



GRACE NOTES

Grace Episcopal Church ♦133 School Street ♦New Bedford, MA 02740

February 2012

From the Rector....

Thankfully I've never been in a strong earthquake, but when I was in Managua, Nicaragua on two mission trips I read accounts of the massive quake that hit that city two days before Christmas 1972. It left 10,000 dead and 250,000 homeless. Those who have been through such nightmares report getting over the physical destruction is profoundly hard but getting over the psychic devastation can be even harder because our minds believe that the earth does not quake. We expect danger from the sky with its violent wind and weather, but the ground is supposed to be our friend.

Of course upon reflection this is nothing more than a mental fiction that we tell ourselves to lessen our fear. Galileo and Copernicus established that the earth is not stable at all but is the third rock from the sun flying through space while spinning on its own axis. There is nothing stable at all!

A famous story is told of a woman attending the lecture of a renowned astrophysicist. She confronts him by saying, "The earth is not flying through space but is resting on the back of a giant turtle." "Well, then, what does the giant turtle rest on?" the scientist replied. "That's easy" the woman responded, "It's turtles all the way down."

Our made-up belief may get us through the day but it is no truer than the idea of "turtles all the way down." One day everything we ever held dear will be swept away forever.

So if nothing is secure on the earth what do we put our trust in?

Jesus invites us to share in his experience of being grounded in God. The Season of Epiphany declares that "God is in Christ drawing the world to himself" and that through faith we too can experience being grounded in God and drawn into the experience of being God's offspring.

Faith is the simple, daily, personal, trust in the presence and protection of God in the midst of a life in which everything is temporary. We found in 1987 after the great fire and we are finding now with the damaged tower that even mortar and stone do not last forever.

What lasts forever is the God who is. Grace Church is knit by the Spirit into the Body of Christ. This is only a metaphor until we believe and act on it, by praying, playing, and serving, no longer in isolation, but together. When we find Christ in the sacrament and in the face of our fellow parishioners then we will find Christ in creation and in the face of our enemies. When we see Christ in all things our anxiety drains away because we find we are held by the force that sustains all things and that force is Love.

Peace in Christ,
Bill

P. S. On Sunday February 12th after the 10am service we are having an Adult Forum to talk about Global Warming using resources from Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light. Please join us to discuss this important topic.



FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

*'...Round or square,
Or tall or flat,
People love
To wear a hat....'*

-William Jay Smith (b 1918)

Well, maybe not everyone I know thinks this is true...as a matter of fact, very few of my girl friends have a love for wearing hats, although they do find them visually appealing—especially when *someone else* is wearing them!

This is understandable with the looming threat of HHH: hat head hair. Hats can do major damage to your coiffure my friends, necessitating some form of anti-static assistance close by for some semblance of restoration when the offending hat is removed. But as for me, I love hats of every kind and very often can be spotted wearing one. It's kind of a visual way to tell others: hey, I'm young at heart... and even if I don't feel that way, I am sending the message that I am confident, outgoing, and yes even perhaps somewhat *mysterious*. Or, more likely in my case, it could be just a throwback from my 60's hippie look, when everyone from Bob Dylan to Joan Baez made headwear a groovy accessory!

On the *Village Hat Shop* blog we are reminded of the many hat metaphors there are. Here are a few:

Talking through your hat ~ Eating your hat ~ Old hat ~ Mad as a hatter ~ Hat in hand ~ Pass the hat ~ Hat trick ~ Hard hat ~ Throwing your hat in the ring ~ Hats off ~ Hold on to your hat ~ Feather in your cap ~ Bee in your bonnet ~ Thinking cap ~ Keeping it 'under your hat and my favorite, **wearing many hats**. I think we may all relate to that one!

In the Old King James version of the Bible, the Hebrew Book of Daniel tells the story of three young men of Judah: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who refused to worship a golden idol in Babylon and so they were bound together with their clothes on including their *hats* and cast into the firey furnace. They were saved by God's divine intervention for their faithfulness.

