



# GRACE NOTES

*The Newsletter of Grace Church, Amherst*

*May 2007*

## From the Rector

On Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup> at seven o'clock in the evening, we will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Most American Christians seem to have forgotten or hidden this celebration of a central event of our salvation. And we do so at some risk to our understanding of the story of our salvation. To relegate the Ascension to a "lesser feast" or to neglect its observance altogether is to demean our own dignity and to diminish Christ's own promise to us to share in his reign in the dominion of God. Let me try to explain.

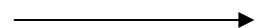
At Christmas, Christ came down from the eternal limitless realm and entered the human experience of limit, mortality and time. His earthly teaching and ministry pointed us the way to a life of utter abundance and freedom from the constraints brought by our awareness of sin, mortality, cultural and even religious custom. Mortal flesh was forever altered in the moment of Christ's rising from the dead, and we are attached and made one with the risen body of Jesus at our baptism. By thus sharing in the life of the Church we are made one with the earthly body of Christ. But it is not for this life and this world alone that we have obtained this new identity. Human flesh, the material and mortal body itself, is promised a special and privileged place in the eternal and heavenly places as well. The Ascension celebrates the promise that in Christ you and I will also, in the words of the old prayer book, "thither ascend." As Christ is present with God the Creator and God the Holy Spirit, so are we, in Christ, destined to share in Christ's glory and in the new economy, that is, the household of God. The one collect (a formal prayer of a special day or occasion) for the Ascension cogently lays out the theology of this both mystical and material event when it prays that as we believe God's Son our Savior to have ascended into heaven, "so may we also in heart and mind thither ascend and with him

continually dwell. (Great word, thither.) If there is ever a celebration in our church year that challenges the church by saying "your God is too small" it's the feast of the Ascension. Just as God becomes a tiny baby at Christmas, so we children are shown the way to the glorious universe of eternal life and ever expanding love at the Ascension.

Another way of imagining the Ascension is to recognize the limitless power of God's presence which we come to know and feel in God's absence. Jesus goes away. In a real sense Jesus is no where, no longer to be pin pointed by a Global Positioning System. And in this absence, through the senses of faith, we come to know Jesus everywhere and always present. Such potent ubiquity involves absence—Christ is present in every place in so far as Christ occupies specific place. Another collect for the day states it this way: "our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things."

I find that the ancient theologians struggled mightily in their prayers to bid the Holy Spirit fill their imaginations and their thinking to see what was not obvious to them. How can we be one with Christ when it so appears that he has been removed from us, taken from us in his unique and particular self? Augustine tells us not to take stock in that perception, but to see ourselves as linked to Christ in his ascension in order to fill our experience even more with a compassion that is infinitely diverse. Preaching on the Ascension, Augustine says,

Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his body, have to bear. Christ showed this when he cried out from above: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" and when he cried said: 'I was hungry



Continued on page 4

## Vestry Notes

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!

Janet Lowry, chair: ballymena ##  
comcast.net 665-2189

David Heyes: davidheyes ## charter.net  
323-0739

Ann Kearns: aekearns ## verizon.net  
549-8773

Ann Lowell: ann ## tarsicius.net 253-1487

Dave Williams: d.williams ## twgroup.net  
256-1234

Melinda Williams: melindaw ##  
external.umass.edu 259-0090

Robin Morris receives the articles, handles production, and consults with the editorial board.

Grace Episcopal Church  
14 Boltwood Avenue  
Amherst, MA 01002-2301  
Phone 413-256-6754  
FAX 413-256-3518

Email: grace ## gracechurchamherst.org  
www.gracechurchamherst.org  
The office is open  
M-Th 9-12:30 & 1-4  
Fri: 9-1

### Notes from April 10 Vestry Meeting

Tom Baker offered the opening reflection. He said that the first Sunday after Easter is sometimes referred to as "Low Sunday." We experience the quiet aftermath after a great release of joy. Tom admitted to feeling low – especially after reading and listening to the news of the day. We are the Rome of our day, except we substitute "American democracy" for "Pax Romana." The local maple sugar harvest is reduced because the trees are not healthy. Bee-keepers are observing "colony collapse disorder" in the hives, probably caused by pesticides. Bees are essential for pollination. And yet we remain aware of the great gift that God loves us. It is for us to find how we can love God and Creation, and pray that we can become faithful stewards.

Katie Schendel visited the Vestry meeting in her role as chair of the Parish Life Commission to give us an update on Commission activities. There are five committees under the Commission umbrella. Katie Zobel stepped down as the chair of the Communications Committee after seven years. Janet Lowry is the new chair and is currently working to revitalize the church web site. Beth Brown has joined Katie Schendel as co-chair the Hospitality Committee. Beth and Nate Brown oversee the coordination of the monthly Family Potlucks. Newcomers are now contacted by e-mail - within a week if possible – with follow-up mailings. There has been quite an influx of new families. May 6 is the date of the Newcomers' Tea. Vestry members are asked to provide finger foods. Katie reported that the ushers did an excellent job for the (overflowing) Easter services. The Services Auction is scheduled for May 12, the Pentecost Picnic for May 27. Katie is currently looking for a cleanup crew for coffee hour.

