



Grace Notes

Jan/Feb 2024

Comments from the Rector's Stall

By Rev. Jeremy Froyen

Dear Friends,

As I am writing my first Grace Notes commentary to you, we are still in the midst of Advent, this season of joyful anticipation, and yet I am fully aware that you will not read these words until the Christmas season is nearly over and as we enter into the Epiphany. Talk about liturgical and seasonal whiplash!

I've said this before: I think that it is so fitting that we have begun our new ministry together during Advent. Advent is a season of preparation, anticipation, and welcoming the coming of Christ, of God incarnate (which literally means enfleshed) among us. This is a season of new beginnings, the beginning of a new liturgical year,

of new hope with the coming of Christ, and for us of new ministry. Over the past few weeks, I have enjoyed getting to know you and yet I know that this season of getting to know you does not really ever end. It takes time to build deep and abiding relationships, and that is what we are called to do as the Church, as followers of Jesus; for it is in these relationships that we are the continuing presence of Christ in our community and in the world.

So, I think it is also appropriate that you will be reading these words as we prepare to enter into the season of the Epiphany, the manifestation of Christ into the world. In Epiphany, we celebrate the arrival of the Magi from the East, foreigners of a different faith, who traveled far to kneel at the crib of Jesus and worship God's physical manifestation into the world. We are reminded that God's love is for all people, not

just Episcopalians, or Americans, or Christians, but for all people.

During this time of new beginnings, I have been thinking about my hopes and goals for our ministry together at Grace this coming year. You will hear more about this in the coming weeks, particularly in the Annual Report, but here's a preview:

I ask that all of us, as a community, reach out to those members of Grace who have not yet come home since the pandemic and invite them to join us as we celebrate a new season together. One of my priorities this year is to begin rebuilding our children's ministry into a thriving hallmark of who we are at Grace. This is critical for our future because churches that are growing and thriving have strong children's ministries.

Churches tend to silo themselves, and in a community with three Episcopal congregations close together, it is my hope that we can begin to discern ways to engage in collaborative ministry together, addressing the needs of our community. Sharing ministries and resources only makes us all stronger and models for us the sort of mutual love that Jesus challenges us to live out.

As we are grateful for the ministries of those who have come before, we build on the successes of our past and celebrate what is already happening in our midst. I hope that we will continue to discern who and what God is calling us to be and do now, in the present circumstances of our time and space. Our world looks very different than it did just a couple of years ago, so how we live out our baptismal ministries will necessarily look different too.

As we rebuild and grow together, as people of Grace and people of faith in New Bedford, we will do so by building up our leadership. Another one of my priorities this year is to build on the work that has already taken place to raise up, empower, and equip our lay leaders to guide our ministries, which are many and are impacting our community. In case you are wondering who our lay leaders are ... if you are baptized, it is you! I am also working with the Wardens and Treasurers to budget for a new Associate Priest at Grace this coming year to help us grow our faith and achieve our goals. I do

not yet know what that might look like, but hope that by the Annual Meeting on February 11 we will have a plan in place to share with you.

In the meantime, please continue to introduce yourself to me and be patient as I learn your names and your stories. I am looking forward to knowing each one of you and am so excited to be sharing ministry with you!

Grace and peace,
Jeremy+

Liturgical Highlights

By Jerré Croteau, Verger

Season of Epiphany

This year the Season of Epiphany is not very long: it is only six weeks. The first days of January are within the Season of Christmas, the twelfth day of which is January 5. Saturday January 6 is the actual date of the Feast of the Epiphany and begins the new season. The word “epiphany” means a sudden realization, a moment when the truth is realized, or a dormant idea becomes manifest. The color of Epiphany itself is white, but changes to green for the rest of the season as it is considered liturgically as ordinary time.

That first Sunday, January 7, is also the **Feast of the Baptism of Jesus**. This year we are celebrating Grace’s age-old tradition of the **Epiphany Festival of Lights**, which in recent years

has been incorporated into the Sunday Eucharist Service, rather than being a separate service in the afternoon.

The readings, hymns and order of service are very traditional, but have been modified especially in the past few years. It is still a joyous occasion including the pageantry of this, for us, ancient service. We have no idea how long ago this tradition began, or what its origins are, but even the oldest members remember it being celebrated around the Feast of the Epiphany. The theme of the service is the dissemination of the Light of Christ to the whole world, as symbolized by the last reading at the end of the service, the Calling of the Apostles, and the recession to the outside carrying candles.

