

THE BELL

May 2011
Newsletter of the
GROVELAND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
4 King Street at Perry Park
Groveland, Massachusetts 01834
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www.grovelanducc.org

From the Pastor's Desk...

“Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Christ has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” (Colossians 3:13)

Forgiveness deals with the problem; bearing with one another is what we do until the problem is dealt with. That seems to make a great deal of sense to me. Forgiveness always brings restored relationships. I recall the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) which was a court-like restorative justice body assembled in South Africa after the abolition of apartheid. The TRC was seen by many as a crucial component of transition to full and free democracy in South Africa. Despite some flaws, it is generally thought to have been successful.

I wonder if such an attitude may actually deny others the opportunity to express forgiveness; because it shuts down avenues for dealing with the problem. That was the difference between Judas Iscariot and Peter – both betrayed Jesus, but Peter's acceptance of forgiveness led to a restored relationship. How can there be a restored relationship if there is no opportunity to resolve an issue?

I imagine there are people who are good at “bearing with one another” but until the issue is resolved forgiveness may never be extended or received.

Wishing you grace, mercy, peace and love.

Shalom
Pastor Lance

From the Deacon's Bench ...As I sit at my desk during Holy Week writing this article, the old springtime saying that "April Showers Bring May Flowers" has a double meaning for me. We are starting to think about the planting of flowers and vegetables because the weather will soon turn warmer and the soil will be ready to receive our seeds.

This is the time of nature's resurrection of life that always comes after the death of the winter. It is also a time for us to reflect on the spiritual rebirth of ourselves and our responsibilities as a Christian to others.

Jesus gave his life as a sacrifice for our sins to make us right with God. He was resurrected to show the power of God's Word and the fulfilling of the prophetic promise that gives us the chance for our own rebirth and a chance at a new and everlasting life.

The Word of God is a seed of great power. In the scripture below Jesus is confirmed as the Word of God sent to reveal the Word to us.

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

In the following scripture Jesus reveals the meaning of the parable of the sower.
Luke 8:11-15

This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

We, as Christians, have been given the job of taking up the task given to us by Jesus of sowing the word of God to our fellow human beings. God will prepare the soil and provide the rain and the sun so that the seeds will grow.

So pick up your bag and fill it with seeds from the storeroom of Holy Scriptures and throw them all around you as you go about your daily life.

God will take care of the rest.

John Statom

THE BELL is published on the last week of the month.
Deadline for the next issue is Wednesday May 18th, 2011

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

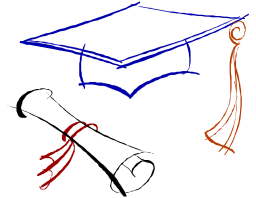
Non Profit Organization
US Postage Paid, Permit #561
Haverhill MA 01830

Return Service Requested

Baccalaureate Sunday: Will be held on May 22nd. If you know of a graduating student that you would like acknowledged please contact Caroline Cranos ASAP.

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 which is May 22nd, 2011. 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.

Easter Flower Dedications

- * In memory of loved ones by Bob and Marilyn Kent
- * In memory of John and Martha Statom by John C. Statom
- * In honor of all mothers missed by The Keene Family
- * In loving memory of Eleanor and many others from The Warner Family
- * In loving memory of loved ones by Bob and Linda Paulet
- * In memory of loved ones by The Favor Family
- * In loving memory of my wife, Barbara, by Ron Mertens
- * In loving memory of my foster mother "Aurore" by Joan Ellwood
- * In loving memory of Joseph Mello given by Stephen, Sally, Joe and Greg Langlais
- * In loving memory of Joseph Mello given by Nancy Mello
- * In memory of loved ones by Ellen Jordan
- * In memory of our parents by Dave and Deb Stephenson
- * In memory of our grandparents by Dave and Deb Stephenson
- * In memory of our deceased choir members by Sandy Daniels
- * In memory of loved ones by Ken and Jane Holden
- * In memory of my husband, Joe, by Joyce Ingham
- * In loving memory of our parents, Norman and Thelma Cotton and Bill and Doris Paquin, and in loving memory of my husband, Bill, by Ruth Cotton
- * In loving memory of Norton and Doris Lang by Ruth Cotton

