheduling of the LEVs. (Please note that there will be an LEV training at Diocesan House on April 21st. If you feel called to this ministry, or would like further information, please speak to Rob initially and then either call or e-mail me to register.)
- An obvious role of the deacon is to say the dismissal at the end of the service as the congregation is sent on its way to carry out various ministries in the world.
- Deacons may say the Liturgy of the Word at the beginning of the Eucharist and may assist with the distribution of the elements. With their bishop’s permission and that of their rector, they may also officiate at weddings, baptisms and funerals.
- What a deacon may not do, is to consecrate the elements at the Eucharist, offer the absolution of sins (except in an all-encompassing way, by using the terms ‘us’ and ‘our’), nor may they, in this and the other dioceses which make up Province I, perform a deacon’s mass.

If you have any questions about the role of a deacon, I would be happy to try to answer them. In the meantime, I look forward to my time at Grace Church with you and to coming to know you.

Peace and Lenten Blessings,

Ann

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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Vestry Notes

Notes from the March 5 Vestry Meeting

Jen Soper offered our opening reflection. "Lent has been scary for me. ... I'm asking myself some scary questions. What am I doing here at Grace? What is Church 'for?' ... I don't want my membership to be my Amherst status symbol. ... On a very basic level, I think that the reasons for going to church during the middle of my life go beyond trying to set a good example for my kids, or belonging to the 'club.' It's to remind me how to treat other people... I'm not looking for an answer to the meaning of life. I'm working on being purposeful in the living."

Rob reiterated the need to conduct a mutual ministry review, to explore where there are places of stress and how we are doing together. The protocol for the mutual review committee is that it include the current Senior Warden, a past Vestry officer, and one Vestry member at large.

Rob focused most of his report on concerns we have about our relationship to the Anglican Communion. What is Grace Church's ministry to gays and lesbians? He used the story about Jesus being asked by a group of Pharisees and Herodians if it is lawful to pay taxes to Rome. Jesus produced a Roman coin and asked, "Whose head is on this coin?" The answer was, "It is the emperor's." And so Jesus gave the famous answer, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and give to God the things that are God's." They had meant to trap Jesus but he reframed the question.

The primates (Anglican archbishops who are heads of provinces) met in Tanzania and stated that they want the Episcopal Church in America to stop blessings of same-sex unions and to stop giving consent to the consecration of bishops in committed same-sex unions. The deadline for a response is September 30 but we decide such issues at General Convention (which next meets in 2009). The Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori responded by calling for a fast from the blessing of same-sex unions and of consecrations to the Episcopate of openly gay or lesbian priests. Rob pointed out that gays and lesbians have been fasting all their lives. Some of the most famous lines from the prayer book say that marriage is "one of the signs of Christ's love for the Church." Not being able to offer the sacrament of marriage to everyone drains the theological meaning out of the marriage rite. Increasingly aware of his discomfort with performing weddings, Rob has decided that he will not perform them for anyone and will share this decision with the congregation at the Sunday services on March

Continued next page

The Vestry Motion

11. There will be forums with Vestry members present to discuss his decision.

Chris announced that there is a construction meeting planned for March 6. The contaminated soil is gone and will be recycled. The bills for its removal are coming in and total around \$8,000. The abatement of the Undercroft is done, so the Garden of Gethsemane vigil on Maundy Thursday can take place there. The footings for the cloister have been dug and foundations are being poured. Chris is trying to push along the ongoing dialogue with the town concerning the repair of the Spring Street sidewalk.

Jen related the outcome of the first meeting of the ad hoc organizational committee (Chris Freitag, Jen Soper, Bob Kelly, Mary McCarthy, Mary Hocken, and Katie Schendel). The committee examined three areas of concern: work load of the clergy, administration of Christian Formation and Education, and work load of the church office. The committee hopes to have new systems and practices in place when Rob returns from his sabbatical. By the spring of 2008 we hope we could have two full-time clergy. In the meantime, the committee recommends creating a rotating schedule for clergy to officiate at funerals and other occasional services, hiring a Sunday School Superintendent at 15 hours per week to implement curricula and oversee specific administrative duties. The parents' committee plans to meet soon to share their concerns.