The sequence of Sundays after this will be the **Second Sunday after Epiphany**, January 14, and ending with the **Last Sunday after Epiphany**, after which Ash Wednesday begins the next season, Lent. The length of Epiphany and the date of Ash Wednesday is determined by counting back from when Easter falls in any given year. During this period there are two traditional events taking place, on the last Sunday in January, we celebrate and honor our **Outreach Ministries**. On the First Sunday of February, the Eucharist is in memory of Nathan Roger King, one of our youth who died tragically a number of years ago and thus dedicated to all our youth.

Though not yet determined as of this writing, the Installation Ceremony for our New Rector may be taking place sometime within this season.

LAY MINISTRY

The next schedule will be for the **Seasons of Lent and Easter from February 17 through May 19.** Because the winter Epiphany season is so short, we will need your requests by **January 28.**

From Your Co-Warden

By Jean Pitcairn

In every beginning there is always before
To every previous action, a prior thought.
To each milestone, an intention.

The journey begins, and begins, and is always beginning.

This gathering place receives us,
From every place and background.
Many steps have led to this point.
Places and people we have been,
Lead us to now.
Lead us to this next stride.

May our footprints leave a greater
impression
on our hearts than on the earth.
May our walking lead us on deeper journeys,
The discovery of new vistas,
And fresh encounters.

Let this pilgrimage
Mould us and shape us,
Inform us and reform us.

Speak to us, in stillness and in motion,
The revelation that in every beginning,
God has already begun.

*A prayer by David McNeish, prayed by people
as they begin the St Magnus Way.*

As we welcome our new rector,
the Rev. Jeremy Froyen, I believe
we are walking our next part of

our journey with him. This prayer,
that is prayed as people begin
their walking journey, seemed
exceptionally suited for our new
journey as well. We have been
walking together through many
challenges and unknowns these
last months. With great joy and
gratitude, we welcome Rev.
Jeremy to help guide us together
as we grow and support and
envision what is next for Grace.

In the upcoming weeks and
months, we hope to have many
opportunities to gather in large
and small groups to connect Rev
Jeremy to our community. These
opportunities will help us learn
together how to best share God's
love and intentions for us all. We
will have a mocktail reception in
January, so look for more
information to come. The
fabulous folks of the Search and
Discernment committee, along
with your Vestry members, are
organizing small group dinners in
people's homes. If you would like
to attend a dinner or host a
dinner, please reach out to
Dianna Bullard, Cindy Shea, Mike
Goulart, or myself.

There is much work to be done, as
always, and we would love to
learn more about what is on
everyone's heart and minds. We
have some upcoming
opportunities to join committees
and working groups around youth
and children, welcoming,
hospitality, newcomers, and
monthly brunch. We need
everybody's involvement and
would appreciate you letting us
know how you would like to help.

In this season of Advent, as we
get ready to welcome and
celebrate the birth of Jesus, I
hope we can all reflect on what
Grace and all of us are ready for.
It is a good time for self-reflection
and Grace reflection. I welcome
any opportunity there might be to
converse on what is in all our
hearts and minds.

In peace and respectfully
submitted,
Jean Pitcairn, Co-Warden

Racial Justice Committee Update

The Justice Community at Grace
looks forward to working with
Reverend Jeremy in our justice
journey, as we listen, learn,
discuss, and choose where and
how to make a difference in our
community. We encourage all to
join us for this journey in
whatever way inspires you.

Our latest effort began
approximately two years ago –
Reverend Chris led us in
education (from Bishop Michael
Curry and others), discussions,
and reflection over Zoom during
the Covid pandemic. Reverend
Melissa led us forward and
encouraged collaboration with
the Episcopal City Mission and
Reverend Edwin Johnson.

In January 2023, we screened the
film, *Traces of the Trade* (ToT) in
collaboration with the New
Bedford Whaling Museum at their
theater. Producer and Director
Katrina Browne uncovers the
story of her forefathers, the

DeWolf family of Bristol, RI, who were the largest slave-trading family in US history. The film follows Browne and nine family members on a personal journey of discovery along the Triangle Trade, from Bristol, Rhode Island to slave forts on the coast of Ghana to the ruins of the family's former plantation in Cuba. This experience brings them face-to-face with their own history, the legacies of New England's often hidden ties with slavery, and the pivotal role slavery played in the growth of the American economy.

