

THE BELL

March 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



Deacons' International Buffet will be on March 12th at 6 PM. Come and enjoy Peruvian Delights; Celtic Cuisine; Italian Favorites; German Goodness and Asian Specialties!! There will also be musical entertainment.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids under 12 with a \$30 family maximum and will go on sale on Feb 20 following worship. You can also call the church office and make reservations.

Heartfelt thanks for your love and support during my recent surgery. Your cards, prayers, calls, meals, flowers were so very much appreciated!

Sincerely,
Kathleen Tucker Gustafson

Tired of snow? Worn-out from shoveling paths, driveways, and roofs? Dreading dodging icicles? Leary of another leak?

The Missions Committee has just what you need to tide you over until the summer sunshine shows up: The annual and much anticipated **Roast Beef Dinner and Thrift Shop Fashion Show** will be held on 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. The outfits range from adorable to elegant to indescribable. This is a fun night out for the entire family.

Tickets will go on sale in late March. 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.

Questions ask Deb Stephenson.

From the Pastor's Desk
The Body of Christ

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ”.
(1 Corinthians 12:12)

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it”. (1
Corinthians 12:27)

In far, Upstate New York, on the Canadian border, are several Amish farms. The Amish live on their farms without modern machinery, without telephone, television or computer; for that matter, without any modern conveniences. They attend their own schools and, of course, keep their faith. Yet, they do not hide from the world. Out of their homes they sell their produce, fruits and vegetables of all kinds.

They do not hide from the world, and in fact certain Amish can be downright worldly, making a decent living from their heritage. Beyond their garden produce, they are also known to sell jams and jellies, home baked pies and breads, and you have to wait in line to get the fudge or real homemade ice cream. I was awed to see the hand sewn quilts at prices that were embarrassingly under priced.

I mention this as a way of reminding us how different we all really are here at the Groveland Congregational Church, the United Church of Christ. Perhaps we would like to believe that we are all alike; but we differ in belief and conviction as much as we differ in age and individual heritage.

I believe that the Groveland Congregational Church, UCC, is a mirror image of what is seen within Groveland as well as our country.

The GCC is a microcosm of our community and country. The tensions and differences we see in our nation and community over issues of theology and politics are the same issues that members and friends of GCC have.

In our nation and within the Groveland Congregational Church, the United Church of Christ, we have the politically conservative, moderate and liberal. Likewise, when it comes to faith values, we have the conservative, moderate and liberal. The issues that unite us are the same subjects that seem to divide us. For example: the war in Iraq, the war in Afghanistan, saving Social Security from privatization, support

of equal marriage rights for all, peace with justice for all peoples of the world and the national economy as well as our church's budgeting.

There are strong, passionate supporters on political and religious issues. It may not be as much as who is right; as it is listening to all sides of a concern, praying earnestly and seeking discernment on such matters as individual members of the body of Christ. Let us look to the matters that unite us; rather than to the matters that divide us.

May the hand of God protect us and the power of God strengthen us and the wisdom of God instruct us; so that out of discord God may bring harmony, out of chaos God may bring order, out of tension God may bring peace, and out of anger, God may bring love.

Wishing you grace, mercy peace and love.

Shalom

Lance

Looking for Change

Tonight as I write this article Karl, Abby and Peter are already in bed and daily battle of who is going to watch what on the TV or the DVD player has come to a quiet end.

I can hear in the background the news from the radio that millions of people on the other side of the world have taken a united stand and are asking for change in their lives.

It takes a few moments for it to sink in that as a member of our church, I am also asking for change by contributing to the stewardship campaign that supports our missions and ministries. I remember Pastor Lance stating that Jesus had said "for his church to go out into the world" and as such we very willingly obey to support this change.

Mark Szarek, Stewardship Committee

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

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

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Return Service Requested

From the Deacon's Bench

As I sit here preparing this article, staring out my window and watching the January snow fall, I think of the joy and the pain that the snow brings. The joy is that the snow has the ability to transform a dull winter landscape into a beautiful New England pure white sculpture of unsurpassed beauty. The pain of course is that we will have to go outside and start digging our cars out.

Snow, however, creates only a temporary change in the landscape that covers the bare trees, bushes, leaves and other less attractive things in our yards. It will be gone sooner or later to make way for spring. It is a reminder that each of our seasons is only a temporary repetitive transformation of the natural world around us.

Romans 12:2:

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Transformation, or conversion, is not a temporary change to make you look good to others but a permanent life changing continuous event that must be worked on every day of our lives. It is not a temporary cover up, as is the snow, but it is a renewing our minds and spirit to reflect the will of God.

Ephesians 4:22-24:

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Making this transformation will also give both joy and pain. Great joy will be yours in living according to God's will. Pain will come because you will have to give up your old comfortable way of life and start a new one with many unknown risks. Embrace the new don't be afraid. The Holy Spirit will be there to comfort and guide you.

1 John 3:2-3

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Our ultimate guide to true transformation is found in the life and devotion of Jesus. Our goal should be to be more like him. All of us need to take a "time out" daily and open our bibles and read about the life and teachings of Jesus. In this way we shall have insight as to the will of God as shown by the one who knew it well and obeyed it even giving up his life for our salvation and in obedience to God's will. God sent Jesus to us out of his love for us.

