

**THE BELL** is published on the last week of the month.  
**Deadline for the next issue is Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

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

Non Profit Organization  
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# THE BELL

**November 2011**  
Newsletter of the  
**GROVELAND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
4 King Street at Perry Park  
Groveland, Massachusetts 01834  
978-372-3463 [gccucc@verizon.net](mailto:gccucc@verizon.net)  
[www.grovelanducc.org](http://www.grovelanducc.org)

## From the Pastor's Desk

On the morning of Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:35 am our church was struck by lightning. The good news is; there was no fire. Further news reports that phones were damaged, computers were affected, and the modem and rotor were damaged. Further good news, because of the diligent work of members of the Board of Trustees and the Buildings & Grounds Committee, much of the damage has been repaired. Work is still in progress. My past experience with lightening strikes indicates that troubled spots will continue to appear over the coming weeks and months. Please be patient with us and if you notice damage/trouble somewhere; please notify a member of GCC's Buildings & Grounds Committee. Thank you.

Now, further, the lightning strike is a natural disaster. It is **not** an act of God. Ask an insurance agent. Natural disasters are natural disasters. That is why they are called natural disasters. God does not select a single city or town to destroy by flood or tornado or other force of nature. There is nothing that the friends and members of the Groveland Congregational Church did or did not do that caused the lightning strike.

I am thankful there was no fire. I am thankful so many people, church staff responded to help fix, repair, replace and tend to damaged items. Nature is powerful. Nature creates and nature can just as easily destroy.

On that Tuesday morning I not only heard and saw the strike; I certainly felt it as well; after all, I live next to the church.

Wishing you grace, mercy, peace and love.

**Shalom**

*Pastor Lance*

**Our financial picture as of September 30, 2011**

PLEDGED INCOME: \$100,889.25

COLLECTED PLEDGES: \$92,904.00

OUTSTANDING PLEDGES: **-\$7,982.25**

TOTAL INCOME: \$152,629.21

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$151,853.05

**BORROWED ON CREDIT LINE: \$15,000 (needs to be repaid)**

CASH ON HAND: \$776.00

Faith Circle is assembling blessing baskets for those who are in need during this season.

There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall for donations of the ingredients for a Thanksgiving Dinner.

Please sign up for one or more of the items listed and drop off in the basket that is below the bulletin board, in Fellowship Hall.



Family friendly "Spooky" Halloween Organ Concert

Friday October 28th 7:30 PM Free

Trinity Episcopal Church

28 White Street Haverhill, MA

In celebration of Halloween, Trinity Episcopal church will present husband and wife duo, Robin Dinda and Renea Waligora. If you haven't experienced two musicians in concert at the same instrument recently, don't miss this uniquely marvelous opportunity! This will be a concert oriented toward children but fun for all. Please feel free to wear your Halloween costumes. There will be lots of treats and further entertainment at the reception after. For further information see the church's website: [www.trinityhaverhill.org](http://www.trinityhaverhill.org) <<http://www.trinityhaverhill.org>> or call Sarah Brink at 603-548-6887

**MISSION 1 UPDATE:** In last month's BELL we explained that the UCC is making an extra effort during 10 days in November called **Mission 1** to focus resources on hunger and poverty. Here is an update of what we are doing here at GCC:

On October 9th the Church School children assembled 111 snack bags which will be delivered sometime between November 1st and 11th to Pettengill House in Salisbury. The snack bags contain juice boxes, granola bars, raisins, puddings and other snack items which were purchased by the Missions Committee. Please remember that the Missions Committee has set a goal of collecting 111 non-perishable grocery items between Halloween and Veterans Day. Please place your donations in the box in Fellowship Hall and **help us reach our goal.** Both activities are part of the UCC Wide Missions 1 initiative taking place during a ten day period 11/1/11 to 11/11/11. All UCC congregations have been asked to focus education, giving and prayer on feeding the hungry and confronting food related injustice. As Christians, we are called over and over again to advocate for those without a voice or the means to make their voices heard and to feed the hungry, house the homeless, clothe the naked and comfort the afflicted. Food pantries and Soup Kitchens are seeing lines increase and resources shrink. More and more families are living in poverty and need our help. Please stop for one minute after you read this and ask yourself what you can do during Mission 1 to make a difference. Can you write a letter to a legislative leader asking them to fund programs that create jobs and improve access to education? Can you stop at the grocery store and pick up a grocery item to donate? Can you sign up to work on one of the open Emmaus meal preparation dates? Can you donate something to the Faith Circle Blessing Baskets? Can you pray for our country to pull together and address hunger and homelessness? Can you donate financially? Probably all of us "can" answer yes but the true question is "Will we?" Blessings from the Missions Committee and gratitude for all that you choose to do.