The sabbatical planning committee (the "Singing Hearts") plans to meet March 11. The survey distributed at Annual Meeting reveals that the top five areas of creativity the parish wants to explore are music, writing, fine arts, cooking, and gardening. The committee also wants to focus on themes from the Millennium Development Goals. It will create a time line for proposed workshops.

Bruce reported that the budget is in decent shape. We are projecting a budget deficit of \$13,778. In the meantime, we are still under-spending the budget. One memorial brick has been sold so far in support of the Restoration Project. We have received a \$5000 gift to move the Agnus Dei window and another \$5000 gift to restore the Trinity window. The Vestry approved the annual Parochial Report prepared by Steve Hasbrouck and Robin Morris.

We expressed appreciation for all of the Reverend Margaret Bullitt-Jonas's work on the Climate Walk.

Jane Beebe, clerk

We, the Vestry of Grace Church Amherst, support the fast on weddings initiated by our Rector to stand in deeper communion and solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Christ who are homosexual and whose same-sex relationships cannot receive the blessing and support of the Church's sacramental witness.

It has been customary for our Church to abstain from weddings during the season of Lent, even before we initiated this more extended fast. A fast is a time-honored form of spiritual devotion that is meant for our deeper conversion to Christ. We understand a fast to be a spiritual discipline observed for a time in order to allow more space to hear the movement of the Holy Spirit and God's purpose for our lives. We wish to make it clear that this action is not meant to be interpreted as a "hunger strike" to be undertaken until the Diocese, the Episcopal Church, or the Anglican Communion comes around to our way of practicing Christian discipleship.

We believe we are already experiencing the blessings of this time in a wilderness where we are called to hear many voices and prayerfully to discern which are of God. Already we know more deeply, though certainly not completely, what it is to walk in the shoes of gay and lesbian Christians who have been ridiculed, persecuted, defamed, and even demonized by both church and society. We wish to walk in that desert from this season of Lent through Lent 2008, ending in Eastertide 2008. During this time we will fully support and endorse the weddings of those who were preparing to be married before this action was announced.

Furthermore, we see this fast as an opportunity to revisit our guidelines for Christian marriage, and to strengthen thereby those married and committed relationships among us in the context of our life in community. We pledge to form a committee to guide the parish to explore what marriage means for the twenty-first century Church. We will review our wedding guidelines and examine how we can better prepare persons for this vocation. We will consider the implications of the role of clergy as agents of the state and explore the role of the laity, seeking to make more meaningful their response to the question our service asks of them: "Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?" Such is the fast to which we are called.

Senior Warden's Column

Christopher Freitag

By the time you read this, Easter will be upon us with the hope of new life through the Resurrection. This Lenten season has been, for me, one of much thought and reflection about Grace, the fast that Rob has called as well as the Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue and our call to be better stewards of our ailing planet. The outpourings of support from our Parish as well as from the wider community in support of our gay and lesbian, brothers and sisters has been remarkable. Yes, there have been some unkind comments, but that is to be expected. Grace Church seems to step forward on issues that face our community and the wider world and offer to be a place where further dialog can happen in a safe environment. I was very happy that Bishop Scruton added his support for Rob and Grace Church. The Vestry has met and reviewed the correspondence we've received and has signed a statement of support for the fast. This fast will give us an opportunity as a community to review our marriage guidelines and how we support couples through the sacrament of Holy Matrimony. It seems that we are not the first to partake in such a fast, but we have had the most publicity.

