



Grace Notes

Nov/Dec 2019

From Natalie Finstad Thomas

An excerpt from Natalie Finstad Thomas' sermon on October 12th and 13th. Natalie was our guest preacher from Episcopal City Mission where she works as the director of programs and engagement. ECM works to build relationships of collective power between Episcopal communities, grassroots organizations, and faith-rooted movements for economic and racial justice. They do this through developing leaders committed to justice, funding communities that are doing the work of justice, giving grants, mobilizing people to take action for justice, and convening people across these different groups to build relationships. In addition to her work at ECM, Natalie is also a candidate in our diocese to be a deacon.

Before my work at Episcopal City Mission, I worked with congregations across the country to discern how they were being called into mission - by that I mean how they were being called to join God's work of love, justice, and reconciliation in the world around them. In doing this work, I travelled to places where this sense of mission was thriving to learn

from leaders who had built mission-oriented congregations.

One of the most powerful places I visited was West Central Episcopal Mission in Spokane, Washington. West Central began because the local parish, Holy Trinity, dwindled and Kris, a priest, was asked by her Bishop to go and revive the church. Kris told me that the first thing she noticed when she began her work there was that this area did not need another church service - most people were working hard to keep food on the table and the area was known for gang activity. They needed a meal. So, each Sunday, they hosted a big meal at the parish and in a Holy Spirit sort of moment, Kris decided to build a sense of equality so that anyone who came - whether as a volunteer or a resident - would eat.

As West Central grew, Kris learned that people needed a place to rest, do their laundry, and avoid bad weather. They turned the rectory into a drop-in shelter and shortly thereafter people donated a bunch

of board games. Kris shared that one of her favorite moments at West Central was watching two members from rival gangs play one another in checkers.

When I was visiting West Central I noticed a sense of peace around the mission despite the stories I heard about violence in the area. When I asked Kris about it she responded by telling me that members in the community had declared the area within a half mile block of the mission a Weapon-Free Zone.

The most moving part of West Central for me, and I would guess Kris would say this too, was to realize that it was the local community - the homeless, the poor, the addicted, who were showing us what it meant to actually be the Church, what it meant to be about the work of God's love and God's justice in that place.

Now admittedly it's a different time and location, but the setting of West Central mission reminds me of the setting in which Jeremiah (29:1, 4-7)

is writing to the Israelites in today's lesson from the Old Testament. The Israelites are exiled, away from their home, and experiencing a change in their religious traditions and customs.

Jeremiah writes to them and says, "Look. I know what you are used to is ending and that it might be tempting to turn inward and hold on to the last vestiges of your culture. But what God wants is for you to turn outward and find yourselves amongst what is new and unfamiliar - plant gardens and eat their fruit, build houses and live in them, marry and have children - trusting that in their welfare we will find our welfare."

The word here, welfare, is the Hebrew word *shalom* which means much more than financial wellbeing. It connotes peace, justice, shared abundance. What is so powerful about this vision is that it is not a "one-time gift to support the community," but an invitation into radically integrated and mutually dependent relationships.

What I believe is important for us to notice is that God isn't saying to stop caring about God or about your religion - what God asks is for people to release their assumptions about what was essential so that they can discover what following God looks like in this context.

Which is ultimately where we always discover where God is calling us: In communities where we come to truly know those around us - those in our homes and in our schools, those in the streets and those at the Community Breakfast table or at Laundry Love, those at our border and those in our prisons - we come to more deeply understand God by

knowing each other's lives and each other's stories.

In the welfare of the community, the church finds its welfare.

What I love about my work at ECM is that I get to walk alongside congregations as they discern what it means to join in God's work of love, justice, and reconciliation in their context. What's amazing is that the answer is never the same - each community has their own specific call. Now what is the same is that in this process all of us may be asked to let go of our old traditions or habits, which is hard, but I promise that in doing so there will be room to discover new depths to God's love, justice, and peace.

So I want to leave you with two questions. One, how can you deepen your community engagement work through building relationships? And, two, how might God be calling us to be open to change as we seek the welfare of those around us?

May God give us the grace to hear where the Spirit is calling us and the courage to follow.

Amen.

Liturgy & Liturgical Ministry

By Jerré Croteau, Verger

The Fall and early Winter is, and has always been, a very busy season. There are very few, of what we might call "normal" Sundays. It seems that some special celebration or recognition has happened almost every Sunday. As we head into November and December the special character of most Sundays does not seem to decrease.

We start off the weekend of November 2nd-3rd with **All Saints' Sunday**. It is a break in the green Sundays as the color is **white** for this major feast day. For this service, we use Eucharistic Prayer D, which is a translation of one of the most ancient Eucharistic prayers. On this Sunday a basket with the names of deceased loved ones is placed upon the altar at the offertory and the names of all those who died in the last year associated with our parish family are read during the Eucharistic Prayer. A basket and slips of paper have been placed in the back of the church and in the lobby of All Saints' Chapel for the purpose of collecting the names of deceased to be placed on the altar.

The following weekend, November 9th-10th, the **Twenty-second after Pentecost**, we return to the color **green** and this would be a "normal" Sunday, except for the fact that it is the weekend of the Bittersweet Bazaar, when the whole of Grace House is rearranged to accommodate the bazaar and has to be returned to its normal state afterwards.

