Grace Notes

Sept/Oct 2022

From the Rector

By Rev. Chris Morck

Among the diverse abundance of our Psalter, one of my favorites has been Psalm 84. Years ago, I spent time memorizing it, and I would repeat its lines over and over as a meditation.

Certain phrases from that psalm continue to surface still, at unexpected times, in my thoughts.

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts
The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young by the side of your altars
Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way
Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water
They will climb from height to height

"They will climb from height to height." This is such a beautiful expression. Other versions, also lovely, proclaim confidently, "They go from strength to strength!"
For the past couple of months, I have recalled this phrase often as I think about Grace Church.

Unlike many definitions of secular success, I see going from "strength to strength" for a church family as growing in depth of relationship with God, through both strengthening parish relationships and ministering alongside the wider community.

This growth is what I see at Grace. Yet, obviously, this does not happen by itself. It happens as you, with God's help, make it so.

One prayer, then, I hold for you is that, borrowing words from Luke 9:62, you put your "hand to the plow" and do not "look back." With gratitude for Grace's past and present, I pray that you move forward with hope into what God desires to do within and through you in your next season of ministry.

And, we know, hope is active. We choose hope, we allow ourselves to feel it, to see it, to recognize the reality of what God is doing in us, through us, around us.

This doesn't mean that we are saved from discomfort or upheaval – and, especially within change, feelings of uncertainty and apprehension can hardly be avoided - but that within this we are looking expectantly, and we actively anticipate new growth.

Hope is active! Especially in the coming transition, as you both search for a new rector and you continue to discern where the Spirit is leading in this unprecedented time of "covid-tide," to hope means to continue to 'step up' (or, for some, to begin to 'plug in').

To hope means every Grace parishioner - according to your own abilities and gifts - actively supporting Grace's common life,

heeding the call to minister as a faith community in Jesus' name.

Through conversations these last couple of months, I have heard confidence in the recognition that transition offers an incredible opportunity for that growth I mention above, for the strengthening of relationships, that reaching out. Repeatedly, I have been heartened by your messages of hope-filled commitment to Grace's future.

With you, I share this sure hope that Grace, by God's grace and your faithfulness, will "climb from height to height".

God bless you as you follow where the Spirit leads!

Faithfully,
Chris +

Falling and Rising

By Rev. Melissa Howell

A Poem of Giving, for a Season of Transition

Autumn is a season of transition. A new school year, trees changing color, crickets singing their songs into the cooler night air. This autumn, we at Grace feel this change even more deeply as we say goodbye to Chris, giving thanks for his rectorship, all he has given to us, all that we have given to one another, and all the God-given gifts that have been shared as he has ministered together with our parish. We are grateful for Jesus's presence with Chris and with us as we part ways, trusting that Jesus will continue to bless, transform, and multiply all the good things we have shared and given to one another, just as he blessed, broke, and multiplied communal gifts of bread and fish to feed thousands.

We trust, in the words of this year's stewardship theme, that there are "more than enough" God-given gifts in our community to sustain and nourish us for the journey ahead.

May this poem from Alberto Ríos be a companion to us in this season of change and gift-giving.

Yours in Christ,
Melissa †

When Giving Is All We Have
by Alberto Ríos

One river gives
Its journey to the next.

We give because someone gave to us.
We give because nobody gave to us.

We give because giving has changed us.
We give because giving could have changed us.

We have been better for it,
We have been wounded by it—

Giving has many faces: It is loud and quiet,
Big, though small, diamond in wood-nails.

Its story is old, the plot worn and the pages too,
But we read this book, anyway, over and again:

Giving is, first and every time, hand to hand,
Mine to yours, yours to mine.

You gave me blue and I gave you yellow.
Together we are simple green. You gave me

What you did not have, and I gave you
What I had to give—together, we made

Something greater from the difference.

Source:
https://poets.org/poem/when-giving-all-we-have

Liturgy & Liturgical Ministry

By Jerré Croteau, Verger

Beginning of New Program Year

The first weekend of September is the last in the summer Pentecost cycle. September 10-11, the **Fourteenth after Pentecost** has been traditionally called **Homecoming Weekend,** it marks the beginning of the new Program Year. On that Sunday the Eucharist returns to **10am** at the High Altar, the Choir returns, and Lay Liturgical Ministry will be back to normal. The Saturday service will remain at 5pm in All Saints' Chapel. We will be using Prayers of the People Form III and Eucharistic Prayer Enriching Our Worship 2 for most of the coming season. With some exceptions, the liturgical color remains green.