Newburyport Choral Society
Presents
Arthur Honegger's *KING DAVID*
Featuring Anita Diamant, Narrator
(Best-selling author of *The Red Tent*)

Saturday, May 14th – 8 pm Sunday, May 15th – 2:30 pm
Belleville Congregational Church, 300 High St., Newburyport
(Handicapped Accessible)
Tickets: Adults \$20 / Students & Seniors \$18
Groups of 12 or more \$15 each
Tickets available online www.newburyportchoralsociety.org

Confirmation and Communion Sunday

May 1, 2011

On Sunday, May 1st, the members of this year's Confirmation Class will be confirmed. It is also a time when we will celebrate with the sacrament of Holy Communion. Please note, with these activities the worship that morning will run longer than normal; please be advised.

Pray for one another...

Asa Beckwith Sr.	Janet Demary (<i>Deb Stephenson's sister</i>)
Tom, Lisa and Megan Ackerman	Martha Lee Savage
Marisa Metcalf	Seth Dallaire
Tom Collins (<i>Holden's son in law</i>)	Lyn Fatalo (<i>Chris Reagan's friend</i>)
Gordon Driscoll	Darlene LaBonne
Tressa (Terri) Callaghan	Norm Baker
Jill Mason (<i>Aline's friend</i>)	Marissa Dunne (<i>Chris Reagan's friend</i>)
Donna Torvi (<i>Aline's friend</i>)	Alice Johnston
Renee Costa (<i>Tina Sarro's friend</i>)	Brenda Cross
James Favor	Maureen Johnson
Kim Sealy (<i>Dorris O'Leary's co worker</i>)	Steve Melia (<i>friend of the Nelsons</i>)
Fred Neal (<i>O'Leary's friend</i>)	Kathy Francisco (<i>friend of the Nelsons</i>)
Joanne Sarro (<i>Tina's aunt</i>)	Rev. Greg Thomas (<i>Lance's friend/colleague</i>)
Don and Bonnie Glazier	Cindy Senical (<i>Suzanne Torissi's sister</i>)
Donald Laing	

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

April. A wonderful month! Baseball season has begun. The grass is green again. The birds are singing. Some days are warm. Daylight lasts longer. Income taxes are finished. Maybe there will be a refund. Extra money to pay the bills, or to buy something special. Hadn't figured on this when I made my annual pledge to the Church last November. Maybe a portion of that refund would help to reduce the deficit in the Church budget.

Now that I think about it, there may be other ways I can help to reduce that deficit. I'm sure I could drink one less Coke or Root Beer each week. I know I can do without a trip to Carter's one less time each month. How many times do I drive thru Dunkin, Heavenly Donuts, or Golden Grounds each month? By giving up some of these things, I figure I could place an extra dollar or two in the offering every Sunday.

WOW! As I think about it, what a difference that could make. If 50 -75 people did that every Sunday for the remainder of the year, it would eliminate the budget deficit. How simple and yet so easy.

That's what I'm going to do. A dollar or two each week in addition to my annual pledge. Won't you join me?

Ron Mertens, Stewardship Committee

OUR FINANCIAL PICTURE AS OF MARCH 31, 2011

PLEGGED INCOME: \$33,629.75
COLLECTED PLEDGES: \$32,798.00
OUTSTANDING PLEDGES: -\$831.75

TOTAL INCOME: \$ 54,857.85
TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$56,901.95
CASH ON HAND: **-\$2,044.10**

- * In loving memory of Bernice Huberdeau by Ruth Cotton
- * In memory of loved ones by Loretta Foan
- * In memory of our loved ones by Susan and Lou D'angelo
- * In memory of Connie Milley by Arthur Milley
- * In memory of David and Kathleen Cranos by Caroline Cranos
- * In memory of Gordon Nelson by Bob and Jan Nelson
- * In memory of Leo Storbakken by Bob and Jan Nelson
- * Blessings of the Season! by Bethany and David Balford
- * In memory of my Mom, Heather Cappuccio, given by Barry, Renae and David Vater
- * In memory of my Dad, David Nearing, given by Barry, Renae and David Vater
- * In memory of my stepfather, Pasquale Cappuccio, given by Barry, Renae and David Vater
- * In memory of Michael Reagan given by The Reagan Family
- * In memory of my parents, Nellie and William Twombly, given by Marcia and Jack Gray

Appreciation Breakfast for Our Musicians

Before church on Sunday, June 5th, there will be an appreciation breakfast for the senior choir and chime choir. If you are able to contribute a breakfast item (e.g. bagels, juice, fruit, muffins, egg dish, etc.), please let Kathleen Tucker Gustafson or Gretchen Dallaire know. And thanks very much!

