

GRACEUMC Grace Notes

June 2013

The Monthly Newsletter of Grace United Methodist Church of Lynn, MA.



Dear Grace UMC Disciples,

The past year has marked the beginning of wonderful new ministries and relationships in our church and the community. We are engaging the community and each other in remarkable, beautiful new ways, and we thank God for the Spirit that is moving in and among us.

Every so often in congregations, there are moments of reflection and anticipation--moments when a congregation can celebrate its journey and be intentional about discerning God's call. One of the great metaphors for any time of reflection is to "move to the balcony." In doing so, we climb up to gain a different perspective and to look at who we are, how we interact with one another and serve, how we welcome the newcomer, and how we make spaces for the Holy Spirit to work in our lives. Looking down from the balcony offers us a new perspective, and a chance to widen our imaginations for strategic thinking.

After months of informal conversations, our Church Council decided in May to begin a process of strategic thinking and discerning where God is calling Grace UMC in the years ahead. This is not an exercise to determine the vision of the pastor or visioning team. It is an exciting process that will involve our entire congregation, led by a small coordination team, under the direction of the Church Council.



We will be looking at demographics around the church: who are our neighbors? What is most meaningful in their lives? Do they have questions about faith? How can we best walk with them in relationship? How can we help make God's love real in the lives of those who need it? Will our hospitality to others impact how we answer these questions?

We will be talking with our community leaders about the needs in our community. Where are the places of need? How might a church like Grace play a role in helping to address needs, problems, or injustice? Where can we use our individual and congregational gifts and talents?

At its June meeting, the Church Council will be nominating a coordinating team to lead us in this process. One of the first tasks of the team will be in early June to circulate and collect a questionnaire from the congregation that will form the basis of our congregations' discernment process.

I ask you to hold our church and the coordination team in prayer as we embark on this journey together!

Blessings for the journey!

Ted

Grace and peace, Ted.

**Update On
“Looking for Some Handi-Persons!”
And “The Ministry of
the Tables and Chairs”**

Thanks to Val Deland Deb Reeves and Georgia Iudiciani for volunteering.

Are you interested in outdoor clean-up? Can you do small odd jobs? Do you have some skills to share?

We are also still looking for a few more able-bodied workers that can be called upon to help with planned set-ups and break-downs of table and chairs as needed.

Please call or e-mail our Administrative Assistant, Chris Alexander if you would be on a list of people willing to get a call to see if they are available and would be willing to help out!

781-599-4050; graceumcoflynn@verizon.net



From the Finance Committee

June is such a lovely month. Graduations, weddings, start of summer BBQs – if you can’t be here you can always place your offering in the mail (checks of course).

And if you are here, our sanctuary is now air cooled. Enjoy our cool worship space! See you Sunday!



**ECCO in Action:
Working for Justice!**

ECCO's 25 congregations, representing over 15,000 people, will hold an Action assembly on June 10th at 7pm at St. John the Baptist Church in Peabody (17 Chestnut Street Peabody). ECCO congregations have committed to bringing more than 1,800 people to show our support for action. We will be asking our elected officials to support:

- *Fighting against economic inequality by raising the minimum wage
- *Passing national immigration reform
- *Reforming the Massachusetts criminal justice system

ECCO is inviting our U.S. Senate candidates along with our North state legislative delegation. A big crowd will demonstrate a powerful voice and constituency for these issues on the North Shore.

Contact the church office to learn more or to join in representing Grace UMC with our faith community partners.



Please send all information for the **July Newsletter** to the Church Office by **MONDAY June 17**



Articles and dates for the June calendar are appreciated as early as possible.

**Go to www.gracelynn.org
To check for updates in
news and the church calendar**

Clothes Closet
Open Saturdays-10am-12pm
Donations may be dropped off on Sunday mornings or Monday through Friday 9am-1pm.
We are now accepting spring and summer clothes.

