



GRACE NOTES

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

January 2012

From the Rector....

I always wonder how another New Year has snuck up on me. Who allowed that to happen and why does it happen so quickly? When I was a child it took forever for the years to advance.

Of course the difference is when I was a child the advance of years was seen as a good thing bringing gifts like the ability to drive a car and go to college. Now the advance of years will bring many losses, like the ability to drive a car and read a book. I want this losing to slow down, and I want the dying of loved ones to slow down, and in that resistance time speeds up.

Resisting the passage of time is a recipe for failure: as Byron Katie says, "you can fight what is and you will lose--but only all the time."

Resisting what is also wastes energy that would be better used for something possible and productive. The image of Christmas is the baby who accepts everything and resists nothing, which he learns from his mother who says to the angel, "Let it be done to me according to your word."

The image of Lent is the man on the cross who accepts everything, resists nothing, and thus experiences the flow of Eternal Life.

As we resist we become hard and brittle but as we accept we grow open and flexible. As we fight time our hearts close, but as we let go of time our hearts blossom and flourish.

Jesus is our model for living in this Now. We gather together week by week with other open hearts to draw courage and joy from his presence. As we let go of our fear of the future we find that this moment is filled with the radiance of God.

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." He calls us back to the wonder we had as children because wonder is closer to reality than fear.

It's a New Year. We worship, work, and wonder together as Grace Church. We welcome the new and let go of the past. As Dag Hammarskjöld wrote years ago: "For all that has been, Thanks. For all that will be, Yes."

What that leaves us is Now: the safe place the Children of God play without fear.

I look forward to worshipping and playing with you throughout the New Year.

PS We are having our regular 8am and 10am services on Sunday January 1st, but there will be no church school.

PPS It is not too late to sign up for the Connect Course which begins Sunday January 8th at 12:15pm. Lunch will be provided so please let the office know if you want to join us: 508-993-0547

Bill



FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

"When my life is over and I cash the wooden nickel, I won't give up the ghost, until I have just one more...pickle"

*-from A Tribute to the Transcendental Cucumber
by David Conner*

Ok, I am counting down the twelve says of Christmas, and looking forward to the upcoming Epiphany season...so what do pickles have to do with any of this? No, I am not giving up pickles as my New Years' resolution! But have you heard the *story* of the Christmas Pickle? I came across a glass pickle ornament this season and decided it might be fun to start a new tradition at our family's 2011 Christmas gathering. Pickles are mentioned at least twice in the Bible (Numbers 11:5 and Isaiah 1:8) and history records their usage over 3,000 years ago in Western Asia, ancient Egypt and Greece. Folklore states that in old world Germany, the last decoration placed on the Christmas tree was always a pickle, carefully hidden deep in it's branches. Legend has it that the observant child (or adult) who found it on Christmas Day was blessed with a year of good fortune and would be given the great honor of opening the first present on that Christmas morning. In honor of our Rector, Bill I offer a more Americanized version of this tradition that includes a tale from the deep south. John Lower was born in Bavaria in 1842. He left Germany with his family and emigrated to the United States. While fighting in the American Civil War, John Lower was captured and sent to a prison in Andersonville, Georgia. He soon became gravely ill given the poor conditions of the prison. Starving, he begged a guard for just one pickle before resigning to his death. The guard, taking pity on him, found and gave Lower a pickle. Thus as this folklore dictates, a miracle happened. By the grace of God, he was then blessed with both the mind and body to live on. After the war he was reunited with his family and he began the tradition of hiding a pickle on the Christmas tree. The first person who found the pickle on Christmas morning would be blessed with a year of good fortune... and a special gift, such as good health, just as John Lower had experienced! This season of Epiphany, soon to be with us, reminds me, my fellow 'pickles', that we also are being sought out in the vast branches of this tree of life. God has come to us, been revealed to us through the Word and Sacraments, through song and prayer, community, family, and friends! God is in the world and longs for our presence...but do we want to be found? It is my prayer for 2012 that we do! And that is Good news!

Peace,
Paula



VESTRY HAPPENINGS

November 30, 2011

VOTED: To place in the Unrestricted Endowment: \$23,574.94, a legacy from the estate of Constance Hindle.

VOTED: to allow Team Property (Property Committee) to enter into a contract for work on Grace House for funds up to \$190,000 for this work.* (one abstention).

*Work to include windows, north side of building shingling, work on the chimney in the north yard and also the east chimney. Also to be included would be work to fix leaks in the music room and on the staircase from Rodman Hall to the kitchen. Requests from the church staff regarding their space issues and concerns would be entertained as well.

VOTED: To make a request to the Trustees of Parish Funds for \$190,000 to do this work (one abstention).

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 January forums will be held:

January 15 Richard Bowie will talk about his life experiences leading to his management career.