REPAIR * REBUILD * PRESERVE OUR FUTURE
GCC Capital Campaign



It's Spring!
Construction will be "Ramping Up" soon!
Watch for the new handicapped ramp
access to the sanctuary and band beam
repairs!

Pledge Now
Keep the repairs going!

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will be having their end of the year party and auction. I am looking for donations of gum, candy, 5.00 gift certificates or anything that a teen might be interested in bidding on. Need not be expensive just something fun! Any questions email me at njtravel2@comcast.net.

Donations can be given to me up until May 15th.

Thanks, Nancy Fitzgerald



**YOUTH GROUP END OF THE YEAR PIZZA
PARTY AND AUCTION WILL BE HELD
SUNDAY MAY 15TH AT 5:30PM.**

**COME AND BID ON SOME FUN ITEMS.
PLEASE RSVP TO**

NJTRAVEL2@COMCAST.NET BY FRIDAY MAY 13TH.

Little Tidbits, Worth Sharing

God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.

Dear God, I have a problem, it's me.

Growing old is inevitable...growing UP is optional.

There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.

Silence is often misinterpreted but never misquoted.

Do the math...count your blessings.

Faith is the ability to not panic.

Laugh every day, it's like inner jogging.

If you worry, you didn't pray. If you pray, don't worry.

As a child of God, prayer is kind of like calling home everyday.

Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape.

The most important things in your house are the people.

When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot.

A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.

He who dies with the most toys is still dead.

Follow us to a world with more
birthdays



Join the Relay for Life of Haverhill by
registering to walk with GCC's Team Spirit
June 10-June 11, 2011 from 3:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Northern Essex Community College
Haverhill, MA

Relay for Life is an overnight event that brings communities together in the fight against cancer. It is a way to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones and fight back against the disease that takes too much from too many. We Relay overnight because cancer never sleeps, and we will keep fighting until we find a cure.

To register go to www.RelayForLife.org/HaverhillMA and sign up with GCC's Team Spirit. If you would like more information or have questions, see Gretchen Dallaire.



THANK YOU to all who helped to make the Sunday School Mini Yard Sale a big success!!! This event was able to contribute \$261.70 to the Heifer Project. Thank you to Kim Mosley, Amy Szarek, Jan Nelson and Kelley Boland for their help in organizing, setup/cleanup, donations of articles to

sell, staffing, and announcements. Thank you to all in the congregation who took the time to locate great items to donate or who were shoppers during coffee hour. Also, thank you to the Thrift Shop for providing some merchandise as well. And to the CHILDREN...a special thank you to all of you who helped out in some way. Many of you donated things to sell, made purchases or jumped in to help out as "Sales Kids" and "Cashiers". You all did an outstanding job! Everyone really seemed to enjoy this as there were some great deals on lots of fun Easter and springtime things. Perhaps this should be a new annual event? Thanks again.



Heifer Project~ Thank You

I would like to say "Thank you," to the children of our Church School and to the youth of our church and the adults for their efforts in raising money for Heifer Project. At last count there was \$857.50 with monies and donation still coming in. The challenge was; if the youth of our church could raise \$500, I would wear a cow costume. Yes they did and yes I did. It was well worth the effort. So, again, to the youth and adults of the Groveland Congregational Church: "Thank you!"

God loves you and blesses you.
Pastor Lance
Kim Mosley, CE Chair
Board of Christian Education

Eastern University Choir Concert

Please save Tuesday evening, May 17th at 7:30 PM to come to hear the wonderful Eastern University Choir sing for us once again as part of their choir tour. Last year the choir did a concert tour to Europe, so it has been two years since they last



visited. They often tell us that Groveland Congregational is the highlight of their tour! They really appreciate our generous hospitality and enthusiastic response to their singing. Their repertoire includes choral music in the "classical" tradition, sacred anthem, and selections of spirituals and/or folk songs. Something for everybody! Let's fill the sanctuary for these talented young people! The concert is free; there is a good will offering taken. We still need a few more beds for that night: let Kathleen Tucker Gustafson know if you are able to host.