June 22nd is Next Date to Serve at My Brother's table

Have you had a chance to serve at My Brother's Table? Serving at the Table is a great way to experience life in a Christ-like way and is rewarding to the spirit.

As we serve and assist folks with meals, all groups, individuals, and friends have the opportunity to join in this wonderful ministry at any time.

The remaining 2013 dates are:

Saturday June 22nd 1:30-4:30

Monday September 23rd 4:30-7:30

Saturday October 26th 1:30-4:30

Sunday November 17th 1:30-4:30

Tuesday December 10th 4:30-7:30



Do We Have Your E-mail address?

Are you receiving the Weekly E-News?

If not, please send it to the church office at graceumcolynn@verizon.net OR call the church office at 781-599-4050.

Congratulations to Pam Mavrelion who was just named President of the Metro Boston Hope District's United Methodist Women's organization, an association of more than 40 local UMW chapters.



We are so proud of you, Pam!

Ink Cartridges = Savings!

Rewards that we receive from your used ink cartridges significantly defray our costs for paper and office supplies.

Thanks to all of you for donating!

Cartridges can be dropped off in the office or outside the office door in the clear mailbox.

Thank you!

Chris Alexander



Wednesday Night Church Suppers

At our church supper in April, the fried chicken was delicious and the fellowship was fun and relaxed.

The May supper provided by the Finance Committee was delectable! Think about joining us on June 26 from 5:30-6:45. Church suppers have been well attended and enjoyed by all who came. This is great time for us to share a relaxing time with good food and good company.

We thank Debbie Bryant and Pam Mavrelion for the great meal in April and the Finance Committee for May.

The schedule of chefs is as follows:

June-Church Council

July/August- Church Picnic?-Men's Group

September-Worship Team

October- Choir

November-UMW

December-Sunday School

If you haven't been able to come to any of the suppers so far, give it a try!



"Everything Old Is New Again"

On Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4, the Gracenotes and Melodies presented their

annual musical revue to a full house at both performances. The cast was comprised of over fifty children and young adults, who

entertained the audience with songs, dances, and audience participation.

We would like to say thank you to all who helped to make our show a success.....to the children and their parents.....to those who ran the concession stand..... to those who helped to set up and break down the hall.....and especially to the audience on both nights, who showed us so much love and with their applause and cheering! Because of everyone's support, we were able to donate to Grace Church \$2,300. We'll be back in December with our children's Christmas show....see you then!

Barbara Moore



Vacation Bible School

Grace United Methodist Church of Lynn invites all children to step right up at **Everywhere Fun Fair**: *Where God's World Comes Together* Vacation Bible School. Explore and experience God's welcoming love at VBS. The fun program will run from **Sunday July 28th–Thursday August 1st from 5:30-8:30pm.**



The adventures include delicious suppers, interactive Bible fun, great music, super science, cool crafts, hands on mission work, global games and more. To be part of all the excitement at Everywhere Fun Fair, call the church office at: 781-599-4050.

Wanted: Neighbors who want to discover the Word of God with Children. Would you like to spend a whole week at **Everywhere Fun Fair** helping our children discover the welcoming love of God at work all around us? At **Everywhere Fun Fair**, we will help children experience God's welcoming love through eating together, dramas, crafts, games, science activities, music, and hours of fun!

Sign up to help us at Vacation Bible School and join us in the excitement at Everywhere Fun Fair: *Where God's World Comes Together*. Please see Pam if you are interested in helping out at this fun filled week.

Still looking for ways to help!

You can support our Yard Sale on June 29th from 9:00am-2:00pm. Help is needed from Friday night at 5:00 till clean up on Saturday afternoon, you can bake for the baked sale at the Yard Sale, you can donate to the snack bar, donate items to our yard sale, come in and shop, and work.