Rob realized that we have just one more Vestry meeting with him before he goes on sabbatical. He continues to feel a strong need for a Mutual Ministry Review. The last couple of months have been intense and eventful. Jane Wald has agreed to serve on the Mutual Review Committee as a past Warden. Chris Freitag will serve as current Senior Warden. Steve Abdow and Maureen Ryan volunteered from the current Vestry members. Bill Coyne, Archdeacon of our Diocese, will join the committee as well.

Modern readings were selected for the Tenebrae service from Martin Luther King, Jr., Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Oscar Romero. The readings were about reclaiming the spirit of martyrdom for the good of the world. This spirit was reflected in events such as the Walk for Climate Rescue and the response

Continued next page

to the immigrants in New Bedford. Rob gave us some further reflections from feedback he has gotten from our commitment to a wedding fast. People are drawn to Grace Church because we are orthodox but with a vision of the heavenly realm that includes restoration of the planet and peace. By living our faith we are not just reacting to the issues of the day; we live it in a fully integrated way. How we do that is a question to explore.

Jen Soper reported that an ad has gone out for a Sunday School Administrator. The 15-hour per week position will provide oversight of Sunday School teachers and nursery caregivers. Ton will coordinate the curricula. The Vestry needs to see that the Personnel Committee is functioning. We do have a good personnel manual.

Chris reported that a construction meeting took place. One footing has been poured for the cloister walk. Concrete for the next footing is on the way. Excavation has been done along the side of the church. The foundation structure of the Old Rectory was shored up. Work is underway for the sprinkler system in the Undercroft. Chris thought we would see lots more progress soon. We are still close to being on schedule. It will be possible to double up on some projects in the summer. There are still some cost issues to be investigated but the contractors remain committed to the agreed overall price.

Bruce said that we continue to be under in pledge receipts, but also continue to under-spend. The Vestry Executive Committee agreed that Parish Pay (similar to PayPal) should be made available on our web site for those who wish to donate electronically. \$6,149 was contributed to the Easter collection. We had agreed that \$3600 would cover the expense line of our contribution to the Millennium Development Goals. Doug Adler and Jane Buckloh plan a stewardship retreat on Sunday May 20 from 12:3-4:30. The focus of the retreat will be stewardship as a spiritual practice. The Stewardship Committee is seeking 2-3 ministry goals from each Commission for the coming year.

The Vestry approved a special certificate of appreciation and gratitude for Pat Andrews' work establishing the Sunday School and her ministry to and with children. A dinner in her honor is planned. The Vestry also approved a certificate of appreciation and gratitude to The Reverend Margaret Bullitt-Jonas for her work on the Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue. It will be presented April 22, Earth Day, at the 10:30 service.

Jane Beebe, clerk

## Senior Warden's Column

Christopher Freitag

What a glorious Easter we had at Grace! It was wonderful to see the pews full and Grace looked and smelled beautiful with the lilies and other flowers. I cannot remember having five baptisms at one service. Congratulations to our new members in Christ. I am truly amazed at the number of new faces that we see coming to Grace. Our focus on furthering hospitality seems to be working as people are finding a safe place to worship and share thoughts and ideas. Thank you to our Clergy and all those who put in extra hours to make our Holy Week and Easter celebration a time filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Restoration project is progressing. The last few weeks have seen some changeable weather and this has made it harder to keep things moving. With the return of sunshine and warmth, I am sure we will see more sustained work and our plans coming to fruition.

This next month will see us preparing for Rob's sabbatical. We hope to have things in place to continue smoothly while Rob is away from June until sometime in September. When we have a better idea as to our needs, we will be asking again for volunteers to help with our daily life at Grace. This will be a time for us at Grace to come together and see where we might be of further service, so when Rob returns, we can continue to help and thereby leave time for Rob and the staff to focus on other areas of our life at Grace. We will also be working on ideas for how Grace will fulfill its part of the Lilly Grant. We received the grant not only to help enrich Rob's sabbatical, but to further our artistic threads as well. With the input we received at the Annual Meeting we are planning some interesting workshops and forums on "What Makes our Heart Sing". We will keep you posted on our progress and plans. I look forward to this time and pray for a restful and enriching sabbatical for Rob and his family.

and you gave me food.' ....No one ascended into heaven except Christ because we also are Christ: he is the Son of Humanity by his union with us, and we by our union with him are children and heirs of God. So the Apostle [Paul] says: 'Just as the human body, which has many members, is a unity, because all the different members make one body, so is it with Christ.' He too has many members, but one body. Out of compassion for us he descended from heaven, and although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace.

So even though we celebrate an absence on Ascension Day, we are really being drawn to experience a fuller spiritual presence where God is not merely here or there, but everywhere. I pray that your own presence at the Eucharist on that high feast will draw you more deeply into the mystery of Christ's living presence in all things and at all times. Even these times.

With every blessing in the Risen Christ,



## Liturgical Commission

1 of 6 commissions that lead Grace Church

### Good Friday on the Common



### Liturgical Arts Camp

Monday July 12 through  
Friday July 16  
Sunday July 18

What do we do? Drawing, stained glass mosaics, singing, bells, writing prayers of the people, model with clay, calligraphy, learning about and using symbols, good snack, good companions.

Who? Ages: 7 and up. Bring a friend.  
Grades 7 and up are counselors.

Where? Because of the church reconstruction, we will work where there is room and space..

Questions or comments:

Nancy Lowry  
584-6168

nancylowry ## earthlink.net

## Ascension Day Service

May 17<sup>th</sup>  
7 p.m.



