

THE BELL is published on the last week of the month.
Deadline for the next issue is Wednesday February 16th, 2011

Groveland Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
4 King Street
Groveland MA 01834

Non Profit Organization
US Postage Paid, Permit #561
Haverhill MA 01830

Return Service Requested

THE BELL

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

Adult Lenten Study – The Wisdom of Faith

Pastor Lance in conjunction with the Board of Christian Education will be offering an Adult Study opportunity this Lenten Season. *The Wisdom of Faith* with Huston Smith will be presented. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Pastor Lance.

- Monday, March 14 at 7:00pm – Hinduism and Buddhism
- Monday, March 21 at 7:00pm – Confucianism
- Monday, April 4 at 7:00pm – Islam
- Monday, April 11 at 7:00pm – Christianity and Judaism
- Monday, April 18th at 7:00pm – A Personal Philosophy



**THOSE PERSONS INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT
BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE GROVELAND
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ARE INVITED TO SPEAK WITH
PASTOR LANCE DALLAIRE OR A MEMBER OF THE DEACONS.
A NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS IS FORMING.**

In the event that church services need to be cancelled due to snow, there will be an update available on our website www.grovelanducc.org as well as on our outgoing telephone message. We will also announce any cancellations on WCVB's Channel 5.

Thank You

We would like to thank all of the members and friends of the Groveland Congregational Church who remembered us over the Christmas holiday with their cards, gifts and words of encouragement and appreciation. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated. Further, I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for the Christmas gift on behalf of the church.

The Dallaire Family

From the Pastor's Desk

A Christian's Response to the Shooting in Tucson, Arizona

The recent shooting of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords in Arizona ought to speak to the very heart and soul of our nation. The assassin raised his gun and pointed it to Rep. Gifford's head, and then he kept shooting until six people were killed and 13 wounded. The dead were identified as: John Roll (63); Dorothy Morris (76); Dorwin Stoddard (76); Christina Greene (9); Phyllis Schneck (79); and Gabriel Zimmerman (30). We all mourn the lives lost and hope and pray for the recovery of all those who were injured.

What are the circumstances and atmosphere that allows this manner of hate and violence to continue to grow? How can we stop the rhetoric, conflict and violence? Additionally, how can we be a part of the healing which will bring about a just community that demonstrates and practices the positive presence of peace?

We must start with ourselves. When we recount individuals in scripture who approached Jesus and asked what needed to be done to bring about change, Jesus always told the individual to start with oneself. The rich man seeking eternal life (Matthew 19:23-24); the lawyer likewise asking what needed to be done to inherit eternal life, Jesus replied with the Parable of the Good Samaritan, i.e. who is my neighbor? (Luke 10:30-37); and Nicodemus asking what must be done to inherit eternal life (John 3).

The Capital Campaign Committee



As of 12/31/10, the Three Year Pledge Commitment total against the need of \$450,000 was \$120,326 and the total income into the Capital Fund Drive account from Donations, Pledges, Fund Raisers, Interest, Other and the Evelyn Wales Memorial Fund was \$148,665.

We have disbursed a total \$280,306 for Contractor Fees, Appraisal Fees, Credit Line related Expenses and Principle and Interest Payments against the Capital Fund Drive Account. We have drawn a total of \$114,948 against the \$200,000 Credit Line and have paid \$39,948 as payment to Principle and Interest of the Credit line. This leaves a current balance owed to the Credit Line of \$75,000.

Notes from the office:

Giving statements and pledge envelopes are all available for pick up in Fellowship Hall. Please see Jen if you have any questions or concerns.

Annual Reports from Boards and Committees are requested by Monday the 24th so I can put together the Church's Annual Report in time for Annual Meeting in March.

Finally, on a personal note, thank you all for the many gifts and kindnesses during the holiday season. Thank you to the Trustees and members of the church for the generous Christmas gift from the church. I have enjoyed the past year and a half as your Office Administrator and look forward to working with all of you in the future!!!

Happy New Year and many blessings to all of you!

Jen Petersen

WHO DONATED THESE AS WELL. LASTLY, A THANK YOU FOR ALL THE TEAM DRIVE MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN THE CHURCH WHO ASSISTED IN THE DELIVERIES OF THE ALTAR FLOWERS AND ROSES. LET'S CONTINUE TO SPREAD THE JOY OF FLOWERS, KIND THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS IN 2011.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE ALTAR FLOWERS, PLEASE CONTACT SANDY KEENE AT 978-372-4654 OR KEENEHOME@COMCAST.NET



Pray for one another...