The GCC Youth Group will once again be preparing and serving a Pasta Dinner for the Snowflake Fair Friday night meal. We have posted a list of needed food donations in Fellowship Hall. If you are able to donate any of the needed items, please sign the list and then simply drop off your donation in the church kitchen prior to November 8th. All proceeds from the dinner go toward the church's Fair profits. Thank you in advance for your generosity!!!!

Give yourself the gift of Taizé...our next Taizé Service will be held on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the sanctuary. Taizé Prayer is a simple form of ecumenical Christian prayer centered on Scripture, Silence and Song. It involves singing and listening to the word of God in an atmosphere of silence and peace. Please come join us and let us sing and pray together as one ecumenical faith community.

### MISSIONS NEWS

As we enter the holiday season, your Mission Committee works to find additional ways to remember and support those who struggle with financial worries, family stressors, fewer resources, poverty and homelessness. Again this year we will participate in the Department of Children and Families – Adopt-a-Family gift giving. Gift donation requests will be posted on the Missions bulletin board after the conclusion of the Church Fair. We will also participate in the Coalition for the Homeless bake goods sale in mid-December. Missions supports Faith Circle's Blessing Basket project at Thanksgiving providing gift certificates to Market Basket for each family. We also ask that you remember to bring donations to the collection box in Fellowship Hall for local food pantries. There will be many opportunities for our church family to reach out to others as a part of the celebration of the season. We thank you for sharing your blessings with others.

### *From the Deacon's Bench*

It's that time of year again when the air turns cool and the leaves are in full color and it's hard to drive by a roadside farm stand without going in to buy some of the local fruits and vegetables. It's even harder to resist the sweet smell of the cider doughnuts as they are brought warm just out of the ovens.

It's the annual reminder of just how lucky we are to live in a country where the bounty of the earth is so plentiful. This is not the case in many other areas of the world.

God has provided us with the natural elements of earth, water and sun to nurture the crops. This along with the hard work of the farmers makes this rich bounty possible.

Anyone who has taken the opportunity to visit the Topsfield Fair each fall gets an eyeful of the quality and variety of food that comes from our local farmers. It's also a reminder of how much we have to lose if we are not vigilant as caretakers of the environment that allows for such a harvest.

### *Genesis 1:28-30*

*God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

*Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground--everything that has the breath of life in it--I give every green plant for food." And it was so.*

Be thankful to God for what we have but remember that God has made all of us, not just the farmer, caretakers of all the things of the earth.

John Statom

Stewardship Moment  
COUNT YOURSELF BLESSED

*"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."* Luke 6:38

It seems appropriate that as part of our church's Annual Stewardship Campaign we make our financial commitments for the coming year during the same month as Thanksgiving. It is during this holiday celebration that we give thanks to God and share our abundance with others. And it is during our Annual Stewardship Campaign that we count our blessings and make a financial commitment for the coming year – we make a commitment to share our "treasures".

At Groveland Congregational Church, the primary source of income is from those who support us with their pledges and gifts. It is through these gifts that we are able to fulfill our mission and further our ministries. While realizing that many families are facing financial difficulties, in 2011 the same was true for Groveland Congregational Church.

In this year's Annual Stewardship Campaign we are asking you to prayerfully consider increasing your pledge by 1% of your 2012 income. If you do not currently pledge, we ask you to consider doing so in 2012.

Pledge Dedication Sunday will be on November 13, 2011. We will celebrate with a Stewardship coffee hour after worship and invite you to celebrate with us. If you are unable to attend, please mail your pledge card to the church office by November 13<sup>th</sup>.

If you are new to the church and would like to learn more about the annual Stewardship Campaign, feel free to contact me at home – (978) 346-4471.

Thank you so much for counting your blessings, sharing your treasures, and submitting a pledge card.

Mike Barlow ~ Stewardship Committee

Help is always needed in Good Finds, as a greeter or to help guide traffic in the parking lot. We will also need people to assist in the setting up before and breaking down after the fair.

There are many opportunities to donate food for one of the meals. See the list on the Snowflake Fair Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall.

Don't forget to sign up early to work at your favorite table!



*Prize Drawings for Snowflake Fair - 2011*

This year we will be showcasing our prize drawings and selling drawing tickets at coffee hour on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. The prize table will be full of unique creations from our talented crafts people:

- Bill Forsyth's beautiful and ever popular **Music Box** is here again, using reclaimed wood from the church (c. 1850).
- Bill Forsyth's gorgeous dovetailed **Tea Chest** is the center of a tea lovers' basket.
- Justin Gordon's artistry is revealed, as always, in his charming **Carved Bear**.
- Sue Harnden has created new and exquisite **Fabric Quilt**.
- Jim O'Leary's folksy painted **Decoy**.
- A precious wooden **Dollhouse** donated by Amy Szarek and refinished by the talented Art Milley.
- Barb Harrold's marvelous **Panda Puppet**, the centerpiece of a **Kung Fu Panda Themed** prize.
- A **Family Fun Basket** containing generous gift certificates and scratch tickets.

