



# Grace Notes

Jan/Feb 2020

## Rector Annual Report, 2019

By Rev. Chris Morck

As we end one year and begin another together, I want to start by inviting you to please share with the vestry and me how you are experiencing the journey and what you are seeing, hearing, and feeling about God's call on our common life as you pray, work, and fellowship here at Grace Church.

This past year has seen some significant change at Grace. One long-standing program, the Grace After-School and Summer Program, has closed gracefully while a 40-year annual tradition, the Bittersweet Bazaar, has come to a very successful end. We have even had a change in our worship ceremonies as our Epiphany service, Festival of Lights, moved into the Sunday, 10AM service.

Change this year is not only in endings, but also in beginnings. We witnessed the start of both Lenten and monthly Taizé services and a new parishioner-initiated Umbrella ministry which includes "Christ in the Kitchen" and ridesharing. The impact is already being felt as we strengthen our relationships and care for one another.

Another change is in the emphasis of Grace's leadership as we make an intentional pivot from a focus on finances and our building (which, yes, will always be important) to the nurturing and nourishing of the community we are, while we continue to minister to the wider community of which we are a part.

Of course, this past year of change follows the last several which included significant adjustments in our parish administration, financial system,

and personnel... even our office hours. We welcomed new ministry like Laundry Love and bid farewell to long-standing traditions and programs like the Thrift Shop. There have even been remarkable aesthetic changes, like a new steeple and office area.

This has all resulted, I believe, in Grace Church being in a better place to continue and grow its ministry. Yet, in the midst of endings and beginnings, we naturally could feel a sense of instability, even distress or grief, as change happens and our sense of identity shifts.

In other words, it could feel like we are on the J Curve.

The Rev. Scott Stoner speaks of the J Curve as a particularly helpful concept to explain why change, whether planned or unplanned, creates stress and uncertainty.

As you can see on the following page, the J Curve has a vertical axis *Stability* and a horizontal axis *Openness/Growth*. Especially when positive change is planned and freely chosen, the dotted line shows the trajectory we expect to see or, at the least, would like to see - a path where each day we experience increased feelings of both stability and growth.

While we expect planned change to follow that path, the reality is that all change, not just unplanned or negative change but even positive change, initially creates a period of instability. This is shown on the curve, as the initial movement toward openness and growth is accompanied by an initial decrease in stability.

The Rev. Stoner uses the example of the Exodus, when Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. The people choose to leave and, understandably, are excited to set out on the journey to freedom. But after they set off, the people get frustrated. The journey is not what they had expected, and they want to turn back. This is the bottom of their J Curve as they yearn for the stability of the past, of the status quo. Of course, they are led by Moses to continue on and they eventually enter a new season of fruitfulness.

We know how that story turns out. In another story we can only imagine. It is in John 9 that we hear of Jesus healing a man born blind. Presumably, the man desired healing and this miracle

was a welcomed, life-giving opportunity for him. It sounds great! Yet, the instability that this miracle effects in his life would have been tremendous. Healing means radical change - to old patterns, identity, ways of doing things, that which was familiar. In his case, it even would have altered his livelihood. What is known and what “worked” doesn’t work anymore. Jesus gives him his sight, and now he has to do the heavy lifting of living into a new way of being and letting go of the old.

At first, all change creates instability and yet to experience the fruits of growth we must be willing to persevere through the discomfort and stress that naturally come with this. As the Rev. Stoner puts it:

Such perseverance is greatly aided by the support of others and by the support of one's hope and knowledge that such times of stress and change are not signs that things are falling apart, but rather are signs that things are coming together in a new and different way. This very understanding can help us develop the patience and perspective needed to move through the challenging times of transition, planned and unplanned, that we all face.

What might this mean for Grace Church? For one, the J Curve could help us to reflect on all of the changes that have happened in our common life during the last few years, where we are now, and

where the Spirit could be leading us.

It also highlights that successfully navigating the J Curve depends on us – on all of us. We are called to continue the journey while expectantly listening and fruitfully sharing together. As we prayerfully support each other, I truly believe that we are moving into a new place of stability, openness to new opportunities, and growth in its many forms. We are even experiencing some of this right now.

These past years have been a wonderful time of ministry. It is so good to be together as we continue to discern and follow where God is leading us in the future!

With gratitude,  
Chris +

## The J Curve Phenomenon

### *Change Is Inevitable, Growth Is Optional*

The “J” curve shows us that when change occurs, whether that change is planned or unplanned, we will have two very different experiences. On the one hand, we will feel a new openness (growth) about the future that we are working to create; our horizons have opened to new possibilities that we could not see before. At the same time, we have never been here before, and we will often find ourselves feeling less stable, less sure of ourselves.

The book of Exodus describes the dramatic journey of the Hebrew people as they are led by Moses from their slavery in Egypt to their new freedom in what is now Israel. Do you remember the reaction of Moses’ followers soon after they had escaped, once they realized that their journey to freedom was going to take a lot longer than they realized? They wanted to go back to the slavery that they so desperately had longed to escape. Why? Because they were on the downward slope of the “J” curve, their stability was declining at a rate much faster than their new future was opening up to them. Stability, even slavery, can tempt us to retreat, when at first our new venture of change is making us feel worse in the short run.

