

Grace Church – Medford, Massachusetts  
Annual Meeting of the Parish  
Reports, Business, Elections



*Grace Episcopal Church is a multigenerational, diverse and welcoming Christian community which values shared leadership, service to those in need and nurturing all in the love of God.*

Sunday, February 8, 2015

Grace Church  
Annual Meeting for the Year 2014  
Sunday, February 8, 2015  
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**Grace Episcopal Church – Medford, Massachusetts**  
**Agenda – Annual Meeting of the Parish**  
**Sunday, February 8, 2015**

1. Call to Order  
Opening Prayer
2. Determination of a Quorum Kathy Mumma, Clerk
3. Membership: Signing of the By-Laws Sean Kerans, Jr. Warden
4. Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2014 Annual Meeting  
Branwen Smith-King, Sr. Warden
5. Elections
  - Appointment of Tellers
  - Balloting
6. Presentation by the Treasurer Tom Hamel, Treasurer
7. Update on Organ restoration Naida Gavrelis
8. Questions
9. Remembrances The Rev. Noah H. Evans
10. Adjournment
11. Benediction
12. Coffee Hour

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
Medford, Massachusetts

**Annual Meeting Minutes**

**February 9, 2014**

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I Opening Prayer/ Call to Order

Noah Evans, Rector, opened the meeting with prayer. At 11:23AM Noah called the meeting to order.

II Determination of a Quorum

Kathy Mumma, Clerk, certified there was a quorum.

III Signing of the By-Laws

Sean Kerans, Junior Warden, called upon 55 individuals who qualified for signing the bylaws. Witnessed by the Wardens and the voting members in attendance, 11 individuals signed the by-laws and became voting members of the church.

IV Approval of the Minutes for 2013 Annual Meeting

Jonathan Hunt made a motion to approve the 2013 Annual Minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

V Report of the Nominating Committee

Cindy Scott presented the nominees.

VI Elections

The slate was as follows:

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| • Three Vestry Members; 3 year terms | Steve Duggan<br>Hallie Lee<br>Agnes Opara |
| • Treasurer                          | Tom Hamel                                 |
| • Clerk                              | Kathy Mumma                               |
| • One-Year Vestry Term               | Naida Gavrelis                            |

- One-Year Vestry Term Nathan Brawley
- One Delegate to the Diocesan Convention; 2 year term Margaret Smist
- One Alternate Delegate to the Diocesan Convention;  
1 year term Cindy Scott
- Five Delegates to the Mystic Valley Deanery;  
1 year term Steve Duggan  
Ann Frenning Kossuth  
Cheryl Woodbury
- Delegates to Episcopal City Mission, 1 year term Susan Maltz  
Jane Scherban
- Nominating Committee, 1 year term Sara Folta  
Cheryl Woodbury  
Alicia Hunt

The floor was closed for nominations.

Tellers picked up the ballots. The meeting continued as the ballots were counted.

#### VII Organ Task Force

Allison Andrews, on behalf of the Organ Task Force, presented a Restoration Plan for the 1875 Hook & Hastings Organ.

#### VIII Ballot results

Tellers reported that all nominees received a majority of votes. There are also two youth members serving a one year term: Molly Fenn and Eliana Viggiani.

#### IX Closing Prayer/Adjourn

Noah closed the meeting with prayer.

Jonathan Hunt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55AM.

Kathy Mumma  
Clerk

# Members Qualified to Vote in the 2013 Annual Meeting of Grace Church - Medford, Massachusetts February 8, 2015

**DEFINITION**

Any Baptized person of the age of sixteen (16) years or more may at any meeting of the Parish be voted a member and entitled to vote in its affairs, if such person has aided in maintaining public worship for six (6) months immediately preceding such Parish Meeting by attendance at public worship and by pecuniary aid, and provided that after such vote of membership such person shall immediately sign the Constitution and By-Laws of the Parish.

Akiba, Ebby	Fenn, Maria	Kossuth, Ann Frenning
Anderson, Wendy	Fenn, Matthew	Kossuth, James
Andrews, Allison	Fenn, Michael	
	Fenn, Molly	Lee, Bailey
Bell, Matt	Fields, Mayland	Lee, David
Benjamin, Emily	Folta, Sara	Lee, Hallie S.
Benjamin, Kathryn	Farenga, Day	Lee, Stephenson
Bowers, Charles	Foote, Linda Rice	Ligon, Barbara
Bozovic, C. Jane	Foote, Wesley Jr.	Ligon, C.E.
Bracken, Olivia	Foote, Wesley Sr.	Lisella, Julia
Brady, Stephanie	Fortino, Louise	Lwanga-Jennings, Deborah
Branson, Brian		Lysius, Marthe
Branson Palladino, Nanci	Gagnon, Carolyn	
Brawley, Charles	Gaughan, Elaine	Maltz, Susan Burns
Brawley, Kristine	Gaughan, Michael	Maganzini, Vincent
Brown, Sharen	Gavrelis, Naida	Marceau, Joné
Brownsmith, Esther	Glynn, Marie	McCurdy, Mark
Burger, Mildred	Glynn, Martin	McCurdy, Caterine
	Glynn, Siobhan	Mumma, Katherine
Capuccio, Donald	Greene, Oscar	
Capuccio, Gillian		Novaes, Barbara
Carson, Lisa	Hale Adele Travisano	Nwachukwu, Cynthia
Celletti, Daly	Hale, Dennis	Nwachukwu, Solomon
Choi, David	Hamel, Jane	
Clompus, Brad	Hamel, Tom	Opara, Agnes
Convery, Beverly	Hathaway, Barbara	Page, Lucia
Craven, Gloria	Honeycutt, William	Palladino, Al
Cross, Carrie	Hunt, Alicia	Palladino, Dorothy
	Hunt, Jonathan	Pappalardo, Joan
DiRocco, Lisa		Pardy, Jr., Ray
Duggan, Laura A.	Johnson, Genita	Pearson, Brenda
Duggan, Stephen	Johnson, Genita	Pearson, James, Jr.
		Pearson, Ruthanne
Edgecomb, Arthur	Karpowich, Judith	Peloquin, Chenine
Egger, Daniel	Kerans, Peggy	Peloquin, Eric
Egger, Nancy Daly	Kerans, Sean	Pietrantoni, Jeff
Eriksson-Ellis, Sandra	Klasen, Amanda	Pietrantoni, June
Ettinger de Cuba, Stephanie	Klasen, James	Povey, Barbara L.
Ewell, Karen	Klein, Ellery	

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Quick, Julie  
Quick, Thomas  
  
Ramirez, Warren  
Rizzo, Mary  
Rogers, Carolyn  
Rogers, John  
Rogers, John P.  
Rogers, Lawrence  
Rogers, Linda  
Rogers, Nancy  
Ryba, Carol  
  
Scherban, Jane  
Schlesinger, John  
Scott, Lucinda  
Sheets, Elaine  
Sheets, Robin  
Silva, Ethel  
Skeete, Myra  
Smist, Margaret  
Smith, Aram  
Smith, Britta  
Smith, Catherine  
Smith, Deborah  
Smith –King, Branwen  
Spence, Bryan  
Spence, Kristen  
Spiers, Jean  
States, Dorothy  
Stewart, Anson  
Sullivan, Stacy  
Swan, Jean  
Thompson, Carol  
  
Viggiani, Elianna  
Viggiani, Steve

Williams, Joan  
Wirz, Holger  
Wirz, Katherine  
Anderson  
Woodbury, Cheryl  
Woodbury, Douglas  
Woodward, Kate  
  
Zafiris, Jean  

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**Qualified but have not  
yet signed the By-Laws:**  
Claes Andreasen  
Edith Auner  
Joe Auner  
Kathleen Beebee  
Ololine Baptiste  
Lee Benjamin  
Mia Benjamin  
Becky Benowicz  
Scott Benowicz  
Marion Browning  
Leslie Brunaccini  
Steve Bucchianeri  
Nathan Brawley  
Louis Carson  
Ann and Nicholas Civitareale  
Stephen Clouse  
Connor Daly  
Janna Davis  
Joshua Davis  
Pamela Davis  
Day Farenga  
Tara and Corey Finnegan  
Barbara Hammond  
Patrick Hardy  
Matt and Shannon Heaton  
Shirley Kountze  
Vincent and Deysi Jackson  
Rochenet Joseph  
Jessica Lee  
Yolette Joseph Louis