We were deeply grateful to have Dain Perry, a family member and Constance Perry, a descendant of enslaved people, facilitate discussions following the film about our racial justice experiences at the Whaling Museum showing and in a subsequent Zoom showing. Then, Constance and Dain led us in discussion of the book, *Waking Up White*. Author Debby Irving's recollects her own experiences of being an American white woman of privilege and coming to terms with the complexity of race in the United States.

This fall, we initiated a book discussion group. Many joined us at Footprints Book Store with great enthusiasm and in spirited discussion to discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon*. Book group discussions are scheduled for January 10, February 21, March 20, 2024 (all 6:30-8:00pm) focused on these books: *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo, *Take My Hand* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez, and *Moonrise Over New*

Jessup by Jamila Minnicks. *Master Slave Husband Wife* was just named one of the 10 best books of 2023 by the New York Times!

We are also looking forward to a guided walking tour in the spring of Abolition Row National Park, recently opened, and the Johnson Home, where Frederick Douglass and his wife lived in the years after they fled the South.

Members of our committee appreciated the opportunity to attend the annual committee meeting of Episcopal City Mission at St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston – learning from missions and other communities about their journeys for justice.

Andrea and Pam attended an early screening of the new Netflix movie, *Rustin*, produced by Barack and Michelle Obama's company, Higher Ground. An inspiring story of the architect of 1963's momentous March on Washington, Bayard **Rustin** was one of the greatest activists and organizers the world has ever known. The Southcoast LGBTQ+ Network is collaborating with the New Bedford Whaling Museum and regional churches to arrange a screening of the film in the Winter/Spring 2024.

Again, we encourage all to join us for this journey in whatever way inspires you. We are excited to work with Reverend Jeremy on our journey and about our upcoming book discussions. These inspiring stories are already stacking up, all of which can be purchased as Christmas gifts at

Footprints, located in the Kilburn Mills, 127 W. Rodney French Blvd., 1st floor, New Bedford: <https://footprintscafellc.com/>

Please contact Andrea or Pam to get involved or write us via email at the following email:

justicecommunity@gracechurchnb.org

Andrea Medeiros, Co-Chair (774) 451-5230

Pam McNamara, Co-Chair (508) 951-2156

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* 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>.

Gifts November-December 2023

Community Breakfast

Gift of Julie Schmidt **in honor of her Brother Jesse Roderiques' Birthday**

Gift of Gerry Lopes, James Bisagni

Martha's Pantry at Grace

Gift of John Buck, Thomas & Susan Knight, Walter Dearing, Colleen Roy, John Buck, Kenneth Dunaway,
Margot Schmidt

Gift of Deborah & Benjamin Baker **in honor of the Rev. Melissa Howell**

Gift of Carol Cushman **in memory of Ellen Cushman**

Gift of Beth Bowen and Jane's Tuesday Night Girls **in memory of Gwendolyn Skinner**

Gift of Pam & George McNamara **in memory of Paul Gomes and Nicholas Erardi**

Gift of Ronni & Sarah Krasny, Andrew Hunter Pollock, Diana Henry, Dr. Mary H. Sylvia Reardon, James Perry,
Theresa Nowell **in honor of the Jeffrey-Brown Wedding**

Gift of Gerry Lopes, Harold Cooper, Roland & Harriet Shaw, Jack Whiteside, The Rogers Family, Norma Dyer,
Deborah Clark, Gerald & Norma Hall, Nancy Krueger, Shirley Anderson, Ida Anderson, Eric Foltz, The Pye Family,
Bill Reed, Marilyn Saint-Aubin & Chuck Cotter, Joanne Greaves, Barbara & Robert Ketchel,
Michael & Julie Vargo

in memory of Shirley Beck

Gift of Jack Whiteside **in memory of James & Ethel Whiteside**

Gift of Gerry Lopes **in loving memory of Norman Lopes**

Gift of Peter Smialek **in loving memory of my parents, Alfred & Adele Smialek**

Laundry Love

Gift of the National Council of Jewish Women New Bedford Chapter

Gift of Gerry Lopes **in loving memory of Matthew Tavares**

Flowers & Flower Fund

Gift of Jerré Croteau **in honor of the Rev. Melissa Howell in gratitude for her Ministry at Grace**

Gift of Kristine Aisley, Lisa Thibeault, and Marcia Anselmo **in loving memory of Lois Aisley, Richard Foucart,
and Alden Taylor**

Gift of Gerry Lopes **in memory of Norman Lopes & Matthew Tavares**

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

Gift of Terry Nowell **in memory of Muriel R. Foster, Gustave LaStaiti, Lucinda Pelletier Gagnier, and
the Nowell Family**