If you look closely at the diagram, you will see that the stability drops faster than the corresponding gains in openness. This is common when we are first making a big



change, especially if the change has not been completely our own choice. Not understanding that growth often means an initial time when stability declines has caused many people and organizations to turn around and go back to their Comfort Zones. The “J” curve shows that with perseverance, in time we actually experience greater stability and great openness (growth).

The top line of the diagram reveals how our ego expects change and growth to occur. The ego wants the path forward to go something like “7 steps to a better you” and wants every day to be better than the previous day. The descent of the “J” curve is a journey of the soul.

- Looking back at your life, can you recognize a “J” curve – either humorous or serious--that you have navigated successfully? Share a little bit of that with the people around you.
- “J” curves help us to understand how individuals change and grow. Discuss examples of how the concept of a “J” curve also applies to relationships, organizations, and/or congregations?
- Discuss the idea that the top line of the diagram is what the ego expects, while the descent of the “J” curve represents the journey of the soul.
- What attitudes, mindsets, and/or choices help us to successfully navigate a “J” curve? What attitudes, mindsets, and/or choices delay or prevent us from successfully navigating a “J” curve?
- Extra credit question: Can you think of another Biblical example of a person or group of persons working through a “J” curve?



*“I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:39).*

## Liturgy & Liturgical Ministry

By Jerré Croteau, Verger

### Season of Epiphany

We started the Liturgical Year with the First Sunday of Advent; now, with the beginning of the secular year we close out the Season of Christmas and begin the season of Epiphany. This season can be as long as nine weeks, depending on the date of Ash Wednesday, which in turn is dependent on the date of Easter. This year Epiphany is seven weeks long. Except for the first Sunday after Epiphany, the season color is **green**. During the Epiphany we are using Eucharistic Prayer C and Prayers of the People based on the lectionary at the Rite II services.

On the first weekend in January, we are still in the season of Christmas, which everyone knows from the tedious carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is twelve days long ending on January 5th. Epiphany is actually Monday, January 6th. This year at the Saturday 5PM and Sunday 8AM services we will celebrate the **Second Sunday of Christmas**. On Sunday, January 5th, the last Day of Christmas and **Eve of the Epiphany** at 10AM, a special annual service will take place, **The Epiphany Festival of Lights**. Like last year it will incorporate **Holy Eucharist**. We do not know exactly when Grace began this tradition on the Sunday nearest Epiphany but it seems to have begun very early in our history. It is part pageant, part Evensong, and today also Eucharist. The

readings and most of the hymns are traditional to this service, and it is traditional that all our Acolytes participate in it. In it we see the anticipation and the Incarnation, as well as the spreading of the Gospel to all peoples, symbolized by the coming of the Magi, the calling of the Apostles, and the dissemination of the Light of Christ to the whole world.

The following weekend, January 11th-12th, we celebrate the **First Sunday after the Epiphany** and **The Baptism of Jesus**. It is one of the Sundays that Baptisms usually happen. If no one is to be baptized, we renew our own Baptismal Covenant at all the services. After this the Sundays of Epiphany follow each other. January 19th, and February 16th, **The Second and Sixth Sundays after Epiphany** feature **Children's Liturgy** at the 10AM service. Also on January 19th, in the afternoon, there will be an ecumenical **Martin Luther King, Jr.** service here at Grace. January 26th, **The Third Sunday after Epiphany**, we honor our **Outreach Services** and all who volunteer for these programs. The weekend of February 1st-2nd intervenes in the Sundays of Epiphany as this year, one of the major Christian feast days falls on the Sunday, **The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple**, which has its own lectionary readings. It is also the first Sunday of the month and the services will include Healing Prayers.

The weekend of February 22nd-23rd ends the season with **The Last Sunday after Epiphany**. The

Wednesday following is **Ash Wednesday**, beginning the **Lenten Season**.

### Wednesdays in January & February

At the Wednesday 10AM Eucharists we will be celebrating: **The Holy Name of Jesus** on January 1st; **Harriet Bredell** on January 8th and a **Taizé** service will take place this same day at 6PM; **Martin Luther King, Jr.** on January 15th; **Phillips Brooks** (the first Bishop to preach in our current Church building and in honor of whom our Baptistry is named, and whose rather scary statue stands outside Trinity Church in Boston) on January 22nd; **Thomas Aquinas** on January 29th; **The Martyrs of Japan** on February 5th; **Absolom Jones** on February 12th, which will also be the date of the February **Taizé** service at 6PM; **Martin Luther** on February 19th, and **Ash Wednesday** on February 26th.

### LAY MINISTERS, ACOLYTES & ACOLYTE PARENTS, USHERS & GREETERS

**Just a reminder that all available Acolytes are scheduled for the January 5th Epiphany Festival of Lights at 10AM.** There are over thirty positions for Acolytes to fill for this ancient tradition and we will need everyone who is available.

The next season and schedule begins **February 29th** with the First Sunday in Lent and ends on **June 7th**. If you have restrictions as to which Sundays you can serve, have requests to serve on

specific Sundays or have a cyclical pattern to your services, please contact Jerré at [GTCroteau@comcast.net](mailto:GTCroteau@comcast.net) or 508-993-3048, by **February 9th**.