I also had the opportunity to participate in the Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue. Melissa took the lead in our family and made sure we were all signed up and ready to go. Unfortunately after all her preparations, she was the one to get a cold and fever and had to sit this out. She was with us in Spirit as we walked Saturday. Our thoughts and prayers were with those who began the walk on Friday in the snowstorm, but we heard that spirits ran high. Melanie, Rebecca and I joined the walk from Grace in Amherst to Belchertown and it was a wonderful experience. Those who honked their support or called out to us encouraged the group. The day was sunny and our surroundings were beautiful. One does not notice the little ponds, streams or pastures when you are traveling through by car. I have to say that we consider ourselves in fairly good shape, but the last mile or so tested our endurance. Rebecca encouraged us by carrying the Earth flag and pressing on even when I had offered her hot chocolate from Dunkin Donuts. She wanted to complete the walk. My thanks to all those who worked to put this walk together and participated. We hope that with more attention on this world problem we can make a difference. Our children deserve to be able to take such walks in the future without the worry of how to care for a world in trouble from the effects of greenhouse gasses.

Happy Easter!
Christopher Freitag

Junior Warden's Column

Jennifer Soper

I once had to counsel my son when he was caught between a bully and a moral decision that some things were just plain worth taking a punch for, that his family is proud of him, and that he would be proud of himself. Rob Hirschfeld doesn't need my counseling, but I do want to say that I, and my husband, kids, mother and brother are all so very very proud of him. More importantly, we are grateful for his decision to fast from any wedding ceremonies at Grace until all of our brothers and sisters in Christ can walk down the aisle. We are honored by his commitment to his ordination vows. I too am ready to stand by this decision and pray that the fast will not be a terrible and long one.

On to more, well, mundane requests for service. Any painters out there – interior room painters – willing to be a holy roller? There are two offices in the old rectory that need attention. Please call me at 530-7831 to volunteer.

Finally, as I write this, Jim and I are preparing to participate in the first leg of the Walk for Climate Rescue, in the face of a daunting weather report for a winter storm. Kate is baking corn bread for the potluck dinner. And I am praying for a breath of spring generated by taking this physical action to call attention to the needs of our planet.

Jen Soper

Eco-Tip of the Month



An energy-saver for your dishwasher: when the wash cycle finishes, open the door, pull the trays forward, and let the dishes dry in the open air! They will love it, and so will your electricity bill!

Christian Formation & Education

Catherine McGraw, Youth Minister;
The Rev'd Ton Whiteside, Adult Education Coordinator

Adult Education

Wednesdays at Grace

Each Wednesday, we gather 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, we seek offerings for childcare from those attending.

“Show me, God. Teach me Your Paths”

Easter Wednesdays at Grace April 11, 18, 25, and May 2nd.

Intimacy with God, and a deeper connection to community worship have been legacies of our Psalter through three thousand years of song, chant, and prayer. Our relationship with God deepens when our “Show Me!” expresses willing desire to learn.

Pat Andrews, Shirley Brodigan, Ruth Hooke, and Jim Scott will lead the study of this beautiful Hebrew poetry that was prayed by our Lord and his disciples. Join with us to follow the “light unto our feet.”

Foundations Class Offered

What does it mean to be a Christian? What are the sacraments? What does the Episcopal Church believe? What do I need to know about Grace Church? How can I participate? Explore these foundational questions and more. This class is open to all adults, especially those wishing to be confirmed by the Bishop on May 19. Classes will begin after Easter, at a day and time to be determined. If you are interested in attending, please call Ton Whiteside at 256-6754 x.105, or e-mail him at hbw at gracechurchamherst.org.

RETREAT AT GRACE

Holy Saturday Retreat
Saturday, April 7, 2007, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30
p.m.

Led by Robert A. Jonas

Holy Saturday is a powerful day for Christians. Jesus has died and descended into the darkness, and the Risen Christ has not yet appeared. In one Orthodox icon, Jesus is pictured as standing in the depths, reaching down to raise up Adam and Eve. In this symbolic gesture he is touching everything in us that turns away from God; he is healing what is broken and lifting up what has fallen. On Holy Saturday we consciously open ourselves to the liberating power of God and take time to perceive where God in Christ - in powerful but sometimes hidden ways - is at work in our lives. This morning retreat will include silent meditation, presentations on the psychological and spiritual meanings of Holy Saturday, scripture and poetry reading, music, chanting, conversation, and prayer. If you have a poem related to the themes of Holy Saturday, please bring it with you.

