



GRACE

NOTES

FROM THE RECTOR.....

In the midst of (really, because of) all of the wonderful things going on at Grace Church, I am deeply grateful!

An obvious example is the **Bittersweet Bazaar**. On behalf of the whole community, I want to express how much I appreciate all those who made this year's Bittersweet Bazaar such an incredible success! An interesting fact shared by a parishioner who counted the name tags we handed out on that Saturday was that we had over 100 members of the parish ministering as active participants during the Bazaar - greeting the community, working the tables, selling raffle tickets, preparing and serving food. This was during the actual event. Many more helped to set up, tear down, and contribute in other ways. This is really inspiring.

I especially want to thank our amazing Bazaar co-chairs, Linda Pope and Andy Sylvia, the chairs of the different tables, and all those who gave so generously of themselves. A special thank you to Bob Vowell who coordinated the kitchen for the first year and, by all accounts, did a fantastic job, and Donna Pires who, with such care and enthusiasm, sought donations and arranged about 30 (30!) different baskets for a very successful raffle.

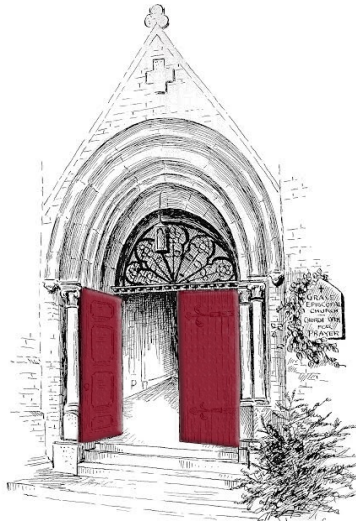
Just a few weeks before the Bazaar, over one hundred of us - both Grace members and friends of the parish - gathered together for our second of three fundraising meals for the **Grace in Community Restoration Fund**. Due to the tireless work of Mark Jeffrey and a great team of organizers who worked so hard to make the dinner and silent auction possible, we raised \$8,800 to restore our building, thus helping us to continue to open ourselves to and extend ourselves toward our surrounding community. Many commented to me afterward how truly fun this dinner was. Amidst the laughter, food, and fellowship, we ministered to each other and expressed God's own friendship with us in many different ways.

I also think of our **Fall Parish Clean-Up Day**. About 25 of us gathered together to work, clean, laugh, and eat. We cleaned the kitchen, library, and South Room, organized and polished pews, dusted altar rails, wiped windows and sills. Charlie Green even brought a lift and a group dusted those high, hard-to-reach places in the nave! Through these things we took care of Grace Church as the physical property and also Grace Church as each other.

We minister to each other in so many other ways as well and in the many regular weekly happenings here at Grace, all which leave me with a deep sense of gratitude for the people and relationships here. Through the many activities and ministries at Grace, we are Jesus to each other - to friends, family, and strangers alike. What a wonderful and sacred mystery!

Gratefully,
Chris +

Stewardship Campaign 2016



“Growing God’s Mission”

A letter from Chris and the pledge card were mailed to all of the parishioners in early October. If you did not receive a letter and pledge card, please contact the church office via phone 508-993-0547 or email office@gracechurchnb.org or email Beth Sharp at elizabethjsharp@gmail.com. You can also pick up a pledge card in the back of the sanctuary or in the narthex just before entering into the chapel. Prayerfully consider how to continue supporting and growing God’s work through the various ministries here at Grace Church. Unlike previous years, this year we will not have one specific in-gathering weekend, but rather we ask that you send in your pledge by **Tuesday, December 15, 2015** through the mail or place in the offering plate. Working together financially and physically as a church family will help to continue in *“Growing God’s Mission”* in New Bedford and the surrounding areas.

Stewardship Committee

Beth Sharp, Chairperson; Rev. Chris Morck, Rector; Charlie Capizano, Junior Warden; Anne Gundersen, Treasurer; Ned Hines, Terri Nowell, Kate Towers, and Robbie Watkins

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN.....

I don't think it is too early to look back on the year 2015 as it draws to a close. It has been an amazing year....I am overwhelmed by all the good work the Grace Community has accomplished. We wrapped up an almost 3 year discernment process in May when we called and elected the Rev Chris Morck as the 22nd Rector of Grace Church and in October, Bishop Alan Gates joined us for a service of Institution which emphasized the partnership that the parish formed with Rev Chris as we continue our voyage. In late August, the Rev Andrea Castner Wyatt joined us as our Curate and immediately stepped in to provide support to the group of hard working parishioners who have been mentoring the youth of our parish. Now we look forward to celebrating her ordination at Grace on December 12. With the announcement that our long serving Administrative Assistant, Rosemary Morgan, will retire at the end of this year, the Vestry looked at our staffing needs, along with talking with other parishes about their practices, and made the decision to combine our Administrative Assistant position with our Financial Manager position into a new Parish Administrator who will handle the tasks of both prior positions. As a result, at the end of October, we said good-bye to Judy Areano, our Financial Manager who move on to another position, and welcomed Wendy Mello as our Parish Administrator. At the end of December, we will bid a very fond farewell to Rosemary after over 20 years of service to Grace. We also said good-bye last spring to our Life Together Intern, Tori Laskey.

