



Grace Notes

Sept/Oct 2023

From the Wardens

By Jean Pitcairn & Mike Goulart, Co-Wardens

Almighty God and Heavenly Father, it is through your grace and mercy that we are able to be present and we are grateful for this blessing.

As we seek to embrace our mission, teach us to listen and to hear each other with open minds and compassionate hearts.

We ask that you guide our thoughts, so that decisions we are called to make are made with courage, commitment, and good conscience.

With humble thanks, we pray that whatever we achieve will be to the glory of your holy name, through Jesus Christ. Amen

Mrs. Joyce Nightingale-Holder St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Brooklyn Diocese of Long Island

As summer comes to an end, and we look forward to fall and our traditional Homecoming, you are

invited to come home to Grace. There is so much to come home to and for...

Our dedicated and vibrant Search and Discernment Committee will be finishing their faithful work to help us welcome a new Rector. We will have much to learn and celebrate together. We will have transitions to navigate. We will celebrate the many gifts we have given and received in our time with Rev. Melissa Howell. And yet in many ways our work is just beginning anew.

We (your wardens and vestry) hope the above prayer reminds us of the need we have to continue to grow in our community and our faith. Our hope is that we can all bring our energy to embrace our challenges and our collective wisdom to discern the next part of Grace's journey.

How can you participate in this part of the journey? There are so many opportunities. Please come to Homecoming brunch and we will eat and share - our ministries will give

informal updates, as will our Search and Discernment Committee. And we hope to continue to gather after service throughout the fall to discuss where we see Grace's next steps. There are many needs in the community around us and in the Episcopal parishes in our neighborhoods. How can we support each other? Where are the intersections for our faith family? Where can we collaborate and learn and grow with each other? We invite you to come and share and participate in the next steps.

The Episcopal Church Foundation has been sharing thoughts about our church opportunities. They share, "Of course, no congregation has the resources to engage all the needs of their neighborhoods, but God doesn't expect us to. Rather, God asks congregations to study their neighborhoods, learn the story of their neighborhoods, and let God speak to them about their place in that story. This kind of discernment can reveal a vision God is calling them to see, the expansive mission

God is calling them to take up, and the services God wants them to invite.”

We have so many gifts to share with each other and our greater New Bedford community. We look forward to being together and working together as the Holy Spirit guides us in God’s god work.

In peace,
Jean Pitcairn and Mike Goulart, your Wardens

From the Bridge Priest

By Rev. Melissa Howell

“But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.” - Psalm 52:8

Dear Ones of Grace,

Autumn here in the northern hemisphere is a visible season of transition in the natural world. Our changing trees, the changing light, our changing schedules—the signs of beginnings and endings are all around us. We have been and are, of course, in a season of transition, search, and discernment at Grace. Your search and discernment committee, your officers and vestry, will be sharing news of their work with you this season, as together you all anticipate the call of a new rector to minister alongside you—how exciting this is!

During these next months of clergy leadership transition and beyond, Grace Church will call on you for your support. Grace needs your prayers, your presence, your listening ears and hearts, your voices, and your generous and courageous stewardship and sharing of your time, talent, and treasure, including in new ways you may not have

considered before. Together, you have an abundance of God-given gifts to share—in fact, Grace’s stewardship theme for this year is “Rooted in Abundance.” During this autumn of change, not just at Grace but in our wider Church and world, our rootedness in God and in God’s abundance feels more essential than ever.

The psalm verse above is one of my favorites, one that I have prayed often in times of challenge and change. When I went to the Holy Land on pilgrimage, I fell in love with olive trees. We saw some very old and very beautiful gnarled olive trees there. As they age, they put out new shoots and branches, continuing to bear fruit through ideal and challenging conditions alike. When I pray verse 8 of Psalm 52 I pray to be like those trees, to root myself in God’s abundant and steadfast love. I pray that you all will find rootedness and nourishment there, too, in this season of change and exciting possibility.

I continue to gratefully experience the many ways God’s love bears fruit through each and all of you at Grace. It has been a gift to travel with you these 3+ years, as your bridge priest during this year of change, and as your curate before that. The time of our goodbye is approaching and is still unknown—it will depend on the timing of Grace’s search and of my own search. This fall, during our remaining time together, I bid your prayers as I continue to engage in my own discernment around where God is calling me to serve next. And my prayers are and will be with you, also.