Michael Lwanga  
Nadine Martinez  
Aldo Masciave  
Sarah Masciave  
Mary Muir  
Charrese Murray  
Mike Nickey  
Marina Novaes  
Edward Nowick  
Elizabeth Pardy  
Erica Pastor  
Vincente Pastor  
Kateri Paul  
Kristin Plausky  
Jeffrey Quilter  
Joan Quilter  
Steve Scott  
Kristan Schoen  
Jessica Sciuillo  
Ann Severson  
Anson Stewart  
Robert Surabian  
Jen Valentyn  
Judith Walsh

**The list of those qualifying to sign the Parish By-Laws is based upon current parish records and inadvertently may not include everyone currently eligible to sign. If you believe you may be eligible, please make it known to the Clerk of the Vestry or the Warden as soon as possible.**

# Report of Official Acts & Other Information for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2014

Submitted to the Annual Meeting of Grace Church - Medford, Massachusetts  
Sunday, February 8, 2015

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## Pastoral and Sacramental Acts

- Baptisms: 18      Confirmed/Received:      Marriages: 1      Burials: 11
- Services of the Holy Eucharist:      Sundays:      136      Weekdays/Private:      120
- Services of the Daily Offices      Sundays:      10      Weekdays:      5

### Baptized in Grace Church 2014

Teagan Marie Hooley

Violet Diane Bell

Loralee Mae Deane

Ayla Nicole Fillebrown

Lucas Raymond Fillebrown

Owen Peter Finnegan

Claire Rose Kerans

Catriona Clare Mumma

Kianne Morgan Plausky

Jaidyn Elizabeth Plausky

Cali Mae Curry

Kaye Elaine Benowicz

Ayla Hope Jensen

Noah Nolan Martinez

Adam James Peloquin

Kaiya Elizabeth Rivera Riedel-Smith

James Anthony Pearson

- Buried from Grace Church (or by clergy of Grace Church) 2014

Shirley Smith

Willard (Bill) Williams

David Gartland

William Koenig

William Jenkin

James E. Flynn

Norman A. Whalen

Nelga Carpenter

Florence Johnson

Ruth Hall

Gloria Bowens

## Membership and Participation:

Average Sunday Attendance for:

2014: 153 (Tufts excluded 148)      2013: 157 (Tufts excluded 146)      2012: 165 (Tufts

excluded 151) 2011: 150 (Tufts excluded 143)      2010: 131      2009: 116      2008: 110

2007: 105

## Rector's Annual Report 2014

As always, I have the privilege of being the last person to submit my Annual Report, which means I can see the entire report in writing. We have done and accomplished much as a community over the last year! Please take time to read the enclosed reports which will give you a sense of the ministry and mission we have together. Most of all, thank you – for the part you play in making this church a growing and thriving community participating in God's work.

I want to thank our hard working Vestry, Treasurer and Wardens, as well as the Grace Church Staff. Their hard work and dedication is so important to the vital and vibrant parish we have today!

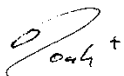
This year has been a year of transition in our staff. Last January we said goodbye to James Liberge as our Director of Christian Formation, and in June our intern Eva Englert went off to Divinity School at Boston University, and our Lay Associate for Student ministries, Rachael Pettengill-Rasure was ordained and went on to serve Church of Our Savior in Milton. During the winter, our Vestry revised the staffing plan for Grace Church to include one intern, and a half-time Assistant Rector. This August, we welcomed The Reverend Dr. Maggie Arnold as our Assistant Rector and Mia Benjamin as our 2014-15 Life Together intern. Our new Assistant Rector position involves coordinating our Children and Youth programs, as well as sharing in the liturgical and pastoral leadership of the parish. I now am beginning to see that for the first time since our explosive growth a few years ago Grace Church is staffed properly, and I am thankful for the vision and leadership of our Wardens and Vestry that has led us to this place.

Our childcare center, GraceWorks, also saw a transition in leadership in September when Kayanna Scott-Brown left GraceWorks for other endeavors and Diane Harrington was hired to lead our program. Diane has already showed her deep competence and passion for her field, and I am thrilled to welcome her leadership to GraceWorks.

During the 2013-2014 program year we did many experiments in the 5:00PM worship service, including Worshipful Walks, Sung Compline, worshiping with a projection screen in the parish hall and many, many other ways of encountering God. What is clear is there is a desire and need for worship at this time slot. This fall, we began to make an effort to be consistent with worship in the church each week for that service. We found that when we do this it is easier to welcome new people, and also to develop a prayerful space to build church community. Beginning Sunday, September 28th, we welcomed Cheryl Forest Morganson as our musician for the 5PM service. This year her salary was paid for by a grant from the Diocese to help develop this service. We have averaged this fall 13 people per service, with a range from 6 – 35 people. The service is soulful and beautiful, and has a number of people who now consider it their primary worship service.

This has been my seventh year serving at Grace Church, and I continue to be blessed, nurtured and surprised by this community. Over that time, I have presided at over 70 funerals, 100 baptisms and well over 500 Sunday services. You have welcomed me into your lives again and again during times of tragedy and times of celebration. It is amazing to me how much I have learned about my own life with God through leading and companioning this diverse and multi-generational spiritual community. Thank you.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Noah H. Evans', with a small cross symbol to the right of the name.

The Reverend Noah H. Evans  
Rector

## Assistant Rector's Report

I joined the Grace Church community last August and was warmly welcomed immediately. I am so grateful to all of the parishioners for reaching out to me and to my family. Many heartfelt thanks to the Search Committee, vestry, and wardens, and to Rev. Noah, for inviting me to minister and learn among you, and for giving me such great support and encouragement during my first months.

It is a particular joy to worship with such a diverse and vibrant congregation. Ruth and the choir lift us up with their beautiful music each week. I love the never-ending Peace, and the opportunity to greet people in church and at coffee hour. Part of my involvement in Grace's liturgical life has included work with the Altar Guild, meeting with members for training and updating the Altar Guild manual. I am impressed by the dedication and reverence of the whole group, who provide such a valuable, behind-the-scenes service to our community. We're looking forward to exercising our creativity as we prepare the worship space for Lent and Easter.

It has been a privilege to help mark the passing of some members of Grace Church's family. I conducted a burial service for Florence Johnson, and the funeral for Gloria Bowens. In each case, I learned about amazing women and their families, and their connection to the history of our parish. Just as great a grace was the chance to baptize Kaye Benowicz—to welcome a brand new, amazing woman to the Christian family!

Attending diocesan events, from Convention to clergy gatherings, has been exciting and inspiring, as we get to know our new bishop. He comes across as thoughtful and humble. I appreciate his commitment to spend time listening to the diocese and its needs.

Grace Church is very blessed in its staff, and Carol has been especially helpful and patient, as I bumble around trying to remember keys and passwords. Mia is an energizing presence among us, so full of passion and ideas; it is wonderful to watch her grow and to see how she challenges us to grow in our faith, too. Jim, our sexton, is so capable and reliable—thanks to him and to all the GraceWorks staff, as we share this space together and do so much good work for children and their families.

Most of my focus here at Grace is on the Christian Education program. It is in this work that I have witnessed truly awesome commitment from everyone involved—and there are so many people involved, from children to youth and adults of every age! I'll offer more specific thanks and program information in the Christian Education report, but know that all of you are incredible, and you teach me so much.

So it has been a holy whirlwind, since I began at Grace Church six months ago. I have tried, following our bishop's example, to listen for your guidance, to be a resource to facilitate the kind of Christian formation you want to find and foster here at Grace. I hope that you will continue to offer me your thoughts, suggestions, ideas, and feedback on our programs. My door is always open, in the office or by email or on Facebook...

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maggie".

Rev. Maggie

## Senior Warden's Report – January 2015

What a wonderful year of change and growth it has been for Grace Church! We continue to grow in many ways in this caring and loving parish that we are all a part of. First of all I would like to extend my thanks to all those individuals who play a role in our community no matter how small or large. Everyone is an important member of our parish; it's through this wonderful support system we truly are a loving community.