And that is just on the people side. We embarked on an effort to rebuild our lower level after the devastating damage caused by the July 2014 hurricane that flooded that area. That work is almost complete and it looks wonderful. In addition to the offices there will be a private meeting room and a room for our Youth. Care was taken to install energy efficient systems and new windows were added to the project. Additionally, the long needed work on our tower was begun. The steeple was removed and now part of the belfry area is being removed to ensure that the new steeple will have a safe base to rest on. We had hoped to finish this project before year's end but unanticipated conditions in the tower will likely delay installation of the new steeple until the warmer weather returns. Junior Warden Charlie Capizano and the Property team have been especially busy this year, we owe them a debt of gratitude for their vigilance in caring for the Grace properties.

All the while our Outreach work in the community, and beyond, continues to flourish. Before she left, Tori started us on a wonderful new mission project, Laundry Love. She built a core team who has carried on and grown this ministry during this past six months. It joins our other outreach efforts which include: Food Pantry, Community Breakfast, Soup Kitchen and Sunset Socials as well as the work of our Youth with the Rosebud Reservation. All of this work takes our time, talents and treasures. I was amazed to hear that over 100 Grace parishioners were at the church on Nov 7 to help with the Bazaar, and many others helped out ahead of time. Three days later, 35 parishioners and other Food Pantry volunteers were at the church to help provide Thanksgiving meals to those in need in our local community. We each have a part in these endeavors, I hope you'll consider how you can help these efforts in the coming year.

As part of the discernment process, we were challenged by the Diocese to define our longterm goals. At a summary level, the following 5 goals were adopted: Youth Ministry, Incorporation, Outreach/Mission, Facilities and Fiscal Responsibility (details can be found in the May 2015 edition of Grace Notes). As you can see from this note, we have been hard at work on our goals. During the next year, we will develop further particulars and new tactical steps as we continue our voyage together.

Please join us as we continue Grace's work.



Sunday, December 6, Respecting our Differences

Grace is a community like many others and sometimes we don't always agree on everything, but we do strive to respect the opinions of each other. At the time of his Institution as 22nd Rector of Grace, Rev. Chris was gifted with a Philadelphia Eagles jersey with the number 22. Yes, he is a long suffering Eagles fan!!! Rumor has it that he has taken to wearing that Eagles jersey for Eagles game days since then.....and may even be taking credit for the Eagles having a won games since the Institution service!!

On Sunday, December 6, the Eagles will square off against our New England Patriots. Odds are that our Rector will be wearing that Eagles jersey under his robes that weekend. Need I say more? Dig out your New England Patriots gear and wear it to church that weekend!!!

FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN...

The fall cleanup day focused on a deep internal cleaning of the church. About twenty five people participated at different times during the day. Charlie Green brought a lift and the church was cleaned from the rafters to the pews. Light bulbs were also replaced with the use of the lift. Some of the young people organized the books in the pews. The South Room was cleaned from top to bottom as well. Thanks to all who participated.

Len Boyce arranged for Chris Tracey, a local landscaper, to take away the brownstone and store it at his property; he also took away granite that we won't be using in our landscaping. Len, Jerre', Chris Tracey, Bill and Chris Reed and I met to select the granite to be used in the design for the front of the church. Chris Tracey spread the huge granite blocks out for selection and removed the pieces not to be used. In return for coming twice to the church to clear, remove and spread the tower stone, he will try to seek buyers for the stone stored at his site, Avant Gardens in Dartmouth. Any monies gained will pay for his two days of services. Having him there, in coordination with Chris Reed and his design team was extremely valuable, in facilitating the design of the landscaping.

Jim Perry, a parishioner, also helped in our efforts to reposition the trees and bushes from the front. He made numerous calls, but we were unsuccessful in trying to replant them elsewhere. Jerre' worked to reposition the perennials.

Joan Ann Niles graciously donated her services and materials to make the large poster (THE FACE OF GRACE, A MOSAIC) which is framed and on an easel in the church. She is also working on signs for our "sandwich board" for recurring events such as concerts and special services.

Two bids are in for the glass doors and we are awaiting a third from Bay State Windows and Glass the company that worked on the windows here at Grace. Mike Casey from that company was shown the windows in Rodman Hall, and he is sending someone back to seal them. Rosemary had mentioned that they did the rooms in the

South Room as well as the old office windows. I will talk to him about that as well.

The office area is coming along. There was a problem with the floor finish, which we asked to be redone. An epoxy finish has been selected and will be applied at no cost to us. When this is complete, the plumbing fixtures will be installed. Work still progresses on other aspects of the project. The HVAC system is in and has been tested. When the area is complete, some units may need to be fine tuned. The subway grate is installed and all the piping has been rectified and fitted with freeze protection devices. The hallway doors are in and the main door is scheduled to go in. Hopefully, this will be our parish Christmas present.

The tower is a work in progress. We are meeting November 19th with the engineer, Cenaxo and us. Repointing of the lower tower is progressing as planned. Mark Jeffrey has arranged with the Wamsutta Club to store stone and perhaps the assembled steeple over the winter. They have been very gracious with full cooperation.