As we approach the other side of our bridge, I’ll end with an encore of something I wrote in the November/December 2022 issue of

Grace Notes:

I pray that we might enjoy the view from the bridge, and the journey as we make it, remembering that the Holy Spirit is with us, upholding and inspiring us in our discernments. The Spirit will be with us, too, when this bridging time ends and new roads open. No matter where those roads take us, we will always be connected, because we are the Church, the Body of Christ. For this we give thanks.

Yours in Christ,
Melissa †

Liturgy & Liturgical Ministry

By Jerré Croteau, Verger

September-October

We begin September with the last Sunday in our Summer Cycle with the **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**. There will be a **baptism** at the Sunday 9am service on September 3. Starting the following weekend, September 9-10, we begin the **Program Year** with the traditional **Homecoming Weekend**. It is a continuation of the Season of Pentecost, and the liturgical color remains **Green**. We will be using Prayers of the People form III, and, with some exceptions, Eucharistic Prayer from Enriching Our Worship. The Saturday service remains at 5pm in All Saints’ Chapel, and the Sunday service starts at 10am. The choir will return, and we will be going back to Eucharist at the High Altar. After the service there will be a **Homecoming Brunch** where heads of the various ministries will be present ready with information about their ministries, encouraging members and new members who may wish to volunteer to join one of the many ministries available to our laity.

The next weekend, September 16-17 is the **Sixteenth after Pentecost**. The 10am Sunday Eucharist will incorporate the **Children's Liturgy**, Teachers, students, and their backpacks will be blessed at this service. The following weekend, September 23-24. **The Seventeenth after Pentecost** will begin the yearly **Pledge Campaign**. Then comes the **Eighteenth after Pentecost** September 30-October 1 with regular services.

The following weekend, October 7-8, is one of our most loved traditions, we will celebrate the **Feast of St. Francis of Assisi**, whose day is October 4. The Altar is decorated with stuffed animals instead of flowers, and everyone is invited to bring their, furry, finned, and feathered friends to the Eucharist for a Blessing. October 14-15, the **Twentieth after Pentecost**, there will be regular services. October 21-22 will be **Pledge Ingathering**. October 28-29 is **Acolyte Sunday** when all our Lay Ministers will be honored and new Lay Ministers commissioned at the 10am Service. Following the service, the annual **Putting the Garden to Sleep Event** will occur.

LAY LITURGICAL MINISTRY

Please consider joining our Lay Liturgical Minister Guild. We welcome all those who wish to serve God and our Congregation at the Altar. If you or your child are interested in joining this valuable and rewarding ministry as an Acolyte, a Lector, a Eucharistic Minister, a Sacristan and/or an Usher Greeter. Please contact Jerré Croteau verger@gracechurchnb.org, or 774-438-0870, or approach him on Sunday.

Come Join in Our Jubilant Song!

By Brian Roderick, Music Director

Our new choir season for our Grace Church Choir will begin with rehearsal and service on Sunday, September 10.

Rehearsal begins at 8:30am in Rodman Hall and the service is at 10am.

Grace Church Choir invites adult singers and older youth.

Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, October 1 at 11:15am in Rodman Hall. We are always looking to welcome new ringers.

"When, in our music, God is glorified, and adoration leaves no place for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!

How oft in making music we have found, a new dimension in the world of sound, as worship moves us to a more profound Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a Psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the Light? Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight, Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!"

-F. Pratt Green

Martha's Pantry Update

By The Martha's Pantry Team

Hello Grace Church Family!

Martha's Pantry recently submitted our annual survey report to the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB).

The GBFB is our main source of food for the guests who visit Martha's Pantry once a month. We would like to take the opportunity to share some of the data from this report with our Grace Church Family.

Over the course of the last year, from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, Martha's Pantry served 2,615 families for a total of 11,279 individuals!

Specific Age Category Data:
Children-(under the age of 18)-4,415
Adults-(between the ages of 19 and 65)-5,724
Seniors-(over the age of 65)-1,140

Given we are open only two hours per week (Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30am-10:30am), we are incredibly blessed by the number of people in our community who we can help with this wonderful Grace Church Outreach Ministry.