Perry Park Preschool...

Perry Park Preschool is looking for a volunteer to repaint and freshen up the white sandwich board sign that sits on the Park. Please contact one of the Perry Park Committee members listed below if you can help- Thanks! Dixie Kulik, Gretchen Dallaire, Nancy Fitzgerald, Joan Parah, Linda Niles, Jennifer Barlow



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.

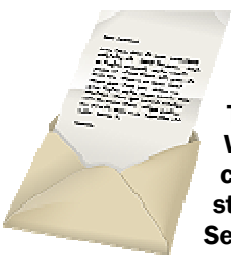
Missions Moment

The Missions Committee wishes to thank all of those who participated in making the Annual Roast Beef Dinner and Thrift Shop Fashion Show a successful night for fun and fellowship. The setup crew – Kevin Sullivan, Ed and Jane Binder, Pastor Lance, and Gus Gustafson who joined the committee to get things up and ready for the big night, Kim Mosley & Knapps Nursery for the beautiful plants to decorate the stage, the kitchen crew-Head Chef - Dave Stephenson along with Dave Balford, Ron Merton, Gus Gustafson, Dana & Parker Moody and Lew Harrold. Thanks to all those who baked the delicious Gingerbread Cake for dessert. Our energetic servers were- Kelsey & Shannon Fitzgerald, Shannon O'Hara, Parker Moody, Jacob Fudge, Eliza Wildes and Nate Joyall. The kitchen clean-up crew Dave Niles, Kim Mosley and Michael Cloutier did an especially efficient and spiffy job. A big thank you to all who cleaned and transitioned Fellowship Hall in preparation for Palm Sunday events.

Our Fashion Show Emcee did a fantastic job recognizing the work and contributions of our tireless Thrift Shop workers while entertaining the audience with a wonderful group of models including Jane & Shannon O'Hara, Jim Hogg, Olivia Reagan, Renae Vater, Lance & Gretchen Dallaire, Ken Holden, Ben Joyall, Nick Reagan, Alyssa Frederick, Shannon Fitzgerald, Lisa, Brendan and Cassandra Spencer. It is amazing what you can find in our Thrift Shop and we all had a good laugh when our 8th graders worked their best runway comical magic for the entertaining finale.

Our deepest appreciation to all from your Missions Committee- Bethany Balford, Nancy Fairbanks, Carol Ferrari, Joyce Ingham, Jen Petersen & Deb Stephenson

You can help create hope and opportunity for Hungry People and it won't cost you a penny! Did we catch your attention? Good!



The Missions Committee is sponsoring A Bread for the World Offering of Letters on Sunday May 22nd. During coffee hour on the 22nd we will provide sample letters, stationery, and pens for you to write letters to your US Senators and Representatives requesting that they "press forward with reforms to make foreign assistance more effective in reducing poverty".

We are not asking that more money be given to poverty fighting efforts outside the US; we are simply asking our government to make sure that foreign aid targets poverty reduction efforts and actually reaches the people for whom it is intended.

The Missions Committee will provide the stamps and the addresses of the legislators. We just ask that you write from the heart. We will collect all the addressed letters and on Sunday May 29th bring them forward as an offering during the worship service. We'll even bring them to the Post Office.

If you'd like to learn more about Bread of the World please go to their web site www.bread.org. While you think about whether you would like to participate in this effort please take a minute to consider Micah 6:8 " He has showed you O Man what is good. For what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice and love mercy and walk humbly with your God"

News Flash!!! Faith Circle

Speaker: May 24th at 7 PM

Priscilla Styer

Please reserve your space and materials with Priscilla Styer by

May 17th At designsign@comcast.net

Create your Basket of Spring to take home.

~Share the cost~

Faith circle Meeting and Dinner

June 21st, 2011

Rolling Ridge in North Andover

Walk a labyrinth – exclusive use for an hour

Bring \$20 to the May 24th meeting to make your reservation.