

Transforming Lives with the Surprising Message of God's Grace

THIS MONTH AT GRACE

December 2009



Dear GC family and friends,

Just as every family has its own set of Christmas customs and traditions, every church has a distinctive approach to this sacred season. Here at Grace Chapel we draw upon a variety of worship forms and traditions to craft a meaningful journey through the season. From week to week we work with liturgical, traditional, contemporary, and creative elements to design services that reflect the richness of the Christmas message and connect with our diverse community as we gather to seek and worship Christ.

Here are some of the special elements we have planned for the month to help you plan your journey through the season, and to consider when you might like to invite someone to join you.

November 29: We light the first candle of the Advent wreath to create a sense of anticipation for Christ's coming.

December 6: Selections from Handel's Messiah express the majesty and power of the Christmas message.

December 13: Worship painting helps us appreciate the beauty and impact of the Incarnation.

December 20: A dramatic portrayal of a biblical character allows us to experience the familiar story in a fresh and personal way.

December 22, 23, 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight services weave together music, Scripture, drama, and reflection to tell the Christmas story as we welcome Christ's light into our darkness.

This year the prophet Micah will guide us week by week through the season. Micah courageously confronted the evil and injustice of his day, naming sins and exposing hypocrisy, even among God's people. At the same time, he promised hope and help for those who would turn to God and welcome His Messiah. In this year of Doing Good, Micah's words will instruct and inspire us to offer God's peace and goodwill to our world.

I trust you are as excited as I am about worshiping, serving, and sharing Christ in such rich and powerful ways this Christmas season!

Pastor Bryan

This Month at Grace is a publication for visitors and regular attendees of Grace Chapel, who want to get a glimpse of what is going on at the church each month. Copies of the January issue will be made available the last Sunday in December. Make sure to pick up a copy.

Next month we'll hear from Jim Ennis, Pastor of Community Care about the upcoming New Year and Celebrate Recovery Anniversary Dinner at Grace Chapel.

To learn more about ways to get involved at Grace Chapel log onto our website www.grace.org/getinvolved.

What's going on at Grace Chapel

Community Care

Celebrate Recovery is a Christian 12-step recovery program based on the eight principles from the Beatitudes. It provides a safe atmosphere to confidentially share hurts, habits, and hang-ups. To learn more call 781-862-8351 ext.2246, email cr@grace.org, or visit www.grace.org/hopeandsupport. Come any Monday at 6:30PM in Fellowship Hall (meal served at 5:30PM).

GriefShare is a support group for people grieving the death of a friend or loved one. Meetings are December 7 and 21. For more information call 781-862-8351 ext. 2225.

Mature Adult Programs and Gordon College Christmas Concert Luncheon Grace Chapel's MAPS group and friends are invited to a Christmas Concert at the Phillips Music Center at Gordon College on December 9 followed by lunch in the Ken Olson Science center. Comfortable Coach Travel leaves 2 Militia Drive at 9:30AM. Cost is \$37 per person. Reservations no later than 12:00PM Wednesday, December 2nd. Brochures are available at the Information Desk or the Visitor Center. Reservations - call 781-862-8351 ext.2203.

Women

JUST CHRISTMAS

December 5, 2009

Gloria Hammond - speaker
Daniel Kirkley in concert

Winterlude is January 15-17, 2010. Spaces are still available. Registration forms are due November 29. Start the New Year the right way - growing and deepening your spiritual journey, praising Him through worship, and enjoying every minute of a power-packed weekend. Virelle Kidder is the speaker, and Lisa Troyer will be in concert. For more information contact Carolyn at 781-862-8351 ext.149, carolyn@grace.org. Registration forms are available at the Registration Desk and at www.grace.org/women.