Following this, the weekend of November 16th-17th, the **Twenty-third after Pentecost**, features **Children's Liturgy** at the 10AM service. Then it will be our own **Parochial Feast Day, Harvest Sunday**, which is also the Last Sunday after Pentecost and the Feast of **Christ the King**. As we have done since the early days of the founding of our parish in November of 1833, and certainly since the erection of this church building in 1880, the church and altars are decorated with the fruits of the harvest. The vegetables so displayed become part of the Community Thanksgiving Dinner held on the following Tuesday.

The weekend encompassing the last day of November and first of December is the beginning of a new Liturgical year with the **First Sunday of Advent**. You will find the **Angel Tree** in the church with the names of children of the incarcerated for whom you may buy presents. This ministry has a long tradition at Grace and is a way of sharing our happiness with children less fortunate. We will have finished Year C, and now begin Year A, the Gospels of which are mostly from St. Matthew, with a sprinkling of St. John. The color changes to **blue**, this color representing anticipation and hope.

The **Second Sunday of Advent**, December 7th-8th, is a “normal” Sunday in Advent. Our old friend the Rev. Randall Chase will be with us for this Sunday. The following weekend, December 14th-15th, the **Third Sunday of Advent**, also called **Gaudete [Rejoice!] Sunday** is a special one at Grace Church. It is one of only two Sundays in the year when the color **rose** is used. On this Sunday will take place the annual **Children’s Pageant** with the children of the Church School participating in a reenactment of the Christmas Story in place of the Liturgy of the Word. This Children’s Eucharist is followed by the annual tradition of the **Hanging of the Greens** when members of our parish family decorate the church for the coming festivities. The **Fourth Sunday of Advent**, December 21st-22nd, is at last a “normal” Sunday.

This year **Christmas Eve** is on a Tuesday. The schedule of services is changed this year. At **5PM** the service will include a **Children’s Crèche** in All Saints’ Chapel for the children and a **Festival Eucharist** in the main church; with both choirs the children joining the congregation during the service. At **7PM** there will be a **Festival Eucharist** with choir.

Then at **11PM**, a simpler **Midnight Mass**, for those whose tradition is to attend the late service. It is a custom that some of our Acolytes Emeriti serve at this service, there will be carols sung by the congregation, but no choir for this service. On **Christmas Day** Wednesday, December 25th, there will be a Holy Eucharist Service in the chancel of the church at 10AM.

The Christmas season is the shortest liturgical season. It is tied to the dates of the calendar, rather than being dependent on the date of Easter. It is twelve days long and runs from the eve of December 24th to January 5th, the last day of Christmas. The color is **white**, which denotes light, joy and celebration. This year one Sunday falls within these twelve days, December 28th-29th, **The First Sunday of Christmas**, which this year is the Fifth day of the Christmas season. On this Sunday a **Baptism** will take place.

The end of December does not mark the end of the season. It lasts until the **Feast of the Epiphany**, which falls on January 6th. Traditionally, this marks the end of the Christmas trappings. The last major event is **The Epiphany Festival of Lights**, which this year will be celebrated at the 10AM Eucharist on Sunday, January 5th. More details regarding this service will appear in the next Grace Notes.

Wednesdays in November, Advent & Christmas

Wednesdays in November: On November 6th, we commemorate **William Temple** at 10AM Morning Prayer service. Wednesday, November 13th, is a Holy Eucharist service celebrating **St. Martin of Tours**. That same evening there will be a **Taizé** service in the chancel of the main church at 6PM. There will be Holy Eucharist Wednesday,

November 20th celebrating **King Edmund**. Then Wednesday, November 27th we celebrate **St. Andrew** with Morning Prayer. That Thursday, November 28th is **Thanksgiving Day**; there will be Morning prayer at 10AM.

The first Wednesday in Advent, December 4th, commemorates **John of Damascus**. The following Wednesday, December 11th, will be the **Second Wednesday in Advent**. The two last services will be Morning Prayer. Also on December 11th, a **Taizé** service will take place in the chancel of the main church at 6PM; then Wednesday, December 18th, Holy Eucharist celebrating **St. Thomas**.

TO ALL SUBDEACONS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS, ACOLYTES, ACOLYTE PARENTS, USHERS & GREETERS

The next schedule will encompass **November 30th through February 23rd**. If you have restrictions as to which Sundays you can or cannot serve, have a cyclical pattern that you wish us to follow, or have Sundays that you are requesting to serve, please let the Verger know by **November 15th**. You may communicate your request by emailing Jerré at GTCroteau@comcast.net or calling him at **508-993-3048** or **508-742-5933**. Jerré’s old-fashioned telephones DO NOT receive text messages. **Acolytes**: please keep in mind that this year there are **three services on Christmas Eve**. **All Available Acolytes** are scheduled for **Sunday January 5th, 2020**, at the **10AM** service for the **Epiphany Festival of Lights and Eucharist**. So please let Jerré know if you are not available for any of these services.

Being Christian: Rowan Williams on Prayer

By Diana Ukleja, Spiritual Formation Team

Rev. Chris led a book study for adult candidates for confirmation and reception based on the Right Reverend Rowan Williams' book Being Christian. Mr. Williams is the former Archbishop of Canterbury; his book is based on talks he gave at Canterbury Cathedral during Easter Week. It has four brief chapters: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist and Prayer.