You can donate to our VBS supply list and bring the items to church and put them in a basket in the Narthex:

Bingo Markers-red, yellow, orange, purple or pink
Tacky Glue
8 ½ x 11 White Card Stock
Paper Shopping Bags
Newspaper
Large White Poster Board
Spring type clothes pins Large Pool Noodles
Mesh Bath Sponges
Colorful Tag board
Cotton Quilted Batting
Bottle Juices

Most important **you can pray** for the work of our Vacation Bible School, where we God's Word comes together for the kids, volunteers, our neighbors.

Thank you !

Pam Mavrelion 617-257-0673

Grace United Methodist Church

Giant Outdoor Yard Sale

June 29th, 2013

9:00am-2:00pm



**For Table Rentals
please call:**

781-581-3355

**Snack Bar, Baked Sale
Treasures Galore!!!!!!!**

Please volunteer to help us with this great fun day!

← Pam Mavrelion 617-257-0673

Contact Information

Pastor: The Rev. Ted Crass

Administrative Assistant: Chris Alexander

Wyoma Square: 374 Broadway

Mailing address: Grace UMC of Lynn

P. O. Box 8070

Lynn, MA 01904

Church Office Open Daily 9am-1pm

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Fax: 781-599-6136

E-Mail: Graceumcoflynn@verizon.net

Website: www.gracelynn.org

Pastor's Contact Information:

Office: 781-599-4050

Parsonage: 781-595-2851

E-mail: tfcross@gmail.com

Time to Register for Summer Camp!

The Church Camp experience is important in developing the faith of our young folks. In recent years, our church has not sent any of our young people to camp, and the most recent attendees are now young adults. Accordingly, our current crop of wonderful youth have no recent campers to pass along the stories and excitement of the camp experience.

In an effort to re-energize the camping tradition at Grace, we presented a proposal to the Lynn Cluster (an organization composed of Grace UMC and our friends at Lakeshore Park UMC) to defray the expenses of children in the church who want to attend camp this year.

I am very thankful and excited to announce that the Cluster carefully considered the proposal and voted this week that for this year only, the cluster will pay the entire camp fee for any child presently in Grace or Lakeshore Park to attend a week session at one of the four New England Conference summer camps!

The Conference maintains camps in Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. All offer overnight camping experiences and a dizzying array of activities. The camps can be found here: [Aldersgate](#), [Mechuwana](#), [Wannakee](#), and [Covenant Hills](#). Check out the camp websites, pick a session, and contact the church office for more information and to facilitate registration!

Grace and peace, Ted.



Summer Camp



Camp Scholarships for You!

Money is available from the Cluster and from Grace UMC to fund your child's trip to camp this year. It's time to act!

If you are interested in going to camp and would like to apply for a camp scholarship, please contact the church office at graceumcoflynn@verizon.net or 781-599-4050

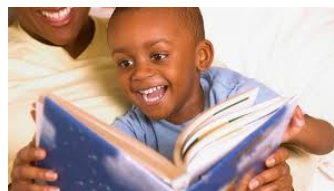
Children's Day is June 2nd.

The Sunday School will be purchasing new books to help promote literacy in Lynn as their mission this year.

The books will be dedicated on Children's Day, June 2nd. The Sunday school is asking for donations of new children's book as part of their mission this year. (Ages kindergarten through middle school)



If you would like to help the children meet their goal of 50 books, please contact Kris Davies or Shawna Hemenway.



Alzheimer's and Dementia Seminar Saturday June 29 8am-5pm

Chris Luca is offering a seminar at Grace Church about Alzheimer's and Dementia on Saturday June 29th in the meeting room across from the office. If you are interested in attending please contact Chris Luca at 781-581-2881.