## Notes on Job

By Diana Ukleja

The tale of Job, told in the Old Testament book of the same name, is a tale of great suffering brought upon a good and blameless man by Satan, to see if Job will turn against God. It's a long book, 42 chapters – it comes right before Psalms. Most of the book is taken up by speeches from three friends who come to console him, to offer him advice. When Job speaks, he addresses God rather than his friends. His speeches are the ones that stay with me.

In chapter three, he curses the day he was born. In chapter six, he begins to call upon God to answer him: “teach me, and I will be silent ... be pleased to look at me.” In chapter nine, he speaks of the power of God: “He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength.” There is beautiful poetry in all Job's speeches. In chapter twenty-four, Job speaks of the ways in which the wicked flourish: “they

thrust the needy off the road; the poor of the earth all hide themselves” ... for a time “they are exalted a little while, and then are gone.”

At the end of the book, God answers Job: “where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? ... has the rain a father, or who has begotten the drops of dew?”

Job is a story worth reading—you can shorten it by skipping over the well-meaning speeches of his friends!

Some of us have been meeting to discuss Job, using also a book by Richard Rohr, [Job and the Mystery of Suffering](#). These meetings move to Panera in Dartmouth in the new year; the first is at noon on Wednesday, January 15th. We would love to have you join us!



## Quiet Day

By Diana Ukleja

On Saturday, November 23rd, a few of us met with Rev. Chris for a reflection on the coming Advent season. He read the story of the Annunciation, when we learn that Mary, as she replies “Here am I the servant of the Lord, let it be to me according to your word” accepts an unexpected and not entirely comfortable gift. The angel tells Mary that her cousin

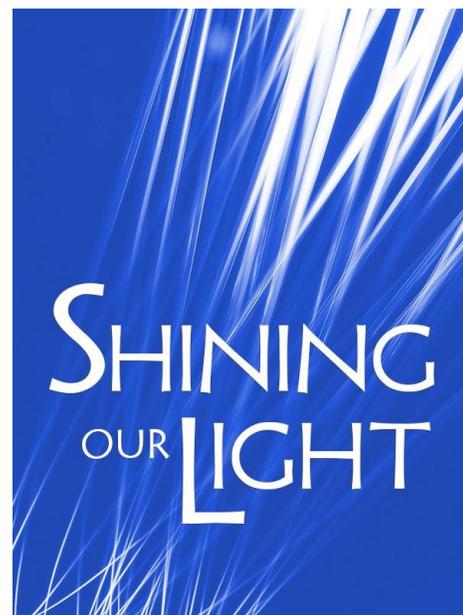
Elizabeth is also with child, pregnant with John the Baptist in her old age ... possibly a second uncomfortable gift!

We considered what uncomfortable gifts, experiences, and relationships had become turning points or blessings in our own lives, and how we could be more open to more of the same in the future... whether that is not what we are called to do and be, as Christians.

This reflection can serve as well for the opening of a new year.

Please plan to join us for the next quiet morning, on Saturday, April 4th. This is the day before Palm Sunday.

## Stewardship Update



*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)

This year's Pledge Campaign has been successful. Our theme of

“**Shining our Light**” has impacted our parish in a positive manner. Many parishioners have become involved with Grace’s children and youth to provide mentorship and teach the word of God. Also, during Advent, Grace members generously give to children whose parents are incarcerated by purchasing presents, so they too can experience the love of God. It is also evident that we as a church family are giving back to God what He has given to us. In comparison to last year’s pledge campaign, we have received slight increase in amount of pledges totaling significantly more money being pledged. As of December 13th, 2019, we have received 135 pledges from parishioners totaling pledge amount of \$215,618 and have received increased amount of new and/or re-committed pledges and fewer instances of decreased pledges. As a comparison to last year in December 2018, we had received 131 pledges totaling \$202,801. In addition, 20 new and/or re-committed pledges totaling \$30,029 were received during this year’s pledged campaign compared to 19 pledges totaling \$17,576 in 2019. Finally, we have only received 7 decreases in pledges totaling the amount of \$852 as compared to 13 pledge decreases totaling \$2,788 in 2019. Overall, we as a church are **shining our light** on others throughout the community as well as on each other through monetary means, time and our talents. By putting together our resources, we will continue to spread the word of God and His

grace and love on the people in the New Bedford community.

For those who have made a written monetary commitment to Grace’s ministries, thank you for your support. However, there are many parishioners who pledged last year and have not turned in their pledge card for various reasons. We are asking those who have not turned in their pledge card, please do so through mail, email at [office@gracechurchnb.org](mailto:office@gracechurchnb.org) or on our website <https://gracechurchnb.org/> under the “Give” tab. Our goal for total pledges for 2020 campaign is \$230,000. I have faith that we as a church family will meet this goal through the various ways the members of Grace Church are giving.

Thank you again to all who have stepped out in faith to be generous to Grace Episcopal Church’s ministry in New Bedford and surrounding communities. Together we will continue to make a difference.

Stewardship Committee: Beth Sharp-McKay, Chairperson, Rev. Chris Morck, Anne Gundersen, Ned Hines, Terri Nowell, and Robbie Watkins.

## What is a Dean?

“The Diocesan Bishop shall appoint a Dean for each deanery from among

the canonically resident clergy serving or living in the Diocese, who shall hold office until an appointment of a successor Dean is made by the Bishop.”

