

THE BELL is published on the last week of the month.
Deadline for the next issue is Wednesday March 17th, 2010

Groveland Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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Groveland MA 01834

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THE BELL

March 2010
Newsletter of the
GROVELAND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
4 King Street at Perry Park
Groveland, Massachusetts 01834
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www.grovelanducc.org

From the Deacon's Bench

What does it mean to be a member of Groveland Congregational Church?

This is often a question that comes up when we are talking with visitors and people who are looking for a church. I believe that this is a question that all of us need to think about periodically.

We need to step back and ask ourselves, are we really meeting the requirements of an active member? To quote from our Bylaws to be an active member "we need to participate in the life of the Congregation and contribute to its support".

Participation is not just showing up for church but becoming involved in boards, committees, choirs, special events and other activities. Contribution includes your time, your talents and your financial support. Is this all there is to being a member?

Beyond all the above there is a requirement that transcends all else. We are not to be wholly defined by the Bylaws of Groveland Congregational Church but are to be further defined and challenged by what it means to be "Disciples for Christ" in the Groveland Congregational Church.

Keep your eyes and ears open there will be more commentary and education relating to this as we go forward through the year.

John Statom-Chairman of the Deacons

From the Pastor's Desk

Leave the Driving to Whom?

Picture a bus. Now picture the driver. Now picture yourself getting on the bus, riding a while and getting off. The odds are that the person driving the bus when you got on was the same driver at the wheel when you got off.

That's the way it is for buses which only go a relatively short distance. But that is not the way it is for buses that go a long distance.

Say you were on a Greyhound or Trailways bus going from Boston, Massachusetts to Miami, Florida. There is a lot of space and traffic up and down the east coast.

On a bus ride that is that long, a community begins to develop among the passengers. They begin to change seats to talk with people they met in the restaurant. They share lunches and snacks. They exchange small gifts. They look at other's family photos. And instead of passengers getting on and off with the same person driving, the drivers come and go as their shifts end - and the community of passengers continues onward.

That is not unlike what happens when a church calls a new Pastor. Pastors come and Pastors go, but the life of the community of faith goes on. The bus - the church, if you will - keeps going on.

That is as it should be. After all, whose ministry is it anyway? The Pastor's call, besides the special privilege of administering the sacraments, is to equip and empower the laity to answer their calls to fulfill their ministry. The Pastor's call is to teach and preach, to inspire and evoke, to stimulate and to challenge, to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable: so the rest of the community of faith might make effective witness to the Good News.

The Pastor may preach the word. The Pastor may point to the word. The Pastor will live the word. But the Pastor is NOT the word. The word comes to each of us. The ministry belongs to each one of us.

When a congregation calls a new Pastor and installs that Pastor, the church is celebrating her ministry. The church is celebrating the long history of her ministry and mission in the community and in the world. The church is celebrating the fact that her community of faith is continuing down the road, even as a new driver takes the wheel.

Prayer Shawl knitting groups meet to knit in member's homes on 1st and 3rd Monday nights at 7:30 at Dorris O'Leary's or 2nd & 4th Tuesday mornings at 10 to 11 at Jane Holden's. Anyone interested in helping with this ministry is welcome to attend. We have given out more than 300 shawls since the inception of this project.



March's Steeple Lighting is given in memory of the Savage Family and Johnson Family by Martha Savage.

Pray for one another...

Seth Dallaire

Asa Beckwith Sr. (*Nancy Fairbank's father*)

Martha Lee Savage

David Thompson

Reina Antwine (*Linda Prescott's co-worker*)

Charles Valcour (*Dorris O'Leary's father*)

Brenda Cross

Don and Sandy Larsen

Kim Bray (*Nancy Fitzgerald's friend*)

Barbara and Scott Hanson (*relatives of the Lays*)

Bud and Marjorie Watts

Andrea Bilodeau (*Paulet's daughter*)

Jamie Greco (*Mosley's friend*)

Helen Goodwin (*Sandy Daniels' sister*)

Gordon Driscoll (*Lisa Quinnan's father*)

Terri Callaghan

Richard Lay

Carla Sudsbury (*Gretchen's sister*)

Bill Merryman (*Jean Fairbank's brother*)

Yvonne Arakelian (*Cheryl Favor's aunt*)

Donny Ellwood (*Joan's son*)

Megan Ackerman

Nancy Anderson (*Jean Mansell's friend*)

Maria Nixon (*O'Leary's niece*)

Cameron Vega (*Sue Tilden's friend*)

Please contact the church office if you would like to add someone to the prayer list.