THE ASCENSION  
And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. — Luke 24:50

## Anglican Covenant

Wearing my hat as the Dean of the Hampshire-Franklin Deanery, I invite any who are interested to join in a "corridor meeting" with the Hampden Deanery that will take place on Thursday, May 10th at 7 p.m. at All Saints' Church, South Hadley.

At our April Deans' meeting Bishop Scruton informed us that Episcopal Church members of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) are expected to submit a response to the Draft Anglican Covenant. The Executive Council of TEC (The Episcopal Church) asks that deputies, bishops, standing committees, etc., respond to the Draft by June 4 (!) so it can gather its own response by January 2008. The draft of the Covenant can be found on the Anglican Communion's website: [www.aco.org/commission/d\\_covenant/d\\_text.cfm](http://www.aco.org/commission/d_covenant/d_text.cfm)

The Deans and Bishop all expressed alarm at the time-line, but we feel called to convene our deaneries and corridors to discuss the proposed Covenant and the impact it could have on our mission in Christ as Anglican and Episcopalians. The Executive Council has provided a short study guide which we can use on May 10, and that document is available in the Library in the Old Rectory.

This is a big deal. The Draft Covenant really demands our response in a way many of us have not felt before, and we need to include both laity and clergy in this discussion about the future of the Episcopal Church's relationship to the Anglican Communion. Our discussion, even one that takes here in the Pioneer Valley (if we can come to some stated conclusions) will have an impact on the deliberations taking place at the Executive Council and among the Bishops and Deputies of our Church.

So, please come to a Corridor Meeting with members of the Hampden Deanery (to our south) at All Saints' Church, South Hadley, on Thursday, May 10th from 7-9pm.

With every blessing in the Risen Christ,



## A Note from The Deacon

My main focus this month is to bring you up to date with pastoral care, so that this note will be relatively short and the rest of my musings will appear under the Pastoral Care Commission heading.

Pastoral care is becoming my particular ministry here at Grace Church. Under that umbrella, and chaired by Kathy Shaw, are the prayer shawl ministry (led by Melinda Williams), mutual care ministry (led by Katie Zobel), Lay Eucharistic Visitors and other pastoral visiting (which are currently under my guidance). As one of the Chaplains at Cooley Dickinson Hospital, I try to visit every patient there who declares him or herself to be Episcopalian. However, I would also encourage you to name Grace Church in particular as your faith community, if you happen to be admitted to the hospital. It's then easier to find you. Should you wish it, I could also try to visit with you during outpatient appointments, same-day surgery and day-time emergency department visits, if you let me know ahead of time, or have a staff member beep me from the department you happen to be in. I am usually at the hospital between 15-20 hours/week, generally on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, but this can vary depending on meetings and my co-Chaplain's schedule. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have to come to Cooley Dickinson.

Please also be in touch with me if you have any questions or concerns regarding pastoral care and/or hospital visiting.

May the blessings of this Easter-tide fill you with joy throughout the Season.

Ann

### Julian of Norwich May 8



Icon by Anna Dimascio

## Christian Formation & Education

1 of 6 commissions that lead Grace Church  
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.

God's Earth is Sacred: Four Wednesdays in May  
(May 9, 16, 23, 30)

Using the ecumenical essay "God's Earth is Sacred" as a springboard for reflection, we will explore the holiness of Creation and consider our Christian call to care for it. How have we glimpsed God's presence in the natural world? What helps us notice the wounds of Creation without wallowing in guilt, blame, or fear? What are the 'guiding norms' that help us respond to the call to care for God's creation? How might care and justice for Creation undergird our parish's various ministries? If possible, please attend all 4 sessions, but feel free to drop in, as you are able.

#### Children's Worship Schedule

May 6, Easter 5–Sunday School and Catechesis as usual.

May 13, Easter 6–10:30 Liturgy in the Round in Parish Hall especially for families and children. Sunday School Grades 2-9 meet as usual. No Atrium.

May 20, Easter 7– Sunday School and Catechesis as usual.

May 27, Pentecost– 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 and thus looks forward to receiving proposals.

#### Sunday School Teachers to Meet

A meeting of all Sunday School teachers and assistants is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, May 12, from 9:30 until 11:00 in the Parish Hall. The meeting's primary purpose is to evaluate the school year now ending. A light breakfast will be served. Any advance questions regarding the meeting can be posed to Ton through the Parish Office.

# Outreach Ministries

1 of 6 commissions that lead Grace Church  
Patrick Kelly & Chris Hoffman, Co-Chairs

## Inside the Survival Center

You may have read in a previous *Grace Notes* that I (Greg Kline) have been a long time volunteer for the Amherst Survival Center (ASC) and I was recently appointed VP of the Board of Directors. Along with Royster Hedgepeth, I will be contributing to the Outreach Ministries Column of *Grace Notes* to bring news of the ASC to the Grace community. By way of brief introduction, let me say that, though I may be a new face to many of you at Grace, I have been attending Grace for about three years, and have recently begun assisting as a LEM at the Wednesday noon and Sunday 6 p.m. services.