This past year saw many changes, including staff and programming. Our two interns, Rachael Pettingill-Rasure moved on and is now an ordained minister and Eva Englert is in Divinity School at Boston University in the hopes of becoming a minister as well. In addition, James Liberge, our education director, left in late January to pursue other options and to spend more time with his family. For many of us these three young people were like family, they were important members of the Grace family. The departure of Rachael, Eva and James felt like a loss since they were involved in many aspects of our parish life. Saying goodbye is often difficult but I do know that Grace Church will always hold a special place in their hearts. Likewise, we will always have fond memories and gratitude for their service to us.

In August 2014 we welcomed Reverend Maggie Arnold as our new Assistant Priest. With continued growth as a parish it was evident that we needed to provide more support for Reverend Noah Evans. One of our parish goals was to increase the staff by hiring another priest; it certainly was a delight to see this become a reality. Maggie has been a wonderful addition to our community and we are blessed to have her with us. She oversees children's education, assists and celebrates the Eucharist, participates in vestry meetings as well as many other duties. It has been five short months but Maggie has already made a huge impact at Grace Church. In the early fall we also welcomed Mia Benjamin, our new "Micah Fellow at Life Together" intern. Mia has already hit the "road running", organizing and leading our new Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) team.

Newness is the theme this year at Grace Church with the official addition of the 5pm service. We will continue to evaluate the late service, track attendance and hopefully it will continue to thrive. Additionally two new restrooms were completed in the early fall which are now handicapped accessible, spacious and updated. Thanks to those who volunteered to make this happen and to beautify these rooms. Other cosmetic changes included the donation of several dozens of hotel cushioned chairs that have spruced up Wiles Hall!

Grace Church continues to be a welcoming, diverse and loving community. Twelve members of our parish fundraised and took a mission trip to Bogota, Colombia over the February school vacation week. A true example of the parish generosity was when we welcomed three members from the Divine Savior Church in Bogota who visited us over the Thanksgiving week. We celebrated the Eucharist in both English and Spanish that Sunday; it was indeed a beautiful, celebratory service. Sadly, Father Jose Romero passed away just a few weeks after his visit to Boston. The mission trip group celebrated his life in a very touching memorial service. Our prayers are with our brothers and sisters in Colombia during this difficult time for their parish.

Thank You to all those who cook, teach, mentor, volunteer, listen, serve on the alter, usher, sing in the choir, fold the newsletters, serve on the vestry, nurture the gardens, serves on a committees, pledges, volunteers for outreach, attends Wednesday nights and Sunday services; you are all important to Grace Church! As we continue this path of change, let us not forget our role as Christians: to help make this a better world for those who are powerless, poor and disenfranchised.

It has been my privilege to serve as your Senior Warden. May God Bless you, your families, bring you bountiful joy, good health and a continued commitment to Jesus Christ.

Sincerely,  
Branwen Smith-King  
Senior Warden 1/13/15

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Submitted by Alicia Hunt, Chair

According to the By-Laws of Grace Episcopal Church, the Nominating Committee is to be composed of:

- The three (3) Vestry members whose terms will end at the February 2015 Annual Meeting (who are not eligible for re-election until a period of at least one (1) year has elapsed). This year those are Naida Gavrelis, Margaret Smist and Nathan Brawley.
- Any Officers whose terms will end at the February 2015 Annual Meeting and who will not seek re-election. Officers whose terms will end at the upcoming Annual Meeting are Branwen Smith-King, Senior Warden and Sean Kerans, Junior Warden
- Three (3) Members of the Parish in good standing, elected at the February 2014 Annual Meeting to serve a one-year term. Those persons are Sara Folta, Cheryl Woodbury and Alicia Hunt.

Descriptions of the various Leadership Positions for which we sought nominees were posted on the bulletin board in Wiles Hall and proper notice was given both verbally and in two consecutive Parish Newsletters that the Nominating Committee was seeking nominees.

The list of nominees to be posted in the warrant for the February 8, 2015 Annual Meeting follows:

- Senior Warden (2-year term): Sean Kerans
- Junior Warden (2-year term): Lucia Page
- Vestry Members (Three – for 3-year terms): Catherine Smith, Susan Maltz and Dennis Hale
- Vestry Members (One – 1-year term to complete the unexpired term of Lucia Page, nominated for Junior Warden): Branwen Smith-King
- Delegate to the Diocesan Convention (2-years term): Lucinda Scott
- Alternate Delegate to the Diocesan Convention (1-year term): Jonathan Hunt
- Episcopal City Mission Delegates (Two – 1-year terms): Jane Scherban and Kristen Spence
- Delegates to the Mystic Valley Deanery (Four – 1-year terms): Stephen Duggan, Cheryl Woodbury, Ann Frenning-Kossuth and [Ellery Klein](#)
- Grace Episcopal Church nominating Committee (1-year term): Alicia Hunt, Margaret Smist and Laura Duggan (who will be joined by the 2016 outgoing Officers Tom Hamel, Treasurer and Katherine Mumma, Secretary and Vestry members Vincent Maganzini, Aram Smith and the 1-year term to be elected at the February 8, 2015 Annual meeting.)

## ACOLADES for ACOLYTES

As always, high school graduation robs us of some of our experienced Acolytes, but also we are experiencing our high schoolers becoming more involved in working part time. Despite some of the turnover, we still have 19 young people in service. By way of listing, we have seven who are accomplished as Crucifers; Elizabeth Pardy, Genita Johnson, Louis Carson, Timmy Lwanga, Jaeda Hamel and Michael Lwanga. And we have sixteen younger boys and girls who are very faithful as Torch Bearers; Emily Pardy, Chioma Opara, Catherine and Elizabeth Woodbury, Nzube Opara, Francesca Viggiani, Melanie Edgecomb, Victoria and Rebecca Spence, Solomon Nwachukwu, Jr. and Brianna Nwachukwu, Emma Maganzini and Ellie Hunt. Some are getting ready for the leap up to Crucifer. On time robing is always a problem, but is getting better. One additional and fun duty has been for the Crucifer to ring the bell, signaling the start of the service. This is why you might see Father Noah holding the cross as the Crucifer makes a mad dash from the bell tower. We are pleased that so many young people take part in our services by leading the choir into the Chancel, but would appreciate it if parents could keep them faithful right through high school.

## **Adult Education**

We had many great Adult Education offerings over the last year – taught and led by a wide variety of folks and teams. The Reverend Noah Evans coordinated adult education this year. Adult Education was offered on some Sundays, Wednesday Nights, and on some Saturdays. Grace Church sees that teaching and leading adult learning is the work of the entire church, and many different people have something to share and offer.

Here are some (not all) of the topics covered this year:

Immunity to Change (Three week class taught by the Reverend Noah Evans)

Matthew's Gospel (three week class taught by Matt Rasure and Rachael Pettengill-Rasure)

Colombia Mission Trip Report

Free Book discussion during Lent (5 weeks, led by Rachael Pettengill-Rasure and Sara Folta)

Departing Interns "Last Lectures"

The Baken Oil Field, screening of short films

"A Will for the Woods" film screening

"Gasland II" screening

Refugees of Jordan, Mia Benjamin

Experience of War and Violence in Israel, Esther Brownsmith

Godly Play for Adults, The Reverend Maggie Arnold

"Spiritualism in Boston" Dee Morris

Apocalyptic Literature, 3 week series, Esther Brownsmith

Praying out Loud, the Reverend Noah Evans

## Altar Guild Report

*“God our Father, Your Son showed how much He loves us when He gave us the sacrament of His body and blood. We thank you for the privilege of serving at His Altar, and we ask you to join our prayers to His and to make us strong Christians in our daily lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”*

The Altar Guild is the ministry working weekly behind the scenes to prepare the church for Sunday services. In addition to preparing the altar each Sunday, the Guild works with Noah and Maggie with weddings, baptisms, burials and special services.

We are very grateful to June Pietrantonio who serves on the altar for the 8 am service, and to all of those responsible for the 10 am and 5 pm services - Adele Travisano, Robin and Elaine Sheets, Dottie Palladino, Olivia Bracken, Marie Glynn, Carolyn Rogers, Mia Benjamin and Margaret Smist.