In 17th century England the persecuted Quakers stood before their English judges refusing to remove their hats as a show of unity (a kind of OCCUPY England) which became known as "Hat Honour."

Mary Holmes author of ***Emotional History of Hats*** tells us that wearing a hat reaffirms our choice of how we want to appear to the world. She goes on, "Each relationship we have demands and necessitates different requirements from us. Many times we find ourselves juggling our emotions and our time. The key to staying fulfilled and whole ourselves is to learn how to maintain balance in trying to make time for everyone in our lives and make them happy." But let's take care of ourselves along the way as well. We have another busy year before us people of Grace, and we need to be aware of and take care of both the physical and spiritual 'hats' in our lives so as to move forward with strength and purpose to do God's work in the world. It's wonderful to say "yes" but also ok to say "no, not now".

Some of the hats" we wear are beautiful and helpful, and others are in need of adjusting or changing so that we can be better brothers and sisters in Christ. Our Franciscan friend, Fr. Richard Rohr, the Founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation reminds us, "We do not need to be everything to be *one good and true thing!* That is more than enough." So let's go forward, not trying to do or be everything.

My prayer for us all in 2012 is to discover a hat that is both fun and functional. I tip my hat to you all... and that my friends is Good News!

In peace,
Paula

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting of Grace Episcopal Church of New Bedford, Massachusetts

will be held at 11:30am on Sunday, February 26, 2012 at the Parish House, School Street, New Bedford for the purpose of

1. Election of four Vestrypersons to serve three years;
2. Election of a Senior Warden and a Junior Warden, a Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer, and a Clerk;
3. Considering and voting upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

By order of the Vestry,
Charlene N. Ryder, Clerk

2011 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Senior Warden	Paula Cabral
Junior Warden	Benjamin Baker
Treasurer	Anne Gundersen
Assistant Treasurer	Marcia Anselmo
Clerk	Charlene Ryder
Vestry 3 year term	Rick Bowie Nina Catelli-Vincent Karen Maciulewicz Linda Pope
Convention Delegates	Rick Bowie Travis Bowie
Convention Alternates	Anne Gundersen Patricia Nieman
Deanery Representatives	Seaver Boyce William Boyce Robert DaSilva Judy Knox Charlene Ryder William Wilbour
Episcopal City Mission	Priscilla Guillemette David Miranda Tom Cabral
Submitted by	Jean Pitcairn, Chairperson, 2011 Nominating Committee
Committee Members:	Roberta Berry, Debbie Clark, Gerry Lopes, and Paula Cabral, Ex-officio

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 22ND**SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER**

Our annual pancake supper will be offered Tuesday, February 21st from 5:30-7:00pm in the library of the parish house. Join us as we celebrate this annual tradition with a brief history about "Fat Tuesday" and plenty of good food! So mark your calendars and bring your families, friends and your appetites as we gather together, say our last 'alleluias' for awhile, and usher in Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent.

*** Free will offering is appreciated. ***

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES
February 22nd**

The Holy Eucharist with the imposition of ashes will be offered at 10am and 12noon in the Chapel and at 7pm in the Church. During the 7pm service children are invited into the Chapel for our annual Children's Ash Wednesday service.

**2012 OFFERING
ENVELOPES**

Thanks to all those who have picked up their 2012 Offering Envelopes. There are still some envelopes that haven't been picked up yet. Please help us save the cost of postage and pick up your 2012 Offering Envelopes while at church. They are arranged in alphabetical order on the table at the back of the church. If your envelopes are not there, or if you are unable to pick them up, please call the Church Office at 508-993-0547. Also, call if you need a pledge card.

USING GOD'S GIFTS

We have gifts that differ according to the grace given us . . . Romans 12

We have been blessed with special skills and talents that are used in our life and vocation. Many of our Parish friends possess these gifts. We will have the opportunity to hear "their story" in a series of Sunday forums in Rodman Hall following the 10 a.m. service.