Asa Beckwith Sr. (*Nancy Fairbank's father*)
Tom, Lisa and Megan Ackerman
Marisa Metcalf (*Russell's granddaughter*)
Charles Valcour (*Dorris O'Leary's father*)
Tom Collins (*Holden's son in law*)
Gordon Driscoll (*Lisa Quinnan's father*)
Ed & Tressa Callaghan and son Glenn
Stephanie Nichols (*Forsyth's granddaughter*)
Bob Guptill
Harriet Bickford (*Bonnie Glazier's sister*)

Alice Johnston
Martha Lee Savage
Bill Hollis & family
Seth Dallaire
Dick Stumpfler (*Jan Nelson's father*)
Leith and Sherburne families
Alma Jones
Jack Ruuska (*Dallaire friend*)
Greg Thomas (*Lance's colleague*)
Reverend Jean Lenk (*Lance's friend & colleague*)
Sue Sullivan (*friend of Kim Mosley*)
Sue D'angelo
Marylou Buckley (*friend of Tracy Bartlett*)
Lyn Fatalo (*Chris Reagan's friend*)

Part of creating a more just society, is relating to others with whom we disagree on important issues without calling them evil. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew 5:9) Each and every one of us needs to commit ourselves to model the peace of the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ. In our badly divided nation and world we need to recommit ourselves to being agents of peace.

The recent shooting in Tucson, Arizona must be an occasion for national soul-searching. In the midst of violence and tragedy, I deem this to mean that every Christian must ask: "How am I responsible and how should I respond?"

This tragic event will now become an important moment in American history. We need to mark this tragedy by reflecting on how we speak and respond to and about each other, and how we can create settings that enable peace to grow – or which allow hatred and violence to enter.

Wishing you grace, mercy, peace and love.

Shalom

Pastor Lance

To David Niles, Trustees, and the church family,

Please accept my thanks for the holiday bonus. It was greatly appreciated. Working with the children and youth of the Sunshine and Junior Choirs has certainly been a pleasure. I look forward to 2011 with hopes for continued laughter, joy, and great music.

Thank you.

Sandy Keene

Have you ever experienced that nagging sensation that you should be doing more?

Have you ever felt that you needed to share more of your time or your talents or your treasure?

Have you ever heard that little voice saying "Are you just going to ignore the need you see?"

I'd like to tell you the story of one group's response to that nagging sensation, that feeling, that little voice.

Last summer, one woman in our church family approached another woman at coffee hour and asked "Have you ever thought about our church hosting a regular meal free of charge and open to anyone?" The second woman responded - "I have been thinking about that very thing for the past few months".

With that simple conversation in our aptly named FELLOWSHIP hall; the *4th Sunday Outreach Supper* was born. Since September; with the financial support of the Missions Committee and the generous donations of church friends and members, volunteers have been preparing an outreach meal on the 4th Sunday of each month.

The meals are open to anyone in the community and do not cost a dime to attend. The prayer and hope of the organizers is that

people who need food or fellowship or warmth will find their way through our doors on those Sunday evenings. We feel that hunger and loneliness and isolation are not just big city issues but are real problems right here in our small towns. People need to be connected to one another and we hope that



SPECIAL THANKS GO OUT TO ALL THOSE IN THE CHURCH COMMUNITY WHO HAVE PROVIDED ALTAR FLOWERS THROUGHOUT 2010.

**THE DALLAIRES
BARBARA MCGOVERN
THE BECKWITH AND
FAIRBANKS FAMILIES
ANN AND BOB MORIARTY
THE FUDGES
THE STEPHENSONS
THE CALLAGHANS
THE JORDANS
ALMA JONES AND FAMILY
BOB GUPTILL
CAROLINE CRANOS,
EMMA AND KATIE
FORMOSI
DAVID AND MEREDITH
ALGER
THE VATERS
THE KENTS
THE EVELYN WALES
FUND
BOB AND LINDA PAULET
THE SZAREKS
ALAN RUSSELL AND
DONNA ALLEN
JULIA FAULKNER
JOYCE INGHAM
ART MILLEY**

**BOB AND SANDY
DANIELS
THE GARDNER BALCH
MEMORIAL FUND
THE GUSTAFSONS
BARB AND LEW
HARROLD
THE BINDERS
MARTHA LEE SAVAGE
THE WISWELLS
NANCY BREWER
THE TILDENS
THE KEENES
THE LAYS
JOAN PARAH AND
FAMILY
THE D'ANGELOS
RON MERTENS
THE BALFORDS
SHIRLEY AND AL KELSO
THE MANSSELLS
JUDY LYNN AND FAMILY
ROD WARNER AND
FAMILY
PRISCILLA STYER
THE SPAULDINGS
JANET WOOD
THE LATHAM FAMILY**

THANK YOU ALL FOR HELPING WITH GCC'S FLOWER MINISTRY. THE RECORDS SHOW THAT 26 ARRANGEMENTS WERE DONATED TO PRAYER LIST RECIPIENTS BUT THE ACTUAL NUMBER IS EVEN HIGHER AS MANY PEOPLE PASSED THEIR FLOWERS ON DIRECTLY TO LOVED ONES AND FRIENDS. ADDITIONALLY, THE NEW HOLIDAY CEMETERY BASKET PROGRAM RESULTED IN 9 ROSES ALSO GOING OUT TO PRAYER LIST RECIPIENTS. THANKS TO YOU ALL

Stewardship Moment

This month I have the privilege of teaching Sunday school. We have been learning about the word "Shalom" which means peace. Shalom means the peace within yourself and peace within your community and the whole world.