January 22nd D'Arcy MacMahon will discuss his 30 year career in the corporate world to his present position as Executive Director of the Lloyd Center for the Environment

LITURGY & LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

-Jerré Croteau, Verger

The Epiphany

After the Twelfth Day of Christmas (January 5) we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, remembering the coming of the Magi or Wise Men. The word *magi* is the plural of the Latin word *magus*, which means a priest or sorcerer, rather than the kings that some traditions call the three men, who followed the star to find the Christ Child. (Think Dumbledore or Merlin, rather than King Herod or David.) The word is from the same root that gives us the word *magic* and its derivatives. This story only appears in the Gospel of Matthew, which also relates the story of the slaughter of the innocent boys by Herod, a result of his suspicions aroused by the Magi's visit. There is no other reference in any other historical source for either of these stories.

Early tradition has assigned names to these three mysterious men of faith, Caspar, Balthazar and Melchior. Some sources theorize that they were Zoroastrian holy men from Persia, because of prophecies in Zoroastrian scripture. The earliest pictorial representation of them shows one to be a Black man. Whether the story be true or apocryphal, it is very symbolic on several levels. The gifts presented by them are symbols: the gold of Christ's kingship, the frankincense of worship and adoration, and the myrrh (a resin used in the manufacture of perfumes and in ancient embalming processes) of death and the afterlife. The magi themselves are obviously foreigners, and thus the first clue that Christ's light is meant for everyone, and not just for the people of Israel. The word Epiphany itself means manifestation, realization, the dawn of specific knowledge.

Every year we celebrate these ideas at Grace with a service which is somewhat unique to us: the Epiphany Festival of Lights. It marks the end of our Christmas cycle and comes either the Second Sunday of Christmas, Epiphany itself, or the First Sunday after Epiphany, whichever Sunday is closest to January 6th.

Our Acolytes are the principal ministers at this service and perform all of the roles, The focus of the readings, music and pageantry is on the spreading of the Word and Light of Christ from his birth to the world at large, from the manifestation to the Magi, to the launching of the Apostles into their ministries, and ultimately to the people of today as they leave the church at the end of the service, literally carrying the Light of Christ out into the world.

January 2012

Firstly, I would like to apologize for a mixup in my December article; the next to the last paragraph was from an article the previous December and contained all the wrong dates and information.

Sunday January 1st is still during the Christmas season, It is the seventh day of Christmas and would be the first Sunday after Christmas. But this year it is the **Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus**. Most days are dedicated to a Saint, an Apostle, one of the feasts of Mary, or one representing a crucial event in Jesus' life. If the feast falls on a Sunday, the Sunday liturgy always trumps the feast day. Sometimes a major Saints' day is moved to another day. However Feast Days representing events in Jesus' life by exception always trump Sunday's Liturgy (one other exception is All Saints' Day which can be moved to a Sunday). Thus Christmas Day, Holy Name Day, the Transfiguration, the Presentation and other Jesus' days trump what would have been a normal Sunday. And so, Sunday January 1st we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Name.

The Christmas season ends on January 5th, the Twelfth Day of Christmas. Friday January 6th is the Feast of the Epiphany which begins the season of Epiphany. Sunday January 8th is the **First Sunday after Epiphany** and the **Baptism of Jesus**. White is used throughout the Christmas season and for the First Sunday after Epiphany. There will be Baptism on this Sunday. At 4:00 p.m. that same Sunday the Epiphany Festival of Lights will take place.

January 15th, the **Second Sunday after Epiphany** will be Children's Eucharist at 10 o'clock. January 22nd, the **Third Sunday after Epiphany** we will also celebrate **Outreach Sunday** when we celebrate the work of our various outreach ministries. The month ends with the **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany** on January 29th. There will be a concert by the **SouthCoast Chamber Music Society** that afternoon at 3:00 p.m.

At the 10-o'clock Eucharist on the Wednesdays in January we will be celebrating the **Epiphany** on January 4th; **Julia Emery**, Missionary, on January 11th; the **Confession of St. Peter** on January 18th; and the **Conversion of St. Paul** on January 25th.



THE EPHIPHANY FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Sunday
January 8, 2012
4:00pm

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES AT GRACE

CHURCH SCHOOL

-Liz Brimm, Interim Children's Minister

December was a very busy and successful month for our church school kids and the volunteers who made all the activities possible. Melissa Botelho organized a "Lunch and a Movie" event designed to give the kids a special treat and parents some time to shop or just be together alone for a while. The fourth and fifth graders helped make macaroni and cheese and chicken nuggets for lunch, and they did a great job of preparing, serving, and cleaning up! Other kids played twister, and we now have several adults who are sore just from watching them. The movie was a Christmas movie from the Christian Veggie Tales. Parents can be justly proud of how well and nicely their children played together and helped with each other. We give special thanks for the remarkable energies of Melissa Botelho and the crew of generous volunteers!