Fundraising for the campaign is still on going. Our corporate and community outreach has been slow to get off the ground, no pun intended, but is still in the planning stages. The dinner and silent auction at the Wamsutta was very successful. Mark did a masterful job, as usual; he tirelessly offers his gifts to

Grace on many levels.

Work continues on fine tuning the heating system. D&G Services is working on upgrading the thermostats and exploring ways to control the zones in the building with a system compatible with the new furnaces. There are two possibilities; we will look for the most effective at the best price.

As always, members of the parish have given their time, talent and treasure in all that we do at Grace. It shows and it is evident to those outside of the parish.



VESTRY VOTES.....

At its meeting on October 28, 2015, the Vestry voted to:

- approve purchase of Grace office kitchen cabinets from New England Custom Woodworking for \$7,500.00, to be paid from Restoration Funds
- elicit Diocesan guidance to complete the required fixed asset and depreciation information for the preparation of a Statement of Cash Flows, needed for a complete audit; and to provide all policies and procedures to auditor for audit (and, in subsequent years, all new or amended policies and procedures)
- approve a request that the Miscellaneous budget be exceeded by \$8,000 to cover additional personnel costs

**THANK YOU FROM
THE BITTERSWEET BAZAAR**

We want to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of you who helped with our 36th annual Bittersweet Bazaar! Perhaps you cleaned out your attic, or bought something to donate to the Bazaar at a yard sale this past summer - little by little you helped us fill the church's undercroft; perhaps you helped us brainstorm at coffee hour and ended up making frozen dinners to go - these were very popular at the new Grace Market; perhaps you took a leaf from the Giving Tree and the item you bought helped fill a basket or became part of the Chinese auction or the Grace Market; perhaps you were able to solicit gift certificates from businesses and restaurants to be bid on through the Silent Auction, the Chinese Auction or the Baskets; perhaps you were part of advertising: our website, our E-news, newspapers, Facebook, posters placed in workplaces and supermarkets, and signs both inside and out- you helped let the people of the Southcoast know about this special day; perhaps you baked or cooked; perhaps you counted money in a locked room all day; perhaps you worked setting up or breaking down the Bazaar. It took ALL of you and more to pull this off. This one Saturday in November it all came together. WE all came together to do God's work.

Because of your generosity of spirit, time, and money we will be able to continue to infuse all of our outreach programs with monies and support. Thank you for your part in making this Bazaar so successful. May God bless you!

Linda and Andy

**THANK YOU TO
ROSEMARY MORGAN!**

As many of you know, Rosemary is retiring this month after serving Grace Church for over 23 years as our Administrative Assistant. Rosemary started her work at Grace in May of 1992, and since that time she has been the voice and face of Grace to all who enter or call the Grace office. Her pleasant and professional demeanor in person and on the phone has represented Grace so well to those both within and outside of the parish. So many have benefited from her extensive knowledge of the workings of Grace Church and the greater community. Her help in the day to day functions of the church has been invaluable. The many ways that Rosemary has furthered Grace's mission and ministries have been a blessing to so many. Thank you, Rosemary! Please join us for a festive Coffee Hour on **Sunday, January 3rd**, after the 10am service, to celebrate Rosemary's contribution to Grace's mission and ministries.

THANK YOU....

*from the Marion Institute and the
Connecting for Change Conference*

Dear Grace Church,

Thank you deeply for hosting the youth during Connecting for Change. Your hospitality and community support meant the world to the great young leaders who attended. I hope that we can work together in the future.

With gratitude,

Diana M. Painter
Connecting for Change Coordinator
Marion Institute



**With the Grace Of God
and the People Consenting**

**The Right Reverend Gayle Elizabeth Harris
Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Massachusetts**

Will Ordain

**Andrea Castner Wyatt
to the Sacred Priesthood**

**on Saturday, December 12, 2015
at 4:00 pm**

**Grace Episcopal Church
133 School Street
New Bedford, Massachusetts**

Clergy: Red Stole

Reception Following

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Altar Guild - *In memory of* Pearl Adams, Claire & Ralph Reed, Louise & Percy Shaw, and Richard Allison Reed.

Community Breakfast - *In thanksgiving by* James Bisagni and Norma Bossé.

Discretionary Fund - *In thanksgiving by* James & Barbara Trecker and Julienne R. Siwe Ngongang.

Flower Fund - *In memory of* Rick Bowie.

Food Pantry - *In memory of* Robert Corbett and Joseph & Theresa Guillemette. *In thanksgiving by* Southeastern Insurance Agency, Edith Lauderdale, M/M Kenneth Dunaway, M/M Donald Driesen and M/M Charles Austin.

Laundry Love - *In thanksgiving by* Frank Perrine, First Citizens' Federal Credit Union.

Restoration Fund - *In thanksgiving by* the Rev. Kevin T. Taylor, M/M Michael Shea, M/M George Morgan, Nancy C. Crosby, M/M Michael Goulart and M/M Randall Correia.