September 17-18, the **Fifteenth after Pentecost,** the 10am service will be **Children's Eucharist** and will incorporate the **Blessing of the Backpacks** and the **Commissioning of Church School Teachers and Youth Mentors.** The following weekend, the **Sixteenth after Pentecost,** September 24-25, will be the beginning of the **Pledge Campaign.** Then October 2-3 will be the **Seventeenth after Pentecost,** with regular services.

At our departing Rector's request, we are moving **The Blessing of the Animals** to Sunday, October 9, which will be his last Sunday with us as our **Twenty-second Rector of Grace Episcopal Church.** That weekend there will be **no Saturday Service,** so that the whole Parish Family can be on hand to wish Chris God Speed. As usual on this Sunday, not only our Parish Family will be in attendance, but also our furry, feathered, and

finned friends will be with us to celebrate one of Grace's most loved traditions. The Propers will be that of **St. Francis of Assisi.**

The following weekend, October 15-16 there will be regular services. The weekend of October 22-23, the **Twentieth after Pentecost** will feature The **Ingathering of Pledges.** Sunday October 30 we will celebrate our **Acolytes and Lay Liturgical Ministers.** This brings us to November which will be outlined in the next Grace Notes.

LAY LITURGICAL MINISTRY

At Grace we have been blessed with one of the largest numbers of dedicated Lay Ministers in the diocese to serve God at the altar and lead our Parish Family in worship and to serve their needs and comfort while in our church. Many of our Lay Ministers have been trained to serve in many different capacities as our needs and their desire have led them to take on more responsibilities. During the sad years of the pandemic, through no fault of their own, our corps of ministers has been somewhat depleted. We are hoping during the Program Year to encourage interested parishioners in joining us both at the altar and in service to the congregation as **Acolytes, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Choristers, Sacristans, Usher-Greeters. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help in one or more of the above roles, please contact Jerré Croteau, Verger at GTCroteau@comcast.net 508-993-3048 or The Rev. Melissa Howell at revmelissahowell@gracechurchnb.org or just approach us when you see us.**

Attention Acolytes and Acolyte Parents: Beginning with the program year there will be one team of Acolytes on duty and possibly a Kiteflyer. On the major feast days there may be more scheduled if there are enough available. Sunday October 9 for the **Blessing of the Animals** all available Acolytes will be asked to be on duty. It is our Rector's last service, and we would like to have as much of the traditional procession of Acolytes and costumed actors as is possible. We will be recruiting more Acolytes and will hopefully add to our roster to relieve the burden on some of you who are scheduled perhaps more often than you are accustomed.

Children's Ministry Program

By Charlene Ryder, Children's Ministry Program Coordinator

Please join us on Sunday, September 11, as we begin our new church school year. Registration will be held after service.

We will have classes for children in Pre-K though grade 6. Our wonderful team of teachers are returning this year: Courtney Botelho, Jessica Soares Cabral, Nadine Gomes, Andrea Medeiros, Erin Mingola, Mimi Monteiro, Claire Morck, Isabel Morck, Charlene Ryder & Pamela Souza

Classes will be held in-person in our church school classrooms. Children's chapel will begin in September offering Godly Play stories and bible related sermons for all ages.

If you have any questions, please contact me anytime – call/text 508.728.4374
or cryder@umassd.edu

Looking forwarding to seeing you all.

Grace Church Choir

Let's try this again!

Sunday, September 11
8:30am Rehearsal
10am Service

At this writing, masking is encouraged, but no longer required; it is up to you.

Looking forward to seeing you then and hopefully a more normal choir year!

New adult singers and older youth are encouraged and will be welcomed!

Save the Date: Saying Goodbye and Celebrating The Rev. Chris Morck on Sunday, October 9th

Come celebrate the Feast of St. Francis, the Blessing of the Animals, and Chris's ministry at the Sunday 10am service on October 9th.

A reception will follow in Rodman Hall later in the day, after we have all had time to bring our animals home (time TBD—stay tuned!).

Note that there will be no Saturday 5pm service on October 8th.