In the chapter on prayer, he opens with the Lord's Prayer, and our need to grow in prayer. He advises us to put ourselves in the place of Jesus while praying, to let Jesus pray in us. He looks at what three early Christian writers have to say about prayer:

Origen

This theological teacher, a layman for most of his life, though later ordained, lived and worked in Alexandria and the eastern end of the Mediterranean in the third century. Williams sums up Origen's advice on prayer in this way:

"You start with the 'practical' life ... recognizing where you are being selfish and stupid, and acting instead with increasing generosity. You move on from that to the freedom to see God in the world around you. When you have forgot your ego and all its fussiness a little bit in its place, then actually you see more; the world is more real and more beautiful ... until at last you arrive in the third level. The intensity and clarity of what you see ... triggers a ... 'leap in the dark' ... into God."

Gregory of Nyssa

In the fourth century, this bishop wrote a commentary on the Lord's Prayer. In discussing the forgiveness of sins, Gregory suggests it is as when we teach children, first by showing, then by having them copy our actions: I forgave, now you forgive. And the daily bread is not just what we as individuals need, it is bread for all the world. Williams writes:

"You could sum up what Gregory says about the Lord's Prayer simply by saying, 'Prayer heals relations.' Prayer is about reconciliation, justice, and how it changes your attitude to other people and the world."

John Cassian

At the beginning of the fifth century, this Russian monk studied in Egypt then founded a monastery in Marseilles. From that monastery came others in southern France, and from them the outliers in Britain. Cassian summarized the teaching of the great monks of Egypt in his Book of Conversations.

He advises us to pray briefly and often and offers a fourfold process. Williams describes this as:

"...start with *supplication*, open up your need to God. And then make an act of *commitment*. ... And when you have settled into that commitment, ... that leads on to *intercession* as a mark of the love that rises out of that commitment, and then on to *thanksgiving*, which is not just thanking God for the good things he has done for you, but absorbing his goodness."

Williams summarizes by saying that prayer is God's work in us, that prayer is connected to living justly in the world, and prayer is about faithfulness ... sticking to it.

Dear Church

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.

Like most people, we recognize the truth in these familiar words from Ecclesiastes. In our own lives, among our friends and families, at our places of work and of worship, change happens. Here at Grace Episcopal Church we experience change in varied ways; we welcome the newly baptized, we celebrate a rite of passage in confirmation, and we mourn our losses collectively.

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

Grace Church has established a number of initiatives over the years; some were short-lived, others enjoyed a longer shelf-life. Some proved successful and self-sustaining, others required great support. The Bittersweet Bazaar, for example, is celebrating its 40th – and final - anniversary this year. It ran like clockwork for many years but, like many efforts, it has become more difficult to pull off each year.

Donna Pires, Director of the Grace After School and Summer Program (GASSP), has resigned and is entering a new season in her life and career.

GASSP operated for nearly twenty years, providing a safe, structured program for children and youth of New Bedford. It was successful and largely self-sustaining, and many young people fondly recall their time with GASSP.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

At its August meeting the vestry discussed the future of GASSP and determined that temporarily suspending the program to seek a new Director was not feasible. To return to self-sustaining status, enrollment would need to grow, fees would need to increase, new and experienced staffing would need to be found, while the necessity for appropriate outdoor space for play and exercise was an issue that would be difficult to remedy. Ultimately, the vestry decided to close the Grace After School and Summer Program.

At that same meeting, the vestry made a motion of appreciation for the service of Donna Pires, the staff and the advisory board members over the twenty years of the Grace After School and Summer Program. Our gratitude overflows.

And at Homecoming Sunday tomorrow we will celebrate Donna Pires and thank her again for nearly two decades of dedicated effort on behalf of the Grace After School and Summer Program.

We know that as some doors close, other doors will open as the Spirit continues to shape us for further ministry. Please keep listening and praying with us as we open ourselves to hear where God is leading Grace Church. We have been richly blessed through our inclusive, active and welcoming faith community, and together God will continue to use us to bless so many more!

Faithfully,
Your Grace Church leadership



2020 Grace Church Ecuadorian Pilgrimage

Thursday, July 2nd - Friday, July 10th

Want to be part of Grace's 2020 Inter-generational Ecuadorian Pilgrimage?

We begin with an orientation meeting for the *whole group* on **Sunday, January 19th at 12:15PM** in the Youth Room.

To sign up or to find out more, write Chris at revchrismorck@gracechurchnb.org

Information also can be found on pages 4-5 of the September-October 2018 edition of Grace Notes, <http://gracechurchnb.org/grace-notes-newsletter/>

This opportunity is open to the whole parish.

This Grace Church trip is for *all* ages and *all* abilities. It involves work *and* relationship-building (and fun, too), while we help build a church hall with an indigenous, Ecuadorian church that will be used for church activities, spiritual formation, and community education. There will be something for everyone on this trip.

For your calendar, pre-trip group meetings are:

January 19th, 12:15PM
February 23rd, 6PM
March 29th, 12:15PM
May 3rd, 6PM
June 21st, 10AM

Children's Ministry Program & Angel Tree Program

By Charlene Ryder, Children's Ministry Program Coordinator

We are having a wonderful start to our church school program year with new curriculum offerings in our classes!

In November, we will have our first Kids' JAM (Jesus And a Movie) event on Sunday, November 10th, from 11AM to 2PM. We will share in a meal, enjoy games together and use our creative skills on craft making. If time allows, we will watch a movie. Please register your children by contacting Charlene, so that we will have a count for the food order.