I like to think of my ASC experience as a classic American success story of starting at the bottom and rising to the top of the organization. One caveat is, however, no salary increase. No salary at all, for that matter. Not long ago I was talking with "Downtown Bill" who can often be seen attempting to clean up the town litter, and in his words "make Amherst more presentable". Bill has been a long time ASC client who frequently helped with dishwashing duties. He asked how I and the Center were doing. I told him about our new ED and I happened to mention that I was now VP of the board. He looked at me with a sly grin and said, "why Perot (my earlier short hair reminded him of Ross Perot when he ran for President), you ambitious, ladder climbing, over-achiever. I always suspected you of elitist aspirations." That's Bill!

Globally, nationally and locally we all know the needs are many. Yet, in our pastoral region hunger and poverty often remain off the radar screen. Mention of Amherst generally evokes images of rural college campuses, peaceful farms and forests, and the quaint daily routines of small-town life. All of these reflect a certain reality but are just one part of our story. Families living in poverty, suffering from hunger or food insecurity, or who are just one paycheck away from homelessness also constitute a significant segment of our community. Because Amherst and Hampshire County are primarily rural, much of this suffering is hidden from view, but its existence has been well documented. Project Bread's annual Status

Report on Hunger in Massachusetts, for example, names Amherst as one of thirty-five municipalities in the state with the highest concentration of hunger and poverty, along with cities such as Greenfield, Holyoke, and Springfield. Similarly, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's 2003 State of the People report shows that Amherst is one of only a handful of communities in the area with a poverty rate over 20%, significantly higher than the 13% Valley average. Social service providers throughout Hampshire County bear witness to the extent of need that exists on a daily basis.

These needs are not new. When Jane Holappa introduced the concept of the Survival Center at an Amherst Town Meeting in May 1976, she spoke passionately about homelessness and waning government support for struggling families. She described single-parent households, families living in cars, and an immigrant family who found themselves alone in Amherst, without friends or family. With Town Meeting's support, the Survival Center was born. For the last thirty years, hundreds of dedicated staff and volunteers under the energetic and devoted leadership of Evangeline Wescott have been a backbone in community efforts to supply basic necessities to anyone struggling to make ends meet. They worked to create a community center where the disenfranchised could connect and support each other. They have done so, moreover, with very limited resources, under sometimes-difficult conditions, and in response to changing demographics due largely to a decrease in government support for poor, sick and homeless citizens.

I speak for the entire board and staff of the Amherst Survival Center, when I say we feel honored to have been granted this opportunity to build on the over 30-year history of helping to meet basic human needs in the greater Amherst community. Our first priority is to strengthen the center's ability to continue to provide for basic needs in a safe and welcoming environment for all individuals and families. We have also reaffirmed our commitment to Jane's original mission of empowering consumers to "move beyond a condition of need." This broadened definition of

Continues next page →

Continued from previous page

survival entails that the Center will provide a more extensive support system for consumers by making the Survival Center both a partner with, and a gateway to, the broader human service network in the Valley. At minimum, we will improve our referral system to other agencies, but we also plan to bring more services directly into the Center through collaboration with local organizations serving victims of domestic violence, for example, or providing training for people who want a second chance at a high school diploma or offering classes in parenting skills or financial literacy. Our goal is a Center that meets immediate basic needs while helping to build a path to a more stable future for consumers and their families.

Royster and I would like to extend our personal welcome and an invitation to the Grace Church community to visit and join us for lunch at the ASC. If you have any questions about the Center and how to get involved, please contact me at: gmk105 ## yahoo.com

Peace, Greg Kline



## Pentecost Blessings!

## Millennium Development Goals

The Grace MDG Working Group is currently trying to identify particular projects in Central America and in Sub-Saharan Africa that might be of interest to a large number of parishioners wishing to work together to relieve suffering and break the cycle of poverty. Many Grace members have already decided where they wish to pledge their 0.7% to further the Millennium Development Goals-- to nonprofit health care programs, to women's empowerment projects. One wants to give to a different Five Talents micro-loan project each year, another is pledging to the Carter Center; some plan to give monies through Episcopal Relief and Development to programs focused on ensuring environmental sustainability.

We would also like to offer the option of funding as a group, where we might also establish a longer-term relationship. What if 100 parishioners could give \$140 and that \$14,000 could buy a fully-installed PlayPump water system, complete with merry-go-round and pump, sealed storage tank, tank stand with boards, standpipe with tap, piping (and donor plaque). Set up and installation costs are included (though cost of drilling a borehole at the site varies). These pumps provide clean water and a play structure for village children.

A South African company is currently targeting Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Zambia for these installations. They like to plan 100 at a time. More to come later... We have some other group projects in mind too. Contact Mary McCarthy or Sandy Muspratt for more information or to join our working group.

Mary McCarthy

## Pastoral Care

1 of 6 commissions that lead Grace Church  
Kathy Shaw, Chair; The Rev'd Ann Wood,  
Coordinator

The Pastoral Care Commission currently has four 'prongs' – 1) the prayer shawl ministry (led by Melinda Williams), 2) the mutual care ministry (led by Katie Zobel), 3) the Lay Eucharistic Visitors and 4) other pastoral visiting in homes, nursing homes and in the hospital. The latter two are presently under The Rev'd Ann Wood's guidance. Please feel free to be in touch with any one of us if you have questions or feel called to participate in any one of these ministries.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

What does yarn have to do with God? When prayerfully made into shawls, a lot. These shawls are created as reminders of God's presence and loving embrace. They go to men and women to whom that reminder is especially needed, whether it be in joy or sorrow. This is an international movement and more info is available at [www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com). If you'd like to find out more about what this ministry is like here at Grace you can talk to any of the Grace shawl makers: Melinda Williams, Robin Morris, Bernice Taylor, Pat Andrews, Sandra Burgess, Rosie Pearson, or Beth Cooper.