The Guild was very happy to have Rev. Maggie assist us with Altar Guild training this December, and we are very excited about having her work with us on decorating the church for the various seasons. It has also been wonderful to have families join us as we decorate the altar for the Christmas and Easter holidays.

As always, we welcome anyone who would like to be part of this ministry at Grace Church. The only pre-requisite is that you love the liturgy and worship at Grace, and you like to work behind the scenes to make the altar beautiful. The commitment is about once every 4-5 weeks, and you will serve alongside another altar guild member.

Please speak to either Carolyn or Margaret if you are interested in learning more about the Altar Guild.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Carolyn Rogers and Margaret Smist

## **The Anderson Scholarship Committee**

The Scholarship Committee received 3 applications for the Anderson Scholarship for the 2014-15 academic year.

### **Scholarship Recipients**

Julianne Fitzgerald      Scholarship Amount \$500  
2014 applicant.

Arantxa King              Scholarship Amount \$500  
2014 applicant

Marina Novaes            Scholarship Amount \$500  
2014 applicant

## **The Anderson Scholarship Committee**

Members comprised of:

Sara Folta  
Warren Ramirez  
Branwen Smith-King (Chair)

### **Anderson Scholarship Criteria**

A scholarship fund has been established in perpetuity to recognize and honor the lives of devoted faithfulness and service with Grace Church of Arthur and Evelyn Anderson and to honor the memory of their beloved daughter, Beth. The scholarship is intended for members and friends of Grace Church who are pursuing postsecondary educational goals. The fund was established by Arthur and Evelyn's son Andy Anderson through a generous donation from the Howard L. Willett Foundation of Chicago, Illinois.

### **Eligibility**

Per the conditions of the donor, applicants must meet the following minimum criteria:

1. Be an active member or family or friend to an active member of Grace Church.
2. Enrolled or recently accepted in an institute of higher learning.

The applicant should be a student in good standing, participant in active community service, including church, community, and/or school programs. Preference will be given to applicants who have actively participated in Grace Church programs.

### **Scholarship Amount**

The scholarship amount will be announced each year. Depending on the scholarship funds available and the pool of candidates, a single scholarship or multiple scholarships may be offered.

*Submitted by Branwen Smith-King*

## Building Committee Annual Report for 2014

The purpose of the building committee is to keep our historic and wonderful buildings functioning safely and efficiently. We have continued building on the progress we have made in addressing decades of deferred maintenance and enhancing our spaces.

Having made a number of major improvements in past few year, including new heating systems, roofs and lighting, we continued to work through the projects that need attention. The major projects for 2014 include:

- Rewiring the Wiles Hall Kitchen to support the new refrigerator and coffee pots
- Additional Energy Efficient Lighting Upgrades (paid for 100% by National Grid)
- Building the 2<sup>nd</sup> upstairs bathroom including building in new closet and storage space.
- Upgraded Programmable Thermostats (a few more just arrived and will be installed shortly)

The solar array has been operating for over a year now. In 2014, our solar panels produced 28,500 kWh of electricity avoiding the emissions of over 20,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>. The solar panels produced 60% of the electricity used at the church over the year. We are working to reduce our electric load so that we can be greener.

We continue to explore redoing the front lawn and fixing the stained glass and regular windows throughout the church and rest of the building.

We would not have such a wonderful facility if not for the amazing work of the members of the building committee who volunteer their time and skills to keep Grace in repair. When you see them next, please thank Wes Foote, Jr, Jim Pearson, Jr., Steve Viggiani, Steve Duggan, Kate Woodward, Warren Ramirez and especially Carol Koskelowski.

Activities at Grace Church continue to expand as does the wear and tear on our facilities. We need your help in identifying and reporting problems to Carol at [office@gracemedford.org](mailto:office@gracemedford.org).

Thank You!

Jonathan Hunt, Chair of Building Committee

## **Capital Campaign Committee Report**

In the spring of 2011, Grace Church undertook an ambitious Capital Campaign to restore our Historic Building and our parish hall facility. By June, 2011 \$660,000 was raised in pledges for the restoration of our historic buildings, upgrades to our heating systems, restoration of our organ and the construction of a handicap bathroom.

In 2014, an updated letter was sent to all parishioners updating the parish on the status of the campaign. As of December, all work has been completed with the exception of the organ restoration. To date, we have received \$531,000 in pledges which is 80% of the total amount pledged.

In our 2014 letter, there were details provided on the updated projected costs for the work on the organ. The original campaign budgeted \$75,000, however it has been found that the cost will be close to \$150,000. Additional pledges and fundraisers during 2014 have raised \$18,000 of the \$75,000 needed.

For those of you newer to Grace Church, we are happy to speak with you about pledging to the original Capital Campaign or to the Organ Restoration Fund.

We thank you for your dedication to this project and ask that you continue to pay your pledge! If you have any questions about your pledge or pledge payments, you can contact the church office at [office@gracemedford.org](mailto:office@gracemedford.org).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chairs, Margaret Smist and Sean Kerans

## Christian Education Report

This year has been an exciting one for Christian Education at Grace Church! We've had incredible support for all of our programs.

### Sunday School:

The Sunday School has four classes, having added a new program for 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders. That group uses the "re:form" Bible Study video series. They began with the Gospel stories in the Fall, and are now going back and tracing the roots of those stories in the Hebrew Bible. The videos are irreverent and fun, but with serious theological muscle. That class is taught by Vin Maganzini and Mia Benjamin, with assistants Ann Civitareale and Sarah Cluggish.

The rest of our classes are using the Shine Curriculum, a lectionary-based program that teaches spiritual practices and peace-making, supported by learning activities that include arts and crafts, movement, scientific and environmental exploration, and drama. The youngest class has preschoolers and kindergartners, and is taught by Maria Fenn, Alicia Hunt, and Heather Thompson, with assistants Tara and Corey Finnegan and Kateri Paul. The Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> grade class is taught by Steve Duggan, Barbara Novaes, and Peggy Kerans, with assistants Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, Katherine Anderson, and Tom Hamel. The grades 3-4 class is taught by Sue Maltz, Catherine Smith, and Maggie Arnold, with Ann Frenning Kossuth and Matthew Bell as assistants.

On holiday weekends, the teachers enjoy a break, and the children gather in the Parish Hall for a Children's Sermon and activity.

The children participated in this Fall's Stewardship Campaign, with the younger children talking about how we all work together to take care of our homes and practicing some household chores. Older kids did a Bible study on questions of financial stewardship and charity, and prepared and served Coffee Hour. Stewardship thank you cards were made by the children and sent out as a special bonus to the first pledgers!

During Advent we made wreaths and gave out calendars; everyone enjoyed the fabulous Christmas pageant on December 13<sup>th</sup>, produced and directed by Laura Duggan.

Our nursery is available every Sunday during the 10AM service, staffed by teachers from GraceWorks. Toys, books, art materials, and lectionary coloring sheets are available for children in church. Thank you to the parish ladies who maintain the coloring pages!

### Wednesdays at Grace:

Our weekly fellowship meal and education program has continued this year. We offer Godly Play, telling the great stories of the Christian tradition. The younger children meet before dinner, from 5:30-6:15. Kris Plausky and Sue Maltz teach the preschoolers and kindergartners, and Mia Benjamin, Noah Evans, and Maggie Arnold teach the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. After dinner there is a class for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders, with a combination of Godly Play and the "re:form" Bible Study curriculum. Assistants for these classes include Kateri

Paul, Robin Grace, Lucia Page, Matthew Bell, Jonathan Hunt, and Sara Folta. During the Fall, Jonathan Hunt presented classes on recycling to enthusiastic sorters.

An enormous thank you to everyone who has taught or helped support our classes. You are forming the next generation of disciples! And thank, also, to all the parents and families who work so hard to bring their children to Sunday School and Wednesdays at Grace. Finally, thank you to the wonderful, insightful, funny, and honest kids who come and give our classrooms life and magic and laughter. **YOU ARE THE CHURCH!**

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Maggie Arnold

### Rite 13:

Rite-13 is a program for middle schoolers which celebrates the individuality of each young pre-teen and their creative potential, while exploring Biblical stories of God and His promises to us, His people. The Rite-13 liturgy (A celebration of Manhood and Womanhood) is the community expression of this and serves as a rite of passage from childhood towards adulthood.