Gift of Cynthia Shea **in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Taylor, Jr**

Gift of Richard & Jeanne Greenhalgh **in memory of Harvey & Grace Greenhalgh, Conrad & Rose Lamontagne**

Gift of Janet & Kingsley Doe **in memory of Berniece Miller, James Miller, Mazelle Tilton, Anne Weidner
and in Thanksgiving for Zoë Venter, Kai Venter & Elizabeth Cabraldo**

Gift of Cheryl Gammell **in memory of Joyce M. Doyle, James F. Doyle**

Gift of Ned & Barbara Hines **in memory of Allen & Helen Hynes, Mary Taylor, Gary & Scott Steedman,
Ginny Stylos**

Gift of John Medeiros **in memory of Muriel Medeiros**

Gift of Luis & Nancy Demetrio **in memory of Manuel & Adelina Demetrio**

Gift of Jennifer & Angela Clarke **in memory of Othelia & Armand Rapoza and Doug Eddings**

Gifts November-December 2023

Flowers & Flower Fund, cont.

Gift of Gardner Chase **in memory of R. Burr Litchfield**

Gift of the McNamara Family **in memory of Regina & Graham Walker, Cecile, George F. & Don McNamara, John Moriarty, Bonnie & Keats Boyd**

Gift of Jerré Croteau **in memory of Robert Owen Boardman**

Gift of Charlene Ryder **in memory of Norma E. Ryder**

Gift of Kristine Ainsley & Marcia Anselmo **in memory of Lois Ainsley & Alden Taylor**

Gift of Joan Swain **in memory of Paul Swain and All Deceased Family Members and Friends**

Gift of Janice Chadwick **in memory and honor of the Chadwick Family**

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

Gift of Allen & Maureen Decker **in memory of: Mary Davis Virtue, Paul Edward Virtue, Mary Bernhardt Wolfe Decker, James DeWitt Decker, II**

Gift of Mark R. Jeffrey **in memory of William A. Jeffrey III**

Gift of Jane Garcia **in memory of Austin & Gwendolyn Skinner, Joan Skinner Miller, Earl S. Garcia, Luiz Carvalho**

Gift of Jan & David Baker **in memory of Edward and Grace McConvill, Edward W. McConvill, Lloyd and Ruth Baker**

Gift of Michael & Karen Goulart **in memory of Michael J. & Theresa Goulart**

Harvest Altar

Gift of Bill Reed & Family **in memory of Martha Shaw Reed, Ralph & Clare Reed, Richard, Joan & Jonathan Reed, Percy & Louise Shaw**

Rector's Discretionary Fund

Gift of Michael Medeiros, Thomas & Susan Knight, Barbara & Jim Trecker, George Rogers

Building Fund

Gift of Gerry Lopes

Youth Ministry

Gift of Gerry Lopes **in thanks for the Ministry of the Rev. Melissa Howell**

Memorial Fund

Gift of Norma Dyer **in memory of Gwendolyn Skinner**

Gift of Gerry Lopes **in loving memory of Joseph & Olivia Perry**

Gift of Pauline Roderiques **in thanksgiving for my son Jesse & Daughter Julie**

Leaflet Color Printing

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

Racial Justice Committee of Grace

Gift of Gerry Lopes **in thanks for the Ministry of the Rev. Melissa Howell**

Thank You from the Family of Shirley Beck

I would like to thank everyone that helped make my mom's Celebration of Life service and reception so special. Many people commented on how beautiful and special the service and reception were. I know it took many people to make it all happen and we are truly blessed to have the love and support from so many people.

Thank you,
Kathy Lafland

SAVE THE DATE

Grace Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 11

SAVE THE DATE

Celebration of New Ministry
Wednesday, April 17
7pm



Church Staff

Rector	Rev. Jeremy Froyen, CFC
Director of Music	Brian Roderick
Parish Administrator	Katie Brengle
Verger	Gérald Croteau
Facilities Manager	Luis Demetrio

Wardens & Officers

Co-Warden	Jean Pitcairn
Co-Warden	Mike Goulart
Treasurer	Marcia Anselmo
Assistant Treasurer	Karen Maciulewicz
Clerk	Julie Schmidt

Vestry Members

Allen Decker
Nadine Gomes
Charles Green
Memory Holloway
Roberta Iglar
Eric Jaikes
David King
Pamela McNamara
Andrea Medeiros
Charlene Ryder

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