Or you can come to any of our two gatherings a month and get started right away on a shawl. All you need to bring is a pair of size 11 knitting needles or size L crochet hook. Yarn and patterns are provided. We have a daytime and evening meeting. The daytime "drop in anytime" meeting is May 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Parker Room. Lunch is provided, too! Or you can bring your own. Some folks work in Amherst and come during their lunch hour. The evening meeting is May 8, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Pat Andrews' home in South Amherst.

If you can't make any of the meeting times you can still participate. Contact Melinda Williams [melindaw@external.umass.edu](mailto:melindaw@external.umass.edu) or 259-0090 and she will get you started with a yarn and pattern kit.

If anyone would be interested in a free "Learn to Knit" workshop, contact Melinda as well.

### Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs)

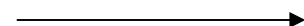
LEVs act as a "bridge" between the church community and those who are home-bound, or are unable to come to church for whatever reason – be it long-term or short-term. They are 'ambassadors' of the parish and bring with them the special gift of the Eucharist. They enable those visited to feel as though they are still a part of their faith community and can continue to be blessed by receiving the sacrament, even though they are unable to be physically in the church building.

LEVs undergo a one-day training workshop, led by diocesan deacons, attend a safe-church training session and undergo a CORI check. This makes sure that they are not only prepared to administer communion in the home or nursing home, but that their characters have also been checked for any past criminal record. For the sake of safety – both for themselves and for those they visit – they have someone else accompany them. This does not need to be another LEV and in fact, it is good for other parishioners to be involved as a part of the team. So – if you would like to join a LEV on a visit, either because you are curious, because you enjoy keeping in touch with the home-bound, or because you might be interested in becoming a LEV yourself, please speak to Ann Wood or to one of the LEVs listed below. LEV visits are not meant to take the place of visits from the clergy, but are in addition to them. They mean that the home-bound can receive communion on a more regular basis and receive additional contact with the parish. The primary focus of a visit is to provide the sacrament. It is a ministry of love, joy and respect. It is also one of confidentiality. The content of a visit is held in confidence by the LEV and other team member, unless the parishioner gives permission to do otherwise, or the LEV has concerns about the welfare of the parishioner that he/she feels need to be shared with the Rector.

Those currently serving as LEVs are:

Jane Beebe, Keyyn Clegg, Bob Hawley, Nancy Lowry, Mary McCarthy, Margo McMahon and Reynolds Winslow. David Radzik is hoping to take the Spring training on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Lyle Denit, who, until recently, ably coordinated visits, is taking a sabbatical.

Continues next page



If you feel called to this ministry, think you might like to consider taking the fall training workshop, or would like more information, please contact The Rev'd Ann Wood. On the other side of the coin, if you or someone you know, would like to receive communion at home, please either call the church office or let Ann know. Visits can be arranged on either an ongoing, long-term, short-term or even a 'once-only' basis.

The Mutual Care Committee would like to remind everyone that the group is active and available to parishioners in need. Mutual care provides short-term assistance to parishioners or their families during an illness, family crisis, or following an injury or hospitalization. Many Grace parishioners have generously volunteered to help in this ministry by providing rides to church or appointments, preparing meals, shopping, or simply offering visits and companionship. Anyone in need of any such assistance is encouraged to contact Kathy Shaw at 413-369-4934, or the group's current facilitator Katie Zobel at 253-3750. Please do not hesitate to do so, as the group is happy to help. As always, we also welcome any new parishioners who are interested in contributing to this important ministry.

### What is a Pastorate Anyway?

Well over a year ago, Rob began talking about organizing our parish into "pastorates," or small neighborhood gatherings of parishioners who live in the same geographic area. Rob and Ton did some research and found that the Church of England has made use of this concept for many years. In London, some large parishes have weekly or monthly gatherings of singles or special interest groups, meeting at the church or someone's home to share liturgy and to socialize.

At Grace, pastorates may ultimately serve various purposes. Monthly neighborhood groups can integrate newcomers, improve communication within the parish, and provide smaller settings where each of us can get to know our neighbors better. As groups evolve, they might become vehicles for delivering pastoral care—one or two in a group might wish to make a casserole for a member recovering from surgery; others might offer rides to church to a neighbor with a broken ankle, and so on. Some pastorates might even want to work on a

short-term outreach project or event together, such as collecting yarn for the shawl ministry. It might be that for Advent, instead of our present reflection on a gospel reading, a pastorate would read something together about the obstacles to primary school education in the Diocese of Thika in Kenya and reflect on that. (Yes, this is a plug for the Millennium Development Goals.)

Right now there are active pastorates in South Amherst, Pelham, Belchertown, at Applewood retirement community, and at Amity Place/Greenleaves. Groups are starting up in greater Northampton and in Echo Hill. A second South Amherst group may be needed. Shutesbury or Shutesbury/Leverett will be forming soon, as well as Sunderland, Hadley, North Amherst, Amherst Center, and the Hill Towns. The few members of the parish in Granby, South Hadley, and Montague will be invited to join other areas. There may be enough for a South Deerfield/Greenfield group. There is also a new young adults group meeting at Laura Ricard's house.