The following is more detailed information about the Food Pantry process:

Not including the donations received from our Grace Church Family and some local garden resources, over the course of one year we have received **161,278 pounds** of food from the GBFB. Even though that seems like a "Ton" of food (80+ Tons to be exact!), we often run out of stock items very quickly. We try to offer a variety of healthy fresh food like vegetables, fruits, produce, eggs, milk, yogurt, and other staples. Historically, we did not have the cold storage capacity necessary to allow us to bring in more of these healthy fresh food items. That is, until very recently! We are very pleased to announce the addition of a walk-in cooler funded by a grant and other private charitable donations received for Martha's Food Pantry. The new

cooler will afford us more refrigeration space and the ability to procure more fresh food. In addition to fresh food, we also distribute shelf stable items like canned soups, vegetables, rice, cereal, beans, pasta, sauces, tuna, chili, juices, milk and the like. Donations are very important to Martha's Pantry! With that said, hearty soups are always in demand, along with meal extenders like tuna and hamburger helper, ramen noodles, etc. Past contributions and donations really have made a tremendous difference!

Martha's Pantry guidelines for the guests are simple and consistent. We allow guests to visit Martha's Pantry once per month. At a minimum we provide three days of three full meals for each person in the household. Although this may not seem like a lot of food, it is greatly appreciated by our guests and their families. Many of our guests have been coming to Martha's Pantry for years and we have come to know them by name. Martha's Pantry had humble beginnings started by a core group of volunteers and magnificent parishioner Martha Reed. Their mission, which endures today, was to help people in need and share some of the bounty of the Grace Church Family. The Pantry has now been in operation for more than 20 years and although the venue and format has changed, our outreach ministry remains strong with a core group of dedicated volunteers. Our volunteers help off-load the shipments from GBFB every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month as well as work the actual Pantry on Wednesdays and Fridays. We also have volunteers who come in during the week to pre-package the shelf stable food. It can be hard work and often hectic, but it is a joyful place where friends are made and it is always rewarding. There is always a need for new

volunteers.

We appreciate your continued support of the blessing we call Martha's Pantry through your donations of food and/or consideration of your time as a volunteer. Be well.

The Martha's Pantry Team
 Len Boyce
 Maureen Decker
 Chrissy Green
 Patty Fowle

Instructions Regarding Flower Memorials

1. There are forms on the table in the narthex. You may fill out the form and Give it to Charlene Ryder, or contact her directly: cryder22@comcast.net or 508-728-4374
2. Send your donation **separately** to the Church Office or place it in the offering plate when at a service. **Do not include the actual request in the envelope** as Charlene may not receive it in time to order flowers. Your request will still be honored if the check has not been received/processed yet.

All Saints' Day Remembrance

Name(s) of deceased to be remembered and placed upon the altar on
 Saturday, November 4th
 and Sunday, November 5th

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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* 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>

July-August 2023 Gifts

Community Breakfast

Gift of James Bisagni, James McKay

Martha's Pantry at Grace

Gift of John Buck

Gift of MaryBeth & Roger Holmes **in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary**

Gift of Daniel Vam Der Vliet, Nick & Linda Conostas, Pamela & Dennis Carr, J. & K. Redman, Louise & Richard Domingos, and Elizabeth Kelly **in honor of Mary Beth and Roger Holmes' 50th Wedding Anniversary**

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

Gift of Margaret Loewinger **in memory of Alden Taylor**

Flowers & Flower Fund

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

Gift of Priscilla Guillemette **in memory of Ronald Guillemette and Stasia Green**

Gift of Donald Driesen **in memory of Claire Driesen**

Racial Justice Committee of Grace

Gift of the Episcopal Church Women, Memory Holloway, Michael Medeiros

Memorial Fund

Gift of Janice Chadwick **in loving memory of her parents, Harry & Olive Chadwick**

Leaflet Color Printing

Gift of Jerré Croteau **in memory of his cousin Jeanne Bastarache**

Interchurch Council

Gift of Michael Medeiros

Church Staff

Bridge Priest	Rev. Melissa Howell
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	Sean Corwin

Vestry Members 2023

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

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