The February forums will be held:

February 5 **Katie Gilfeather**, a clinical social worker and founder and Chief Executive Officer of Outlook EAP (Employee Assistance Program) will talk about her experiences.

February 19 **Simone Bourgeois**, is an educator who presently works as the Sea Lab's facilitator and curriculum developer. She was recently named SouthCoast Teacher of the Year by the Community Foundation and The Standard-Times.

LITURGY & LITURGICAL MINSITRIES

-Jerré Croteau, Verger

**FEBRUARY 2012
SEASON OF EPIPHANY**

The liturgical seasons, unlike the secular seasons, are not always the same length of time. They are not tied to exact dates on the calendar, with the exception of Christmas Season which is always December 25th through January 5th. The rest of the liturgical year is dependent on the date of Easter, which usually, but not always, is the same week as Passover. The season of Epiphany starts with January 6th and continues until Ash Wednesday, which means it can be anywhere from four to nine weeks long. This year it is seven weeks long. Except for Epiphany itself and the first Sunday after Epiphany, which is also the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, the season is considered to be "ordinary time"; the liturgical color for ordinary time is green.

The Sundays of February are the **Fifth after Epiphany**, February 4-5; the **Sixth after Epiphany**, February 11-12; and the **Last after Epiphany**, (Children's Sunday) February 18-19. February 25-26 will be the **First Sunday in Lent**.

At the Holy Eucharist and Healing Service on Wednesdays in February we will be celebrating: **The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple** February 1st; **The Martyrs of Japan** February 8th; **Janani Luwum** February 15th. February 22nd is **Ash Wednesday**.

I would like to thank everyone who cheerfully served at the various Christmas Eucharists and at the Epiphany Festival of Lights, as well as all those who were enthusiastically involved in the preparations and myriad details for these services, the decoration of the church, the erection of the crèche, and the removal, packing and storage of all the artificial greens, and decorations during the week after the Festival of Lights. Our traditional celebration of the Christmas season requires a monumental effort on the part of so many people that it would be impossible to name them all, but be assured that your efforts were deeply appreciated by the whole parish family.

FOOD PANTRY

-Martha Reed, Coordinator

During the Holidays, the Food Pantry distributed food baskets to those in need who were made known to us. As we move into the winter months we continue to be busy providing food to our clients each Monday and Friday.

Sadly, we have seen the last of the fresh produce grown by the staff and students at Friends Academy until spring. However, we are fortunate that the Boston Food Bank is able to provide some fresh vegetables.

Our gratitude is extended to:

- ★ The friends of Jean Pitcairn who donated a trunk full of goods in Jean's honor.
- ★ George and Pam McNamara who encouraged their friends to donate to the Food Pantry in lieu of giving them gifts this holiday season.

Please continue to make donations of non-perishables to the Food Pantry. Each week we will list an item in the Leaflet that we are running low on and ask that you consider picking up one or more of the item while grocery shopping. We can't tell you how helpful it would be if each attendee at services brought in two items each week. All non-perishable food items can be left in the baskets at the back of the Church on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday or dropped off at the Church Office during the week. Monetary donations are always appreciated and make it possible for us to purchase those items that are not donated and not available through the Boston Food Bank.

As always, many thanks go to all Grace Church members and friends for their donations to the Food Pantry. A special appreciation to my able assistant, Norma Dyer and to the 65 volunteers who enable our Food Pantry to operate so successfully.

**TOP OF THE HILL FELLOWSHIP*****What Happens In Vegas.....***

On Saturday, February 18th, please join the Top of the Hill Fellowship as we head to Vegas where "anything" can happen. Put on your best Elvis gear for the "Elvis Look-alike Contest", warm up your voice and swing your hips for the "Elvis Sound-alike Contest", play a few friendly games, visit our wedding chapel, and enjoy our "Bountiful Buffet", before sitting back and enjoying our nightclub show.