Love is the great engine that drives transformation. Love is the great gift from God. With love all things are possible.

John Statom



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.

The 2010 Annual Reports are available to be picked up in fellowship Hall. Please take one copy per family.

In memoriam...

Our hearts and prayers are with Charlotte Hollis and her family as they mourn the death of their beloved Bill. A memorial service for Mr. Hollis will be held at the Groveland Congregational Church later this spring, at a date to be determined, followed by burial in Plymouth Notch, VT. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Memorial Fund of the Groveland Congregational Church or to a charity of the donor's choice.

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*)

Callaghan family

Bob Guptill

Jill Nason (*Aline's friend*)

Donna Torvi (*Aline's friend*)

Precious Ellwood (*Joan's granddaughter*)

Gloria Kemper

Peg Cuddy (*Jim Parah's sister*)

Family and friends of RJ

Sutherland

Martha Lee Savage

Seth Dallaire

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

Lyn Fatalo (*Chris Reagan's friend*)

Darlene LaBonne

Norm Baker

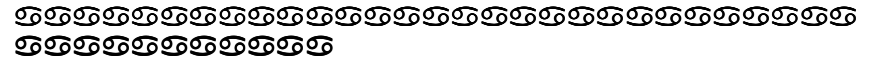
Roland Spofford Family (*Marilyn*

Kent's Cousin)

Alice Johnston

Mildred Balford (*David's mother*)

Ruth Maciak (*friend of Joan Parah's*)



Thank you to everyone that made a donation to the Souper Bowl of Caring collection on Sunday February 6th. We collected \$170.55 which will be donated to Our Neighbors Table in Amesbury. Also thanks to our collectors, Jacques and James Lussier, Dana MacMullen and Shannon Fitzgerald

For the High School kids: Starting in March, a new discussion group is being offered for High Schoolers. It will take place on the second and fourth Sunday of each month and, like the three year old to eighth grade program; it will start at the end of Children's Moment during the Service. We invite anyone of High School age to join us. We have some ideas for this discussion group but welcome your input. Come join us for the first one on March 13. Lisa Quinnan and Ellen Jordan

Looking Ahead...

We are happy to be able to host the Eastern University Choir once again this year after their European tour last year. They will be performing here at GCC on Tuesday evening, May 17th. Put this date on your calendars; this is one event you won't want to miss! Host families will be needed for the students and their teachers. Please think about having one, two or more students stay with you after the concert that night. If you have a problem with getting them back in the morning, backup can be arranged. For further information, you can talk to Kathleen Tucker Gustafson. Thanks so much!



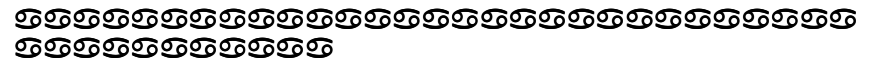
Looking for GCC members to conduct brief interviews!

Hi everyone! I am a freshman at Stonehill College, and this semester I am taking a gerontology course. For my final project I want to do a presentation about spirituality and aging. I'm looking for members of varying ages to answer a few questions on camera after church on March 13th- written responses are also welcomed. The interviews will take place in church (location is TBD). Here are the questions in advance.

Thank you! Abby Stephenson

1. What is your age?
2. At what age did you start regularly attending church?
3. Have you ever practiced a religion besides protestant? If so, what was that religion?
4. Would you consider yourself to have lost faith, gained faith, or remained consistently faithful while aging? For example, do you pray more? attend church more? feel closer to God?
5. Why are you spiritual?

If you would prefer to respond via email then feel free to contact me at abbygs1991@yahoo.com. Thanks again!



The Jr. and Sunshine Choirs are happy to accept new members anytime! Please consider us when planning your spring activities. Jr. Choir (for grades 3 - 8) meets weekly on Wednesdays 6:30pm - 7:15pm. Sunshine Choir (ages 3 - grade 2) meets weekly on Sundays 9:20 - 9:50am. Join in the fun, fellowship and music.



Simply stop by any practice or contact Sandy Keene or Linda Paulet.



Lent and Easter will soon be here; what better way to participate in this holy season than singing with the choir! This would be a good time to give it a try for a short period of time.

Come down to rehearsal any Wednesday at 7:30 PM...no special skills necessary. If you would like more info, speak to Kathleen Tucker Gustafson or Linda Paulet.

*Pilgrim Association Mission and Community Concerns
Committee Presents*

**From Spirituality to Activism
(Without Choosing One Over the Other)**

Saturday, March 19, 2011
8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Christ Congregational Church, UCC, Brockton

A major conference, not just on *What* we need to be doing, but also *Why*. *What* our spiritual heritage drives us to do to bring justice and healing to a broken world. And not just *Why* we do it, but *How*. *How* you and your church can become more engaged in ministry and action. Cost is \$10.00 per person which includes lunch and is payable at the door. To register email Ruth Poole (rtpoole@netzero.net)

One Great Hour of Sharing

In March 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

During this period I was in contact with two suppliers of the wheelchair lift in anticipation of ordering the lift so it would be on-site when needed. I found out in my discussions that new regulations had been promulgated that required lifts to be inspected every year rather than every five years, with an estimated cost of \$950 per year for the inspection. Also required was a communication system on the lift that must be monitored twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, key locks could no longer be used on the lift, although a waiver could be applied for. Given the above issues, especially the annual cost of inspection, we chose to look at fitting a ramp system into the existing layout. The new layout was presented to the Trustees for their comments at their December meeting. We are proceeding with that layout, and if the weather breaks, the concrete work can be started.