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. Simply complete the form provided and return to the church office with payment. Deadline for the orders is by noon Sunday, March 28th. 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 2010

Orders due by noon on Sunday, March 28th.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

INSCRIPTION: _____

(Please circle color choices)

Easter Lily (single)	_____	at \$11.00each =	\$ _____
Easter Lily (8" pot, double)	_____	at \$18.00each =	\$ _____
Azalea (pink inside use only)	_____	at \$16.00each =	\$ _____
Daffodils (yellow only)	_____	at \$11.00each =	\$ _____
Tulips (pink, white, yellow)	_____	at \$11.00each =	\$ _____
Hyacinth (pink, white, blue)	_____	at \$13.00each =	\$ _____
Hydrangea (pink or blue)	_____	at \$14.00each =	\$ _____
Hydrangea (8" pot, pink or blue)	_____	at \$24.00each=	\$ _____
		Total	\$ _____

Make checks payable to Groveland Congregational Church (GCC).

Mail to: Groveland Congregational Church
4 King Street, Groveland, MA 01834.

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

As a congregation, the Groveland Congregational Church has a history of more than 283 years of mission and ministry. Our church has been on the road for a very long time, fueled by the love of God as seen in Jesus the Christ. The church seems to know how much power is under the hood.

The Groveland Congregational Church is undergoing a change in pastoral leadership style; a change in the bus driver if you will. As we enter this new phase of our faith journey may we, as a community of faith, ride joyfully together toward the peaceable realm of God.

Wishing you, grace, mercy, peace and love.

Pastor Lance

Lenten Prayer Group

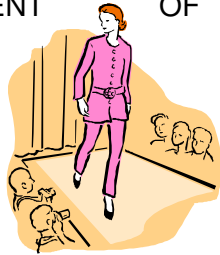
During the season of Lent, you are invited to become a part of a prayer group. The group will meet March 1st, 15th, 29th at 7:00pm in the Ladies Parlor. We will the prayer list for guided prayer. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Pastor Lance.

Enter into Holy Week in a special way by attending an ecumenical candlelight Taizé service on Palm Sunday evening, March 28th at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary. Through simple songs, Scripture, prayer, petitions and silent meditation, we have a chance to join with Jesus, remembering his passion and death. Give yourself the gift of a peaceful half hour at the end of Lent. Friends from other churches are most welcome!

Did You Know That.....

In 1908 Memorial windows were placed in the church in memory of: Rev. William Balch, Mrs. Luke Poor, Mrs. Moses Palmer, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Balch.

It's just around the corner! What? you ask. The night you've all been waiting for even if you didn't know you'd been waiting for it. Do you need a hint? Hint #1 - It happens every year on the night before Palm Sunday. Need another hint? Ok - Hint #2 - It involves a delicious Roast Beef Dinner; Still don't know what I'm talking about? Ok; I'll give you another one - Hint #3 - It is the Fashion Event of the Season! Got it? Good - The Missions Committee proudly presents the Annual Thrift Shop Fashion Show and Roast Beef Dinner; Mark your calendars for Saturday night March 27th - Don't miss out on THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR. Come join us for an evening of fine food, fantastic fellowship, and fabulous fashions. You might be lucky enough to see a new fashion trend born right there on stage at GCC.



Tickets for this event are always in great demand, last year they **sold out**, so buy your tickets *early*. Tickets will be on sale during coffee hour or you can contact Jen in the church office to reserve tickets or for more information.