Suggested Donation: \$15

Children's Worship Schedule

April 1, Palm Sunday, Sunday School and Catechesis as usual.

April 8, Easter Sunday. No classes.

April 15, Easter 2- Sunday School and Catechesis as usual.

April 22, Easter 3- Sunday School and Catechesis as usual.

Ideas for Adult Ed programming welcomed

The Christian Formation & Education Commission welcomes ideas for programs, courses, and study groups, especially for the next school year, 2007/2008. If you would like to submit a proposal, please write or e-mail Ton Whiteside. You may also place the proposal in Ton's mailbox in the parish office. In your proposal please include the following:

- Your name, phone number, Email address (if you have one), and date
- Title and description of course, program or study group
- Goals: What need or interest does it address?
- Resources needed (including financial support if requested)
- Sponsoring group or commission (if any).

The Adult Education Committee will review the proposals during the last week of May. The Committee is eager to support an educational program that responds to the needs and interests of the parish, thus looks forward to receiving proposals.

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

Calling Local Artists!

L.A.O.S. GALLERY SPACE is available for art exhibits. Contact Carol Soules to reserve space: csoules@mac.com

"KNITLIT Reads" 7-8:30—4th Thursday each month. Reading and knitting group hosted by the KnitLit series editor Linda Roghaar (lindaroghaar@mac.com). Held monthly on the 4th Thursday of the month.

Call for VOLUNTEERS! Interested in books? World Religions? Interfaith Mission & Ministries? Willing to host a book-table and/or ask members of other faith communities to do so? Will you serve as an occasional bookstore clerk? Or better, as a regular bookstore clerk? L.A.O.S. Bookstore is a fully-volunteer organization. Call the bookstore 413.548.3909 for more information.

L.A.O.S. Interfaith Bookstore
—in the Carriage Shops
(2nd floor, at top of awning-covered staircase)
233 North Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01002
413.548.3909
www.laosbooks.org

As you prayerfully consider the injunction to give alms during Lent:

Stewardship Prayer

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little, when we arrive safely because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the waters of life; having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity and in our efforts to build new Earth, we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes, and to push us in the future in strength, courage, hope, and love.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Outreach Ministries Commission

Patrick Kelly & Chris Hoffman, Co-Chairs

Amherst Survival Center Update

The past four weeks have been productive, positive ones for the Amherst Survival Center. Last week the Center announced that Cheryl Zoll has been hired as the new Executive Director. Cheryl brings a wealth of talent and leadership skill to the organization. She has her undergrad degree in biology from Harvard and a PhD in linguistics. She has taught at UMass, MIT and Hampshire College and is currently Site Director for the North Quabbin Adult Learning Center. Cheryl has a strong record of community service, including having been a volunteer for the Survival Center. She is also chair of Amherst's Comprehensive Planning Commission.

At the same time, the Center announced that Ruth Wade had been elected Chair of the Board. Ruth was appointed to the Board in December as liaison for the town of Amherst. Ruth has an EdD degree with a strong background in management and administration. She recently retired after 30 years in education – the last 16 as a school principal. The depth of her experience with non-profit boards and her ready engagement of the needs and opportunities facing the Center made her a natural for the position.

In addition to Ruth's becoming Chair of the Board, Grace Church's Greg Kline has been nominated to be Vice Chair. Greg has been actively involved as a volunteer and board member for several years and his leadership has been key to the Center's fresh start and new directions.

With new leadership has come a new sense of energy and purpose for the Center. In the weeks and months ahead, Greg and I will be sharing more of the Center's progress and asking that you help meet its needs and opportunities with your prayers, your gifts and your participation. Last month we asked for help in buying a new van critically needed to continue picking up food from local restaurants and grocers. A number of you responded in typical generous Grace fashion and, coupled with other gifts in the community, the van has been purchased, is in service and has a small reserve for future maintenance.