If you have any questions or would like to look at the new layout let me know.

Dave Prescott, Chairman-B&G

**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.**



Thank you to the 4 high school students who prepared the February Emmaus/Mitch's Place meal - Kelsey Fitzgerald; Jenny Fenton; Alan Barlow and Erik Clark!

Please submit donation form by April 15, 2011
PROGRESS REPORT:
PHASE 2A: MAIN STREET ROOF, FASCIA AND BAND
BEAM
HANDICAPPED ACCESS

Work got off to a slow start because of previous commitments in Lortie's schedule (Medfield Church steeple rebuild after fire) and weather affecting both the completion of Medfield and the start of our work. During this down time we were able to install a drainage structure to handle water coming from the new access enclosure roof so that it would not channel onto the walkways and freeze in the winter. Ed Reed provided his backhoe for the earthwork and setting of the concrete drainage structure (a concrete box about 4'x4'x4' to allow water to drain into the soil). He also was able to procure gravel and ¾" stone for the project at no cost to the Church. Special thanks go to Downey Shea of Rowley Ready Mix for the stone and Dana Warren for the gravel.

Work started the end of October but went much faster than anticipated because the crew size was double that in Phase 1 and the previous experience gained putting up the large pieces of Azek aided efficiency. As planned, the shingles were removed from the Main Street side of the Sanctuary, re-covered with ½" plywood, covered in snow and ice shield and tar paper, and shingled with architectural shingles. The roof, fascia and band beam work on the Main Street side of the Sanctuary were completed by the end of November.

During work on the fascia damage was found on one of the trusses. The damage was at the joint over the wall post where the horizontal truss member joins the roof truss member. It appears that the joint was damaged from the powder post beetles, and the stress over time has started to move the joint. The joint has only moved about 1/8", so the repair will be addressed in the spring when we can also inspect the driveway side of the trusses for any similar damage.

respond to natural disasters. Additional offering envelopes will be available in the pew racks on April 3rd.

Missions News:

"TEAM UP" with Neighbors in Deed – your Missions Committee invites you to join one of our teams as an opportunity to put your faith into action and participate in service to our faith and general community. The teams are based on interests and talents and many of the projects are suitable for adults and teens as well as younger children with adult supervision.



"Team Outdoors" provides mowing, raking, snow shoveling and other outdoor chores to those not able to do those tasks and/or join a group of volunteers during the annual Rebuilding Together day each spring.

"Team Bread" provides meals to someone who is ill or has a new baby, helps prepare monthly meal for Emmaus/Mitch's shelters or helps out at our monthly Community Fellowship Meal. Meals can be prepared ahead in small portions, labeled, dated and put in the Missions freezer in the back hall.

"Team Spirit" focuses on prayer and spiritual support with an e-mail prayer group and planning special services such as Taize and vesper services.



"Team Drive" provides rides to worship, medical appointments, church activities or the store for those in need of a ride. This team also delivers altar flowers, the monthly food collection to local pantries and the monthly Emmaus/Mitch's meal.

"Team Fix-It" participates in small repairs around the church or to individuals and/or spends a day working with Habitat for Humanity or Rebuilding Together.

During worship service in the month of March, the committee will further explain the teams during a Mission moment and have sign

up sheets available for those who wish to join a team, recommit or change teams.



An Evening with Greg Mortenson-

The author of Three Cups of Tea speaks on “Peace Through Education”, Tuesday, May 3rd, 2011 at 6:30PM at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, MA. The cost for the event is \$51.50 – additional information can be obtained at www.macucc.org/events or on the Missions bulletin board.

Special thanks to the folks who spent considerable time shoveling, scooping and snow blowing the snow off the roof. Gus, Andy and Aline Wildes, Dave Prescott, Justin, Tracy Gilford and Doug Latham were our heroes! The parking lot was sanded as well, Thanks Rick Danforth! Much appreciation and heartfelt thanks is sent to these folks for a daunting task undertaken.

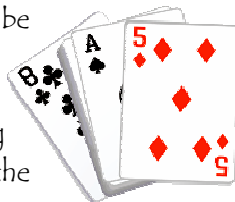


Food for Thought

What must a prophetic minority do? In essence, as did Jeremiah and all the prophets, speak truth to power. For governments are like individuals: governments take a broad view (i.e. oversimplify) of the issues that make them angry, and their ideological commitments distort their perceptions and deaden their moral sensibilities. {The Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Jr}

Youth Group

Sunday, February 27th from 6:30-8:00 PM 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 bjfabri@comcast.net
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	