The Advent Pageant "*Show Us the Way*" played to rave reviews on Sunday, December 18. This gift of the children to the church family was a blessing to us in this season of Christ's coming. We are indebted to our church school volunteers and the incredible background support of parents, which made this event possible, along with our special and gifted children, some of whom may well go on to professional careers in acting.

The Children's Creche Service on Christmas Eve, then services on Christmas closed out the month for our dear children, and the Church School classes will resume on January 8th, after the holidays.

*** *Breaking News!* ***

*** A parent's group will begin on Sunday, January 8th also, at the same time as the children are in Church School, with coffee to fuel us and a few moments to rest. Now while the children learn, parents can get some support for what their kids are studying that Sunday as we share fellowship. Parents, please join us! ***

JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD

-Charles Morse, Youth Minister

Happy New Year Everybody!

This will be my least newsworthy newsletter ever!

January doesn't have much going on except planning for February. We have a ski trip, a Valentine's Dinner and a retreat.

We did book Rodman Hall on the night of January 14th for a rock concert but we have not done any planning so if anyone has ideas this would be a good time to bring them up.

GRACE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

-Donna Pires, Program Director

As children are preparing their notes to Santa, they include a list of what they want as well as repeated statements of how good they have been *all year!* They have also been busy making signs that read, "The End is Near" or "Christmas is Coming." And when those signs don't get your attention, some of the children come in wearing Santa hats! When this happens we always say "Hello Santa." As children can be so serious at times their reply is "NO, it's me"..... (as if we couldn't tell!)

On another note, we would like to thank The New Bedford Day Nursery Fund for their generous donation to our program to help out with supplies and field trips!

If you are interested in our program, please feel free to call Donna L. Pires, 208-961-1622.

FOOD PANTRY*-Martha Reed, Coordinator*

December being the end of the year and the busy holiday season, our Food Pantry felt the rush with exceptional numbers of family units coming to our door. Our staff were really challenged in preparing the bags of non-perishable supplies given to each family whether it be a family unit of one or eight. We provide three meals a day for three days. Fortunately, we were able to obtain 3,200 pounds of staples from the Great Boston Food Bank. In addition, one week we purchased \$720 worth of goods to fill our shelves from Save-A-Lot. Other weeks we averaged \$295 for supplies. Food baskets were prepared and distributed to those of our church family in need of assistance and several Juvenile Court families in need.

Donations received in the first half of December included:

- ◆ Non-perishables from the food drive sponsored by the Mattapoisett Town Hall
- ◆ Home baked cookies from Taber Academy students
- ◆ \$25 gift certificate from BJ's
- ◆ Fresh vegetables including lettuce, kale, squash and root vegetables from Friends Academy
- ◆ \$100 from the wait staff at Cobblestone's restaurant
- ◆ \$150 from the Grace Church Thrift Shop
- ◆ 17 individual monetary gifts from church members

The staff of the Food Pantry is concerned about how to handle the future needs of this valuable outreach program at Grace Church. We are experiencing an increase in the numbers coming to our door (from 25 family units to 45 family units each week), and at the same time a decrease in donations of non-perishables in the baskets at the rear of the church. Please give your attention to this important outreach program. Our clients are not only from New Bedford but from surrounding towns as well. Look around at church services. If each attendee donated two staples a week, imagine how this would help fill our shelves. Thanks to all our donors and blessing to you this holiday season.

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES - 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, please call the Church Office at 508-993-0547. Also, call if you need a pledge card.



At their luncheon meeting held on
Wednesday, December 7th

RUTH COSGROVE
KATHLEEN McCOY
CLAUDIA SETTELE
ADELE SMIALEK

were welcomed as new members
to this faith community of Grace.

We hope you will share your time and talent in the
five fields of service as E.C.W. members
Parish – Community – Diocese – Nation – World

Reports of the standing committees were presented to the thirty members in attendance. 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.

The next meeting of E.C.W. will be held at noon Wednesday, March 15, 2012 in Grace House with a Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner. Contact Norma Dyer if you would like to attend by calling 508.992.9881.

TOP OF THE HILL FELLOWSHIP "Souper" Bowl I

On Saturday, January 21, 2012, please join the Top of the Hill Fellowship as we have our own "Souper Bowl". Wear your favorite team jersey, T-shirt or sweatshirt (professional or college), or your best cheerleading outfit, as we "kick-off" a night filled with food, fun and, "Are ya ready for some football".... but not the traditional kind. Our food selection will include many of the snack items including chicken wings, chips & dip, pigs in a blanket, chili, etc. for that Pre-Game fix. Our main course will include a variety of soups and home-made breads that will "score big" with everyone, and the desserts are always worth "extra points". So plan on coming and having a "Souper" night with friends! 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 Top Of The Hill Group on Facebook. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

CONNIE HINDLE'S LEGACY

Constance Mary Hindle passed away on February 13, 2010 at the age of 84. She led a full life devoted to her profession, her Church and her community. We are blessed to have known her and for her life. Connie devoted 30 years as a mathematics teacher in the New Bedford school system. She helped many children as a volunteer math tutor and later worked with the Literacy Program.