An ideal size for a pastorate seems to be about ten. So far, it seems to take a base of about 20-30 households or more to generate an active regular attendance of around ten. Each pastorate needs a convener (who by no means needs to be the ongoing host of the group). We have a printed format that each group follows. We begin with introductions, opening prayer and five minutes of silence. We then read a recent gospel passage twice and share brief reflections on it, including, how something in that passage touches our life, community, nation, or the world today. Some share personally, others more generally. We listen to one another, puzzle over passages together, confess misgivings and are glad to have a small, safe setting in which to question if we need to.

Our group begins at 7 p.m., and by 8 we move on to an excerpt from Daily Devotions at the Close of Day. Then we offer intercessions and thanksgivings and say the Lord's Prayer and the Collect. At 8:15 our pastorate mills around our host's table munching on cookies, crackers, cider, and coffee, and sets the date and location for the next meeting. Most head home by 8:30.

Mary McCarthy, convener of the Pelham Pastorate

## Parish Life Commission

1 of 6 commissions that lead Grace Church  
Katie Schendel, David Heyes, Co-Chairs

### Newcomers' Tea

May 6 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 ## amherst.edu.



### Wise Women

The Wise Women of Grace Church is open to women of any age. Right now we are loosely defined as building community through trust and sharing. A different woman will run the group every week – which can mean simply opening the group with a prayer, thought or poem. We meet at 4 p.m. on Thursdays and all women are welcome! In May we will probably change the meeting time from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on another weekday so more women can attend. Please contact Zina Tillona, 256-6991, Tillona ## frital.umass.edu or Eugenie Harvey 545-1290, eharvey ## umassk12.net if you have thoughts about a time that works for you or any other thoughts about the women's group. We are considering using the web site SpiritualityandPractice.com as a resource to help run our meetings (check it out!). We would love to see you at our very thoughtful and congenial women's group!

### Family Potluck

Due to space conflicts, the monthly Young Families' Potluck will be held on Saturday May 19th (the 3rd Saturday, not the 2nd!!) in the Library in the Old Rectory. Hopefully the weather will be nice and we can let the children run and play on the Common. Bring a dish to share. Please plan to attend from 5-7 p.m. Questions, contact Beth Brown at 253-0905 or nhbrown ## aol.com.

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

Please plan to attend the Pentecost Picnic, Sunday, May 27 immediately following the 10:30 service in the Parish Hall. Brother Lawrence Group is supplying grill items including burgers, hotdogs, both regular and vegetarian, condiments and drinks. The parish members bring salads, sides of all kinds, any vegetarian dishes, baked beans and deviled eggs are always favorites and of course desserts.

### Healthy Choices for the 10:30 Coffee Hour

Many parishioners and visitors enjoy connecting with each other over coffee and a bite to eat during the 10:30 coffee hour. During the past year, I have tried to include more fruit for the 10:30 coffee hour, and have noticed that the apples and melon I bring quickly disappear each week. Many children (and parishioners) begin their day at Grace at 9:15 with Sunday School and are ready for something more substantial than cookies or doughnuts by the time the 10:30 service lets out. With this in mind, I have put together a list of suggestions of what to bring to complement the usual goodies that are provided.

- Baby carrots
- Celery and peanut butter
- Bagel with or without cream cheese
- Bread
- Cheese
- Fresh fruit, sliced or whole
- A couple of boxes of mac and cheese (I will prepare)
- Sliced Ham
- Jar of peanut butter
- Saltines
- Orange juice

As a reminder, all parishioners are encouraged to bring food for coffee hour according to the calendar below. You are welcome to drop off your contribution at the Parish Hall before or after the service.

Calendar for May: If your name begins with

- A- B, May 6
- C-D, May 13
- E-G, May 20
- H-J, May 27

Katie Schendel

## Services Auction

Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 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 need your service donations! 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 12<sup>th</sup> to join in the most light-hearted, entertaining, and warmest evening of giving and getting and helping Grace Church. Thank you.

The evening begins at 5:30 with hors d'oeuvres and silent auction, the live auction starts at 6:30.

Tom Dougherty and Diana Spurgin,  
Services Auction, Co-Chairs

## Stewardship Commission

1 of 6 commissions that lead Grace Church  
Doug Adler, Jane Buckloh, co-chairs

### Message from Stewardship:

Stewardship is working to design the 2007-08 appeal so that parishioners have a clear picture of the Grace Church budget. Similarly we hope to indicate service opportunities where our time and talents are most needed. Aware of the time constraints we all face, we want to present some mini-ministries that offer the satisfaction of giving to Grace and joining with fellow parishioners. Our essential effort is to present Christian Stewardship as a spiritual practice in which we give to God the first fruits of our labors. We make the promise to contribute a share of our personal financial resources, our time and our talents to support our church and those persons and ministries that make it thrive. Supported by this community of faith we dare to believe in God's own generosity. Christ expressed this generosity as "a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, (which) will be put into your lap...". These ideas and your own reflections on Stewardship will be explored at our first annual Stewardship Day to be held Sunday, May 20, 12:30-4:30 in the Parish Hall. All are invited to attend. Lunch will be served. Please register by May 15 with Jane Buckloh, (buckloh ## noho.com) at 625-9365 or Doug Adler, (adler ## admin.umass.edu) at 256-6113.