There are also immediate opportunities for you to become involved. The Center needs teams of two or three people who can work one or two days a month helping sort and shelve clothing for the Free Store. Back-up morning van drivers to pick up food for local markets are needed as well, (contact Julia at the ASC, 549-3968.) If you are interested in finding out more, please give either Greg or me a call. We are also seeking nominations or expressions of your own interest in becoming a member of the Survival Center Board. And, as always, gifts of food, good quality clothing and money are always needed.

As the Survival Center enters a new phase of its life, significantly increased financial private support will be essential to help it carry out its critical mission in our community. For the past twenty-nine years, the Center was run on the proverbial "shoe string." The increased demands for both leadership and services are requiring the Center to adopt a much stronger financial position. Greg and I will be bringing those needs and opportunities to Grace and the other faith communities in the Amherst area in the weeks ahead.

Peace and Blessings,
Royster Hedgepeth

APRIL 15 INTERFAITH RECEPTION INVITATION

Sunday, April 15 from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m., the Interfaith Officers Network (ION) invites you to a reception, at The First Congregational Church, 165 Main St. Amherst, celebrating a group of Turkish students who are about to receive their doctoral degrees and leave our area. Local faith communities and the UMass Rumi Club will come together to honor these new Ph.D.'s.

Several congregations have enjoyed presentations from these guests, and this reception will offer another opportunity to meet our area's Muslim graduate students as well as to say thank you and farewell to eight of them. Please contact your congregation's ION representative, Zina Tillona (256-6991, Tillona at frital.umass.edu) , by April 10 to say you will join us on Sunday, April 15.

Parish Life Commission

Katie Schendel, Lucy Robinson, Co-Chairs

DATE CHANGE:

May 6 – *Newcomers' Tea*- All are invited to a lovely Sunday afternoon tea to give a warm welcome to those who have joined or are considering joining our church. 3-5, Parish Hall. Please RSVP to Jane Pemberton, 253-7268, jpemberton at amherst.edu.



Wise Women

Spring is peeking around the corner. The frigid winds have died down, the snow is melting and the few wise women who braved them to get together in the Parker Room every Thursday afternoon at 4:00 cordially invite those who prudently stayed home or otherwise stayed out of the cold to come back and add their wise words to our deliberations. If you've never come, remember that spring is a time for new beginnings and come for the first time. We have no agenda, we have no pre-set topic but somehow we never lack for things to talk about. Sometimes we solve the problems of the world. Sometimes we give each other a needed boost. All I know is that we laugh a lot. Hope to see more of you in the lengthening days ahead.

Zina Tillona

Upcoming Events

Young Families Potluck is held the 2nd Saturday of every month - however, due to Holy Week, Easter, and School Vacation week, we will not be gathering in the month of April. Please save the date for our next potluck on Saturday May 12th. We are planning a special evening to honor Pat Andrews, our retiring Sunday School Director!

Save The Date: May 27: *Pentecost Picnic*
12-2:00, Parish Hall

Services Auction

Saturday, May 12th is the date of an event not to be missed – the 2007 Services Auction! But don't just write it on your calendar – become a part of it! Please volunteer your time, brains, talent, and brawn to help make this event special. Many hands are needed on the committee, but if committee work isn't your thing, we could use your help in other ways – for instance, we'll need volunteers to prepare and help serve the scrumptious food that is a highlight of this fun evening. If you haven't participated in this event before, now's the time!

We will also be looking for donations. It's not too early to think about what you're going to offer! Once you have decided what you will be offering, be sure to fill out an offer form. Whether it's an offer to cook, teach, baby-sit, till a garden, or anything else you can do for someone else, it will be of great value! Offer a stay in your vacation home or a ride to the airport. Or offer fun: baseball tickets, bicycle rides, sailing, outings to Tanglewood, children's birthday party, private concerts, catered dinner parties; etc. Be creative – or just offer what you wish someone would offer you! Sign-up sheets will be coming soon, so stay tuned for more details.