Sign up sheets will be available in the Narthex and on the bulletin board outside the Library. If you have any questions please call, email or speak with Priscilla Guillemette, Sandi Jaikes or Janet Miranda. You can also join the TOTH group on Facebook. Looking forward to seeing everyone there, and remember, ***"What happens in Vegas....."***

AEROBICS / MUSCLE CONDITIONING AND MEDITATION CLASSES

IMPORTANT DAY CHANGE!!!

Beginning in February our class sessions will be held on Monday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Rodman Hall. February classes are: February 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th. All classes include a blend of aerobics, weights and a time for meditation. Classes are \$5.00 each payable at the beginning of the month - minimum 4 classes must be paid in advance. Classes are led by Donna Bosworth who is a certified aerobics instructor. Items to bring to the classes: bottle of water, mat or towel, and weights. Bring a friend, non-parishioners welcome! For more information or to sign-up for the class - please contact: Charlene Ryder email: cryder@umassd.edu or Mel Ventura email: mventura6089@comcast.net A sign-up sheet will also be available on the bulletin board outside the Library.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people involved in making "Occasion~ally Christmas" a success. The Occasion Singers are proud to announce that just over \$600 was raised for the 2013 mission & pilgrimage trips for J2A (youth group). We had just over 100 people in attendance for this fund raiser. I would like to thank the family, friends, and parishioners that attended, the parents that supported by selling tickets or baking, the youth groups for ushering/cooking/selling tickets, and the leadership at Grace Church who helped make this event possible - Charlie Morse, Patrick Victor, Rev. Bill Bradbury, and of course the Occasion Singers for a wonderful concert.
-Caroline Blais

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN OF GRACE and all interested women.....

Mark your Calendars NOW for "the wearing of the Green"

Wednesday, March 21st at Noon

"the day EVERYONE is Irish in Grace House"

CORNED BEEF and CABBAGE LUNCHEON

For this March meeting, Betsy Pye -- our classy Irish lassie-- and her committee will be serving up a fantastic corned beef and cabbage luncheon. Members will be called for their reservations.

Christian women thinking about joining E.C.W. -- or who just want to check us out -- MUST MAKE RESERVATIONS by calling Gwen Skinner, Past President at 508.994.9288. All reservations must be paid before the March 21st meeting.

If you would like to find out more about this dedicated group of Christian women, please contact Joan Ann Niles at janiles@briscoblue.com or phone the Church Office at 508.993.0547 and they will forward your request.



VALENTINE'S DINNER

On February 12th members of the J2A group (Rite-13, J2A, and YAC), are hosting a Valentine's Dinner. Bring your favorite person (sweetheart, friend, grandmother..) and enjoy a quiet, delicious dinner while helping raise funds for our youth. Tickets are \$15 per person (\$30 per couple) and will include the following:

Appetizer ~ Soup or Salad ~ Dinner choice of Beef or Chicken
Potato & Vegetable ~ Coffee & Dessert