As we continue our planning we welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to contact any Stewardship member. Co-chairs: Doug Adler and Jane Buckloh, Members: Fred Perry, Phil Mathews, Laura Ricard, Kathy Lichtenstein, Debbie Jacque and Tom Baker, liaison to the Vestry.

## The View from the Office

As we prepare to maintain Grace Church's busy schedule of worship, education and outreach during the Rector's sabbatical, I am hoping we can commit to building and strengthening the structures that enable this great variety of experience. Sitting in the office at the Old Rectory, my view includes the Common, a bird feeder full of sparrows chasing off chickadees, and a great, sometimes vibrating, mud pit. On the non-visual level, it also includes six commissions, each of them responsible for one-sixth of the functioning of our church, this particular embodiment of Christ in the world. Some of these commissions, like Parish Life, have eleven committees under them!

The structure is, at times, fluid and seemingly arbitrary. Are ushers part of Parish Life or are they really under the auspices of the Liturgical Commission? The Peace Fellowship is technically a branch of a national Episcopal organization: does that mean it is not a part of Outreach? If not, how do I categorize it in publications such as this one, and the brochures that outline the many opportunities for ministry, on the stewardship form, and our website? The structures are not written in stone; they were developed in response to our needs as we moved from a pastoral size church to a program size church. (See "How to Minister Effectively in Family, Pastoral, Program, and Corporate Sized Churches" by Roy M. Oswald, Senior Consultant, The Alban Institute at <http://www.congregationalresources.org/article0132.asp> for a brief description of these categories.) The structures can be modified to meet our needs as we change and grow, and it is important to evaluate them so that they function optimally. But any structure is only effective when the participants commit to making it work. This commitment involves three components: prayer, communication, and responsibility for implementation.

First, we pray as we begin our meetings and discussions that we would be guided by the leading of the Holy Spirit in our deliberations and that charity would prevail. That we would consider the ideas and wishes of others at least as good and important as our own. This requires some openness in our listening and speaking.

Second is communication. This is not a function that can be delegated to the Communications Committee or outsourced to impersonal technology. This is a way of being together in Christ. It is the responsibility of every person, committee and commission to make sure that all ideas and plans are communicated to the appropriate people and possible scheduling conflicts considered and reviewed before being decided upon. We had, at one point, tried to meet on an all-

commission night to enable actual face-to-face communication but that proved too difficult with our many schedules (and our current reduction in meeting rooms). But please, be creative and find ways to connect with other committee and commissions and see how your ideas interact, intersect and impact one another. "We are many members but one Body"! And please keep me, the Parish Administrator, in the loop on all plans (events, structural changes to committees, etc.). At present, I continue to do all the room scheduling and upload a calendar (which contains both in-house and rental information) to our website.

Finally, responsibility for implementation. As I was writing this article, Parishioner A stood in my office and offered to help Parishioner B with a small task. "What?" asked Parishioner B. Had she misheard? Surely Parishioner A was busy with some other important project. Parishioner A assured her he could take a moment. "You can help?" Parishioner B finally understood and accepted. It does not take a great exegetical mind to demonstrate what this true story reveals.

We are a community full of great thinkers but brilliant ideas are only as good as their implementation. Here's a key point from Oswald's article that helps explain the stresses we experience in the Old Rectory and the frustrations that many parishioners feel:

As a rule of thumb, if you desire to staff for growth, you need one full-time program person on your staff for every one hundred active members. (This does not include support staff such as janitors or secretaries.) Active members refers to how many are attending worship on the average year around. You are staffing for maintenance if you are just slightly under that figure. You are staffing for decline if you are seriously under that figure.

Currently, our average Sunday attendance is in the 275-290 range and we count more than 500 as members. Only Rob is technically full time, and I spend most of my 30 hours a week performing secretarial duties that don't "count" (the bulletin, this newsletter, answering phones, rental management) in addition to "program" support (email, email email!). What this means is, if you have an idea, be prepared to shepherd it through all the stages of its implementation. Consult with the office, and others who may be affected, gather volunteers, outline steps, check your committee or commission's budget if you need supplies (stamps, envelopes, etc.), book the space and time to do the work and enjoy your opportunity for service!

Robin Morris

### 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)  
Robert Kelly rjkelly##crocker.com (08)  
Catherine McGraw cmcgraw##alum.emory.edu  
(10)  
Steve McKelvey stmckelvey##charter.net (08)  
Maureen Ryan maureenryan##yahoo.com (08)  
Phebe Sessions psession##smith.edu (09)

Elizabeth Duda, youth member  
lizduda##comcast.net

### Staff

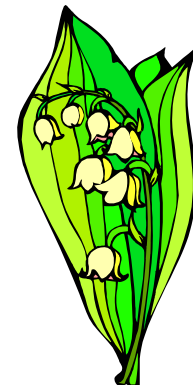
Patricia Andrews, Sunday School Director  
pca ## gracechurchamherst.org  
Elizabeth Hart, Director of Music & Sr. Choir  
beth## gracechurchmusic.org  
Dick Damon, Organist  
Robin Morris, Parish Administrator  
Grace ##gracechurchamherst.org  
Steve Hasbrouck, Assistant Treasurer  
Smh ##gracechurchamherst.org  
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