Her four beagles were her companions and the love of her life. Some of us referred to her as the "beagle lady". As an animal enthusiast she trained dogs, showed them and often served as a judge during the shows.

She often talked fondly about her frequent trips to England, where she had relatives. Grace was an important part of her life as she faithfully attended the Wednesday Eucharist. Connie was an active Episcopal Church Women member and her ministries included the Altar Guild among others.

In her retirement she touched many through her work in helping the elderly with chores such as shopping and personal or medical appointments. Beyond this stewardship Constance Hindle remembered Grace Church through an unrestricted legacy of \$23,575. As part of Grace's Endowment Fund her gift will a lasting impact way into the future

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Community Breakfast: *In thanksgiving by* James Bisagni, Norma Bossé and Robin Cabral.

Food Pantry: *In memory of* Eli & Gwendoline Beck, Lloyd & Gertrude Doane, Ernest & Mary Dalzell, Frank & Mary Rezendes, Ellen Cushman, The Rev. Philip C. Douglas, Robert Corbett, and Jose Silva. *In thanksgiving by* M/M Alvin Mandly, M/M William I. Reed, M/M Norman Lopes, Grace Church Thrift Shop, Edith Lauderdale, Frank Perrine, M/M Kenneth Dunaway, Roberta Berry, M/M Donald Driesen, M/M Robert Huckabee, Barbara H. Meehan, Paul T. Macedo, James Persons, M/M Harland Knox, Kimball Baker, Cobblestone's Restaurant Wait Staff, and Agnes Carroll.

Rector's Discretionary Fund: *In thanksgiving by:* W. E. Walsh.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit that they may have courage and hope in their troubles: Mildred Solomon (Member), Joe Gracia (Member), Bailey Curtis (Friend of Alyson Gangi), Eileen Mandly (Member), Gladys Golden (Member), Rick Brown & Julie DeTerra (Husband & friend of Jean Brown), James Dwyer (Friend of Marie Gardner), Bob Boardman (Member), 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 & Friends of Terri Nowell), Jeffrey Moller & Andrew Irwin (Brother & Friend 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), Catherine Wilbur (Sister of Harriet Shaw), 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: Delores Bedard (Friend of Rosemary Morgan), Dr. Edward Mackler (Friend of Richard Fabio).

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), Steven Alves (Friend of Chuck Cotter), Robert and John Gardner (Sons of Robert and Marie Gardner), Charlie Mulcahy (Brother-in-law 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).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2012</h1>						
1 2 Christmas New Year's Day 7:45am Community Breakfast 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist	2 Office Closed	3	4 10:00am Holy Eucharist 6:30pm Youth Choir 7:30pm Handbell Choir	5 6:00pm Aerobics	6 Epiphany 9:30am Food Pantry	7 5:00pm Holy Eucharist
8 1 Epiphany 7:45am Community Breakfast 8:00am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Adult Choir 10:00am Holy Eucharist/Baptism 11:15am Church School/J2A, Coffee Hour 12:15pm Connect 4:00pm Festival of Lights	9 9:30am Food Pantry	10	11 10:00am Holy Eucharist 6:30pm Youth Choir 7:30pm Handbell Choir	12 February Newsletter Deadline 6:00pm Aerobics	13 9:30am Food Pantry	14 5:00pm Holy Eucharist 8-11pm Rock Concert
15 2 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 Using God's Gifts 12:15pm Connect	16 MLK Day Office Closed	17	18 10:00am Holy Eucharist 6:30pm Youth Choir 7:30pm Handbell Choir	19 Annual Report Deadline 6:00 ICC Delegates Mtg. 6:00pm Aerobics	20 9:30am Food Pantry	21 5:00pm Holy Eucharist 6:00pm Top of the Hill
22 3 Epiphany Outreach Sunday 7:45am Community Breakfast 8:00am Holy Eucharist 8:30am Adult Choir 10:00am Holy Eucharist 11:15am Church School/J2A, Coffee Hour Using God's Gifts	23 9:30am Food Pantry	24	25 10:00am Holy Eucharist 6:30pm Youth Choir 7:00pm Vestry Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Choir	26 6:00pm Aerobics	27 9:30am Food Pantry	28 5:00pm Holy Eucharist
29 4 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 12:15pm Connect	30 9:30am Food Pantry	31				

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

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