*Canon 7, Section 2*

The Diocese of Massachusetts has twelve deaneries, which are simply regional groupings of Episcopal parishes. A fun fact -- our diocese’s deanery boundaries are drawn according to natural watersheds, which in turn can remind us of our connection with God’s creation and even the waters of baptism.

<https://www.diomass.org/about-us/deaneries-and-regions>

Each deanery has a dean and Chris + recently began serving as the Dean of our Mt. Hope-Buzzards Bay Deanery.

Deans serve at the discretion of the Bishop, and each Dean serves in multiple capacities:

- a) As an extension of the Bishop’s office to individual clergy within the deanery;
- b) As a link for communication between the clergy and parishes of the deanery, the Bishops and the diocesan ministers and ministries;
- c) As the convener of the deanery clergy (clericus);
- d) As a member of the executive committee for the Deanery Assembly; and
- e) As a colleague with the other Deans of the Diocese.



## Children's Ministry

By Charlene Ryder, Coordinator

As we begin our 2020 church school year, we look forward to the many opportunities before us in the months of January and February. Many of the children will take part in the Epiphany Festival of Lights service held on January 5th during the 10AM service. Our monthly Children's Liturgy will be on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 10AM.

We will be having a Kids' JAM (Jesus And a Movie) event on Sunday, February 9th from 11AM – 2PM. We will enjoy a meal together, crafts, games and a movie.

Children's chapel on Ash Wednesday, February 26th, will begin at 6PM. The children will join their families in church after the sermon for the distribution of ashes.

Our Advent Pageant was a wonderful time to enjoy watching and listening to all our children as they shared their talents, knowledge and superb acting skills. Our Christmas Eve Crèche service in our chapel was a time to hear the Christmas Story and

interact with the many Crèche sets that were set up around the altar.

If you have any questions, please contact Charlene Ryder at 508.728.4374 or [cryder@umassd.edu](mailto:cryder@umassd.edu)



## Christ in the Kitchen

By Mark Jeffrey

We all face life's curve balls from time to time. Mine came in the form of a foot operation on August 1st, 2019. All the planning and preparation did not adequately prepare me for the reality of not being able to stand, walk, or take care of myself; even the simplest of tasks became major hurdles and obstacles. "Christ in the Kitchen" (with meals prepared and delivered by members of the parish) served as a lifeline and major component of my recovery. Not only did the meals provide me the physical nourishment needed for healing, they also provided me the spiritual and community engagement sustenance I needed.

I thank Program Directors Chrissy Green and Maureen Decker for their leadership, Charlene Ryder for coordinating meal scheduling and deliveries and all those who prepared and transported the meals. Your love and support were greatly appreciated!

Please prayerfully consider joining this unique and important ministry. Nobody wants to be incapacitated, but it is comforting to know that the "Christ in the Kitchen" Ministry is there to make the journey easier.

Thank you.



*A Program of Prison Fellowship*

## Angel Tree, a Ministry of Prison Fellowship

By Charlene Ryder, Angel Tree Coordinator

Grace had another successful year with the Angel Tree Program. This would not have been possible without all of you!

If you participated in this program by purchasing a gift, organizing the gifts or delivering gifts to the families, thank you so much! We sponsored 45 children/14 families this Christmas.





## What are Sunset Socials?

By Norma Bossé

Sunset Socials are supper and social gatherings serving downtown New Bedford seniors. Attendance is limited to 35 persons and registration is done by Pauline Macedo at the City of New Bedford Department of Community Services.

Attendees meet at Grace Church in the Library at 4:30PM for eight Thursdays in the fall, eight Thursdays in the spring, and one Thursday in December for their holiday celebration.

Food is brought in by D&D Caterers and served with the help of Grace Church volunteers Jean Brown, Joan Swain, David Miranda, and Norma Bossé.

Meals consist of soup, main course, rolls and butter, beverages, and dessert.

For the use of Grace Church, the City of New Bedford gives an honorarium which is given to the Community Breakfast which is served at Grace Church every Sunday.

We welcome additional volunteers. Please feel free to join us to observe the routine if you are interested in volunteering. Please call Norma Bossé if interested in attending the Sunset Socials or in volunteering with our team.

Norma 508-999-1787



## 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](mailto: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



## Laundry Love Update

Through the end of November, Laundry love served 657 clients, of whom 144 were first timers. They have washed over 1300 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. Southcoast Health sent their wellness van again in November. Our December date

was right at the end of the year, on the 30th.

We would love to have you join us for an hour, if you can, between 2PM and 5PM on Monday, January 28th or February 25th, at the E-Z Clean Laundry Center on Summer Street.

We are grateful to the new volunteers who have joined us, and for the continued support we receive from the parish.