## May Birthdays

- 1 Jerome King, Samuel Morgan
- 2 Ellen Dickinson, Sam Lowry, Sharon Wells,
- 3 Kathy Shaw, Julie Nelson
- 4 Alexandra Dawson, Allan Brown, Beth Hart
- 6 Natalie Moss, Cameron Gemmell
- 7 Virginia Grahame, James Allison, Brendan Coughlin
- 8 Cheryl Johnston
- 9 Chris Riddle
- 10 Phyllis Page, Sara Stelzner, Ethan Floquet
- 11 Steve Abdow
- 12 Cami Elbow
- 13 Brendan Sullivan, Elizabeth Carter, Deborah Leonas, Bridget Lowry, Ingeborg Freitag
- 15 Dorothy Morse, Sarah Turgeon
- 16 Sarah Boy
- 17 Marion Rosenau, Benjamin Allison, Allison Hyers
- 18 Arlene Manning, Gerald Gabriel, Peter Raper, James Dawson
- 21 Pam Wilkinson, Julia Frierson-Stifler
- 24 Kayanna Franklin
- 25 Vera Goodwin-Brown, Madeline Cann, Camden Skaggs
- 26 John Adams
- 27 Doug Adler
- 28 Kent Faerber
- 30 Brown Kennedy, Owen Stebbins
- 31 Julianna Eve, Lucien Rolski



# May 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PH = Parish Hall, RO = Rector's Office PR = Parker Room , CL = Choir Loft L = Library, FR = Fireplace Room HE = Holy Eucharist CCC = Christ Church Cathedral Springfield PBS = Prayerful Bible Study 1st Ch = First Congregational Church on Main Street EP= Evening Prayer; HE = Holy Eucharist		1 5:15 AA (PH) 5:30 EP 7 pm Vestry (FR)	2 12:10 HE & Healing 1 pm Communica- tions (PR) 4 pm Centering Prayer (1 <sup>st</sup> Ch) 5:30 EP 6:00 Supper (PH) 6:30 Adult Ed	3 4 pm Wise Women (PR) 5:30 EP 7:30 pm Aelred (PR) 7:30 pm Choir(CL)	4 7 am Men's Group (PR) 5:30 EP	5 9 am Property Committee (PR)
6 8 am, 10:30 am & 6 pm Holy Eucharist 10:30 Liturgy in the Round (PH) 9:15 am PBS (RO); Sunday School (Parke) 12 pm EPF (FR) 3 pm Newcomers' Tea (PH) 9 pm Compline	7 5:30 EP 7 pm AA (PH)	8 5:15 AA (PH) 5:30 EP 6:00 Liturgical Co (FR) 7:30 pm Shawl Ministry (Pat Andrews)	9 12:10 HE & Healing 4 pm Centering Prayer (1 <sup>st</sup> Ch.) 5:30 EP 6:00 Supper (PH) 6:30 Adult Ed	10 4 pm Wise Women (PR) 5:30 EP 7:30 pm Aelred (PR)	11 7 am Men's Group (PR) 5:30 pm Even- song & HE	12 9:30 am Teachers' Meeting (PR) 10:30 Not Bread Alone (1st Church) 5:30 pm Services Auction
13 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	14 5:30 EP 7 pm AA (PH)	15 11:00 Shawl Ministry (PR) 5:15 AA (PH) 5:30 Evening Prayer	16 12:10 HE & Healing 4 pm Centering Prayer (1 <sup>st</sup> Ch.) 5:30 EP 6:00 Supper (PH) 6:30 Adult Ed	17 Ascension Day 4 pm Wise Women (PR) 5:30 EP 7:00 pm H.E.	18 7 am Men's Group (PR) 5:30 pm Even- song & HE	19 11 am Confirma- tion (CCC) 5 pm Family Potluck (L)
20 8 am, 10:30 am & 6 pm Holy Eucharist 9:15 am PBS (RO); Sunday School (Parke) 10:15 am Catechesis (FR) 12 pm Stewardship Fair (PH) 9 pm Compline	21 5:30 EP 7 pm AA (PH)	22 5:15 AA (PH) 5:30 Evening Prayer 6:30 Planning meeting (FR)	23 12:10 HE & Healing 4 pm Centering Prayer (1 <sup>st</sup> Ch) 5:30 EP 6:00 Supper (PH) 6:30 Adult Ed	24 4 pm Wise Women (PR) 5:30 EP 7:30 pm Aelred (PR) 7:30 pm Choir(CL)	25 7 am Men's Group (PR) 5:30 pm Even- song & HE	26
27 Pentecost 8 am, 10:30 am & 6 pm Holy Eucharist 9:15 am PBS (RO); Sunday School (Parke) 10:15 am Catechesis (FR) 12 pm Picnic (PH) 9 pm Compline	28 Memorial Day 5:30 EP 7 pm AA (PH)	29 5:15 AA (PH) 5:30 Evening Prayer	30 12:10 HE & Healing 4 pm Centering Prayer (1 <sup>st</sup> Ch) 5:30 EP 6:00 Supper (PH) 6:30 Adult Ed	31 4 pm Wise Women (PR) 5:30 EP 7:30 pm Aelred (PR) 7:30 pm Choir(CL)		



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

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
AMHERST, MA  
PERMIT NO. 27

Return Service Requested

## The Liturgical Week at Grace Church in May

Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 6 PM Holy Eucharist  
9 PM Compline

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

May 17 Ascension Day: 7:00 PM Holy Eucharist

