

THE BELL is published on the last week of the month.
Deadline for the next issue is Wednesday April 20th, 2011

Groveland Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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Groveland MA 01834

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THE BELL

April 2011
Newsletter of the
GROVELAND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
4 King Street at Perry Park
Groveland, Massachusetts 01834
978-372-3463 gcuucc@verizon.net
www.grovelanducc.org

From the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC:

One of the largest earthquakes ever recorded hit Japan at 2:46 p.m. local time on March 11, triggering a massive 23-foot tsunami. The 9.0 magnitude offshore quake, the largest in Japan's history, was followed by hundreds of aftershocks. Japanese officials say more than 3,300 people have died in the disaster. The death toll is likely to continue climbing given the scale of Friday's devastation; extensive search and rescue efforts are still underway.

GIVE generously to support emergency relief and rebuilding efforts by making a secure online donation right now at <http://www.ucc.org/make-a-gift/> or you can send a check to the church payable to Groveland Congregational Church and marked for "Pacific earthquake/tsunami". We will send them through The Massachusetts Conference on to Wider Church Ministries. Donations may also be made out and sent directly to Wider Church Ministries, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115



From the Deacon's Bench

Acts 6:1-4(NIV)

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

1 Timothy 3:8-10(NIV)

Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

The above provides the scriptural basis for the establishment of the diaconate (office of the deacons) and the requirements of the candidates. The name comes from the Greek word *diakonos* meaning servant. It started with the selection of men but now includes women as well. In some traditions it is a clerical office in others it is for laity. In our church tradition it is an office for the laity of the church.

At Groveland Congregational Church the major responsibilities of the Board of Deacons, together with the Pastor are:

- The Spiritual Life and Mission of the Church
- The overall supervision of the Worship and to conduct the Worship Service in case of emergency.

A Blessed Easter

*"I am the resurrection and the life;"
celebrate the miracle of new life in Christ.
Easter Blessings!*

*Bible verse:
"Everyone who lives and believes in me
shall never die." John 11:26
~Pastor Lance*



Pray for one another...

Asa Beckwith Sr.	Lyn Fatalo
Tom, Lisa and Megan Ackerman	(Chris Reagan's friend)
Marisa Metcalf (Russell's grandda)	Darlene LaBonne
Tom Collins (Holden's son in law)	Norm Baker
Gordon Driscoll (Lisa Quinnan's da)	Ruth Maciak (friend of Joan Parah
Tressa (Terri) Callaghan	Marissa Dunne
Jill Nason (Aline's friend)	(Chris Reagan's friend)
Donna Torvi (Aline's friend)	Alice Johnston
Peg Cuddy (Jim Parah's sister)	Brenda Cross
Renee Costa (Tina Sarro's friend)	Maureen Johnson
James Favor and family	Meaghan Sweeney
Jane Binder	Jean Stillwell and family
Tina Sarro	(Judy Lynn's cousin)
Kim Sealy (Dorris O'Leary's friend)	Steve Melia
Fred Neal (O'Leary's friend)	(friend of the Nelsons)
Martha Lee Savage	Kathy Francisco
Seth Dallaire	(friend of the Nelsons)
Alma Jones	

A note from the Stewardship Committee...

The world is a crazy place! Every night while watching the evening news, you see all of the devastation and trials that people around the globe face everyday. From the earthquakes to floods to hunger and famine. Sometimes we feel sheltered from it all here in beautiful Groveland but we can't forget that it is happening. With that being said, the church gives us a conduit to send our prayers and donations to all of God's people who need help. This takes money.

That comfortable feeling we get on Sunday mornings with our faith community can only continue if we support the four walls around us and the operations within. This is done through our pledges to the church. We are an active church and do a great deal in the community which is why our need for our members' time, talents and treasures has never been greater.

I will continue to support our grand old friend at 4 King St. and all that it holds, I hope you will as well.

Thank you,

Bill

Bill Fabri

OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2011

PLEDGED INCOME: \$22,868.23

COLLECTED PLEDGES: \$21,602.00

OUTSTANDING PLEDGES: -\$1,266.23

TOTAL INCOME: \$ 36,172.35

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: 40,746.40

CASH ON HAND: -\$4,574.05

- Providing and serving the elements of the Sacrament of Holy Communion and assist the Pastor in the Sacrament of Baptism and the acceptance of new members.
- Establishing caring relationships involving the membership of the congregation and those who are ill, bereaved, elderly or in hardship situations or withdrawn from Church.