LITURGY & LITURGICAL MINISTRY

Jerré Croteau, Verger

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS

With December we plunge into a new liturgical year. The readings assigned to Sundays are on a three-year cycle. We just concluded Year B and begin Year C. The Gospels for Year C concentrate on those according to St. Luke, though there is an occasional deviation. Also during Advent, we will find the use of canticles often in place of the Psalm. Canticles are lyrical or poetic passages of Scripture. The color for Advent at Grace is blue, with a touch of rose on the third Sunday. The Advent wreath marks the passage of time as we await Jesus' birth. One candle is lit each week, until all four are lit on the fourth of Advent. An ancient prayer called the "Trisagion" replaces the Gloria. You will note that flowers are absent from the altar during this solemn season. However in the north transept you will find a tree with angels on it. This is for the Angel Tree Program; the angels have the names of unfortunate children who have incarcerated parents.

The word Advent is from the past participle of the Latin verb *advenire* which literally means to "come towards". The four weeks of Advent represent the time during which God's people awaited the Messiah and advanced toward his coming.

The First of Advent is actually on November 29 this year. Regular Advent Eucharists will occur at the 5 pm on Saturday, and at 8 and 10 am on Sunday. December 5-6 will be the Second of Advent with regular services. It being the first Sunday of the month, healing prayers will be offered before the Saturday service and after the eight-o'clock on Sunday.

The following weekend is, however, a little different from the norm. On Saturday, December 12, at 4 pm the celebration of the Ordination of our own Andrea Castner Wyatt to the priesthood will take place in the main church with the Right Reverend Gayle Harris presiding. Sunday, December 13 is the Third of Advent which is also called Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete!* in Latin means "Rejoice!", the wait is almost over. It is one of two Sundays during the year that rose vestments may be worn. Andrea will celebrate her first Mass as a priest at the ten-o'clock service.

December 19-20 is the Fourth of Advent. There will be regular services at 5 pm on Saturday and 8 am on Sunday. However, 10 am service on Sunday will feature our annual tradition of the Children's Pageant which replaces the Liturgy of the Word. The Children's Eucharistic Prayer will be used at this service. The service is immediately followed by one of Grace's cherished traditions, the Hanging of the Greens. Adult and youth volunteers are needed to hang the greens, place the aisle candelabra, and arrange and decorate the Crèche. Children are invited to convert the Angel Tree to a Christmas Tree. A lunch will be provided later for the hungry volunteers.

That same afternoon at 4 pm a service of Lessons & Carols will take place. This is a beautiful evensong, with wonderful seasonal readings. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Then on Thursday evening, the season of Advent ends, and the shortest liturgical season of the year begins, the season of Christmas, which is exactly twelve days long, December 25 through January 5. On Christmas Eve there are three services. The first is the Children's Crèche at 5 pm, a story-telling service for toddlers and young children. Then at 7 pm the pageantry of a Festival Eucharist takes place, with two choirs and a joyous procession. The Christ Child is placed in the manger during this service. Later at 11 pm we have Grace's version of Midnight Mass with beautiful music and great pageantry and incense. On Christmas Morning, Friday at 10 am, an intimate Eucharist in the chancel of the main church takes place.

December 26-27 is the First Sunday of Christmas (the second and third day of Christmas) with regular services that weekend. The next weekend, January 2-3 is the Second Sunday of Christmas. The afternoon of January 3rd at 4 pm, we celebrate another Grace Church tradition, the Epiphany Festival of Lights. Christmas ends on Tuesday, January 5, and the season of Epiphany begins, more about which will appear in the January Grace Notes.

WEDNESDAYS IN DECEMBER

On the Wednesdays in December the usual Holy Eucharist and Healing service will occur. We celebrate St. Andrew the Apostle on December 2; Thomas Merton on December 9, *O Sapientia* on December 16, and St. Thomas the Apostle on December 23. On December 30 there will be Morning Prayer celebrating the feast of St. John.

A word about the *O Sapientia* celebrated on December 16. This is the first of seven antiphons marking the last days of Advent (December 17-23). The antiphons are December 17: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom); December 18: *O Adonai* (O Lord); December 19: *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse); December 20: *O Clavis David* (O Key of David); December 21: *O Oriens* (O Dayspring); December 22: *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the nations); December 23: *O Emmanuel* (O With Us is God). In the Roman Catholic tradition, the *O Antiphons* are sung or recited at Vespers from December 17 to December 23 inclusive. Some Anglican churches also use them, either in the same way as modern Roman Catholics, or according to a

🍷 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS 🍷

CRÈCHE

and Original Virgin Mary & St. Joseph, 1963; Christ Child, 1977
(replacment for original Christ Child, 1963); and Shephard & Donkey, 1977

Given in memory of Jacob Handy by Lulmira Handy

CHRIST CHILD, 1999

Given in thanksgiving by the Rev. Sarah K. Hague

THE MAGI, 1979

Given by the Grace Memorial Fund

NEW SET OF CRÈCHE STATUARY 2014

Given in memory of:

Robert Boardman by Jerré Croteau

Richard Bowie by Travis Bowie

Ronald Guillemette by Priscilla Guillemette

Norman Lopes by Geraldine Lopes

Adele Smialek by Alfred Smialek

Una Vincent by Helen Bryant

Dorothy & Penry Warr by Michel Jodoin & John Masson

ADVENT WREATH & CANDLESTAND, 1994

Given in thanksgiving by Mr & Mrs. Alfred Smialek, Peter & David Smialek

BLUE ADVENT BURSE, VEIL & HANGINGS, 2000

Handwoven gift given in thanksgiving by Patricia Nieman

CHURCH WREATHS, GREENS & TRIMMINGS, 2000

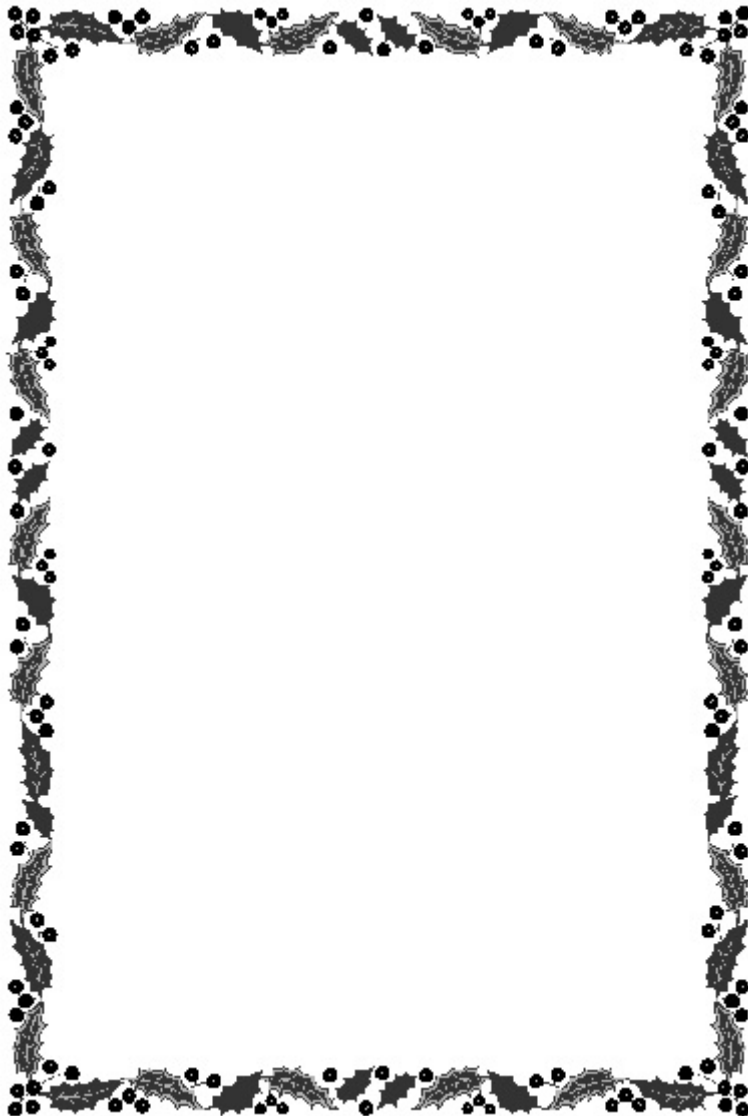
*Given in memory of Kennedy Shaw, Richard Hagen & The Rev. Clifford Kolb
by Jerré Croteau & Robert Boardman*

PEW CANDELABRA, 1947

Given 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, 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 donated by the Klarén Family



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 28-29 ~ First of Advent

Angel Tree

December 4

8 pm Sippican Concert

December 5-6 ~ Second of Advent

December 12

4 pm Ordination of the
Rev. Andrea Castner Wyatt

December 13 ~ Third of Advent

Gaudete Sunday

4 pm One Voice Choir

December 20 ~ Fourth of Advent

10 am Children's Pageant & Eucharist

11 am Hanging of the Greens

4 pm Lessons & Carols

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

5 pm Children's Crèche

7 pm Festival Eucharist

11pm Midnight Mass

December 25 ~ Christmas Day

10 am Holy Eucharist

January 3

4pm Epiphany Festival of Lights

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE

Sunday, December 20 - 4:00 pm

with

The Grace Church Choir
Dwight Thomas, organist

A service of readings and music for the
Christmas season.

EPIPHANY FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



Sunday, January 3, 2016
4:00pm

TOGETHER NOW UPDATE

We have just received our third quarter disbursement of TogetherNow funds for 2015. We have 65 donors, pledging a total of \$426,311.94. While 30% of this supports the Diocese of Massachusetts in vital initiatives of ministry and mission, 70% supports Grace Church in the areas of Pastoral Leadership, Reserved Long-term Maintenance, and New Outreach Initiatives. The latest disbursement was \$10,941.70, making the current total already received by Grace \$164,106.93. Thank you to all of us who contributed to this campaign! Travis Bowie continues as chair, and you can talk with her, Paula Cabral, or Chris if you have any questions.

TogetherNow funds help us as we...

Deepen our engagement in mission outside the church walls: 10% of funds

These funds are designated to further the hopes and dreams of our Grace Church family in Mission and Outreach, allowing us to explore possibilities over and above what we are presently doing.