Also in November, the Angel Tree will be going up in the church on the weekend of November 30th-December 1st. This year parishioners from Grace will have the opportunity to provide gifts to 18 families/50 children who have an incarcerated parent at Christmas. The suggested cost of a gift is \$20. Angel tags will be placed on the tree with information on the children for the gift purchasers. Gifts should be returned to church by Saturday, December 14th, for delivery to the families. If you are able to help with delivery, please let me know.

The Advent pageant for the children will be on Sunday, December 15th, at the 10AM service. The rehearsal for the pageant will be on Saturday, December 14th, from 9-11AM, followed by a Kids' JAM event from 11AM-2PM.

Our Christmas Eve Crèche service will be held in the chapel during the 5PM Christmas Eve Eucharist Service.

If you have any questions, please contact Charlene Ryder at 508-728-4374 or cryder@umassd.edu

Diocesan Convention

The Episcopal Church (TEC) in the United States is a democratic institution, governed by its members, both clerical and lay. Each parish, while led by its Rector, has an elected Vestry and officers who meet monthly—the lay members are elected at the parish's annual meeting. Ours is in February.

The Diocese of Massachusetts holds its annual meeting, the diocesan convention, in November. Grace Church is represented by the Rector and two delegates (elected at our Annual Meeting). These are currently Anne Gundersen and Diana Ukleja. Throughout the year, the diocese is governed by a Standing Committee, corresponding to our Vestry. Members of that committee, as well as representatives to the General Convention of the TEC, are elected at the diocesan convention.

In addition to the annual elections, the Diocesan Convention hears a message from the bishop, celebrates the Eucharist, receives reports requested at the previous convention and passes the diocesan budget. In recent years, the budget has been modified to follow closely the mission strategy which we were all involved in developing. About half the time at convention is devoted to discussing and voting on resolutions which focus on issues of abiding interest.

This year there are four resolutions:

1. Engaging Young Adults Fully in the Life of Our Church

In line with the report of the 20s and 30s Task Force, this resolution proposed creation of an advisory committee to oversee continuing work in this area.

2. Support a requirement that all persons sentenced to life-long prison terms in Massachusetts be given the opportunity to seek parole starting at 25 years of incarceration

No one spoke to this resolution at the briefing I attended.

3. Take the Next Step for Creation

This resolution invites each congregation to form a Next Step group to encourage one another in working toward this element of the mission strategy and to address the increasing concerns over climate change.

4. Becoming a Safe Haven Diocese

This resolution formally opposes racism and hateful speech and invites us to stand with those who are vilified and to offer help to immigrants. No acts of civil disobedience are encouraged. The speaker called out the existing ride share network in New Bedford and Fall River as an example of what could be done.

Laundry Love Report

By Travis Bowie, Chair

Through the end of September, Laundry love has served 533 clients, of whom 115 were first timers. They have washed over 1000 loads of clothes – and the commercial machines are much larger than those we have at home! In addition to the ongoing support from parishioners and Grace Church volunteers, we have been joined twice by volunteers from Southcoast Health and once by folks from First Citizens Federal Bank.

We are grateful to the new volunteers who joined for our September outing. If any of you can give an hour and a half on a Monday afternoon (November 25th, December 30th) we would love to have you join us. Just speak to any member of the team, listed below!

Members of Grace Church continue to supply all the liquid detergent, dryer sheets, small cups to distribute the detergent and really big garbage bags that we use. (Many of our clients use the bags to carry clean laundry home). There is a basket at the back of the church for those who wish to continue to support us in this way.

The cost of doing the laundry is funded by grants received from church and community organizations, and by individual donations. Costs which began at \$400-500 a month are now climbing toward \$700-800, due to an increase in the number of people served.

Many of our clients are regulars at the Community Breakfast and at Martha's Pantry, whom we have come to know as friends. If you would like to stop by and meet them, see us at the laundromat the last Monday of the month, 2-5PM.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting

February 9th, 2020

The Laundry Love team: Travis Bowie, Carol Braga, Chuck Cotter, Pat Fowle, Louise Kelly, Judy Knox, Gerry Lopes, Jim Parker, Marilyn St. Aubin, Diana Ukleja, George Whitley



Grace Church Bittersweet Bazaar Dinner

Please join us for a Celebration Dinner for the 40th Annual Bittersweet Bazaar and to honor all past and current chairs. The dinner will be on Friday, November 8th at 6PM at the James Arnold Mansion (Wamsutta Club) on County Street in New Bedford (across from the church).

The chicken dinner (a vegetarian option is available) is \$25.00 per person. Tickets are available through Betsy Pye, Trish Morck, Charlene Ryder, Brenda Sylvia, Mark Jeffrey, or from the church office.

Seating is limited to 100, so get your tickets today!

**GRACE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

**40TH - AND FINAL -
BITTERSWEET BAZAAR**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2019
10 AM - 4 PM

LUNCH SERVED FROM 11 AM UNTIL 2 PM
**PROCEEDS BENEFIT GRACE'S MINISTRIES
AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

SILENT AUCTION
GRANDMA'S ATTIC RETURNS!
RAFFLES / CHINESE AUCTION
BAKED GOODS / JEWELRY
CRAFTS / HOLIDAY TABLE

**CORNER OF COUNTY AND SCHOOL STREETS,
NEW BEDFORD**
PLEASE USE SCHOOL STREET ENTRANCE

**HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE VIA RAMP
ON NORTH SIDE OF GRACE HOUSE**

Youth Apple Pie Fundraiser

It's fall – it must be time for our Annual Youth Group Apple Pie Fundraiser!