At the present time, the Board of Deacons is short one member. If you feel that you would like to serve as a deacon, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

Remember that service is a key part of our responsibility as a member of this church and as disciple of Christ.

John Statom

The Board of Deacons would like to express its thanks to everyone who donated and prepared the delicious food; those who donated the paper goods, beverages and decorations and everyone who helped us eat the fabulous food at our International Buffet. Thank you, also, to the many people who delighted the crowd with their musical talent; dancing, singing and playing the guitar & piano. It was an awesome evening of fun and fellowship.

Candlelight Taize Meditation Service

This year Holy Week begins on Sunday, April 17th (Palm/Passion Sunday). A great way to get into the spirit of Holy Week would be to attend the Taize service in our sanctuary that evening at 7:30 PM. There will be scripture, simple musical refrains, petitions and an extended period of silence in our beautiful candlelit sanctuary. Give yourself the gift of prayer as we follow Christ on his journey to Gethsemane.

From the Pastor's Desk...

Controversy on the Basketball Court

At the end of the day, referees are just like the rest of us: They make mistakes, and sometimes those errors alter games or even end seasons. While there is no doubt those errors are unintentional, they can still have a profound effect on the course of events as large as a tournament championship or a state's basketball playoff invitation.

I am reminded of an incident that involved former Celtic great and current Hall of Famer, Larry Bird. During a game in which the Boston Celtics were dominating their opponent, there was a flagrant foul by an opposing player against Larry Bird. The official did not call a foul. For the better part of the rest of the game Larry Bird continually assaulted the referee in question about missing an obvious foul. The referee chose to ignore Mr. Bird's taunts and deriding. Toward the end of the game, with the Celtics still in command of the game, Larry Bird missed an easy, uncontested lay-up.

At this point in the game, the referee called an official's timeout and went over to Larry Bird and said, "Did you miss that lay-up on purpose?" Larry responded, "Of course not! Sometimes I just miss one." To which the referee responded, "Larry, sometimes I miss one too."

"Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." (New Living Translation 2007)

Wishing you grace, mercy, peace and love.

Shalom,

Pastor Lance



Baccalaureate Sunday: We are planning this service and would like to acknowledge graduating students (high school, college, grad school). Please contact Jen at the church office with the name of any graduating student. Thank you.

Reserve the Date (May 6th)...and Donate!

The **Talent and Service Auction** will be held on Friday May 6th! This is always a fun evening of friendly competition and laughs so plan right now to join us. For more information, contact Linda Prescott via email at LPrescott@Lawrence.k12.ma.us or leave a message at 978-372-6113.

Please cut out the donation form below and submit to the church office by April 15th

Talent and Service Auction – Donation Form

*Use additional forms for more than one item in a category

Name	
Address	
Contact Phone No.	
CATEGORIES:	Description of talent and/or service to be donated - one item per line
Antiques/Collectibles	
Gift baskets/gift certificates	
Entertainment/travel/museums	
Flowers/plants/vegetables	
Homemade crafts	
Food/baked goods	
Services	
Lessons/tutoring	
Vacation/recreation	
Other	

Please submit donation form by April 15, 2011

The Eastern University Choir under the direction of Richard Frost is coming our way very soon! The 40+ singers come from St. Davids, PA just outside of Philadelphia. They will present a widely varied program, including old to new classic choral music and also a touch of Broadway. This dynamic group will indeed delight and inspire you. Groveland Congregational has hosted this choir many times, and it seems that they get better every year! Last year they did not tour the northeast as they were on a European concert tour.



The date of the concert is Tuesday, May 17th at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary. This is a free concert (free will offering); why not invite your friends and neighbors to come with you! Let's fill the sanctuary for these wonderful young people.

Our church is one of Eastern University's favorite performance venues because of our warm welcome and hospitality. This year there are about 10 more students to house than we have had in the past, so we would like to ask everyone to check to see if you have room to house 1, 2 or more students overnight on Tuesday, May 17th. We also house the director, Richard Frost, and the accompanist, Nancy Thomas. If you have a problem with your morning schedule, transportation for your students back to church can be arranged. Please speak to Kathleen Tucker Gustafson if you think you can host, or if you have any questions. Thank you very much!