Last years dinner was a wonderful success, everyone who attended left more in love than when they arrived! A babysitting service in the Sunday school area will also be available to parents of small children. Tickets will be available after services or through the Church Office during business hours. Please come and enjoy a fabulous feast!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit that they may have courage and hope in their troubles: Martha Reed (Member), Curtis Chase (Friend of Richard Reid), Edna Severino (Member), Helen Dunlop (Member), Richard Bachand (Husband of Barbara Bachand), Harold Shiphorst (Father of Diane Ukleja), April Messier (Friend of Mel Ventura), Mildred Solomon (Member), Bailey Curtis (Friend of Alyson Gangi), Gladys Golden (Member), Rick Brown & Julie DeTerra (Husband & friend of Jean Brown), Elizabeth Devilin & Donald Reynolds (Niece and Nephew of John Medeiros), Tony Pina (Husband of Eloise Pina), Muriel Foster, Yvette Gracie, Angela Hackett & Dan Velcea (Sister, Cousin & Friend of Terri Nowell), Jeffrey Moller, Earl Guillette, Sarah Rice & Andrew Irwin (Brother & Friends of Karen Maciulewicz), Fay Rodrigues, Dolly Goulart & Michael Ouimet (Friends of Richard Fabio), Joanne Grant (Friend of Joan Swain), Paige Gauthier (Friend of Sondra Reid), John Moore & Maria dos Santos (Friends of Tom Davis), Aza Johnson (Niece of Carol Johnson), Swede Chaves & Liz Kelly (Friends of Nancy Mularczyk), Lisa Dunaway (Member), Nick and Scott Seavey (Nephew and brother of Diane Doe), Mary, Dick Bordas and Alzira (Friends of Gerry Lopes), Irene Tunstall (Member), Dolores Desroches (Friend of Paula Cabral), Marilyn Bradbury (Sister-in-law of Bill Bradbury), Michelle Lopes (Member), Norman Lopes (Member), Kara Haney (Daughter of Jack Haney).

Pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in God's eternal Kingdom: Catherine Wilbur (Sister of Harriet Shaw).

Pray for those newly baptized: Sophie Grace Sladewski (Daughter of Brian and Amanda Sladewski).

Pray for our servicemen and women....those who may be mobilized to the region around Iraq as well as those who are standing in at other international or domestic military installations: John Mackler (Friend of Richard Fabio), Ross Mandly (Grandson of Alvin and Eileen Mandly), Ted Steliga (Nephew of Barbara Bachand), Joshua Read (Grandson of Ellie Read), Kenneth Monteiro (Member), Michael Luongo (Grandson of John Howcroft), Robert and John Gardner (Sons of Robert and Marie Gardner), Charlie Mulcahy & Joseph Smith (Brother-in-law & Friend of Karen Maciulewicz), Alex (Friend of Gerry Lopes), Jared Chongarlides (Member), Aaron Patnaude (Grandson of June St. Pierre), Shawn Souza (Member), David Monteiro (Member), Thomas Storer (Grandson of Ronald & Judy St. John), Craig McGregor (Grandson of Carl McGregor), Jorge Lee Vega, Dana Gilmour (Grandson of Peggy Fellouris), Sasha Knezevic (Nephew of Diana Ukleja).

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Children's Ministry: In thanksgiving by the Episcopal Church Women.

Christmas Flowers: In memory of Dorothy Costa, The Costa Family, Mildred St. Onge, Dereck Dram, Thomas Dram, Percy & Louise Shaw, Anna & Charles Wilbur, Gladys Hykes, and John Wilbur.

Community Breakfast: In thanksgiving by Norma Bossé and James Bisagni.

Discretionary Fund: In thanksgiving by William E. Walsh.