The Laundry Love team: Travis Bowie, Len Boyce, Carol Braga, Sarah Barkhuff, Chuck Cotter, Pat Fowle, Louise Kelly, Judy Knox, Gerry Lopes, Alice Medeiros, Charlene Nelson, Jim Parker, Marilyn St. Aubin, Diana Ukleja, George Whitley



## Diocesan Winter Book Studies

**Our diocese uses the Zoom app (download free from [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)) to facilitate video conferences and meetings. This winter, they offer three sessions discussing issues related to our mission strategies.**

**Anyone can log in from home, or several can gather in individual homes to take part.**

**Sadly, all three dates coincide with Vestry meetings, which use the same facilities, or we would plan a common session at Grace.**

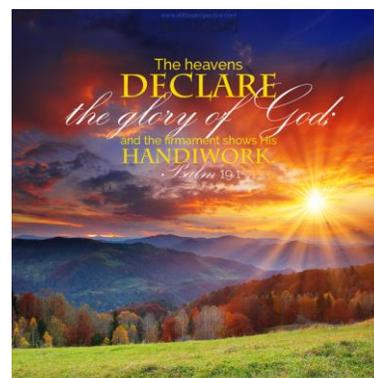
**If you are interested in the issues, you should enjoy the discussions even if you have not read the particular books named.**

**Plan to participate in mission strategy book discussions in the new year:** Diocesan ministry networks will be facilitating online book discussions in January, February and March, each inspired by one of the diocesan mission strategy themes. All are welcome to join one or more of the discussions online via Zoom, on the following Wednesdays, from 7-8PM:

- **Jan. 29th**, focused on "Reimagining Our Congregations": The book is *Transforming Evangelism* by David Gortner, and the online discussion will be facilitated by Billy Boyce and the Rev. Debbie Philips from the Evangelism Network. <https://zoom.us/j/150426967>

- **Feb. 19th** (*please note date change from previous announcements*), focused on "Building Our Relationships": The book is *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi, and the online discussion will be facilitated by K. Holly Maze Carter. <https://zoom.us/j/911720825>

- **March 25th**, focused on "Engaging Our World": The book is *Climate Church, Climate World* by Jim Antal, and the discussion will be facilitated by the Rev. Lise Hildebrandt of the Creation Care Justice Network. <https://zoom.us/j/983465161>



## Psalm 19

This was the psalm for the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, November 17th.

Swallow's Nest, a feminine reading of the psalms, sets this psalm in Morning Prayer under the topic "Seeking God's Wisdom," with this opening prayer\*:

In the morning, fill us with  
Your love,  
And we shall live this day  
in joy and praise!

Conversations with Scripture: the Psalms opens chapter 5, "The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God: Psalms of Wisdom," with a section on psalm 19, 'Reflecting on God and the World':

Wisdom, in the context of ancient Israel, was a tradition of reflecting on the whole range of human

experience. .... It begins by celebrating wonder at the universe ... And continues by assembling a series of synonyms for ... the Torah. The psalm celebrates the study of God's commandments ... with the same enthusiasm.

May the Holy Spirit of Wisdom,  
Whose truth and faithfulness guide and keep us,  
Fill this day with Her blessing. Amen.

\*Note that many traditions treat Wisdom, Sophia, as feminine.

The opening and closing are from the Saint Helena Psalter:

The heavens declare your glory, O God,  
And the firmament shows your handiwork.

The Torah section from Swallow's Nest:

The soul is restored by the Word of God.  
The simple are made wise by Her sure testimony.  
The heart is made joyful by Her just judgments.  
The eyes are enlightened by Her clear commands.

Closing:

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O God, my strength and my redeemer

The benediction from Swallow's Nest:

## 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](http://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>.

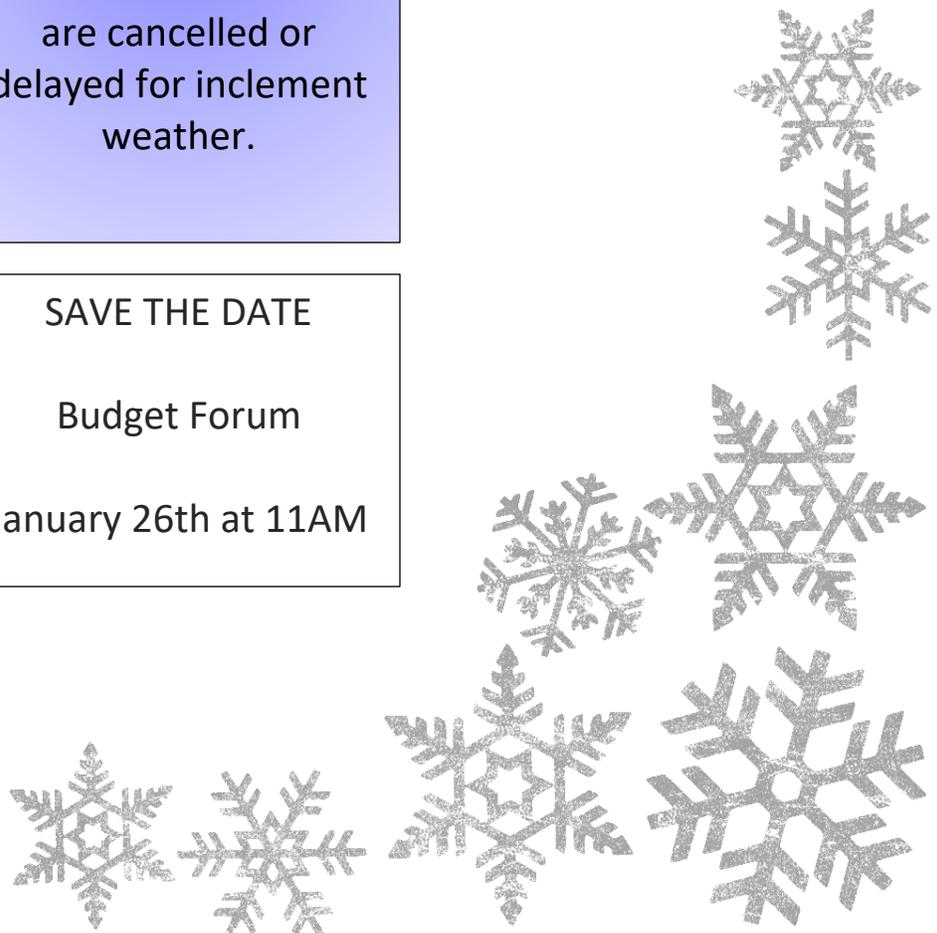
## Winter Weather

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

## SAVE THE DATE

### Budget Forum

January 26th at 11AM



## Gifts November-December 2019

### Community Breakfast

Gifts of Norma Bossé, James Bisagni, James Ring & Merita Hopkins,  
Anonymous

### Memorial Gifts

Gift of Deborah Clark, Judith Yard **in memory of Joan Ann Niles**  
Gift of Donna & Thomas Sargent  
Gift of Norma Dyer **in memory of Anne Cormier**

### Pastoral Leadership

Gift of Larry Correia, Richard & Eileen Lavoie **in memory of Joan Ann Niles**  
Gift of Andrew & Sally Frazee

### Laundry Love

Gifts of Edith Lauderdale, Gerry Lopes, James Ring & Merita Hopkins, First  
Citizens Federal Credit Union

### Martha's Pantry at Grace

Gifts of Edith Lauderdale, Gerry Lopes, Kenneth & Mary L. Garrett, Donald &  
Claire Driesen, John & Patricia Oliver  
Gift of Pearl Corbett **in memory of Robert A. Corbett**  
Gift of Roland & Harriet Shaw **in memory of Anne Cormier**  
Gift of Linda Massa **in memory of Mary & Frankie Rezendes**  
Gift of Thomas & Susan Knight **in thanksgiving for the many blessings in our  
lives and in memory of Philip & Marie Douglas**  
Gift of Karen Maciulewicz **in honor of the Pitcairn-Boyce family**

### Rector's Discretionary Fund

Gifts of Norma Bossé, Anita Chirigotis, Carl Medeiros, Charles & Beverly  
Days, Donald & Claire Driesen, Richard Anderson, Jack Custodio, Fred  
Smialek, Nancy & David Faria, Edward & Eleanor Begley, James & Barbara  
Trecker  
Gift of Gerie Schumann **in honor of Roberta Iglor**  
Gift of Thomas & Susan Knight **in thanksgiving for the many blessings in our  
lives and in memory of Philip & Marie Douglas**

### Harvest Altar

Gift of William Reed **in memory of Martha Shaw Reed, Richard & Joan  
Rodman Reed, Ralph & Claire Handy Reed, and Percy & Louise King Shaw**

### Flower Fund

Gift of George & Pam McNamara **in memory of Regina & Graham Walker,  
Cecile, Donald & George F. McNamara, John Moriarty**  
Gift of Norma Bossé **in memory of Louise & Manuel Mello, Joan Ann Niles**  
Gift of the Robert O. Boardman Trust **in memory of Evelyn Caine  
Boardman, John M. Boardman, Iréne & Théodore Croteau**  
Gift of Jerré Croteau **in memory of Robert Owen Boardman**  
Gift of Janice Chadwick **in memory of Olive & Harry Chadwick**  
Gift of Sean & Patricia Corwin **in memory of the Savaria Family, Connie,  
Charles, Curt & Warren**  
Gift of Marilyn Saint-Aubin **in memory of Mildred Towers, Joseph Towers,  
John Towers**  
Gift of Jean Brown **in memory of Family and Friends**  
Gift of Zelinda & John Douhan **in thanksgiving for the Grace Church Choirs**  
Gift of Norma Dyer **in memory of Louise & William Dalzell, Florence &  
Howard Dyer, Howard Dyer, John J. McKenna, Blanche Hardy, Freda  
Heptonstall**  
Gift of Mary Been **in memory of Bernie Been**  
Gift of Robert & Joan Chase **in memory of All Deceased Members of the  
Conquest, Chase, Easterwood & Mandly Families**

Gift of Donna Hebert **in memory of Paul Erickson, Bud & Marion  
Whalley, Vivian Whalley**

