

Christian Formation Programs

The Grace Church Christian Formation program will be in full swing beginning Sunday, September 14. We offer a wide range of programs, all designed to meet the needs – and engage the minds and hearts – of our vibrant and varied congregation. We hope you will find one which speaks to an interest of yours. Registration for the children's program begins on September 14th and will continue on an ongoing basis throughout the year. Registration is not necessary for any of the adult programs.

Sundays from 8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. **NEW THIS YEAR!** Intergenerational Singing in Gammell Hall. Read all about it in the Music Notes section of this newsletter.

The nursery is available for infants and toddlers and is staffed by a professional team of caretakers from 8:45 through the conclusion of the 10 o'clock worship service every Sunday. Stop by and say hello to Amy Scanlan-Moore and Cathryn Arruda.

Sundays from 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Godly Play

This program is designed for learners from kindergarten through grade 6. Godly Play has an uncommon approach to bringing God and participants closer together. In

Godly Play we intentionally attempt to follow the parts and shape of worship during the time spent in class. We use a framework that includes greeting, preparation, the Word, wondering, responding, feasting and dismissal. This curriculum is based on the Montessori Method of teaching. Facilitators are Lucia Bomster and Elaine Gabellieri.

The 7th, 8th and 9'ers

A class for students in grades 7, 8 & 9 will be led by Bob Brooks and Lillian Bailey. A lectionary (the three-year cycle of readings) based curriculum will guide the discussions and activities for this group, as well as, make a connection for the young people to the Sunday worship service.

The Chafee Room Reading Group

This study group will meet to read and discuss books on theology and the Bible. The group is diverse, with current members from different backgrounds and varying degrees of knowledge of the Bible and the church. We welcome everyone with a desire to explore his/her personal faith and our collective faith, as well as a bit of church history, theology, and philosophy. The group seeks to learn more about the Bible and its meaning in our

lives. There is a weekly reading assignment which is short and manageable. Nancy Kendrick and Paul Greene are the facilitators.

Lectio Divina

The ancient monastic art of meditating on the Scriptures comes alive in this weekly Bible study. We read the gospel lesson for the week with the intention of hearing what Jesus is saying to each of us. Then, we pray for one another before heading back out into our busy lives! If you have been thinking that you need some quiet time in your life to get to know God more intimately, come join us! We meet in an upper room off Gammell Hall. See Rachel Nguyen for more information.

Live it!

This fall we will continue "Live It!" a conversation about God in our daily lives. Share your experience, listen to others, and see God in your life! Join us for coffee and energetic discussion in the narthex. While all the adult classes are opened to youth in 10th grade and higher, this group extends a special invitation for young adults to join them. Peter DiPippo and Galen Bomster help to lead these discussions.

Myers-Briggs and You!

Do you know why other people act the way they do? Do you want to know why some people give one word answers and others just can't stop talking? Have you ever wondered why you loved to study English and Art in school, but dreaded Chemistry and Physics? Now you can find out.

On Saturday, October 18, 2008 from 8:30 till 3:00 p.m. we are offering a Myers-Briggs Seminar. This seminar is led by two professional presenters of the Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory. Just over a year ago our vestry took a one day retreat and participated in this very seminar. Many of the vestry members had "Ah, Ha!" moments. They

discovered something about themselves or their spouses that made perfect sense for the first time in their lives.

If you sign up for this, you will receive a personality inventory (think: fill in ovals) around Thursday, September 25, 2008. They will need to be returned within one week in order to have them evaluated and an interpretation prepared. The interpretation will be presented at the seminar.

There is a firm cut-off date to sign up of Sunday, September 21, 2008. You can sign up by calling the office at 331-3225 or by email to carboyle@verizon.net. We expect around 20 people to sign-up for this event. The cost of

the event is \$45.00 and scholarship money is available, if needed. Lunch is included in the cost. The location of the seminar is in the Multi-Cultural Center at Johnson & Wales. Directions will be sent after September 21, 2008.

We hope you will join us in the wonderful seminar. If you have questions, please ask one of the clergy or a member of the vestry. Please join us!

Invite someone to the celebration

Oh gracious and loving God, ... you invite each of us to join you in your work. ... Send us to serve with Christ, taking risks to give life and hope to all people and all of your creation. ...”

— From the Prayer for Mission in “A Shy Person’s Guide to the Practice of Evangelism,” published by the Diocese of Massachusetts

Imagine throwing the biggest party ever to celebrate the joys of your life. (Cost is not an object for this party!) You’d invite everyone you care about, wouldn’t you? Family members, friends and neighbors would join in to share your happiness.

What if we all felt the same way about our regular gatherings at Grace Church? Every week (and sometimes more often) we come together to celebrate the abundance of God’s grace and God’s action in our lives. Why not consider asking a friend, co-worker or neighbor to share in our joyful celebration?

Do you know that 86 percent of newcomers come to a church because they’re invited by a current member? Evangelism is a word (and activity) we don’t often associate with the Episcopal Church. But it really isn’t so scary. It doesn’t have to mean preaching on the street corner or calling on strangers door to door, although those efforts might be effective at times. Evangelism simply means telling the good news. For Christians, it means telling the gospel (the “good news”) of Jesus Christ – his life, death and resurrection – so that all who respond can come into relationship with the God who loves us.

During medical residency training, Mary Hohenhaus described herself as a “cradle

Episcopalian” who grew up singing in her church’s choir but wasn’t attending church regularly. When her adviser, Dr. Anne Moulton, learned about Mary’s background, she said, “Why aren’t you coming to my church and singing in the choir?”

So in February 2003, Mary attended choral Evensong at Grace Church.

“February is traditionally considered the worst month of the year in residency training,” says Mary. “The days are dark and cold, the hospitals are very full, and morale is low. But at Grace, all was familiar, peaceful, and comforting, and the singing was exquisite. I remembered what it meant to belong to a church.”

A week later, Mary went to choir rehearsal and sang at the Sunday service — which she’s still doing, five years later.

“At Grace I have found a much-needed sanctuary, a place to reflect on the week past and recharge for the week ahead, and a place to pray in my favorite way — through music,” she says. “But if I had not been invited, it’s very likely that I would not have discovered Grace on my own.”

Evangelism is the sharing of a precious gift. Anne Moulton shared the gift of music with Mary Hohenhaus. Indeed, for the people of Grace Church, evangelism can mean sharing the beauty of our inspiring worship space, the joyful and uplifting music, the challenge and comfort of the priests’ messages and the spirit-filled Lord’s Supper. What “gifts of Grace” would you like to share with a friend or neighbor?

In “A Shy Person’s Guide to the Practice of Evangelism,” published by the Diocese of Massachusetts, the writers offer this simple three-step exercise:

1. Love God.
2. Love your neighbor.
3. Think about getting the two of them together.

Once your friend arrives at Grace Church, you’ll have a lot of help in introducing her or him to our service and to other people. Informational materials about the church are displayed on a table at the back of the church. The clergy, ushers and members of the Welcoming Committee can say hello, answer questions and help you put your guest at ease. After the service, enjoy refreshments and conversation. Or invite your friend to join you for a tour of the church, which we now offer on the first Sunday of each month after the service.

What about Grace Church means the most to you? Are you willing to invite a friend to share that with you? It’s a way you can personally spread the good news. It’s an act of hospitality and generosity. And it’s a way to be part of Christ’s work right here in our own neighborhood. You can help build up the church. You might even change a life. Thanks be to God.

[Watch for future articles from the Grace Church Welcoming Committee about newcomers, why they come to church and how to help them become part of our community.]