Finally, remember to note the new date in your calendar and make sure you are there on May 12th to join in the most light-hearted, entertaining, and warmest evening of giving and getting and helping Grace Church. Thank you –

Tom Dougherty and Diana Spurgin,
Services Auction Co-Chairs

Episcopal Peace Fellowship

Bob Hawley, Chair

March on Washington

Grace Church Episcopal Peace Fellowship was represented by Bob Hawley, Mary McCarthy and Ruth Hooke at the very moving Christian Peace Witness for Iraq service at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on March 16. In a cathedral packed with almost 3000 people, they heard testimonies from a Gold Star mother, an Iraqi war veteran, a woman in Bagdad, an Abu Ghraib detainee, a member of the Christian Peacemaker Team in Iraq (the latter three read for them by others), and many others. Music by the African American group, Performing Artists under the Lord, and by the cathedral choir supplemented hymn singing and two "witnesses" by African American clergy, all of which helped build the service to its climax, a Call to Action for all participants. The latter was reinforced at an Episcopal Peace Fellowship brunch the next day at St. Alban's Church, where EPF members from all over the country committed ourselves to further action against the war.

Later that day I marched with 30,000 others from the Lincoln Memorial to the Pentagon, also to protest the war. It was cold but very invigorating to see people of all ages and types braving the elements to take our message to the Administration about the need to bring the troops home safely and as soon as possible.

Ruth Hooke

On April 22 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall, the Very Rev'd Jim Munroe, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, will report on the Diocesan trip to the Holy Land. All are welcome.

Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue: An Update

Thank you!

As I write this, the Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue is a day away from launch. The Walk hasn't even started, but already I am full of thankfulness for everything this parish has done and will do to help create such a complex, unusual, ambitious, and marvelous event. This morning I woke up grateful.

Imagining that the Walk is over, I look back and want to say:

Thank you. You prayed and planned, cooked and hosted, gathered walkers and spread the word. You welcomed strangers, and loaned or donated all sorts of things we needed along the way - advice, photographs, the use of a car, babysitters, editing skills, cornbread and soup. You slipped coins and cash - and generous checks - into our rubber boot, giving Religious Witness for the Earth a total of almost \$400.

And you walked. You walked and walked. You walked through all kinds of weather. You walked up hills and down, along country roads and through city streets. I expect that some of you walked until you were sick of walking.

"How beautiful upon the mountains" - and upon the roads and highways - "are the feet of the messenger who announces peace" (Isaiah 52:7).

OK, so maybe our feet didn't look so great by the time we finished walking, but I trust there was beauty in our witness to our love of God's Creation. Peace with Earth as well as peace on Earth - that's a peace worth striving for. Thank you for everything you did, and continue to do, to make that peace possible.

Particular thanks go to Mary Hocken, Brother Lawrence Guild, Greening the Church Committee, Michael Ireland, Paul Bracciotti and many others

--The Rev'd Margaret Bullitt-Jonas

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
The Rev'd Ann Wood, Deacon
Ann ## gracechurchamherst.org

Vestry

Chris Freitag, Senior Warden cfreitag
##wnec.edu,
Jennifer Soper jkjsoper ## yahoo.com
Bruce Stebbins, Treasurer bsteb51 ## aol.com,
Jane Beebe, Clerk jabeebe ## amherst.edu
Steve Abdow SteveAbdow ##yahoo.com (10)
Tom Baker the1baker##comcast.net (09)
Don Buckloh buckloh ##noho.com (10)
Maria Dye mdye##servicenetinc.org (08)
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(10)
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Maureen Ryan maureenryan##yahoo.com (08)
Phebe Sessions psession##smith.edu (09)