FAITHLIFT

April 10, 2010

Laurie McIntyre - speaker
Registration begins mid-January

Worship & Arts

Christmas Eve Services are December 22 at 7:30PM, December 23 at 7:30PM, and December 24 at 3:00PM*, 4:30PM, and 6:00PM. Childcare up to age five is provided for all services at Kidstown. Each service will last approximately one hour. *Service will be interpreted for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Adult Discipleship

Fall Adult Discipleship Courses Majority of the courses end December 13 with the remaining courses ending December 20. For more information and course descriptions go to www.grace.org/adultcourses, or pick up a course brochure at the Information Desk.

Encounter with God In mid-December, a limited number of complimentary copies of our Grace Chapel customized devotional guides will be available if you would like to try it out. Many of our people have found this tool to be exceedingly helpful in "encountering" God and growing deeper. We are glad to encourage you in this experience! (Copies can be obtained at our Information Desks in both the main building and the Adult Learning Center.)

Outreach

International Student Ministry Gathering

International Student Ministry Gathering will be held on December 5 at 6:30PM, at the home of Nora and Roberto Laver in Waltham. Roy Ciampa, the guest speaker, will discuss the contrast between the "cultural" celebration of Christmas and the "real" meaning of Christmas. If you know of an international student that might be interested in attending, or want to build relationships with international students in a relaxed setting, contact Nora Laver at nlaver@tuftsmedicalcenter.org, 781-373-2115.

Urbana 2009 is December 27-31 in St. Louis, Missouri. If you are a student who is interested in attending this missions conference, scholarships are available. For more information about these scholarships, please contact Justin Bennett at jbennett@grace.org or 781-862-8351 ext. 143. Grace Chapel partner, Ramez Atallah who is the president of the Bible Society of Egypt, will be speaking at this year's conference. For more info about the conference go to www.urbana09.org. Hurry, the price to register does increase on December 1st!

Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree Christmas 2009 and MCI Concord Men's Worship Each year, Prison Fellowship provides thousands of Christmas gifts for children of prisoners through the Angel Tree Project. This year we will be donating *Every Man's Battle* books to a men's Bible study at MCI Concord. Books will be available for purchase/donation at the Angel Tree tag tables. If you are interested in assisting at these tables, sort gifts, or home deliver gifts to partnering churches or families, contact Sarah Cupp at scupp2006@comcast.net, 781-838-1356 or Sandy at sandsmith317@yahoo.com, 617-901-4638 Please note Angel Tree gifts are due December 6 and 13.

High School

Sunday Morning Gravity meets every Sunday morning, from 10:00AM to 11:15AM. There will be no Sunday Morning Gravity on December 20 and 27.

Friday Night Gravity meets every Friday at from 7:30PM to 10:00PM. There will be no Friday Night Gravity on December 25.

HS Christmas Party is December 18 from 7:30PM to 10:00PM.

Middle School

Middle School Ministry meets every Sunday morning from 10:00AM to 11:15AM in the Gym. There will be no meetings on December 20 and 27.

Middle School Ministry also meets Wednesday nights from 6:30PM to 8:00PM in the Gym. There will be no middle school meeting on December 23 and 30.

MS Christmas Party is December 16 from 6:30PM to 8:30PM.

Young Adults

Fire Christmas Series "Better to Give than to Receive?" for Young Adults (20 and 30 something single or married). Join us Thursday, December 3rd, 10th and 17th for a night filled with a variety of acts, musical pieces and great holiday cheer. We will meet at 7:00PM in Room 202 on the top floor of the main church building.

Young Adults Christmas Party "A Night at the Oscars" is Saturday, December 19 at 7:30PM. If you are in your 20's or 30's, single or married, please join us for a wonderful night of dancing! This event is free and please bring some food to share. For tickets and further information please contact jekelly@gmail.com.

Next Month...

January JOLT Join us as we offer about a half-dozen courses such as "Jewish Roots of Christian Spirituality" with Dr. Marv Wilson (Gordon College professor), "Engaging Islam" with Cliff and Marilyn Gardner (Islamic Studies officer at Harvard), and "Strategic, Spiritual Leadership" with Cynthia Fantasia and Dorian Botsis starting January 10, 2010.