Project Runway and America's top Model have nothing on the home grown talent scattered among our congregation - The show is a smashing success year after year because of the models who step forward each year - All ages, genders, and sizes are welcome and encouraged to model. All you have to do is stop by the Thrift Shop to pick out an outfit or two; fill out a model information sheet and return the completed form by Sunday March 21st to either the Thrift Shop Staff or Deb Stephenson. Our world renowned personal shoppers will be happy to help you select the perfect ensemble any Wednesday or Saturday morning.

Missions Committee would like to thank the senior high school students who prepared the February Emmaus/Mitch's meal on the first night of their February vacation: Abby Stephenson, Aaron Fudge, Jared Fudge, Caroline Karalias, Abby Shaw, and Megan Ackerman.

- d. Chairs of the church boards (or their representative)
- e. Pastor
2. If the Moderator is unable to preside, the order of succession is the chair of Deacons, chair of Trustees, chair of Christian Education.
3. The Tri-Board shall meet on a quarterly basis.
4. The purpose of the Tri-Board is to:
 - a. Help establish and/or update the "vision" for the church and track its progress
 - b. Coordinate calendar items for both short range and long range events and activities
 - c. Foster and improve communication across boards, committees, members and staff
 - d. Be forward looking and not dwell on past accomplishments or failures

The next article (IX) should be Boards and Committees and all remaining articles indexed up by one.

Article 7: To act on any additional business that may properly come before the Church at this Annual Meeting.

Given under my hand this 7th day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.

Jane A. Holden,
Church Clerk

Sing with the Choir! If you have been thinking about singing with the choir, you may want to consider a short commitment (Lent and Easter) to see if it fits your schedule. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 until 9:00 PM, and sing on most Sunday mornings. The current choir members are very friendly and welcoming; we love having new members! One choir member recently said, "I just love coming to rehearsal on Wednesday nights!" Singers in all voice parts are welcome; right now altos are especially needed. If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Tucker Gustafson or Linda Paulet.

GROVELAND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT – 2010

To: The members of the Groveland Congregational Church, a member of the United Church of Christ, in Groveland, Massachusetts.

Greetings:

In accordance with Article X, Section B, Paragraph 1 of the bylaws, you are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 7, 2010 in Fellowship Hall following morning worship to vote on the following articles.

Article 1: To view and receive the 2009 reports of the Pastor, Officers, Boards, Committees and organizations of the Church.

Article 2: To see if the Church will vote to accept the Proposed Budget for 2010 current expenses as presented by the Board of Trustees, and to transfer the General Fund and cash balance of 2009 to the 2010 General Fund or to take any action thereon.

Article 3: To hear and act on the Report of the Nominating Committee.

Article 4: To see if the Church will vote to renew the standing policy that the Church and the Minister enter into a voluntary agreement to withhold income taxes on income and Social Security for the Minister according to IRS rule [IRC Sec. 3402(i); Reg. Sec. 31.340(a)-3; 31.3402(p)-1].

Article 5: To see if the Church will continue to sponsor Boy Scout Troop 87 and Cub Scout Pack 113 during 2010.

Article 6: To see if the Church will vote the following addition to the bylaws:

ARTICLE VIII – TRI-BOARD

1. The Church Tri-Board shall be comprised of the following:
 - a. Moderator (who will preside over the meeting)
 - b. Treasurer
 - c. Financial Secretary (who shall be the recording secretary)

One Great Hour of Sharing

In early 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 March 14. 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 March 14.



Have you added to the change collecting in the "church Jug"? You'll find the wooden church on the see through jug between the kitchen door and the entrance to Fellowship Hall door. All change put in the jug will be added to the Capital Campaign. Please help fill the jug.

Youth Group: Laser Craze is March 13th 5:30pm-8:00pm \$19.00 per person. Please RSVP Mrs. Fitzgerald at njtravel2@comcast.net by March 8th. Also looking for drivers please let me know if you are interested.

Soup Supper and Vesper service on March 21st at 5:00. Anyone interested in participating or making a soup please let Nancy Fitzgerald know at njtravel2@comcast.net.

Perry Park Preschool is now enrolling for Fall....Call Marie McCall to arrange a visit. 978-374-6678