There are many types of communities. You have your town as a community. You have your family (husband, wife, children, parents, brothers and sisters). There are organizations like the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. You also have your church family. This is the family you pray with and sing with. We have Saturday breakfast and some Friday or Saturday night dinners with our church family (community). Your church family is there for you when you need them.

When I think of the word pledge I think of the Pledge of allegiance and the meaning of the words: "I pledge allegiance to the flag.....one nation under God."

I think of the Girl Scout and boys scout pledge: On my honor, I will do my best To do my duty to God.....

- The pledge is divided into 3 sections.
- Duty to God and country,
- Duty to other people, and
- Duty to self

Please continue your pledge to your church family. Help to keep your church family going. Just remember what's on the dollar bill "In God we trust".

Thank you,

Jane O'Hara (Stewardship Committee)

Youth Group



Sunday, February 27th will be the Youth Group CASINO NIGHT in Memorial Hall- kids bring your friends and come try your hand at poker, blackjack, and roulette! (Playing for candy of course, not \$\$!) We will supply the goodies! Any

questions, contact Julie Fabri at bjslfabri@comcast.net

this monthly meal can be a connecting point. We are grateful for the support we've received in this new ministry from Pastor Lance, the Missions Committee, the people who have donated food; the cooks and servers who have shown up to help us and to the church members and friends who have joined us in breaking bread and welcoming all who attend.

Please spread the word and invite anyone you may know who would enjoy a warm meal. All are welcome - wherever two or more of us are gathered in His name - there is love. If you want more information contact the church office to see how you can help.

It's a Chocolate Affair

Everyone loves Chocolate.

Your Sweetheart Loves Chocolate.
Treat her special for Valentine's Day.

Give Her, or Him, a Night out,

Take this night to tempt your Sweetie
with a luscious and delicious variety
of chocolate treats and fountains.

She, or he, will fall in love and swoon

With affection and delight!

Enjoy the intimate setting of candles

And Flowers and Music

And Chocolate.

At the Chocolate Festival.

Groveland Congregational Church

February 11, 2011 6:30 till 8:30 \$10 at the door

From the Deacon's Bench

In this month's article we take a look at the sixth and final mark of discipleship that of "Giving a Tithe and Beyond".

Luke 6:38:

Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

1 Corinthians 16:1-2:

Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

The word tithe comes from an Old English word *teogopa* meaning "tenth"). It refers to the traditional Jewish law and practice of giving 10% of their income or of agricultural produce to charity. For Christians today it is considered a free will offering (usually in cash or stocks) to support the work of the church. The New Testament nowhere designates a percentage of income a person should set aside, but only says it is to be "in keeping with income". Many churches still use the 10% as the benchmark for the expected level of giving.

Giving is an essential aspect of discipleship and one of the most difficult things for us to talk about and one of the most difficult commitments for us to meet. Church members, church leaders and pastors themselves wrestle with the issue of meeting the 10% tithe and balancing it with the other ever increasing competing demands on their family income. As we wrestle with these demands, we need to keep in mind that all of what we have is a loan from God and that 10% is a small amount to repay on such a large debt.

We ask ourselves does God need the money. The answer is of course not. The tithe should be considered a form of Christian discipline that is for our own benefit as well for the benefit of those less fortunate. The tithe itself is to be used to further the Mission and Ministry of the church as guided by the Holy Spirit.

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It is obvious that we cannot give to everything at the same time. It may require that we make a sacrifice of something that we want or think we need. Consider your tithe as an investment in something that truly matters. What could have a greater importance than the eternal work that God has set before us of spreading the **Good News** and helping those in need?

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Tithing is as much part of our spiritual life as it is our secular life. It is a part of our service to God and to mankind. Each of us needs to look closely at our selves and ask is our spirit that of a giver or that of a taker. God gave us everything and aren't we created in his image. In light of this can we be anything else but a giver.

The tithing level does not have to be reached all at once but can be done on a gradual basis with a small percentage each year. Make this part of your financial stewardship plan.

Lastly, the tithe is to be used for the ministry of the church. But we still must not forget that we should also contribute to other charitable organizations. This is akin to the old custom of leaving the edges of the field for the widows and orphans. This should also be included as a part of your stewardship planning that is beyond your tithe.

John Statom



Coming in March...the Deacons' International Buffet:

Volunteers are needed to host a table featuring the cuisine of any nationality or ethnicity of their choosing. Contact Ann Moriarty; annmori@hotmail.com or at Church. We would love to have 4 or 5 different countries featured. What's your specialty?? The date for the buffet has been set for Saturday March 12, 2011 at 6 p.m.

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