Make room in your freezer, and order lots of these tasty treats - \$10 per pie.

The youth will assemble the pies - getting our hands messy with lots of butter and brown sugar - on Sunday, November 10th, and you may take your pies home on the weekends of November 16th/17th and 23rd/24th. Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners just got a whole lot easier!

Order your pies after weekend services or email revchrismorck@gracechurchnb.org and he will put your name on the list.

Grace Church Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Tuesday, November 26th at 5PM. All are invited!

Please contact Andy Sylvia, asylvia101@gmail.com, to volunteer.



🍷 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS 🍷

CRÈCHE

Virgin Mary & St. Joseph, original Christ Child 1963

Christ Child, 1977

Original Shepherd and Donkey, 1977;

Gift of Lulmira Handy in memory of Jacob Handy

Subsequent Christ Children

1999 *Gift of the Rev. Sarah K. Hague*

2008 *Gift of Jerré Croteau*

Original Magi, 1979

Grace Memorial Gifts Fund

New Statues for the Handy Memorial Crèche, 2014

Gift of Jerré Croteau, Travis Bowie, Priscilla Guillemette, Geraldine Lopes,

Alfred Smialek, Nina Catelli Vincent, Michel Jodoin & John Masson

in memory of Robert O. Boardman, Richard Bowie, Ronald Guillemette,

Norman Lopes, Adele Smialek, Una Vincent and Dorothy & Penry Warr

ADVENT WREATH & CANDLESTAND, 1994

Gift of Mr & Mrs. Alfred Smialek, Peter & David Smialek

In Thanksgiving

Arrangement of Greens, 1998

Gift of Scott Simpkin

BLUE ADVENT BURSE, VEIL & HANGINGS, 2000

Handwoven Gift of Patricia Nieman

ANGEL/CHRISTMAS TREE

CHURCH WREATHS, GREENS & TRIMMINGS, 2000

Gift of Jerré Croteau & Robert Boardman in memory of

Kennedy Shaw, Richard Hagan & the Rev. Clifford Kolb

PEW CANDELABRA, 1947

In Thanksgiving and Memory of

William Gordon, Rehnberg Wingate & his son, Catherine Beattie, David T. Wilbur, James J. Miller, Departed members of the Evening Auxiliary, Margaret A. Tupper, Walter G. Thompson, William Orr, Irene Barrett,

Kenneth R. Smith, John E. Wood, John A. MacLeod, Alice Blacklidge, Robert Hazeltine, Jr., James L. Lemos;

Edward and Henrietta Charles, Beatrice, Harry & William Bly; Frank & Elizabeth Congdon, Delphine E.

Sturtevant, William H. Broadbent, Dorothy M. Upton, Kate A. Arden, Julia Lattimer, Lucy J. Stowell, Florence

P. Eldridge, Henry D. Cornell, William H. Brown, Alice W. Goodwin, Alfred S. Dunham, Michael Bendikson,

Marion Wordell, William & Hannah Huston, Departed Grace Church Mothers, Sheldon Gardner, Robert C.

Kirby, Alfred Bradley; Louis, Lillian & Anthony Sears; Winona & Frank Hanna, John Chartier, David

Kinghorn, Lydia Whitehead, Departed members of the Woman's Guild, Mildred Sturtevant, Frank & Laura

Moody, Philip & John Threshie, John Harwood, Sanford Read, Daniel Smith, Joseph & Mary Ellen Marsh,

Elizabeth Nelson, Emma Harwood, Henry Dixon, Harriet Gunning, Richmond Wood, Ralph Bardsley, Minnie

Abrams, Irving Cartwright, John G. Kennedy, Grace & Henry Wood, Departed members of the Woman's

Auxiliary, Manuel & Lucy Avelar, Charles Goulding, Martha Rowand, Harry Allen, Julia A. Rodman, Edith

Morgan Wright, Ruth Ellen Jennings and by many people in thanksgiving.

Metal for Candelabra donated by the Klarén Family

September-October Memorial Gifts

Community Breakfast

Gifts of James Bisagni, Adam & Aimee DaRosa, Norma Bossé

Memorial Gifts

Gift of Donald White **in memory of Ellen Holmes White**

Gift of Geraldine Lopes **in memory of Norman Lopes**

Gift of Mark Jeffrey **in thanksgiving for the Christ-in-the-Kitchen Ministry**

Gifts of Janice Chadwick, Janice Baker

Gift of Episcopal Church Women **in memory of Joan Ann Niles**

Pastoral Leadership

Gift of Geraldine Lopes **in memory of Norman Lopes**

Gifts of Pauline Roderiques & Family, Stephen Kelleher Architects, Helen Dauphin & Michael Correia, Jean Pitcairn & Len Boyce, Gerry Lopes, Jerré Croteau, Jim McKay & Beth Sharp, Susan Cline Gwinn, Larry Correia, Paul & Katherine Zheng, Joan Barnes, Theresa & Edward Leary, David & Joyce Nelson, Theresa Souza, Paula Gagnon, and Gene, Lisa, Aaron, Alex, Peter, Oliver & Bridget Bergson **in memory of Joan Ann Niles**

Laundry Love

Gifts of Edith Lauderdale, Pamela & David Mello

Martha's Pantry at Grace

Gifts of Edith Lauderdale, Donald & Claire Driesen, Episcopal Church Women

Rector's Discretionary Fund

Gifts of Carl Medeiros, Alfred Smialek, Anita Chirigotis, Travis Bowie, Norma Bossé, Donald & Claire Driesen, David & Nancy Faria, Edward & Eleanor Begley, Charles & Beverly Days, Richard Fabio, Joan Ann Niles, Charles & Beverly Days