LIFELink is a fun and comfortable event where you will enjoy a light meal, learn about Grace Chapel's vision for group life, meet group leaders, and discover where and when groups are meeting. The goal is for you to find a LIFE Community to become a part of during the year ahead. Join us on January 17 at 12:45PM in Fellowship Hall. Reserve a spot by stopping by at the Community Corner after the service or email Elsie Kitchen at ekitchen@grace.org.

It's that time of year...

...when inclement weather could affect Grace Chapel Sunday services, classes, as well as other events and activities throughout the week. When it snows go to www.grace.org to view updated information about delays or cancellations right on the homepage, or call the main line at 781-862-8351 to hear updated voice recordings.

You can also find out about delays and cancellations by checking the crawl at the bottom of your television screen, or logging onto the local television station websites. (Stations include channels 4,5,7, and 25.)

December 2009 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>Women's Joy</i> ESOL <i>Adult ASL Classes</i>	2 Men's Fraternity ESOL MAPS AIL Prayer Meeting Family Connection Middle School	3 Mom to Mom ALPHA ALPHA ESOL ESOL FIRE	4 Gravity	5 Just Christmas ISM Gathering
Worship Services 6 Discipleship Courses Kidstown Middle School High School Angel Tree Gifts Due	7 Celebrate Recovery GriefShare	8 <i>Women's Joy</i> ESOL <i>Adult ASL Classes</i>	9 Men's Fraternity ESOL MAPS Luncheon Family Connection Middle School	10 ESOL FIRE ALPHA ALPHA ESOL	11 Singles Gravity	12
Worship Services 13 Discipleship Courses Kidstown Middle School High School Angel Tree Gifts Due	14 Celebrate Recovery	15 ESOL <i>Adult ASL Classes</i>	16 Men's Fraternity Family Connection Middle School	17 FIRE	18 Gravity	19 FIRE Christmas Party
Worship Services 20 Discipleship Courses Kidstown	21 Celebrate Recovery GriefShare	22 Christmas Eve Service 7:30PM	23 Christmas Eve Service 7:30PM	24 Christmas Eve Services 3:00PM 4:30PM 6:00PM	25 Church office closed	26
Worship Services 27 Kidstown	28 Celebrate Recovery	29	30	31		

Stay informed with Grace Chapel weekly E-News!

Keep up-to-date with what's going on at Grace Chapel. Each weekly e-mail includes a link to Inside Grace, information about Sunday's message, and upcoming events. Signing up is simple! Go to www.grace.org/news and follow the instructions in the 'Subscribe' section.

Missed a week?

Download audio sermons or subscribe to get free podcasts of each week's sermon by logging on to www.grace.org/audio.

Worship Service Styles:

8:30am Classic Worship

Timeless hymns, anthems and worship music featuring Grace Chapel's own music ensembles. This service draws upon the rich traditions of the church and the worship arts in a reverent, uplifting atmosphere.

10:00am* & 11:30am Contemporary Worship

Worship bands and vocal teams lead this vibrant service, enriched by a variety of musical elements and the contemporary worship arts.

*Signing for the deaf and hard of hearing is available at the 10:30am service.

6:00pm gc@night

An alternative worship experience, this service has an edgier feel and provides a more extended time of worship, in addition to the message and creative elements of the morning service.

Grace Chapel's Library is located in Room G-5 at the Adult Learning Center, and is open on Sunday mornings and early afternoon, except during the 10:00AM to 11:00AM hour. Come and browse through our wonderful collection of books, DVD's, CD's and journals. Simply sign out what you want (clipboard provided) and return materials in a month or less. Or just come, sit by the fireplace, and read for awhile!



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Grace Chapel is a nondenominational church that welcomes people from all backgrounds.

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