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.co

April Birthdays

- 1 Kerry Buckley, Ruthanna Hooke
- 2 Frederick Treyz
- 4 Judy Orvis
- 5 Ann Kearns, Warren Taylor, Janet Moore, Katrina Gnatek, Paul Blanquart, Joshua Blanquart
- 6 Priscilla Parke, Sydney Zobel
- 9 Julie Firman
- 11 Shirley Brodigan, Stewart Dougherty, Katie Schendel
- 12 Berri Jacque
- 14 Helen Mottla, Peter Elbow, Gregory Wobst, Rachel Musante
- 15 Christopher Carlisle, Albert Storey, Eva Hyers
- 16 Jono Hanke, Conrad Wogrin, Jack Spence
- 17 Luke Abdow
- 18 John Aldrich, Duncan Fraser, Meghan Mozea
- 19 June Gaeke
- 20 Carolyn Bentley, Mary McCarthy, Ann Lowell
- 21 Jean Canedy
- 22 James Scott, Virginia Oldershaw, Priscilla Hunt, Charles Fischer
- 24 Dorothy Ives, Jessie Abdow
- 25 Natalie Obiero, Ian Skaggs
- 26 Sarah Kulp
- 27 Sally Clegg
- 28 Kassie Pearson-Pomerantz, Laura Ricard, Victoria Quinlan
- 29 Hut Beall
- 30 Bande Mangaliso, Tess Raper



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Bedford Families Benefit Dinner in the Parish Hall, April 29, 6 p.m.

Bement Camp and Conference Center is holding a Spring Dinner on Saturday, April 14th at 6:30 at the Delaney House in Holyoke. This will be a place to learn about the camp, support its programs and have some fun. Ticket prices range from \$250 on up. Contact the Bement Office at 508-248-7811.

After 33 years on the faculty of the UMass Amherst Department of Music & Dance, Professor E. Wayne Abercrombie, Director of Choral Activities, will retire at the end of the spring semester. His final concert will take place on Sunday, May 6th at 3:00 P.M. in the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall. A celebratory dinner will follow in the Cape Cod Lounge in the Student Union Building (next to the Campus Center Parking Garage). Dinner /Concert package: \$40 - general public, \$35 - students, senior citizens and children under 18. Reservations are required for the dinner. Please call the Fine Arts Center Box Office (545-2511) by April 23rd to purchase the dinner/concert package. Concert tickets only may be purchased at the above number or at the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 2:30 P.M. on May 6th.

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!

To schedule a meeting, please send an email to [Robin Morris](mailto:Robin.Morris@gracechurchamherst.org) 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 our website.

Angel Choir is a choir for all young people starting at age 3 and up. The choir will be singing at the 10:30 service at Easter (April 8). For more information, please contact Mary Hocken mhocken at verizon.net or 549-8773.

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

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.

Mutual care provides short-term assistance to parishioners or their families during an illness, family crisis, or following an injury or hospitalization. Anyone needing any such assistance is encouraged to contact the Church office, a member of the clergy, or the group's contact person, currently Katie Zobel 253-3750. Please do not hesitate to do so, as the group is happy to help.

On the Website: information on the background to and statements regarding the Marriage Fast.

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

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.

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.

Please ring. 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.

A new Compline Service has been added to the liturgical schedule at 9 p.m. on Sundays, offered in collaboration with The Ark Five College Episcopal Center.