Flower Fund

Gift of Lucy Gundersen **in honor of Niklas Scott Gundersen**

Gift of Priscilla Guillemette **in memory of Ronald Guillemette & Stasia Green**

Gift of Jerré Croteau **in celebration of the Grace Church Family**

Gift of Michael & Karen Goulart **in memory of Michael J. & Theresa Goulart, Wendy Peters, and Michael Schell**

Gift of Mark Jeffrey & the Rev. & Mrs. William A. Jeffrey, Jr. **in loving memory honoring the Tenth Anniversary of the death of William A. Jeffrey III from his Mother & Father**

Gift of the Robert O. Boardman Trust **in honor and thanksgiving for our Lay Ministers, Lectors, and Acolytes**

Gift of Janice Chadwick **in memory of her parents Olive & Harry Chadwick from their loving daughter**

Gift of Travis Bowie **in loving memory of Rick Bowie**

Leaflet Color Printing

Gift of Jerré Croteau **in memory of Irène & Théodore Croteau**

Altar Guild

Gift of Norma Dyer **in memory of Louise Dalzell**

Bittersweet Bazaar Advertisement

Anonymous Gift

Bittersweet Bazaar

Gifts of Michelle & Edward Luth, BayCoast Bank

Building Fund

Gift of Geraldine Lopes **in memory of Norman Lopes**

Floor Refinishing

Gifts of Evergreen Sheet Metal, Jim McKay & Beth Sharp

Youth Group

Gift of Jerré Croteau **in memory of Joan Ann Niles**

New Bedford Public Schools

Gift of Steven & Carol Hegarty



**Let your light shine in front of people so that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in the heavens.**

- Matthew 5:16 (DLNT)

Below are just a few ways we at Grace Church *shine our light* on the people in the parish and others in the surrounding communities.

- Provide light and sound to hear the music from the youth and adult choirs.
- Provide spiritual nurture to the children and youth at Grace.
- Provide heat, light and a safe environment for the non-native speakers of other languages to learn English.
- Give a sense of community and family to our own members in time of need.
- Provide spiritual counsel, support, and love during family, medical, financial hardships.

All of this and much more is only possible because we pledge to our parish, as well as many other ways that we offer our time, talent, and treasure.

What other ways do you see us shine our light on our community? Each and every one of us provide some type of blessing on our own church family and those in our community. When we do this, we are showing God's love and abundance with others.

Below is the speech that Manny Santo, a volunteer at the Community Breakfast, gave at the 10AM service on Sunday, September 29th. We also sent an email blast showcasing the video of his speech. If you did not receive the video and would like to see it, please let Chris or Katie in the office know.

Good morning church.

My name is Manny Santo and I am a volunteer of the breakfast ministry here at Grace Church. The breakfast begins every Sunday morning from 6:30-8AM. I have been volunteering at this ministry for a year and half. It's a wonderful group of faithful volunteers who feed well over 40 people every Sunday morning. The ministry exists to minister in the name of Jesus Christ to the physical and spiritual needs of the homeless and disadvantaged people in the Southcoast, greater New Bedford area. The vision is to help nurture and transform lives by the power of God.

Without the faithful congregation and volunteers at Grace Church, this ministry would not be possible. We need to continue to serve and grow the ministry to serve those in need. Times are getting more difficult; homelessness is increasing across the country. Here in New Bedford according to the Homeless Service Providers Network, 445 people in the city are living with homelessness. That is a 9% increase over last year's totals. The data shows there are a growing number of people in our city that don't know where their next meal will come from. Grace Church along with other faith ministries are filling the need but more must be done.

The breakfast ministry relies on volunteers and donations to continue its operation. We run a budget of \$5200 annually, which comes through grant money and donations that cover 100% of the ministry. This covers nonperishable foods and cooking, cleaning and paper products (plates, hot and cold cups, sterno, takeaway trays, trash bags, etc.). Other expenses like gas for cooking, water and electricity is funded by the church. The total amount does not compare to the value of time put in by the volunteers and members of Grace Church, which would multiply the figure many times over.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help this ministry. Growing the group and welcoming others to help serve our community is the ultimate goal. Donations and financial support through pledging will enable Grace Church to continue to be that shining light in the community. Through your generosity, the ministry will be able to fill a direct need many people depend on.

I leave you with the words of Jesus:

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." "Then the righteous will answer him, 'LORD, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Peace be with you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Vestry Notes and Votes

August 28th, 2019: The Vestry passed a motion of appreciation for the service of Donna Pires, the staff and the advisory board members over the twenty years of the Grace After School and Summer Program.

The Vestry voted unanimously to close the Grace After School and Summer Program (GASSP).

September 25th, 2019: The Vestry voted to approve expenditures, above the budgeted amounts, for the following categories, up to the limits stated below:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Revised Expenditure Limit</u>
Rector Travel Allowance	\$ 1,200
Payroll Service Fees	\$ 1,150
Church Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 20,000
Security/Fire Alarm	\$ 3,500
Rectory Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 3,000

The Vestry voted to accept a \$5,000 grant from the Karina Foundation with the stipulation it will be used as follows:

- \$ 2,500 for the benefit of the Pastoral Leadership Fund
- \$ 2,500 for the benefit of the Unrestricted Endowment Fund

The Vestry voted to approve allocation of the balance (\$1,700) cost of refinishing the Library floor, after direct donations of \$1,000, to the Outreach Ministry Fund.