Food Pantry: In memory of Ernest & Mary Coler, Howard C. Dyer, Jr., Mary & Frank Rezendes, Charles Reese, Nate King, The Rev. Philip C. Douglas, Eli & Gwendolyn Beck, Lloyd & Gertrude Doane, and Ron Guillemette. **In honor of:** The Rev. William J. Bradbury and Rosemary Morgan. **In thanksgiving by** Charles A. Murray, Berit & Malvin Kvilhaug, Florence Herman, Leslie Kowles, M/M Albert Signorella, John D. Kelleher, M/M Peter Stone, M/M George McNamara, M.S.G. MacGregor, Blair W. Tracy, M/M Ricardo Bermudez, M/M Harry J. Baggen, M/M Lloyd Felder, M/M Thomas O'Neil, M/M Mark Goulding, M/M Joseph Vasta, M/M Carl Beckman, Dorothy B. Jenkins, Pauline Roderiques, Susan Sheetz, M/M Donald Driesen, The Rev. & Mrs. G. Kenneth Garrett, Joseph Tassoni, Jr., Mildred Blossom, Edith Lauderdale, Grace Church Thrift Shop, Southeastern Insurance Agency, M/M Thomas Robbins, M/M Norman Lopes, M/M William Reed, M/M Alvin Mandly, M/M James Peterson, and Episcopal Church Women of Grace Church.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2012</h1>						
			1 7:00am Gathered in Grace 10:00am Holy Eucharist 6:30pm Youth Choir 7:30pm Handbell Choir	2 6:00pm ESOL	3 9:30am Food Pantry	4 5:00pm Holy Eucharist
5 5 Epiphany 7:45am Community Breakfast 8:00am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Holy Eucharist 11:15am Church School, J2A , Coffee Hour	6 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm Aerobics	7 6:00pm ESOL	8 7:00am Gathered in Grace 10:00am Holy Eucharist 6:30pm Youth Choir 7:30pm Handbell Choir	9 6:00pm ESOL	10 9:30am Food Pantry	11 5:00pm Holy Eucharist 6:00pm J2A Valentine Dinner
12 6 Eiphany 7:45am Community Breakfast 8:00am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Holy Eucharist 11:15am Church School, J2A, Coffee Hour	13 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm Aerobics	14 6:00pm ESOL	15 7:00am Gathered in Grace 10:00am Holy Eucharist 6:30pm Youth Choir 7:30pm Handbell Choir	16 6:00pm ESOL	17 9:30am Food Pantry	18 5:00pm Holy Eucharist 6:00pm Top of the Hill
19 Last Epiphany 7:45am Community Breakfast 8:00am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Children's Liturgy 11:15am Church School, J2A, Coffee Hour	20 President's Day Office Closed 6:30pm Aerobics	21 Shrove Tuesday 5:30- 7pm Pancake Supper 6:00pm ESOL	22 Ash Wednesday 7:00am Gathered in Grace 10:00am Holy Eucharist & Ashes 12:00pm Holy Eucharist & Ashes 7:00pm Holy Eucharist & Ashes Children's Service	23 6:00pm ESOL	24 9:30am Food Pantry	25 5:00pm Holy Eucharist
26 Lent 1 7:45am Community Breakfast 8:00am Holy Eucharist & Great Litany 8:30am Adult Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Holy Eucharist & Great Litany 11:15am Church School, J2A 11:30am Annual Meeting	27 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm Aerobics	28 6:00pm ESOL	29 7:00am Gathered in Grace 10:00am Holy Eucharist 6:30pm Youth Choir 7:00pm Vestry Mtg. 7:30pm Handbell Choir			

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

133 School Street, New Bedford, MA 02740

Parish Office 508-993-0547
After School Program 508-961-1622
Rectory 508-993-8710 - Fax 508-996-9772
Web Address www.gracechurchnb.org
E-Mail gracechurchnewbedford@yahoo.com

Grace Church Staff

Rector The Rev. William J. Bradbury
Interim Children's Minister Lizabeth Brimm
Youth Minister Charles Morse
Director of Music Brian Roderick
Administrative Assistant Rosemary Morgan
Financial Manager Judith Areano
Office Assistant Claire Morel
Sexton Patrick Victor
Part-time Sexton Pearl Adams

Grace After School Program Staff

Program Director Donna Pires
Group Leader Gail Pierce
Foster Grandparent Nancy Collins
Foster Grandparent Julie Ramos

Grace Church Wardens and Officers

Paula Cabral Senior Warden
Benjamin Baker Junior Warden
Alfred Smialek Treasurer
Marcia Anselmo Assistant Treasurer
Charlene Ryder Clerk

Grace Church Vestry Members

Roberta Berry
Melissa Botelho
Deborah Clark
Jean Clarke
Marie Gardner
Eric Jaikes
Kristen Kalbrener
Gerry Lopes
Peter McDonald
David Miranda
Jean Pitcairn
Cynthia Shea
Elizabeth Jaikes, Youth Rep

Grace Episcopal Church
133 School Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NEW BEDFORD, MA
PERMIT NO. 25