6/1 John Spanks
 6/2 Kathleen Murphy
 6/4 Brian Patten
 6/4 Caroline Nerich
 6/5 Al Shaw
 6/6 Meagan Johnson
 6/7 Nolan Barber
 6/8 Ted Crass
 6/9 Deborah Wheeler
 6/9 Ethel Cotter
 6/9 Loring Anderson

6/9 Joan Day
 6/11 Kevin Timlin
 6/13 Winifred Weed
 6/13 Charles Neall
 6/15 Jason Cuthbert
 6/19 Augusta Duncan
 6/19 Lois Starbard
 6/20 Marge Murray
 6/20 Joyce Patterson
 6/20 Caron Vaczy
 6/23 Delores Starratt
 6/25 Arlene Worth
 6/29 Fredric Reeves
 6/29 Jenna DeBerardinis
 6/30 Jonathan Gilbert

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Priscilla Gately who died on April 30th.



And to the family and friends of June Dill, who died on May 1st.

Our prayer concerns.



family of Priscilla Gately, Family of June Dill, family of Chris and Rob Alexander on the death of Rob's mother, Maxine Watkins, Joe LaRocque, Ginny Galvin, Sylvia Parker and family, Peter LaBranche, Leah and Shawn LaBranche and family, Bob Shorey and family, Lucy Pearson and Family of Fred Pearson, Nan Small and family, Ethel Cotter, June Norwood, Judy Linkenhoker, Donald Livermore and family of Taimi Livermore, the family of Diane Welch, Kris Bruhm, Madeline Frier, Don Belben, Jan Nugent, Betty Widell, Dorothy Rizzi (Kate Gauvain's niece), Ruth Kalapinski, Michelle Tarasuik, Thelma Butler, Hazel Fuller, Millie Senices, Augusta Duncan, Jean King, Chris Luca, Dawn Johnson.

Anniversaries

6/2 Joyce and Malcolm Patterson (45 yrs!)
 6/3 Karen and Tom Cuthbert
 6/10 Deborah and Fredric Reeves
 6/11 Eleanore and Loring Anderson
 6/11 Florence and Michael Hezekiah
 6/14 Jane and Albert Clark
 6/22 Amy and Mark Nerich
 6/26 Priscilla and Allen Turner
 6/27 Dawn and Glenn Johnson

Dear Grace United Methodist Church:
 We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the prayer shawl, the meals that were given to us, and all the thoughtfulness of all. It was so appreciated. Also thank you for continuing prayers for my son Peter and our family. POWER OF PRAYER! God Bless You All. Sincerely, Lea LaBranche, Shawn and Peter

Dear Grace Family,
 It is with heartfelt thanks that I write this Thank You. To paraphrase what Pastor Ted said Sunday (5-19)...it is the "Spirit" moving within us!! NOW it makes sense to me!! I held a "small" Yard Sale at Grace on May 18 for a former student's daughter who is afflicted with a muscular disorder. I taught Kielisa 30 years ago. Her daughter is now 7 years old. My goal was to raise enough money to "help" pay for their airfare to an AMC Conference this summer. Through the Generosity of the Board of Trustees, family, friends, the Grace Church family, helpers and strangers, we were able to raise a little over \$2,000.! Enough to cover the airfare AND their hotel! I truly believe that God DOES work in mysterious ways ...this time it was through me!! I had a little dream and it exploded!! Thanks to you all. I couldn't no have done it without all of you!! Sincerely, Marsha Robinson



Marjorie Buckley (144 Mount Warner Rd, Hadley, MA 01035 -9633), Thelma Butler, Barbara Davis (Life Care Center), Hazel Fuller (Putnam Farm, 9 Summer Street Apt. 342 Danvers MA 01923), Todd Gandolfo, 3 Access Rd, Danvers, MA 01923 (likes humorous cards); Helen McKeen (Grosvenor Park, Salem).

Thanks to the Newsletter Crew!



Thank you to our faithful volunteers who put together the May newsletter: Joan Day, Delores Haddon, Florence Hezekiah, Irma Hopkins. Everyone is welcome to help with the monthly newsletter collation. Let Chris know if you like to get a call when the newsletter is ready. 781-599-4050

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Rod Deland, Proprietor

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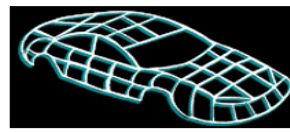
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