MORE THAN ENOUGH

And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Luke 9:16-17, NRSV

Our 2023 pledge campaign's theme is ***More Than Enough*** and will run September 24/25 to October 22/23. The theme focuses on the miracle of sharing with abundance when having faith that God will provide for our needs. The theme is taken from Luke's version of the feeding of the five thousand, when Jesus took just five loaves and two fish, blessed and broke them, and then gave them to His disciples to distribute throughout the crowds. They all ate and were filled. The broken pieces that were left were gathered, enough for twelve whole baskets.

During the week of September 20, the parish will receive a letter explaining the pledge campaign along with the pledge card and a blue colored paper fish. We are inviting parishioners to write a few words in and around the fish about, "**Why I/we give to Grace Church**" either with your name or anonymously. The committee will review the comments and select a few to be published in the weekly bulletin, e-news, etc, and a few being read at services.

Please return your fish with your pledge card either by placing it in the offering plate at church, returning it by mail, or submitting a virtual fish online. The fish will be displayed on a poster: a basket of loaves that we will fill with our paper fish. Our goal is to over fill the basket on the poster with our fish—every fish will represent a pledging person or household, and every single pledge matters.

Many Blessings,

Beth Sharp- McKay
Stewardship Chairperson

Offering Envelopes

On another note, related to the campaign, please request offering envelopes as soon as possible (final date November 11). We will continue to provide offering envelopes, however, there has been a drop in usage of these envelopes per our records even when requested, and we are trying to find ways to reduce the use of paper to save our trees. Therefore, if your household does not request offering envelops and were not utilized in 2022, we will assume you no longer need them. If you have any questions regarding offering envelopes, please contact Beth Sharp-McKay through email stewardship@gracechurchnb.org or cell phone 508-742-7056.

July-August 2022 Gifts

Community Breakfast
Gift of James Bisagni

Martha's Pantry at Grace
Gifts of John Buck, Colleen Roy, Bristol South District Medical Society, Artie Hodge & Lavard Blanche

Laundry Love
Gift of the Council of Women's Organizations

Rector's Discretionary Fund
Gifts of Jean Brown, Zelinda Douhan, Michael Medeiros

Flowers & Flower Fund
Gift of Thornton Klarén
Gift of Sean Corwin **in memory of Charlotte Corwin**
Gift of Priscilla Guillemette **in memory of Ronald Guillemette and Stasia Green**
Gift of William Reed and Family in memory of Martha Reed for her birthday on September 7th and their anniversary on September 12th

Youth World Wildlife Fund
Gifts of Bonnie Silverstein, Karen Maciulewicz, Louise Kelly, Judith Isaksen

Church School
Anonymous Gift

Leaflet Color Printing
Gift of Jerré Croteau **in memory of the Rev. Sarah K. Hague**

Miscellaneous
Gift of Allen & Maureen Decker
Gift of Claire Martin **in memory of her husband, Donald**
Gift of Polly-Ann Mort **in memory of David H. Mort**

A gift for Chris: Send your memories, thanksgivings, and photos to Katie by September 15th!

To show our thanks for The Rev. Chris Morck and his ten years of ministry with Grace Church, we are calling on the parish community and all friends of Grace to write and send us your goodbye messages for Chris: notes of gratitude, special memories and stories you would like to share with him, as well as photos. Our collected notes and photos will be made into a book that will be given to Chris as a goodbye gift from Grace.

If you would like your goodbye message and/or photo to be in the book, please be sure to send your materials to Katie, not to Chris (this way, while the book itself will not be a surprise to him, the contents will be!).

There are two ways to send in your notes and photos:

1. By email: Email your message and photo attachments to Katie: office@gracechurchnb.org Please send hi-resolution, larger sized images. If the image is too small or the resolution is too low, they won't be able to be printed in the book (but we will give any images that don't make it into the book to Chris on a flash drive!).

2. On paper: Mail or bring in your handwritten note and/or printed photographs. Drop them off to Katie in the office, give them to Melissa at church, or mail them to the church with "Attention: Katie" on the envelope. If you want the photographs back, please be sure to let us know!

Please submit all of your materials for the book by Thursday, September 15th.