Fall 2014 marked the beginning of the second year for this third group of Grace Church Middle Schoolers to participate in the Rite 13 two-year program. Each Wednesday, Catherine Smith and John Rogers teach between six and eight students. This fall we explored foods in the bible; we made Manna and lentil soup; we talked about Esau and Jacob and how God provides in the desert; we prepared lamb and unleavened bread as we explored the Exodus; and we learned about Mia Benjamin's time in Jordan. The third weekend in November 2014, the class traveled with Catherine to the Barbara C. Harris Camp in New Hampshire for the Middle School Retreat, where the theme was "The Tree of Life." Over the weekend they examined each part of a tree and developed a sense of how our faith life can be similar to a tree –rooting us, giving us structure, allowing us to branch out, and providing sustenance to others. Once again, the children heard moving sermons told by older teenagers, played group games, had bible studies, and danced to ear-splitting music. Molly Fenn was one of the older teens helping to put on the retreat, so thanks to her. Thanks also to Marina Novaes, who was our second adult in the girls' cabin.

We feel blessed to be part of the Christian formation of such a truly wonderful group of students. They warm our hearts each Wednesday. We thank our students, their parents, you for your support, and God for the joy we share every Wednesday. Thank You!

Submitted by: Catherine Smith and John Rogers

## J2A

In this final year of Journey to Adulthood we have been using the curriculum Confirm not Conform. There has been a lot of thoughtful conversation around confirmation. The pre-confirmation pilgrimage is set to take place the weekend of March 20 with all nine teens attending. The group will also be attending the high school retreat at BCH camp the first weekend in February. Many of this crew also attend the monthly youth nights. We have one member of YLA in this group.

## YAC

As the first YAC (young adults in church) group we are working together to figure out the logistics of this group meeting all together. The group ranges in age from high school juniors to freshmen in college. We try to meet once a month. Some of the younger people in the group remain highly active in church. Some of the roles they have stepped into include choir, LEM, vestry, serving at community dining at St Lukes, and assisting with the monthly youth group meetings. We have one member of DYC in this group.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Fenn and Patrick Hardy

## Community and Parish Life Committee **Annual Meeting Report**

Grace Church is a special place! So much of what makes us a vibrant exciting community is the opportunities to share time together in worship but also during our many other social events.

In 2014, we organized the following: Annual Meeting Lunch, The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, the End of School Year Picnic, Summer Dining with Grace events, our Fall Kick Off Picnic, 3 Newcomer Lunches, Holiday Craft Fair, Christmas Pageant pot-luck and most regularly, the Coffee Hours held each Sunday after our 10 am service.

In addition, there are other ways we are not involved which still requires parish involvement such as our regular Wednesday dinners. We thank Noah, Maggie, Mia and other interns who have helped organize Wednesday night - -and a special thank you to all who cook and/or donate \$ to help make these nights happen!

A special thank you to Chuck Brawley who has moved away, but he assisted for many years during our social events. And thank you to the Carson family, Linda Rogers, Branwen Smith-King, Genita Johnson, Vin Maganzini, Tom Hamel and Steve Duggan who has assisted on many of these events!

If anyone is interested in brainstorming more social events for the parish, please be in touch with us! We would love to hear your ideas and get you involved!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Co-Chairs, Margaret Smist and Cheryl Woodbury



## GraceWorks Child Care Program

160 High Street  
Medford, MA 02155  
(781) 306 - 0060

**Diane Harrington, Director**

[director@graceworkschildcare.org](mailto:director@graceworkschildcare.org)

Web: [www.graceworkschildcare.org](http://www.graceworkschildcare.org)

## Annual Report for GraceWorks Child Care

GraceWorks provides affordable, quality childcare to families in Medford and the surrounding communities. Last year we served 137 families. We offer year round care for Toddlers, Preschool, and School age children. During the summer months we also have a summer camp program for our school age children and children in the community.

### Major Program and Physical Plant Changes:

GraceWorks has undergone some programming changes this year. The first major change was hiring a new director, Diane Harrington, who began at GraceWorks on September 15, 2014. This year we also no longer offer two Pre-K classrooms. Instead of two Pre-K classrooms, we are now offering two toddler classes and one Pre-K class. The feedback we received was that there was a lack of quality affordable childcare for toddlers in Medford, so we added another toddler classroom to better meet the needs of the community.

### Enrollment as of December 2014

Toddlers	65%
Preschool	77%
Pre-K	91%
After School	94%

### Staffing:

GraceWorks has hired some new staff this year which includes a new director, two new Toddler teachers, two new teachers for our After School program, and a high school student that is enrolled in the Early Childhood Program at the Medford Vocational-Technical High School.

### Tuition:

GraceWorks will be raising the tuition in our programs effective January 1, 2015. This tuition increase is necessary to keep up with inflation, increase teacher salaries, improve teacher-child

ratios, attract more qualified teachers, update equipment, and provide staff with more quality professional development opportunities. These rates continue to be among the lowest in Medford for licensed child care programs and we will continue to strive to provide the highest quality care at the most affordable rates possible.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Toddler Program Scheduled Day	\$65.00	\$68.00
Drop-in day	\$65.00	\$65.00
Preschool & Pre-K Scheduled day	\$55.00	\$58.50
Drop-in day	\$55.00	\$63.00
After School scheduled day (2:00-6:00)	\$19.50	\$19.50
Early release day	\$30.00	\$30.00
Full-day programming (vac., snow, Prof. Dev.)	\$40.00	\$45.00
Summer program (full day), (\$10-\$15 per field trip)	\$40.00	\$45.00

### **GraceWorks Enrichment Activities**

Music: The Early Childhood classes continue to enjoy weekly music classes with “Jammin With You” taught by Kara Kulpa. This class is offered at no additional charge to the families and they enjoy two music concerts.

Karate: The school age children continued to enjoy karate classes once a week taught by Crystal Matthews. The families paid an additional fee, \$12 per session, and GraceWorks received 30% of the fees.

Mad Science: This past year we introduced “Mad Science.” For an additional fee of \$12 per class, the school age children had the opportunity to experience weekly science classes. Each week the children explored different topics, participated in experiments, games and activities. Several generous parents contributed to a Mad Science scholarship fund and we were able to offer three scholarships to children that otherwise would not have been able to participate in the program.

Yoga: This year we also offered a yoga program to our early childhood families but we did not have enough interest so we needed to cancel the class. We will try again in the spring, and again next fall to see if at that time there is more interest in continuing this program.

### **GraceWorks Community Involvement**

The new director participates in monthly director meetings with Shelly Gross from the Medford Family partnership and Medford Public Schools. The child care directors in Medford meet monthly to collaborate, share program news, learn more about upcoming community events, and locate local resources in the community for our families and child care programs.

### **GraceWorks Staff Development**

The staff at GraceWorks are required to participate in 20 hours of professional development trainings each year and one third of the trainings need to include working with children with special needs. This year, GraceWorks, in collaboration with Wheelock College, will offer 15 hours of specialized training on children's social & emotional development and addressing challenging behaviors in children. The staff will also attend the Federation for Children with Special Needs annual conference to receive their special needs trainings.

### **Achievements**

The Department of Early Education and Care invited GraceWorks to participate in a QRIS (Quality Improvement Rating System) Validation study conducted by the Department of Early Education & Care to help determine if the rating system is an effective means of determining the quality of care in early childhood programs.

In addition to participating in this important study, GraceWorks was also awarded a QRIS Provider Support Grant which will provide the program with resources, mentoring, and support, to help our program move up to from a QRIS level 2 to level 3. Achieving higher levels of QRIS is an important requirement by the Department of Early Education and Care to be eligible to continue to accept vouchers and there is also a slightly higher reimbursement rate for each level achieved. The QRIS process is very similar to NAEYC accreditation and will help guide us toward achieving national accreditation.

### **Goals**

We are working on building strong teaching teams and enhancing the staff's professional development opportunities. We are also working on moving up to QRIS level 3. This year we will offer summer camp for the entire summer. We will continue to offer enrichment activities for the children that include music, yoga, science and karate. Families will continue to have opportunities to participate in our program, attend parent breakfasts, music concerts, curriculum nights, etc.