Respectfully submitted, Diana Ukleja, Clerk

Advent~Christmas~Epiphany
Liturgical Highlights

November 30-December 1 ~ First of Advent
December 7-8 ~ Second of Advent
December 14-15 ~ Gaudete Sunday
10:00am ~ Children's Pageant
11:00am ~ Hanging of the Greens
December 21-22 ~ Fourth of Advent
December 24 ~ Christmas Eve
5:00pm ~ Children's Crèche & Festival Eucharist
7:00pm ~ Festival Eucharist
11:00pm ~ Midnight Mass
December 25 ~ Christmas Day
10:00am ~ Holy Eucharist
December 28-29 ~ First of Christmas
Baptism & Holy Eucharist
January 5 ~ Eve of the Epiphany
Festival of Lights & Holy Eucharist
January 11-12 ~ First after Epiphany
Baptism of Jesus

*Christmas Memorial
Flowers*

If you would like to sponsor flowers for the Christmas Season in honor or in memory of a loved one, a special event or in gratitude, please fill out the form (available in the church), place in the envelope with your contribution and place it in the offering plate or give it to Charlene Ryder. If you have questions contact Charlene at cryder22@comcast.net or 508-728-4374.

Please submit by December 15th in order for the name to appear in the Christmas Leaflets.

The Occasion Singers

It is with great sadness that I announce that the Occasion Singers will be disbanding after December 2019. We will be performing a final concert at Grace Episcopal Church on Sunday December 8th at 3PM. I am thrilled to announce that the Grace Church Youth Choir will be opening the program for us with a few Christmas selections. This will be a free concert with the opportunity to give a free will donation that will benefit the youth program at Grace Church. We have enjoyed 10 years of friendship, laughter, and music. We have been truly blessed.

Thank you all for your support through the years. Hope to see you in December!



Taizé is a service which offers a time of silence, simple repetitive songs, readings and prayers. We have a 30-minute Taizé service in the Chancel (choir pews near the altar) at 6PM on the second Wednesday of every month. We will have services on **November 13th** and **December 11th**.

You can learn more about Taizé at their website: <https://www.taize.fr/en>

Need to Unwind?

Thanksgiving and Christmas are wonderful times to gather with family and friends, but life can get very busy, a little hectic, and crowded with things to do. Here are some times and places we can join for quiet and reflection:

Any Wednesday ...

For those free to attend, the 10AM service on Wednesdays is a mid-week refresher. In December, we'll be playing recordings from a collection of John Dowland's work for lutes from 9-9:50AM.

At noon, bring your lunch to share in a discussion of the psalm read or sung on the previous Sunday. We have multiple translations – King James, the prayer book, even a book of haiku translations! – no prep time required.

On the second Wednesday of each month – **November 13th, December 11th** – come into the candlelit choir stalls of the church for a Taizé service of repetitive songs, brief readings and silence.

At the weekend ...

Well, there's church, of course!

On Sunday, November 3rd at 4PM in the conference room (reached through the office door) we continue the book study on Job, based on Richard Rohr's book, **Job and the Mystery of Suffering**. This study continues the first and third Sundays of November and December ... **November 17th, December 1st and December 15th.**

On **Saturday, November 23rd** (this is the weekend **before** Thanksgiving), Rev. Chris will lead a quiet morning. Come to the office door at the back of the church; we will meet in the

Youth Room at 9:30AM with coffee and snacks, finishing at noon with the Eucharist, followed by lunch. There is usually a reflection, followed by a time of silence, where we may disperse about the building or outdoors, then discussion or an additional reflection to finish the morning.

On **Sunday, November 24th**, Brother John of the Trinity will speak more about his view of the veil between this world and the next as present all around us.

As December has five Sundays, those who read one or both of Karen Armstrong's biographies this summer, are invited to a wrap-up discussion at 4PM on **Sunday, December 29th**. The books are:

- ***Through the Narrow Gate***, her account of seven years in an English Roman Catholic convent
- ***The Spiral Staircase***, her account of her struggles after leaving the convent

The wrap-up will be held in the conference room; please enter through the office door.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE E-NEWS

If you don't receive it already, you can subscribe to Grace Church's weekly e-news by going to www.gracechurchnb.org and clicking the "Subscribe" button at the top of the homepage.

You can also subscribe to the monthly e-mail newsletter of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, published the third Wednesday of the month. To subscribe, enter your e-mail address at

<http://www.diomass.org/subscribe>



M all of creation belongs to You, God.
Let us never consume in such a way
to suggest that we deserve more than
others. Rather, let us live our lives in clear
acknowledgement that all You have created is
intended to sustain all You have created. Cause
this food to feed our determination to share
more equally and live more justly.

Amen.