Expand our ministry to Grace and the New Bedford community through pastoral leadership and programs: 65% of funds

These funds help Grace to staff vital ministry positions, providing funding which complements our annual giving for the next several years while we work together to meet this need long-term through our own increased and faithful stewardship. Working alongside our committed community of faith, these positions will help us nurture an environment which continues to allow for growth and depth in our common life together.

Seed the future by gathering funds to make necessary improvements to our church building: 25% of funds

These funds support future parish planning for our worship and program space, and are invested in a preventative maintenance account through our endowment so that we are better prepared for the maintenance which our building requires.

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY

During the winter season,
our Wednesday 10am service
will be cancelled if
the New Bedford Public Schools
are cancelled or delayed for
inclement weather on that day.



FOOD PANTRY

-Sharlene Begley, Coordinator

Each year the Grace Church Food Pantry is able to provide Thanksgiving dinners to those in need in the Greater New Bedford community. Thanks to our partners at the Greater Boston Food Bank and the generosity of our parishioners, we were able to again provide those meals this year. On November 10, over 100 meals, consisting of a turkey or chicken and all the fixings were provided to local households. Fresh produce in the form of potatoes, onions, turnips, carrots, squash, kale, apples, pears and grapefruit were in abundance. The church library was a beehive of activity most of the day as over 11,000 pounds of food from Boston was unloaded and tables set up for distribution of the meals.

This event is not possible without the generous gifts of time provided by parishioners and non parishioners alike. Approximately 35 volunteers helped out that day. Though most are parishioners, some regular Food Pantry volunteers are non parishioners....and two of those brought their spouses along to help out!. We are also grateful to those who brought a turkey to church the weekend before the event. Those turkeys helped ensure that enough were available to all in need.

As we head into the holiday season, please remember the Food Pantry. At this time of the year, hearty soups are particularly in demand. And we can always recycle your plastic bags for you.

ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

Grace Church will be providing Christmas gifts to 50 children this year through the Angel Tree Program, a ministry that provides gifts for children who have an incarcerated parent.

The suggested price range for a gift for one of the children is \$15-\$25. Gift tags will hang on our Angel Tree in the Church the weekend of November 29/30. To help, all you need to do is take one of the tags from the tree, purchase the gift, and bring the wrapped gift to Church prior to December 14 for delivery to the families. Each tag provides all purchase information.

If you are willing or able to help with organizing gifts for delivery or with delivering the gifts to the families, please contact Charlene Ryder, Angel Tree Program Coordinator at cryder@umassd.edu.

Thank you.



The next Laundry Love event will take place December 28th at Super Laundromat 80 Summer St., New Bedford from 3-5:00 pm. All are welcome to attend and feel the love!

Five volunteers from Citizens' Federal Credit Union volunteered their time at the November event. The Credit Union also made a very generous donation of \$600 to the program. Thank you so much for your generosity.

CHURCH SCHOOL

-Melissa Botelho, Children's Minister

WHAT'S COMING UP!

December 19th

Pageant rehearsal **9am-11am** in the main church

December 20th

Advent pageant during the 10 o'clock service. Please meet in the church school area at **9:30am**. **No Church school**, but please stay after the service for annual greening of the church and lunch.

December 24th

Children's crèche service, **5pm**. This is a unique service for children where we sing carols, pray, and hear the story of the journey to Bethlehem. Please stay for a **soup and bread supper** and then join us for the **7 o'clock** Christmas Eve family Eucharist.

December 27th- No church school

FYI:

Worship bags are available for children at the back of the church for use during the service. They contain a weekly child oriented bulletin and various activities and quiet games. Please return the bags with games and crayons after the service.

If you have not registered your child for church school yet please let your child's church school teacher know or see Melissa Botelho for registration information. Any child age 3 through grade 5 is welcome in church school.

Thank you to all the Church School children and families who are participating with the weekly **Offering Envelopes**. The Church School Children have been given individual offering envelopes during Church School and are invited to bring these donation envelopes weekly to help the mission and ministry of Grace Church. The envelopes are collected in Children's Chapel and presented at the Offertory by representatives of Church School classes, or may be placed in the offering plate during Children's Liturgy Sundays. If your child has not received their Offering Envelopes, please speak to your classroom teachers.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE!

Let's talk **Safe Church!** Keep your eyes peeled. There are lots of places at Grace that little kids can wander off to. An adult should pick up the children at 11:55am in the church school area. The children are not dismissed from their classrooms unattended or with another church school aged sibling.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRY

- Coffee and conversation at St. Margaret's Convent in Duxbury

The Sisters of St. Margaret offer conversation on Advent at their home in Duxbury on Thursday, December 3rd, at 10:00. Contact Diana Ukleja (508-415-8920) if you would like a ride.

- A Christmas Carol

The Sisters are offering a dramatic reading of this classic, followed by afternoon tea, on Sunday, December 27th, at 3:00 pm. They ask those planning to attend to RSVP to 781-934-9477 x501.

- A Quiet Day for the New Year

The Rev. Andrea Wyatt and Steve Matthews, Director of the Southcoast mission hub, will lead a quiet day on Saturday, January 23rd, from 9:00 to 1:00. We begin with cake and coffee and end with lunch, both in the South Room. The program alternates times of discussion with times to scatter through the building for quiet reflection.