The Community at Grace Church has such a strong sense of caring for creation that in some years it is difficult to capture everything we do for the environment within the Greening Grace umbrella.

This year we decided to take a broader approach to the Greening Grace committee and asked people who didn't really have time to be active members of a committee that meets regularly to be on the mailing list and to coordinate with the Committee about the environmentally conscious things they were already doing through Grace Church and the greater community. Hopefully this report captures all of the wonderful things going on in our community, but we apologize if we've missed anything.

### **GreenUp Clean Up**

Alicia Hunt coordinated the GreenUp CleanUp program this year, with Grace Church leading or contributing to 8 community clean ups, including two Earth Day Cleanups in honor of Bishop Tom Shaw, one on the Mystic River and one at Belle Island Marsh with St. John's Parish. Other cleanups included: Capen St Park with Tufts University, Dugger Park with the West Medford Moms Book Club & Titus, Victory Park with Temple Shalom, Logan Park with Boy Scout Troop #416, Clippership Park as part of the "Into the Mystic" Environmental Art Film Festival and Columbus Park School and Playground with incoming Tufts FOCUS students.

While the GreenUp CleanUp program had a lot of support from the Medford Community, with good turnouts at the cleanups and help and gratitude from the City Parks Department, only a small subset of Grace Church members attended cleanups. For future years we hope to see a broader participation from Grace.

### **Water Chestnut Pull**

This year Greening Grace tried a new activity and organized a group to attend one of the water chestnut pulls organized by the Mystic River Watershed Association this year. Water chestnuts are an invasive species that harm the ecosystem of the river and make it difficult for recreational boaters to enjoy the water. In 2014, nine members of Grace Church attended a water chestnut pull on August 9<sup>th</sup> and the consensus of the Greening Grace team was to get a water chestnut pull on the schedule earlier in the year to increase participation.

### **Grace Garden**

The Grace garden, a 64 square foot vegetable plot, produces fresh vegetables for the Community Cupboard Food Pantry at the UU Church of Medford. Throughout the summer and fall, volunteers signed up to tend the garden and harvest its abundance. Access to fresh food is a real need for many in our greater community, and each week 50-80 families were supported through the food pantry. One of the volunteers there noted that "the produce *always* goes!" Through this project, we were also able to coordinate additional produce donations from other growers in the community, resulting in hundreds of extra pounds of fresh food distributed.

### **Rain Barrels**

As part of the Community Garden, Grace Church supported the City's effort to get more rain barrels in to the community, thereby diverting water from the storm water system and infiltrating it into the ground and avoiding using water from the potable drinking water system for gardening. Grace Church purchased and installed two rain barrels in 2014 which were used by the people tending the garden.

## **Solar**

In 2013 Grace Church supported the City's Solarize Program which resulted in 48 installations of solar in Medford, four of which were on the homes of Grace Church parishioners. These solar arrays were installed throughout 2014 and they, along with the Hunt's previously installed solar array produced 18,700 kWh of electricity in 2014.

Totals from 5 Parish Families:

- 23.4 kW DC of solar installed by parishioners
- produced 18,700 kWh of electricity
- avoided emissions of 13,500 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>  
(using 0.722 lbs/kWh from eGrid 2010 NPCC New England)
- \$6,340 approximate value of electricity at current NGrid rates

Grace Church's solar array was installed during the fall of 2013, so 2014 was its first full production year:

- Size of array: 25.7 kW DC
- Electricity produced: 28,750 kWh
- 60% of the church's electricity was provided by solar
- Avoided 20,750 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2014.

## **LEDs**

In the interest of encouraging the use of LEDs by our parishioners, the Greening Grace team worked with the Knights of King Arthur to sell LED holiday lights along with the annual wreath sale.

## **Other Events**

Grace Church hosted a public screening of James Balog's award winning documentary, Chasing Ice on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Environmental films have become quite popular in Medford and the documentary was well attended by both members of Grace Church and the broader community.

In December Catherine Smith led a group from Grace Church, including members of her Rite 13 group, to go to the interfaith climate change vigil in Boston to show support for the climate change talks in Lima, Peru.

## **Awards**

Grace Church placed as "Runner-Up" (2<sup>nd</sup> place) in the national Cool Congregations Challenge sponsored by Interfaith Power and Light in the category Energy Saver, and received Honorable Mention for the Renewable Role Model Category.

Grace Church received a 2<sup>nd</sup> Medford Green Award, this time for the solar array, the 2013 upgrades to the heating system, installing a Community Garden and adding rain barrels.

Grace Church continues to be a leader in the Diocese and the Interfaith community on solar and green efforts. Jon has been contacted by several other parishes to provide advice and support in greening their buildings and installing solar.

Respectfully submitted by Co-Chairs Alicia & Jonathan Hunt

## Healing Ministry

The Healing Ministry has become a very important and integral part of the whole ministry of Grace Church. On the second Sunday of every month, as well as each Sunday during the seasons of Advent and Lent, our healing ministers offered anointing and the Laying on of Hands with prayers of healing to anyone in the congregation desiring it.

And, for the third consecutive year, our “Blessing Station” during the week of the winter solstice and “Ashes to Go” on Ash Wednesday were both occasions where Grace Church was able to connect with the larger Medford community in an effort to meet people “where they are” and demonstrate that the “church” is not a building but a vibrant community seeking to bring healing to all.

Finally, our second annual “Blue Christmas” service was a quiet, contemplative service which offered comfort, hope and healing to many who were struggling with losses of many kinds, and who were feeling separated from the joy and excitement of the season that surrounded them.

Grace Church is blessed by the healers who take part in this important ministry. They are: The Rev. Noah Evans, The Rev. Maggie Arnold, Mia Benjamin, Carrie Cross, Sara Folta, Brenda Pearson, John Rogers, Cindy Scott and Margaret Smist,

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Scott*

## Parish Historian's Annual Report for 2014

January 14, 2015

Submitted by: Allison Andrews

*The Parish Historian organizes, preserves, and makes available the church's records and objects of historical interest, and collects relevant history of the church and parish as it is discovered. In addition to the ongoing management of materials, displays, and inquiry requests, this year's activity included:*

### **Restoration:**

The historian continued to serve as chair of the Organ Restoration Taskforce, begun in January 2013 and concluding this year with a report and presentation of the organ's repair needs and recommended steps for restoration based on four organ builders' assessments and proposals. The parish responded positively to the idea of restoring the organ as long as the funds can be raised. Taking over the focus of the project is the Organ Restoration Fundraising Committee. The need for funds was included in the capital campaign update, and successful fundraisers were arranged by parishioners Laura Duggan (theatrical presentation) and Julia Lisella (proceeds from books sales).

### **Parish Historians Society:**

The historian continues to serve as chair of the Executive Committee of the Parish Historians' Society of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. The purpose of the PHS is to bring parish historians together to share information and resources for managing their churches' archives. The 2014 Annual Meeting was held at St. Michael's in Marblehead who were celebrating their 300th anniversary. Church music and archival methodology were highlighted. Planning is underway for the 2015 Annual Meeting in April at the Christ Church in Quincy, the oldest parish in the state.

### **Public Programs Presented:**

On October 29th, local historian Dee Morris again presented her fall lecture at Grace to the parish and the public. This year she introduced her latest book, *Boston in the Golden Age of Spiritualism*, a fascinating account of a wide-spread but little-understood movement of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Cultural and religious influences were brought to light and many communities in greater Boston were mentioned.

## KNIGHTS of KING ARTHUR

Every year the few remaining local Knights errant of our boys group of years past, gather together, with some additional friends, and continue the Christmas Wreath Project started more than sixty years ago as our organization's donation to the Church Fair, now to the Church expenses. Even though our work space has been squeezed on to the stage because of the numerous building activities, with the sale of about 200 wreaths, we were able to contribute about \$1,000 to the parish budget. People use them for their front door, decorating their house or decorating the headstone of loved ones in the cemetery. As I drive around the city, I can point with pride, "there's one of our wreaths."

This year we had our same veteran work crew of John Schlesinger, Don Capuccio and Butch Edgecomb and their work was made more difficult by split deliveries from Wilson Farms. A special thanks to Don for all the special efforts of cones making prior to the decorating. Everybody always remarks how they love the smell of the evergreens in the Parish Hall. We look forward to the opportunity of providing our parish and friends the most beautiful wreaths around the city next year, too.

