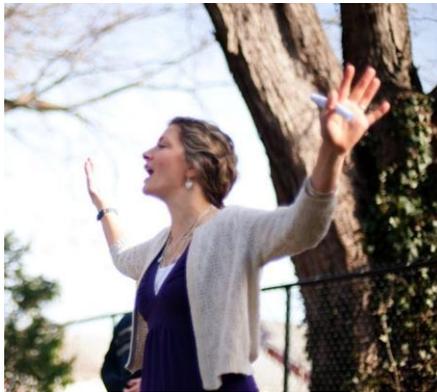


SUNDAY EVENING IS CENTRAL



The **HEARTBEAT** of Grace is Sunday evening gatherings. The place is rarely the same, although recently we've been steady at Dedham Square Coffee House. Sometimes we gather outside at Adam's Farm or on Boston Common. In the summer time it's usually at a pool or back yard. We are not limited by a building, because our gatherings are as fluid as our faith.

COMMUNION is celebratory and abundant at Grace. We share warm homemade bread, the delicious extras consumed after everyone has partaken. Even children toddling forward cannot wait for their share. We especially invite spiritual seekers to discover the divine mystery in the simple elements of bread and cup.



Some gatherings **CHILDREN** outnumber the adults. They are fully included in community life. They engage in deep spiritual conversation, share their thoughts at our annual "Biz" meeting and help us serve others. Most importantly, children delight us!

THE FIVE PART-TIME STAFF

Yes, five. All **VERY** part-time, some unpaid, and all 100% committed to Grace. We are a team.

REV. ABIGAIL A. HENRICH, the CEO, Chief-Evangelist, Pastor, and affectionately named Queen Pope.

REV. JON PAUL SYDNOR PHD, Theologian-in-Residence

GREGORY WOODSBIE, our dynamic and gifted musician

RACHEL EVICCI, book keeper and general organizer

Loving **CHILD CARE PROVIDERS**, teenagers for whom we are grateful, even if they leave us for college.

WHAT DOES WORSHIP LOOK LIKE?

We don't call it worship. Why? Because worship is a worn out word. Some of the folks who join us call it mass. Others prayer. We found new words: **SACRED GATHERING**.

Sacred Gathering describes more accurately what we do most Sunday evenings at Grace. We gather in a coffee house. Some purchase a beer, some get a coffee, every kid gets a smoothie. We slip into our sacred time together as our beloved jazz pianist, Greg Woodsbie, begins to play.

Each Sunday is different, but there is a rhythm of prayer, story, song, reflection, conversation, and bread & cup.

Every gathering the children share a time of spiritual formation during which they study everything from Bible stories to current justice issues. The adults also have a time of spiritual formation, led by our resident theologian Jon Paul Sydnor. For many adults at Grace this is their favorite part of Sunday evenings.



COMMUNITY WORK

At Grace we are most **ENERGIZED** by serving others. There is no end to the opportunity to serve. The following is a snapshot of the many organizations with whom we've partnered, developing skills we didn't know we had.

Daniel's Table, Framingham
Free Meals in local neighborhoods

Ministry at the Eastward, ME
Rehabbing Rural Homes

Abundant Table, Norwood
Healthy, hearty meals and compassionate camaraderie

A Bike for Every Kid, Walpole
Rehabbing bikes for children

Days for Girls, International
Sewing sustainable menstrual kits for girls worldwide

Ecclesia Ministries, Boston
Worshipping with the Homeless Church located on Boston Common then serving lunch

Harvest Gleaning, Sharon
Gleaning organic produce from a local farm, to be shared with the hungry

New Life Home Refurnishing, Walpole
Providing furnishings for families transitioning out of homelessness

Silver Lake Summer Camp, CT
Scholarships for kids to attend week long inclusive Christian camp

Collections, Abby's basement
Everything (!) from food to clothes to school supplies distributed to countless families and individuals in our surrounding community



FIVE years traveling to the "Eastward" in Maine to serve the rural poor. The mission: safer, warmer, drier homes. Insulation, handicap ramps, clean-ups, dry wall, plumbing, you name it. But most importantly, the relationships we have forged call us back year after year. This year we are venturing further, to Charleston, SC. We're excited.

I would never miss a mission trip. They are the highlight of my family's year. My children now have grown up serving others. And for my husband it has been transformational. Of course, it's just plain fun!



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