*Thank you to everyone who helped out with my school project!
Tracy Lussier, Jen Petersen, Carroll Gustafson, Bob Kent,
Marilyn Kent, Ron Mertens, Caroline Cranos, Justin Gordon,
Beth Balford, David Balford, Dorris O'Leary, Jane Holden,
and Deb Stephenson- thank you very much for your
thoughtful responses!
Abby Stephenson*

Scholarship Opportunities



The Trustees are looking for applicants for the Maddock Scholarship. Contact the church office or go onto our website at www.grovelanducc.org for an application form. Applications must be postmarked by May 2nd.

Faith Circle is accepting application letters for two scholarships that will be presented on Baccalaureate Sunday. Following are details on each of the scholarships and application requirements:

The **Faith Circle Scholarship** is presented to the graduating high school senior who is pursuing a post-secondary education in an accredited 2 or 4-year school/college. Application is made in the form of a written letter by the candidate and should include details on the candidate's church involvement at Groveland Congregational, school involvement, community involvement and the field of study and school they are planning to attend and when. The letter should be sent to Faith Circle Scholarship Committee, Groveland Congregational Church, 4 King Street, Groveland, MA 01834 and be postmarked by May 2nd.

The **Judy Henry Scholarship** is presented to a female church member who is returning to school for either certification of completion of requirements in a specific field of study or pursuing a 2-4 year undergraduate or post-graduate degree program. The letter of application must include information about your church involvement at GCC, information about the field of study you will be pursuing and how this education will benefit you. Letters should be sent to the Faith Circle Scholarship Committee, Groveland Congregational Church, 4 King Street, Groveland, MA 01834 and be postmarked by May 2nd.



The Faith Circle Scholarship Bake Sale will be held on Palm Sunday (April 17th) following worship.

Spring Flowers are Blooming!

It's time again for the annual Easter flower orders. These plants will be used to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Complete the form provided and return to the church office with payment. Deadline for the orders is by noon Sunday, April 10th. You are welcome to call in or email your order if you would prefer - contact Sandy Keene 978-372-4654, keenehome@comcast.net. Thank you for considering the Easter flower program.

***Groveland Congregational Church
Easter Flower Orders 2011***

Orders due by noon on Sunday, April 10th

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

INSCRIPTION: _____

(Please circle color choice for tulips)

Easter Lily (single)	___ at \$11.00 each	\$
Easter Lily (8" pot, double)	___ at \$18.00 each	\$
Daffodils (yellow only)	___ at \$11.00 each	\$
Tulips (pink, white)	___ at \$11.00 each	\$
Hyacinth (white only)	___ at \$13.00 each	\$
	Total order:	\$

Note: all pots are 6" or 6 1/2" unless noted
Hyacinth will be used outside the sanctuary weather permitting

___ I will take my flowers home ___ I would like my flowers delivered to a nursing home/shut-in

Make checks payable to Groveland Congregational Church (GCC).

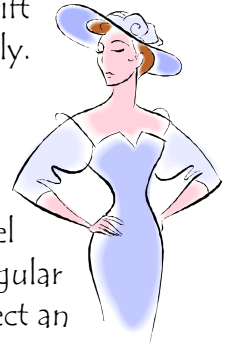
One Great Hour of Sharing

Soon you will be receiving a letter about One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) and an offering envelope. The OGHS offering will be collected during the worship service on April 3rd. Money collected for OGHS helps to feed victims of famine, provide services for displaced people, fund development projects and respond to natural disasters. Additional offering envelopes will be available in the pew racks on April 3rd.

Roast Beef Dinner and Thrift Shop Fashion Show

Saturday night April 16th at 6PM.

If you are new to the church or for some unfathomable reason have never attended this gala; it combines a delicious roast beef dinner with the opportunity to watch your neighbors and friends model fashions from our church's Thrift Shop. This is a fun night out for the entire family. Tickets will go on sale March 27.



We are looking for Models - no prior experience needed - all ages, sizes, and genders welcome! If you would be willing to model please go into the Thrift shop during their regular Wednesday or Saturday morning hours and select an outfit or two and complete the model information form and leave it in the Missions mail box.

Missions Committee is looking for donations of ten 9 X 12 pans of gingerbread for the dinner. Gingerbread may be dropped off at church on the afternoon of April 16th. Please let Deb Stephenson know if you are able to do this 978-373-1453 or dbs1975@comcast.net