Wes Foote  
Merlin

## **Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors**

Much goes on behind the scenes to make the Sunday liturgy run smoothly, not the least of which involves the preparation and attention of the Lectors and LEMs who take part in the service. Our LEMS and Lectors are: Mia Benjamin, Nathan Brawley, Esther Brownsmith, Louis Carson, Laura Duggan, Bruce Edgecomb, Sandra Ericksson-Ellis, Wes Foote, Jr, Ann Frenning-Kossuth, Dennis Hale, Patrick Hardy, Deborah Jennings, Rothenet Joseph, Genita Johnson, Sean Kerans, Julia Lisella, Barbara Novaes, Agnes Opara, Lucia Page, June Pietrantonio, Barbara Povey, Warren Ramirez, Cindy Scott, Margaret Smist, Branwen Smith-King and Kate Woodward. Joining us for 2015 will be Chioma Opara and Ellery Klein. Thank you all for your commitment to this important ministry.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Scott*

## Life Together Intern Report

Beloved Grace Community,

There were so many days in 2014—too many to count—when I returned home from here bursting with joy and amazement at the wonderful ways God is working through Grace Church. There were days when I've left here renewed and inspired, fulfilled and spent. But most of all, at the end of every day I have returned home feeling grateful. I am grateful for the support and mentorship of Noah and Maggie, for the incredible teamwork of the staff and vestry of this church, and for the innumerable ways each member creates and sustains our community.

Starting from my very first assignment for Medford Community Day, I have been continually impressed with Grace Church's outward focus to the wider community. Together we've begun a budding outreach ministry to Medford Rehab and Nursing Center, called for an end to gun violence at City Hall, blessed and anointed commuters at the train station, and brought clergy of many faiths together on Thanksgiving.

I have been blessed to learn so much from each of you in my short time here. From every child's thoughtful wondering at Sunday school and Wednesday Godly Play to the wise words of the bulletin ladies on Thursdays, from the cozy women's lunches to vibrant Christmas pageants and quiet evening services, you have taught me so much about faith, grace, and community leadership. Each time I've laid hands in prayer, stepped up to the lectern to preach, or held out the chalice, I have felt a deep sense of connection and profound appreciation for the privilege of serving you.

I look forward to continuing to learn from you in the coming year.

With sincere gratitude,

Mia

Beloved Grace Community,

There were so many days in 2014—too many to count—when I returned home from here bursting with joy and amazement at the wonderful ways God is working through Grace Church. There were days when I've left here renewed and inspired, fulfilled and spent. But most of all, at the end of every day I have returned home feeling grateful. I am grateful for the support and mentorship of Noah and Maggie, for the incredible teamwork of the staff and vestry of this church, and for the innumerable ways each member creates and sustains our community.

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I look forward to continuing to learn from you in the coming year.

With sincere gratitude,

Mia

## Medford Rehab and Nursing Center Outreach Ministry Team

Out of compassion for the spiritual and social needs of our neighbors, a group of Grace Church parishioners including Barbara Povey, Carrie Cross, Cindy Scott, Genita Johnson, Jane Scherban, Judith Karpowich, Kate Woodward, Kris Plausky, Kristen Spence, Mary Muir, Mia Benjamin, and Mike Nickey have been meeting to develop an outreach ministry to the Medford Rehab and Nursing Center right down the street from Grace Church.

Starting in October, Grace Church priests and members of the outreach ministry team have celebrated Eucharist with the residents each fourth Wednesday of the month at 3:00pm. We were blessed to celebrate Thanksgiving Eucharist with residents on November 26 and a Christmas Eve Eucharist on December 24. It has been a joy to get to know a regular group of attendees who look forward to our services. In addition to continually adjusting our monthly regular services to reflect and address the spiritual needs of residents, we are looking to expand to a shorter morning Psalms and prayers group to serve those with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, thirty-five Grace Church parishioners and Medford Rehab and Nursing Center residents listened to a reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas by Grandma Crompton (Laura Duggan) and sang Christmas carols around the halls of the nursing home. Thank you to everyone who lent their voices and Christmas spirit, especially the Grace Church children who shared their jingle bell music makers with the residents. We will be travelling around the nursing home again on Ash Wednesday (February 18<sup>th</sup>) afternoon to distribute ashes to the residents.

The Medford Rehab and Nursing Center Outreach Ministry Team meets the first Sunday of each month after the 10am service. Contact Mia [mia@gracemedford.org](mailto:mia@gracemedford.org) or Kate Woodward [gmsgirl2002@yahoo.com](mailto:gmsgirl2002@yahoo.com) if you are interested in joining the team or attending services.

*-Respectfully submitted by Mia Benjamin*

**MUSIC REPORT 2014**  
**submitted January 2015**  
**by Ruth Roper, Minister of Music**

Another great year full of wonderful music. Many thanks to long-time and newer members of the Adult Choir who contribute their talent, time, and faithfulness to our worship. We also continue to welcome those who are unable to sing with the choir regularly to participate on occasion, including youth. As always, new singers are welcome!

The contributions of instrumentalists from within our congregation have been particularly beautiful this year. Kate Woodward and Jane Hamel on flute, Ellery Klein on violin, Claudia Stumpf on violin and viola, Holger Wirz on guitar, and Edie Auner on organ, have added so much to our worship.

Again this year, cheers to choir member Laura Duggan for the Christmas and Palm Sunday pageants she produced, as well as to all the talented and spirited Grace actors and singers who participated.

At the very end of this year, the recommendations of the Organ Restoration Committee, chaired by Allison Andrews, were formally accepted by the vestry. Deep thanks are due to Laura Duggan for presenting her one-act play "Tea with Mary Cassatt," along with a "silver tea" hosted by Grace Church members, as a fundraiser for the Grace Church organ. Thanks also to Julia Lisella, who donated a portion of the sales of her recent book towards the organ restoration project. These fundraisers, along with several significant lead donations from church members, have helped launch this important phase of the organ restoration. Under the leadership of Naida Gavrelis and Hallie Lee, fundraising will continue in earnest this coming year, and we hope to be able to begin repairs by the beginning of next year.

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Our partnership with St Luke's Community Dining remained a major focus of our outreach efforts yet again in 2014. It was an exciting year - the plans for renovation were finally realized! During the construction, we spent a number of months making sandwiches at Grace and delivering them to St Luke's. We were back at St Luke's in the new space by the end of the year, preparing and serving hearty and nutritious breakfasts and lunches. In another transition, Brenda Pearson stepped down as coordinator, and Lisa Carson and her son Louis have taken over. The Outreach Committee would like to deeply thank Brenda for her dedication to this ministry for so many years. It's because of Brenda that this ministry is such a major part of outreach at Grace! Because of Brenda, so many of us have had a meaningful way to serve (literally!) those in need. We are also grateful to Lisa and Louis for stepping up and look forward to the continuation of this wonderful partnership.

The Outreach Committee also partnered with the Medford Family Network again for the Giving Tree, an effort spearheaded by Linda Rogers. As in past years, Christmas gifts were provided to needy families in our community. This effort was generously supported by the entire congregation.

Maria Fenn and others provided clothing to local families through the Clothing Pantry. The Committee also supported the Coalition for the Homeless and their "bed for every child" campaign, the B-SAFE summer program, and also sponsored a table at the Episcopal City Mission annual fundraising dinner.

The Committee is thankful for the entire congregation for all the ways you help support these ministries. We continue to be deeply grateful for this community, which expresses its generosity and caring throughout the year by sharing time, talent and treasure.

## **Pastoral Care**

The Pastoral Care Team has been blessed with the addition of four new Lay Eucharistic Visitors who attended the LEV training and were licensed in October. Mia Benjamin (our Life Together intern), Judith Karpowich, Kris Plausky and Kate Woodward have recently joined our group and, under Mia's leadership, have already established an important pastoral relationship with the Medford Rehabilitation and Nursing Center at Winthrop Circle, just a few short steps from the church. I am sure you will read more about that elsewhere in this Annual Report, along with the LDI team that they have formed in order to respond more fully to this urgent need in our community.