Stop by at coffee hour and purchase tickets for your favorite prize drawing. Please contact Lisa Pratt with any specific questions (978) 373-9156.



## THE SNOWFLAKE FAIR IS COMING!!

Friday, November 11, 4pm – 8 pm  
Saturday, November 12 9 am – 3 pm

Friday Night Pasta Dinner 5-7 pm  
Saturday Morning Coffee Shop 9-10:30am  
Saturday Lunch at 11:30  
Roast Beef Dinner 6pm

*Roast Beef Dinner Saturday at 6pm* Tickets for the Roast Beef Dinner will go on sale beginning Sunday Oct 23rd after worship. They may be purchased any Sunday during coffee hour or during the week from the church office. Only 120 seats available; purchase early!

The Jewelry Table is in need of your jewelry "cast-offs". Have you been saving your unwanted jewelry for the Fair? A big Thank You in advance! Please drop off your gems at the church or at Laurel's house (125 School Street in Groveland) **no later than Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup>**.



Cookie Walk - Donations of homemade cookies needed for the Cookie Walk. Any kind of cookies will be greatly appreciated.

Country Store: We need your help to make the Country Store table at the Snowflake Fair a success. Pies are some of the most popular items at this table. People also enjoy purchasing sweet or yeast breads and bars and brownies, either with or without nuts. People come back year after year to purchase terrific jams, relishes and pickles. Please wrap your baked goods in plastic. Usually the last things to sell are those wrapped in foil as people like to see what they are buying. Also, please label what you send in, especially whether it has nuts.



The Candy Shop needs your donations too—we are looking for donations of homemade candies, fudge, brittle, caramels, candy apples, caramel popcorn, etc.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR PIT CREW FOR HELPING US MAKE THE PINES SPEEDWAY A SUCCESS, COMING IN WITH OVER \$900.00 FOR PROFIT.

OUR SINCERE THANKS GOES OUT TO BOB AND SANDY DANIELS, GRETCHEN DALLAIRE, SUE HARNDEN, KEN HOLDEN, SANDY LARSEN, BEN MARCHAND, RON MERTENS, SUE AND MIKAYLA TILDEN, JENNIFER MOORE, ROD WARNER, AND LISE AND PHIL WRIGHT.

IT WAS SUCH A GREAT TEAM EFFORT!!

NANCY & WAYNE FAIRBANKS

Here's news from the Over 80 Card Cover Contest (CCC at GCC). It was a close one but the children and youth win! A "GREAT JOB and THANK YOU" goes out to Kasey Favor, Kelsey Fitzgerald, Cameron Keene and Kara Keene for their fantastic designs. There were doves, candles, rainbows, polar bears, Snow White, Noah's ark and God represented in the artwork. Thanks, also, to the adults – Cheryl Favor, Pastor Lance, and Sandy Keene for contributing a design as well. The Over 80 card program will duplicate these creative designs to meet the vast need of more than 280 cards sent annually. Special mention goes out to Cheryl Favor and Ron Mertens for all their efforts with this event.

Sing with the Choir for Christmas...

The Advent-Christmas-Epiphany season is such a beautiful time...what better way to fully experience the joy than singing with the choir! Especially if your schedule does not allow you to sing full time, you are welcome to come and join the choir for this limited time. Feel free to come down to rehearsal any Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM. For further information, contact Kathleen Tucker Gustafson or Linda Paulet.





*Help wanted!! Looking for someone to coordinate centerpieces for the monthly Capital Campaign breakfasts. Past ideas have used fresh flowers, garden flowers/greenery, house plants, shells, candy – the possibilities are endless but the time commitment is small. If you are looking for a fun and creative way to help out this is it! Please contact Sandy Keene for more details.*

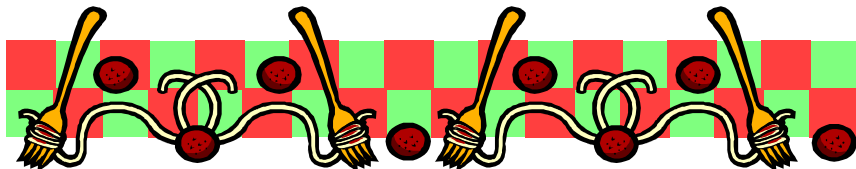
JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE  
35TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY OF  
PASTOR LANCE DALLAIRE  
SUNDAY NOV. 20, 2011  
SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING  
MORNING WORSHIP



This month's Steeple Lighting is given in memory of Eleanor Warner as well as the members of the Warner and Presho families who have passed by Rod Warner and family.