April 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Passion/Palm Sunday</p> <p>8 am, 10:30 am & 6 pm Holy Eucharist 9:15 am PBS (RO); Sunday School (Parke) 10:15 Catechesis (FR) 9 pm Compline</p>	<p>2 Monday in Holy Week</p> <p>5:30 Evening Prayer 7 pm AA (PH) 7 pm HE</p>	<p>3 Tuesday in Holy Week</p> <p>4 pm Stewardship (L) 5:15 AA (PH) 5:30 Evening Prayer 7 pm HE</p>	<p>4 Wednesday in Holy Week</p> <p>12:10 HE & Healing 4 pm Centering Prayer (PR) 5:30 EP</p>	<p>5 Maundy Thursday</p> <p>4 pm Wise Women (PR) 5:30 EP 7 pm HE Vigil (Undercroft)</p>	<p>6 Good Friday</p> <p>7 am Men's Group (PR) 12 pm Ecumenical (WUM) 4 pm Stations (Common) 7 pm Liturgy</p>	<p>7 Holy Saturday</p> <p>9 am: Holy Saturday Liturgy 9:30 am Retreat 9:30 Angel Choir Rehearsal (CL & CH) 8 pm Easter Vigil (CO/CH)</p>
<p>8 Easter Sunday</p> <p>8 am & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am PBS (RO)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:30 Evening Prayer 7 pm AA (PH)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:15 AA (PH) 5:30 Evening Prayer 7:00 Vestry (FR) 7:30 pm Shawl Ministry</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:10 HE & Healing 4 pm Centering Prayer (PR) 5:30 EP 6:00 Supper (PH) 6:30 Adult Ed</p>	<p>12</p> <p>4 pm Wise Women (PR) 5:30 EP 5:30 Cot Shelter (Noho) 7:30 pm Aelred (PR)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7 am Men's Group (PR) 5:30 pm Evensong & HE</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:30 Not Bread Alone (1st Church)</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8 am, 10:30 am & 6 pm Holy Eucharist 9:15 am PBS (RO); Sunday School (Parke) 10:15 am Catechesis (FR) 9 pm Compline</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:30 Evening Prayer 7 pm AA (PH)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:00 Shawl Ministry (PR) 5:15 AA (PH) 5:30 Evening Prayer 6 pm Liturg. Co (PR)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:10 HE & Healing 4 pm Centering Prayer (PR) 5:30 EP 6:00 Supper (PH) 6:30 Adult Ed</p>	<p>19</p> <p>4 pm Wise Women (PR) 5:30 EP 7:30 pm Aelred (PR) 7:30 pm Choir(CL)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7 am Men's Group (PR) 5:30 pm Evensong & HE</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Earth Day</p> <p>8 am, 10:30 am & 6 pm Holy Eucharist 9:15 am PBS (RO); Sunday School (Parke) 10:15 am Catechesis (FR) 12 pm EPF (FR) 4 pm Report on Holy Land (PH) 9 pm Compline</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:30 Evening Prayer 7 pm AA (PH)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:15 AA (PH) 5:30 Evening Prayer</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12:10 HE & Healing 4 pm Centering Prayer (PH) 5:30 EP 6:00 Supper (PH) 6:30 Adult Ed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>4 pm Wise Women (PR) 5:30 EP 7:30 pm Aelred (PR) 7:30 pm Choir(CL)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7 am Men's Group (PR) 5:30 pm Evensong & HE</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8 am, 10:30 am & 6 pm Holy Eucharist 9:15 am PBS (RO); Sunday School (Parke) 10:15 am Catechesis (FR) 12 pm EPF (FR) 6 pm New Bedford Benefit (PH) 9 pm Compline</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:30 Evening Prayer 7 pm AA (PH)</p>		<p>PH = Parish Hall RO = Rector's Office PR = Parker Room CL = Choir Loft L = Library FR = Fireplace Room HE = Holy Eucharist WUM = Wesley United Methodist (Hadley) PBS = Prayerful Bible Study 1st Ch = First Congregational Church on Main Street EP= Evening Prayer; HE = Holy Eucharist</p>			



Grace Episcopal Church
14 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002-2301

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HOLY WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH

April 1--Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

8 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM (beginning in the Parish Hall and processing to the Church) Holy Eucharist
6 PM Holy Eucharist 9 PM Compline

April 2--Monday in Holy Week

5:30 PM Evening Prayer 7 PM Holy Eucharist

April 3--Tuesday in Holy Week

5:30 PM Evening Prayer 7 PM Holy Eucharist

April 4--Wednesday in Holy Week

12:10 PM Holy Eucharist (Rite I) with Healing 5:30 PM Evening Prayer 7 PM Sung Tenebrae

April 5--Maundy Thursday

5:30 PM Evening Prayer 7 PM Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist of the Last Supper; Stripping of the Altar
All-night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament (Undercroft)

April 6--Good Friday

12 PM Ecumenical Service (Wesley United Methodist Church, Hadley)

4 PM Youth Stations of the Cross (Town Common)

7 PM Liturgy of the Crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ

April 7--Holy Saturday

9 AM Liturgy of Holy Saturday 9:30 AM - 12:30 noon: Holy Saturday Retreat (Parish Hall)

8 PM The Great Vigil of Easter, Holy Baptism, and the Feast of the Resurrection (begins in Columbarium)

April 8--Easter Sunday

8 AM & 10:30 AM The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