November 2019

Friday, November 1

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

Saturday, November 2

DIOCESAN CONVENTION

9AM Bittersweet Bazaar Drop-Off

5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, November 3

ALL SAINTS

7:30AM Community Breakfast

8AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30AM Choir Rehearsal

10AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11AM Church School & Youth Group

11AM Handbell Rehearsal

4PM Book Study: Job

Monday, November 4

6:30PM Finance Committee Mtg

Tuesday, November 5

BITTERSWEET BAZAAR SETUP

6PM ESOL

Wednesday, November 6

BITTERSWEET BAZAAR SETUP

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

10AM Holy Eucharist & Healing

11AM Staff Meeting

12PM Bible Study: Psalms

Thursday, November 7

BITTERSWEET BAZAAR SETUP

6PM ESOL

Friday, November 8

BITTERSWEET BAZAAR SETUP

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

6PM Bittersweet Bazaar Dinner

Saturday, November 9

BITTERSWEET BAZAAR

5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, November 10

7:30AM Community Breakfast

8AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30AM Choir Rehearsal

10AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11AM Youth Pie Making

11AM Kids' JAM

Tuesday, November 12

6PM ESOL

Wednesday, November 13

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

10AM Holy Eucharist & Healing

12PM Bible Study: Psalms

6PM Taizé

6:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 14

6PM ESOL

6:30PM Children & Youth Commission

Friday, November 15

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

Saturday, November 16

5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

6:30PM Youth Group Lock-in

Sunday, November 17

7:30AM Community Breakfast

8AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30AM Choir Rehearsal

10AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11AM Church School & Youth Group

11AM Handbell Rehearsal

3PM Sine Nomine Concert

4PM Book Study: Job

Tuesday, November 19

6PM ESOL

Wednesday, November 20

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

10AM Holy Eucharist & Healing

11AM Staff Meeting

12PM Bible Study: Psalms 130-150

6:30PM Vestry Meeting

6:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, November 21

6PM ESOL

Friday, November 22

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

Saturday, November 23

9AM Quiet Morning, Lunch & Eucharist

5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, November 24

CHRIST THE KING

HARVEST SUNDAY

7:30AM Community Breakfast

8AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30AM Choir Rehearsal

10AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11AM Church School & Youth Group

11AM Handbell Rehearsal

11AM Forum: Bro. John on the Veil

Monday, November 25

2PM Laundry Love

Tuesday, November 26

5PM Community Thanksgiving Dinner

6PM ESOL

Wednesday, November 27

MARTHA'S PANTRY CLOSED

10AM Morning Prayer

Thursday, November 28

THANKSGIVING

10AM Thanksgiving Service

Friday, November 29

MARTHA'S PANTRY CLOSED

Saturday, November 30

5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

December 2019

Sunday, December 1

ADVENT 1

- 7:30AM Community Breakfast
- 8AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 8:30AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 11AM Church School & Youth Group
- 11AM Handbell Rehearsal
- 4PM Book Study: Job

Tuesday, December 3

- 6PM ESOL

Wednesday, December 4

- 9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace
- 10AM Holy Eucharist & Healing
- 12PM Bible Study: Psalms 130-150
- 6:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 5

- 6PM ESOL

Friday, December 6

- 9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

Saturday, December 7

- 5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, December 8

ADVENT 2

- 7:30AM Community Breakfast
- 8AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 8:30AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 11AM Church School & Youth Group
- 11AM Handbell Rehearsal
- 3PM Occasion Singers Concert

Tuesday, December 10

- 6PM ESOL

Wednesday, December 11

- 9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace
- 10AM Holy Eucharist & Healing
- 12PM Bible Study: Psalms 130-150
- 6PM Taizé
- 6:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 12

- 4:30PM Sunset Socials Special Event
- 6PM ESOL
- 6:30PM Children & Youth Commission

Friday, December 13

- 9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

Saturday, December 14

ANGEL TREE DELIVERY

- 9AM Advent Pageant Rehearsal
- 11AM Kids' JAM
- 11AM Piano Party
- 5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, December 15

ADVENT 3, GAUDETE SUNDAY

ANGEL TREE DELIVERY

- 7:30AM Community Breakfast
- 8AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 8:30AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 11AM Greening of the Church
- 11AM Handbell Rehearsal
- 4PM Book Study: Job

Tuesday, December 17

- 6PM ESOL

Wednesday, December 18

- 9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace
- 10AM Holy Eucharist & Healing
- 11AM Staff Meeting
- 12PM Bible Study: Psalms 130-150
- 6:30PM Vestry Meeting
- 6:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 19

- 12PM ECW Meeting

- 6PM ESOL

Friday, December 20

- 9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

Saturday, December 21

- 5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, December 22

ADVENT 4

- 7:30AM Community Breakfast
- 8AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 8:30AM Choir Rehearsal
- 10AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 11AM Church School & Youth Group
- 11AM Handbell Rehearsal

Monday, December 23

- 2PM Laundry Love

Tuesday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

- 5PM Holy Eucharist & Children's Creche Service
- 7PM Festival Holy Eucharist
- 11PM Festival Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

- 10AM Christmas Holy Eucharist

Thursday, December 26

- 6PM ESOL

Friday, December 27

- 9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

Saturday, December 28

- 5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, December 29

- 7:30AM Community Breakfast
- 8AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 10AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Church Staff

Rector	Rev. Christopher Morck
Director of Music	Brian Roderick
Parish Administrator	Katie Brengle
Sexton	Patrick Victor
Verger	Gérald Croteau

Wardens & Officers

Senior Warden	Jean Pitcairn
Junior Warden	Charles Green
Treasurer	Sharlene Begley
Assistant Treasurer	Roberta Iglar
Clerk	Diana Ukleja

Vestry Members 2019

Travis Bowie
Rob DaSilva
Maureen Decker
John Evans
Kathleen Ferreira
Nadine Gomes
Mike Goulart
Judy Knox
Elizabeth Pye
Dana Sargent
Ryan Shea

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