**YOUTH GROUP VOLUNTEERS** are needed to help prep the Friday night Fair meal on Thursday, November 10th from 4-6 pm (you know you love to make meatballs!!!) and also to help cook and serve the meal on Friday, November 11th from 4-8 pm. We will once again be serving pasta, salad, and hot dogs. This is a fun event, and will count for volunteer points for the end-of-year auction! Please contact Julie Fabri at [bjslfabri@comcast.net](mailto:bjslfabri@comcast.net) to sign up!



## Cemetery Sprays and Log Baskets

Orders taken anytime from October 30 - December 13, 2011

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check those which apply/note quantity/designate ribbon color:

\$40 Cemetery Spray - traditional red\_\_\_ burgundy\_\_\_ white\_\_\_  
\$40 Cemetery Log Basket - traditional red\_\_\_ burgundy\_\_\_ white\_\_\_

Total amount due: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Process order as soon as possible or designate order for a specific Sunday pickup (Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27 or Dec 4, 11, 18)

\_\_\_\_\_

**FREE ROSE** – (Optional choice) Prayer list recipient's

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Groveland Congregational Church

Mail to: GCC, 4 King Street, Groveland, MA 01834

Questions? Sandy Keene at 978-372-4654 or

[keenehome@comcast.net](mailto:keenehome@comcast.net)

Please note: Thanksgiving centerpieces are also available directly through Danielle's Designs at 978-373-4484. Mention "GCC" and Danielle will happily add another rose to the list for GCC prayer recipients.

***It's that time of year again!!  
The Budget Committee is asking all Boards and  
Committees to submit their 2012 budgets to the office  
by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you!!***

## Cemetery Sprays and Log Baskets



Before the bustle of the holiday season begins, here's a great chance to remember someone special. The GCC flower ministry continues with an exciting new opportunity for November. With the help, generosity and talent of Danielle's Designs of Haverhill (our weekly altar flower florist), you can get special pricing on a beautifully designed cemetery basket or spray AND pass along an additional "thinking of you" wish to a prayer list recipient. Here are the details:

**\*\*Order a cemetery spray or log basket abundantly filled with fresh greens at a cost of \$40.** (Note: the sprays will be made in an acrylic holder that can be placed over a headstone. Log baskets would be placed on the ground.)

**\*\*For every basket or spray ordered through GCC, Danielle's Designs will DONATE a fresh rose to a prayer list recipient. You can even designate a recipient if you choose.**

To order, ***complete the order form*** and send it in to the church. Orders will be tallied every Wednesday.

Pick up your spray or log basket at GCC on the Sunday of your choice. The **FREE** roses will be delivered to GCC each Sunday to be given out to prayer list recipients.

While it may be too early to decorate your Christmas tree, it is always the right time to remember someone special!! Thank you for helping GCC to share the joys of the holidays with others.

## Equal Exchange: Fairly Traded Gourmet Coffee, Tea and Chocolate

Equal Exchange is a democratically organized worker-owned cooperative, founded in 1986, to pioneer a new model of trade built upon fairness and stronger relationships between farmers and consumers. When you purchase Equal Exchange coffee, tea, chocolate and other products, you join a network that enables farmer in Latin America, Africa and Asia to stay on their land, support their families, plan for the future and care for the environment. Through Fair Trade we can create a more equitable world.

On Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, you will have an opportunity to order fair trade coffee, tea, chocolate bars, cocoa, dried cranberries and nuts after church during coffee hour. Individual bags of coffee will be available at retail prices, cases (6 bags) at wholesale. Fair trade for Christmas? This would be a great time to order for the holidays.

Kathleen Tucker Gustafson

### ***Pray for one another...***

We try to keep this list as up-to-date as possible. If you have a name you would like added or removed, please let Jen know.

Asa Beckwith Sr.	George Karalias
Ackerman Family	McInnis Family ( <i>Sandy Larsen's family</i> )
Tom Collins (Holden's son in law)	Seth Dallaire
Grodon Driscoll	Brenda Cross
Tressa (Terri ) Callaghan	Cindy Senical ( <i>Bradley's daughter</i> )
Rick Fitzgerald	Mark Rogers ( <i>friend of Seth's</i> )
Donna Torvi	Jim Shuttleworth ( <i>Caryl Haley's father</i> )
Ernest Gilford	Shane Marden ( <i>friend of Barlow's</i> )
Martha Lee Savage	Bill and Phyllis Forsyth
Nancy Anderson ( <i>Jean Mansell's friend</i> )	Beverly Gallo ( <i>friend of the Pelletiers</i> )
Nancy Chiappini ( <i>Kara Metcalf's aunt</i> )	Barbara McGovern (BEAM)
Rebecca Webber ( <i>friend of Kathleen Tucker Gustafson's</i> )	Joan Parah
Jacob William Chalfant ( <i>relative of Beth Balford's</i> )	Maureen Johnson