Gift of Theresa Nowell **in memory of Muriel R. Foster, Stephen J. Nowell,  
Jr., Gustave La Staiti, Lucinda Pelletier Gagnier, George & Alyce Nowell**  
Gift of Barbara & Albert Hines **in memory of Allen & Helen Hines,  
Mary Taylor, Gary Steedman, Helen, Mellonee, Lillian Steigler**  
Gift of Geraldine Perry-Lopes **in memory of Norman Lopes**  
Gift of Fred Smialek **in memory of Adele Smialek**  
Gift of Gwendolyn Skinner **in memory of Austin Skinner, Joan Skinner  
Miller**  
Gift of Jane Garcia **in memory of Earl S. Garcia, Luis Carvalho**  
Gift of Lucy Gundersen **in memory of Hilmar H. Gundersen, Erica A.  
Gundersen**  
Gift of David & Nancy Faria, **in memory of Henry P. & Anna Brindle,  
Paul & Mary G. Faria**  
Gift of Mike & Cindy Shea **in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Taylor,  
Jr.**  
Gift of Cheryl Gammell **in memory of Joyce M. Doyle, James F. Doyle**  
Anonymous Gift **in memory of Leonard Evert, Jr., Jean & Victor  
Anderson**  
Gift of Travis Bowie **in honor of the Kindness of loving Friends; in  
memory of Richard Bowie, Peg & Tom Kirby, Garrett Bellora,  
Catherine Fleming, Harriet & Philip Bowie, Margaret & Richard  
Markham; in thanksgiving for Anne Bowie, Kate McGonigle,  
Markham Bowie, Coltrane, Elijah & Harriet McGonigle, Jordan Bowie**  
Gift of Jessica, Tony & Victoria Cabral **in memory of Manuel P. Soares,  
Jr., Victoria & Manuel Cabral**  
Gift of Janet & Kingsley Doe **in memory of Bernice Miller, Mazella  
Tilton, Joan Reed**  
Gift of Brendon & Kristi Botelho **in memory of Michael S. Herbert, Sr.**  
Gift of Maureen & Allen Decker **in memory of Mary Davis Virtue, Paul  
Edward Virtue, Mary Bernhardt Wolfe Decker, James DeWitt Decker,  
II**  
Gift of Priscilla Guillemette **in memory of Ronald Guillemette, Hugh  
& Stasia Green**

### Angel Tree

Gift of William Hochstrasser-Walsh

### Leaflet Color Printing

Gift of Jerré Croteau **in memory of Suzanne D. Poirier**

### Altar Guild

Gift of Bill Reed, Rosalie Hutchinson, Shirley & Dennis Beck **in memory  
of Anne B. Cormier**

### Bittersweet Bazaar Advertisement

Gift of Anonymous

### Bittersweet Bazaar

Gifts of Anonymous, Karen & Michael Goulart, Chase Farm Animal  
Hospital, Sheila Delano, Barbara Santos

### Children's Ministry

Gift of Jerré Croteau **in honor of Charlene Ryder's Ministry to the  
Church School**

## Food and Faith

At our diocesan convention in November, a resolution was passed affirming the Episcopal Vision for Creation Care of the presiding bishop and the Episcopal Church. Each congregation is called to form a Next Step group to commit to actions that support that vision. We are called upon to “change our habits and choices in order to live more simply, humbly, and gently on Earth.”

We are fortunate to have farmers’ markets available to us locally, and local supermarkets clearly label organic and locally grown produce. Consider adding some of these measures to your resolutions for the new year:

**10 Good Reasons to Eat Locally Grown**

- 1 Locally grown food tastes and looks better.**  
Crops marketed close to home are picked at their peak and usually sold within 24 hours of harvesting. Food imported from far away must travel on trucks or planes and then it is stored in warehouses.
- 2 Local food supports local families.**  
The wholesale prices that farmers get for their products are usually very low, sometimes not more than the cost of producing them. Local farmers who sell directly to consumers cut out the middleman and can get full retail price for their food—which helps farm families be able to afford to continue farming their land.
- 3 Local food builds trust.**  
With all the issues related to food safety and homeland security, there’s an assurance that comes from looking a farmer in the eye at the farmers’ market, or driving by the fields where your food comes from.
- 4 Local food builds community.**  
When you buy direct from a farmer, you’re engaging in a time-honored connection between eater and grower and you’re supporting a local business. Getting to know folks who grow your food helps you know more about the place you live. In many cases, it gives you access to a place where you can go to enjoy nature and the seasons, and to learn more about how food grows.
- 5 Local food preserves open space.**  
When farmers get paid more for their products from nearby shoppers, they’re less likely to sell farmland for development.
- 6 Local food keeps taxes down.**  
According to several studies, farms contribute more in taxes than they require in services, whereas most residential development contributes less in taxes than the cost of required services.
- 7 Local food benefits the environment and wildlife.**  
Massachusetts farmers are leaders in the use of environmentally sound growing practices. Our farms encompass a patchwork of fields, meadows, woods, streams, and ponds that provide essential habitat for wildlife.
- 8 Local food makes a lighter carbon footprint.**  
On average our food travels 1,500 miles from farm to plate. Moreover, each calorie of food produced requires an average of 10 calories of fossil-fuel inputs from travel, refrigeration and processing. Purchasing locally-grown food is a simple way to address the increasing expense of fossil fuels and the adverse effects of global warming from increased carbon emissions.
- 9 Local food preserves genetic diversity.**  
In industrial agriculture, plants are bred for their ability to ripen uniformly, withstand harvesting, survive packing and last a long time on the shelf, so there are only a few varieties in large-scale production. This leaves our food supply vulnerable to disease or disaster. Smaller local farms, in contrast, often grow many different varieties to provide a longer season, an array of colors, and the best flavors.
- 10 Local food is an investment in our future.**  
When you buy locally grown food, you’re helping to preserve the strength and character of our community for our children and grandchildren.