Pastoral Care is the willingness to be present to those who are suffering or grieving for whatever reason – to acknowledge their pain – to laugh with them, cry with them, or simply to be silent when there are no words we can say to ease their pain. When members of our Parish are home-bound or otherwise unable to regularly attend the weekly Parish Celebration of the Eucharist, the pastoral care team will “bring the Church” to them. And, as we bring communion to our sick and/or shut-in brothers and sisters, we do so as an expression of the care and concern of the entire Grace Church community.

It has been a pleasure to serve alongside this caring group of spiritual, prayerful and gifted care-givers. The Pastoral Care team at Grace includes: the Rev. Noah H. Evans, the Rev. Maggie Arnold, Mia Benjamin, Sara Folta, Judith Karpowich, Dottie Palladino, Kris Plausky, Brenda Pearson, Warren Ramirez, John Rogers, Jr., Cindy Scott, Margaret Smist, Robin and Elaine Sheets, and Kate Woodward. It is also my pleasure to welcome Mary Muir, a new member of our congregation who will be serving with us in the coming year.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Scott, Chair*

## The Peace Team

In response to the distressing frequency of gun violence in the US, a group of Grace parishioners (Brad Clompus, Cindy Scott, Dottie Palladino, Dyanne London, Jeff Pietrantonio, John Rogers, June Pietrantonio, Kris Plausky, Maria Fenn, Mia Benjamin, and Noah Evans) last spring decided to consider steps that could be taken locally to address this problem. The Peace Team has been meeting regularly to discuss opportunities for action, including

- Piloting a peace-building curriculum to equip Medford middle-school students with social, political, and interpersonal skills that can strengthen their capacity for peaceful resolution of conflicts.
- Encouraging the Medford public school system to apply for a Lesley University grant for trauma awareness and response training for faculty and staff.
- Continuing to meet with other peace groups like B-PEACE for Jorge, a youth-led Diocesan campaign to prevent gun violence in our parish's communities.
- Launching a blog, [www.gracedesk.org](http://www.gracedesk.org), to post prayers for the victims of school shootings in the US; and developing a Grace Church lawn display that will remind Medford residents that school shootings continue to occur.

At City Hall on December 10, the Peace Team led the Medford faith communities in recommitting to “building pathways for peace,” as we remembered the second anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School (Newtown, Connecticut) shooting. The event was attended by more than a hundred people and featured speeches about gun violence and hopes for peace by Medford City Mayor Michael McGlynn, Medford School Committee Vice Chair John Falco, State Senator Patricia Jehlen, and Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan, as well as a youth representative from Team Medford, Christelle Nkera. A meaningful highlight was the participation of children (from Grace Church and elsewhere), who read the names of child victims and placed candles on empty chairs that represented each of the twenty-six people killed at Sandy Hook on December 14, 2012.

The Peace Team meets at least monthly on Tuesday evenings at 6:00-7:00pm. Contact Mia or Jeff [jpietrantonio9@aol.com](mailto:jpietrantonio9@aol.com) for more information about joining our efforts.

-Respectfully submitted by Mia Benjamin and Brad Clompus

## **2015 Stewardship Committee Report**

This year, the Stewardship Committee was comprised of your Vestry. We spent considerable time in the Fall preparing the 2015 budget and also the Stewardship packet which the Grace community received in October.

As the Vestry prepared the packet, we reflected on a church year which was, once again, dynamic, challenging, and spiritually fulfilling. Our community said good-bye to our two interns – Rachael Pettengill-Rasure and Eva Englert – and a warm hello to our new associate minister, Rev. Dr. Maggie Arnold and our new intern, Mia Benjamin. With the arrival of Rev. Maggie and Mia, we are seeing the re-evaluation and re-organizing of our education programs and various aspects of our worship. In addition, the church is now moving forward with additional outreach ministries including the Peace Team project and our work at a local nursing home.

All of these ministries require the commitment and support – both in time and treasurer – of every member our parish. Our Stewardship drive is the prime financial support for Grace Church. It is vitally important for each and every one of us to prayerfully consider our pledge to our spiritual home.

**Our 2015 Stewardship goal has been set at \$210,000 to cover the expenses for our varied ministries and additional staff. At the writing of this letter, we have reached \$204,000.** If you have not turned in your pledge form, please do so – every pledge counts!! If you are new to the parish and would like additional information, you can speak to a member of the committee or to our Treasurer, Tom Hamel. Brochures and other written information are also available from Carol in our church office ([office@gracemedford.org](mailto:office@gracemedford.org)) and you can now pledge on-line at [www.gracemedford.org](http://www.gracemedford.org).

THANK YOU to all who have pledged and to the entire Vestry for their work on this year's Campaign.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Margaret Smist for the  
2014 Vestry

## 2014 Usher Report

Once again Jill and I would like to express our appreciation to all the members of the congregation who volunteer their time to be ushers.

It is a small group of faithful individuals who help make sure things go smoothly during worship. First we welcome people, take collection, make sure the elements arrive at the altar safely and we assist the congregation for communion. If you think you might like to join us we would love to have you speak with us. It does not involve much time and an easy way to meet people within the parish family. Who knows, you might enjoy it!

Wesley Foote, Sr. and John Schlesinger continue to faithfully cover the 8:00 am service and we appreciate their dedication.

Lastly, but most importantly, we would like to thank all the young people who are always willing to process the elements when asked.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Foote

Jill Capuccio

## Women's Book Group: Annual Report 2014

Grace Church's Women's Book Group is a fellowship of support, trust and love stimulated by our common passion for reading. We get to know each other better and enrich our ties to each other, Grace Church, and our communities. Members are from Grace Church and the surrounding cities. We are pleased to have a few new and active members join this year!

Our selection of books is broad: novels, non-fiction and poetry suggested are chosen by active members. Usually once a year we read our favorite poem or short story and once year, in December, Christmas time, we replace one book with a fun holiday film. We choose books that challenge us and create conversations about our own lives and experiences as women, in our churches, families and communities.

We have a simple process for choosing books; often starting the discussion on line before a meeting and reviewing books at the next meeting. The one requirement is the book must also be an audiobook and easily available at the library. We choose books two months in advance, making it easy for anyone to attend when they can. The schedule is posted on Grace Church's web site, in the Sunday bulletin and the monthly newsletter.

We continue monthly meetings with a break in August and now have an annual movie night in December.

Jan	<u>Pilgrim at Tinker Creek</u> , Annie Dillard
Feb	<u>The Art Forger</u> , B. A. Shapiro
March	<u>Rules of Civility</u> , Amore Towels
April	<u>Remarkable Creatures</u> , Tracy Chevalier
May	<u>Someone</u> , Alice McDermott
June	<u>Wild</u> , Cheryl Strayed
July	<u>Prayers for Sale</u> , Sandra Dallas.
Sept	<u>Forgotten Garden</u> , Kate Morton
October	<u>The Chaperone</u> , Laura Moriarty
Nov. 2	Julia Lisella reads from <u>Always</u> , her new book of poems, at Grace Church.
Nov	<u>Me Before You</u> , JoJo Moyes.
Dec	<u>Big Night</u> movie directed by Stanley Tucci and Campbell Scott

This year we didn't have our annual 'poetry' or 'short story' months, but many of us listened to Julia Lisella, a member, read from her new poetry book, *Always*, in early November at Grace Church. In December, we relaxed, laughed and escaped from the holiday madness, enjoying an Italian comedy with a bit of history that led to a lively discussion of family memories on line. And we ended the night again with a Yankee Book Swap. A great way for a book club to celebrate the season of giving!

We were saddened by the death of a member's mother who lived a long and celebrated life. In our spirit of love and fellowship we made a donation to her memorial scholarship fund. We celebrated the marriage of a member with a surprise gift and champagne and wine followed the next month by watching a slide show of wedding pictures at her house with her new wife (before our book discussion).

The Women's Book Group is open to any woman who wants to join. We have about 10 women, 'bookies', who attend regularly. You are welcome whenever you can attend. We meet on the third

Thursday at 7 pm, for at least 2 hours. A member hosts each meeting in her house, serving light refreshments. For more information, contact Genita Johnson at [pawlesylegacy@verizon.net](mailto:pawlesylegacy@verizon.net).

Respectfully submitted,

Genita Johnson