All Saints' Day Remembrance

Name(s) of deceased to be remembered and placed upon the altar on Saturday, November 5th and Sunday, November 6th

Completed forms may be mailed to the office or placed in the baskets provided in the back of the church and chapel or sent via email to verger@gracechurchnb.org

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DINNER AND. . .

A REGIONAL GATHERING SERIES
FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Sunday, August 28th at 5pm
Dinner and ice cream in Harvard Square

Saturday, September 10th at 11:30am
Lunch and open artists' studios in New Bedford

Saturday, September 17th at 4pm:
Grill night and a hike in Medford

Saturday, October 8th at 6pm
Hot Pot in Quincy

Save the Date:
Let Go. Come Together:
An Afternoon of Young Adult Community
For ages 18-39
Saturday, Nov. 5 | 2-6pm
Trinity Church, Boston
RSVP and other details coming soon

Sponsored by the Young Adult Advisory Committee
of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Nominations are open

Nominations are open for the 2023 slate of vestry members and delegates of Grace Church. Possible positions for this year are 3 Year Vestry Terms, 2023-2026 (four), Convention Delegates (two), Convention Alternates (two), Deanery Representatives (five), Episcopal City Mission Representatives (two), the Inter-Church Council (one), and Teller (one). If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for any of these positions, please contact Jean Pitcairn, chaserdah@aol.com, by Sunday, October 30.

Vestry positions:
Vestry members represent the congregation as a part of the governing body of the parish. They regularly attend Grace, support the ongoing work of the church, and are engaged in Grace's ministries. The work of the vestry continues throughout the year and meetings are monthly.

Yearly positions:
Convention Delegates/Alternates (2 each)
Each year the Diocese of Massachusetts holds a convention to carry forth the work of its 185 churches and vote on a budget and any such business as presented in the agenda. Conventions are held early in November. If a delegate(s) is unable to attend, one or both alternates will serve in that capacity as needed.

Deanery Representatives (five)
The congregations in our diocese are grouped into 12 deaneries whose boundaries are drawn according to natural watersheds, reminding us of our connections with God's creation and symbolic of the waters of Baptism. This gives churches an opportunity to meet collaboratively and locally to discuss issues that are both local and diocesan related. Grace is part of the Mount Hope/Buzzard's Bay Deanery. Evening meetings are quarterly and rotate among the member churches. For more information go to: www.diomass.org/about-us/deaneries-and-regions

Episcopal City Mission Representatives (two)
Episcopal City Mission (ECM) promotes social and economic justice, with particular emphasis on the urban poor. Each year, they provide funding:

- To parishes to enhance their role in their communities
- To grassroots organizations to advocate and bring about social change in low-income communities, and
- To Diocesan programs and initiatives to support the urban poor.

Meetings and the annual fundraising dinner information can be found at www.episcopalcitymission.org

Inter-Church Council (one)
The ICC has united area churches and the greater Faith Community in service to the surrounding area. With 47 member congregations from Westport to Wareham and a volunteer force of 150 leaders, the Council is a strong faith collaborative committed to social, economic and racial justice and spiritual renewal within a framework of ecumenical cooperation. Meetings and events can be found at www.iccgnb.org

Teller (one)
The teller is present in the event that additional ballots need to be cast and tallied during the Annual Meeting.

A Note Regarding Flower Memorials

There has been some confusion regarding the method of requesting flower memorials. **Flower requests should go directly to Charlene Ryder (508 728-4374 or cryder@umassd.edu).** Any Check donations may go to the Grace Church office. Merely sending the request to the office may not get to Charlene in time for the Sunday you wish the flowers to appear.

Church Staff

Rector	Rev. Christopher Morck
Associate Rector	Rev. Melissa Howell
Director of Music	Brian Roderick
Parish Administrator	Katie Brengle
Verger	Gérald Croteau
Facilities Manager	Luis Demetrio

Wardens & Officers

Senior Warden	Jean Pitcairn
Junior Warden	Charles Green
Treasurer	Sharlene Begley
Assistant Treasurer	Karen Maciulewicz
Clerk	Sean Corwin

Vestry Members 2022

Jim Doe
Kathy Ferreira
Cheryl Gammell
Nadine Gomes
Roberta Igler
Eric Jaikes
David King
Pam McNamara
Andrea Medeiros
Beth Sharp-McKay
Andy Sylvia
Lisa Thibeault

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

* You can also subscribe to the monthly email 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

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