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources  
www.mass.gov/massgrown

## 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 (\$1700) cost of refinishing the Library floor, after direct donations of \$1000, to the Outreach Ministry Fund.

**October 30th, 2019:** The Vestry voted to accept a \$4500 gift from St Aiden's Chapel and allocates it to the Outreach Fund with the understanding it can used for indirect costs (such as building costs) associated with our Outreach efforts.

The Vestry voted that all funds remaining in the GASSP accounts, after final reconciliation, be transferred to the Grace bank account and allocated to the church's Building Fund.

**November 20th, 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>
Rectory Electric	\$ 1300
Church Security/Fire Alarm	\$ 4500
Web Site	\$ 850
Rectory Telephone/Internet	\$ 1320

The Vestry voted to accept the 2020 budget, pending approval at the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Diana Ukleja, Clerk

### SAVE THE DATE

Grace Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 9th, 2020 at 11AM

## January 2019

### Wednesday, January 1

**OFFICE CLOSED**

**MARTHA'S PANTRY CLOSED**

10AM Holy Eucharist & Healing

### Thursday, January 2

6PM ESOL

### Friday, January 3

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

### Saturday, January 4

5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Sunday, January 5

7:30AM Community Breakfast

8AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30AM Choir Rehearsal

10AM Festival of Lights & Holy Eucharist

11AM Handbell Rehearsal

### Monday, January 6

**EPIPHANY**

### Tuesday, January 7

6PM ESOL

### Wednesday, January 8

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

10AM Holy Eucharist & Healing

11AM Staff Meeting

5PM Eucharistic Visitor Meeting

6PM Taizé

6:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, January 9

6PM ESOL

### Friday, January 10

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

4:30PM De-Greening the Church

### Saturday, January 11

5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Sunday, January 12

**BAPTISM OF JESUS**

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

### Tuesday, January 14

6PM ESOL

### Wednesday, January 15

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

10AM Holy Eucharist & Healing

11AM Staff Meeting

12PM Book Study (Panera)

6:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, January 16

6PM ESOL

### Friday, January 17

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

### Saturday, January 18

5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Sunday, January 19

7:30AM Community Breakfast

8AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30AM Choir Rehearsal

10AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II,  
Children's Liturgy

11AM Church School & Youth Group

11AM Handbell Rehearsal

12PM Pilgrimage Prep Meeting

12PM Teacher's Meeting

4PM MLK Jr Ecumenical Service

### Tuesday, January 21

6PM ESOL

### Wednesday, January 22

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

10AM Holy Eucharist & Healing

11AM Staff Meeting

6:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, January 23

6PM ESOL

### Friday, January 24

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

### Saturday, January 25

5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Sunday, January 26

**ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE**

**OUTREACH SUNDAY**

7:30AM Community Breakfast

8AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30AM Choir Rehearsal

10AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11AM Budget Forum

11AM Church School & Youth Group

11AM Handbell Rehearsal

### Monday, January 27

2PM Laundry Love

### Tuesday, January 28

6PM ESOL

### Wednesday, January 29

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

10AM Holy Eucharist & Healing

11AM Staff Meeting

6:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal

6:30PM Vestry Meeting

### Thursday, January 30

6PM ESOL

### Friday, January 31

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

## February 2019

### Saturday, February 1

5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Sunday, February 2

#### THE PRESENTATION

7:30AM Community Breakfast

8AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30AM Choir Rehearsal

10AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11AM Church School

11AM Handbell Rehearsal

### Tuesday, February 4

6PM ESOL

### Wednesday, February 5

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

10AM Holy Eucharist & Healing

11AM Staff Meeting

12PM Book Study (Panera)

6:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, February 6

6PM ESOL

### Friday, February 7

#### HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

### Saturday, February 8

5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Sunday, February 9

#### ANNUAL MEETING

7:30AM Community Breakfast

8AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30AM Choir Rehearsal

10AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11AM Annual Meeting

11AM Kids JAM

11AM Handbell Rehearsal

### Tuesday, February 11

6PM ESOL

### Wednesday, February 12

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

10AM Holy Eucharist & Healing

11AM Staff Meeting

6PM Taizé

6:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, February 13

6PM ESOL

### Friday, February 14

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

### Saturday, February 15

5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Sunday, February 16

7:30AM Community Breakfast

8AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30AM Choir Rehearsal

10AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II,  
Children's Liturgy

11AM Church School & Youth Group

11AM Handbell Rehearsal

12PM Teacher's Meeting

### Tuesday, February 18

6PM ESOL

### Wednesday, February 19

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

10AM Holy Eucharist & Healing

11AM Staff Meeting

12PM Book Study (Panera)

6:30PM Vestry Meeting

### Thursday, February 20

6PM ESOL

### Friday, February 21

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

### Saturday, February 22

5PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### Sunday, February 23

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

6PM Pilgrimage Prep Meeting

### Monday, February 24

2PM Laundry Love

### Tuesday, February 25

6PM ESOL

### Wednesday, February 26

#### ASH WEDNESDAY

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

10AM Holy Eucharist & Ashes

6PM Holy Eucharist & Ashes

6PM Children's Ash Wednesday Service

### Thursday, February 27

6PM ESOL

### Friday, February 28

9:30AM Martha's Pantry at Grace

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 2020

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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