- Off Screen and Unplugged

Sr. Kristina Frances, SSM, will lead a quiet day at the Convent in Duxbury on Saturday, February 27th, from 9:00 to 1:00. Lunch is included; there is a fee of \$25. RSVP to 781-934-9477 x501.

- Book Discussion

The title of Rachel Held Evans' book [A Year of Biblical Womanhood](#) may be misleading. For a woman born and raised among evangelicals in Alabama, she is open-minded and open-hearted. In her November chapter, "Domesticity", she worked from two Martha Stewart books (the [Cooking School](#) and the [Housekeeping Handbook](#)) and discussed the pleasures of a reorganized kitchen. I no longer fear her December chapter, "Obedience" – do join me on Sunday the 13th at 4 for tea and conversation, to learn more. The January chapter is "Valor", and the date is Sunday, January 10th, at 204 Maple Street in New Bedford.

-Diana Ukleja, the Rev. Andrea Wyatt, Louise Kelly, John of the Trinity

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit that they may have courage and hope in their troubles: **Dr. Mark Scheffer** (Cousin of Charlie & Valerie Capizano), **Maggie Boyce** (Member), **Delaney Gove** (Daughter of Darcii Moran), **Kenneth Kadra & Elizabeth Twitchell** (Friends of Beverly Days), **Helen D'Alessandro** (Cousin of Rosemary Morgan), **Jack Haney** (Member), **Lois Minney** (Friend of Rillis Wtkins), **Shirley Gehardt** (Cousin of Ken Garrett) **Jill Horton-Simms** (Member), **Elayne Horton** (Stepmother of Jill Horton-Simms), **Nedra Lopes** (Friend of Peter & Sharon Nowell and Richard Fabio), **Judith Miller Phelps** (Sister of Janet Doe), **Joan Reed** (Member), **Russell Costa** (Member), **Debbie Olden** (Friend of Charlene Nelson), **Terri Nowell** (Member), **Dorothy Montague** (Mother of Jim Montague), **Daniel Schwartz** (Step-father of Nicole Montague), **Bernardo Cabral** (Friend of Dana Sargent), **Joshua, Brett, Nicholas & Sebastian Hernandez** (Family of Franco Hernandez), **Jeanne Pallatroni** (Friend of Joan Swain), **Norma Ryder** (Member), **Randy McGregor** (Brother of Carl McGregor), **Thomas Botelho** (Member), **Carol & David Forbes** (Daughter and Son-in-law of June St. Pierre), **Joy Bancroft** (Member), **Hope Eunice Choquette** (Niece of Leo Choquette), **Cecelia Sykes** (Member), **Ruth Richards** (Member), **Ian Kinney** (Grandson of Pat Buckles), **Saphirra & A.J. DaSilva** (Friends of Nina Catelli Vincent), **Suzanne Porter** (Cousin of Rillis Watkins), **Fred Melo** (Father of Filomena Melo), **Charles & Beverly Days** (Members), **William Days** (Brother of Charles Days), **Native American Communities in the United States and especially for the Lakota Rosebud Reservation**, **Janet Doe** (Member), **Claire Driesen** (Member), **Mildred Rigby** (Member), **Sheila Lopes** (Sister-in-Law of Joan Swain), **Claire Morel** (Member), **Malicia Watkins** (Niece of Robbie Watkins), **Stephanie Taylor Moynier** (Daughter of Priscilla Taylor), **DLH, Lisa Birknes Tavares, Ray Gurette & Muriel Foster** (Friends & Sister of Terri Nowell), **Linda Massa** (Member), **Bryan Lopes, Ron Wisti & Mary** (Stepson & Friends of Gerry Lopes), **Randy Pollard** (Member), **Kim Traynor** (Daughter of Judy St. John), **Beverly Haig** (Sister of Eileen Mandy), **Maureen Steward** (Daughter of Mary Salmon, a friend of Richard Fabio), **Caroline Soares** (Mother-in-law of Margaret Acevedo), **Jack Walker** (Son of Beverly Days), **Dennis Uchman** (Brother of Sandi Jaikes), **Julie Schmidt** (Member), **Elaine LeBoeuf** (Friend of Emily Collins), **Martha Rosewell** (Sister of Mary Lou Garrett), **Danielle Austin** (Daughter of Charles & Linda Austin), **Rick Brown & Arthur Cuddy** (Husband & Friend of Jean Brown), **Adam LeComte & Donald Reynolds** (Grandson & Nephew of John Medeiros), **Bill and Pauline Hart** (Friends of Richard Fabio), **Aza Johnson** (Niece of Carol Johnson), **Swede Chaves** (Friend of Nancy Mularczyk), **Dolores Desroches** (Friend of Paula Cabral), **Amy Dean, John Moore, Maria dos Santos, Nicholas Claudion** (Friends of Tom Davis), **Don Booth & Barbara Gracia** (Former Member and friend of Travis Bowie).

Pray for the newly baptized: **Sophie Frances Greeding** (Daughter of Christopher & Katelyn Greeding and granddaughter of Harry & Barbara Greeding).

Pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in God's eternal Kingdom: **Edna Jean Hendricks** (Mother of Jerald Ulrich) and **Mary Schwartz** (Step-grandmother of Nicole Montague).

Armed Forces: **James H. Horton** (Nephew of Jill Horton-Simms), **Tobin Blatchford & Yoav Gray** (Friends of George & Pam McNamara) **Harry Walker** (Son of Memory Holloway), **Cameron Sweet** (Member), **Samuel Ellis** (Son of Maria Ellis), **James Kinney** (Grandson of Al & Pat Buckles), **Brian Paradise** (Nephew of John & Pam Evans), **Aaron Patenaude** (Grandson of Hubert & June St. Pierre), **Kenneth Monteiro** (Member), **David Monteiro** (Member), **Thomas Storer** (Grandson of Ronald & Judy St. John), **Jorge Lee Vega, Dana Gilmour** (Grandson of Peggy Fellouris), **Sasha Knezevic** (Nephew of Diana Ukleja), **Emily Decelles** (Friend of Joan Ann Niles), **Alison Bruenjes** (grandniece of Joan Swain).

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2016 offering envelopes will be available on the table in the Chapel Lobby beginning December 5th. Please help us save the cost of postage and pick up your envelopes while at church. They will be arranged alphabetically. Please take the envelopes with your name on them and not by number. **We have consolidated envelope numbers so your number may have changed.**

If you don't find your offering envelopes, please be in touch with Wendy or Rosemary by calling the Church Office at 508-993-0547.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2015</h1>						
		1 10:00am Staff Meeting 6-8pm ESOL	2 9:30am Food Pantry 10:00am Holy Eucharist & Healing 6:30pm Youth Choir	3 10:00am Coffee/Conversation at St. Margaret's 6-8pm ESOL 6:30pm Children & Youth Commission	4 9:30am Food Pantry 8:00pm Sippican Choral Society Concert	5 5:00pm Holy Eucharist
6 2 Advent 7:30am Community Breakfast 8:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite 2 11:00am Church School, Youth Groups, Coffee Hour	7 Office Closed 6:30pm Eucharistic Visitor Mtg.	8 10:00am Staff Meeting 6-8pm ESOL	9 9:30am Food Pantry 10:00am Holy Eucharist & Healing 6:30pm Youth Choir	10 3-7pm Sunset Social 6-8pm ESOL	11 9:30am Food Pantry	12 4:00pm Ordination of The Rev. Andrea Wyatt
13 3 Advent 7:30am Community Breakfast 8:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite 2 11:00am Church School, Youth Groups, Coffee Hour 4:00pm One Voice Choir Book Discussion	14 Office Closed	15 10:00am Staff Meeting 6-8pm ESOL	16 9:30am Food Pantry 10:00am Holy Eucharist & Healing 12:00pm ECW Meeting 6:30pm Youth Choir 7:00pm Vestry Meeting	17 6-8pm ESOL	18 9:30am Food Pantry	19 9-11am Pageant Rehearsal 5:00pm Holy Eucharist
20 4 Advent 7:30am Community Breakfast 8:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Children meet in the Church School 10:00am Holy Eucharist & Children's Pageant 11:00am Hanging of the Greens Delivery of Poinsettias to shut-ins 4:00pm Lessons & Carols	21 Office Closed	22 10:00am Staff Meeting 6-8pm ESOL	23 9:30am Food Pantry 10:00am Holy Eucharist & Healing 6:30pm Youth Choir	24 Christmas Eve 5:00pm Children's Crèche Service 6:00pm Soup & Bread Supper 7:00pm Holy Eucharist 11:00pm Holy Eucharist	25 Christmas Day 10:00am Holy Eucharist	26 5:00pm Holy Eucharist
27 1 Christmas 7:30am Community Breakfast 8:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite 2 11:00am Church School, Youth Groups, Coffee Hour 3:00pm A Christmas Carol/Tea at St. Margaret's	28 Office Closed 3-5pm Laundry Love	29 6-8pm ESOL	30 9:30am Food Pantry 10:00am Holy Eucharist & Healing	31		

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
133 SCHOOL STREET, NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740**

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Grace Church Staff

Rector The Rev. Christopher R. Morck
Curate. The Rev. Andrea Castner Wyatt
Director of Music. Brian Roderick
Children's Minister. Melissa Botelho
Parish Administrator. Wendy Mello
Administrative Assistant. Rosemary Morgan
Sexton. Patrick Victor
Verger. Gérald Croteau

After School Program Staff

Program Director. Donna Pires
Site Coordinator. Kaitlyn Vieira
Group Leader. Kelsey Johnson

Grace Church Wardens and Officers

Sharlene Begley. Senior Warden
Charles Capizano. Junior Warden
Anne Gundersen. Treasurer
Dana Sargent. Assistant Treasurer
Elizabeth Pye. Clerk

Grace Church Vestry Members

Leonard Boyce
Allen Decker
Michael Doe
Michael Goulart
Albert Hines
Michelle Luth
James McKay
James Montague
Samuel St. Gelais
Andrew Sylvia
Robbie Watkins

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