



# Grace Notes

## First Sunday after the Epiphany

### January 7, 2018

“The Incarnation is the manifestation of the love of God, not merely in the person of the Child of Bethlehem, but in the persons of all whom Christ attaches to himself. We are each of us incarnations of divine love, since we are members of Christ.”

—Richard Meux Benson, SSJE (1824-1915)

The Christmas season, which culminates in the Feast of the Epiphany, is magical in many ways. It encompasses a strange mixture of new and old, of hope and promise, of leaving behind and moving ahead. It is a time of transition as we reflect on the year past. We take stock of what we have accomplished so far, and decide where we can make changes in the coming year as we try to discern what God is calling us to do. Hopefully we will enter a new year with confidence in God’s promises. The new year begins just as the light is returning and the days are lengthening. Already we have gained a few minutes of daylight. God’s world is right on schedule. It is a dark time of year, but Jesus came to bring light and life to all, and the Christmas season invites us to linger around the manger bed and fill ourselves with the sheer joy and wonder of it all. So let us go forward with open hearts and minds to receive what God has in store for us in the year ahead.

### Worship Opportunities

January 7, 2018

8:00 am Holy Eucharist – Rite I

10:15 am Holy Eucharist – Rite II

‡

Wednesday, January 10, in the Chapel

8:30 am – Bible Study

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

Grace Episcopal Church  
1100 Washington Street  
Bath, ME 04530  
207-443-3762



Our Mission Statement

Grace Church strives to love and serve God through worship and ministry in our church, the community and the world.



*Remember in our Prayers*

*In our parish family for: Mitch Miller, Al Ferguson, Catherine Jacob, Phil Koonce, Jessica Gatcomb and family, and Bill Maier.*



*Let us pray for family and friends: Ben, Michele Ober, The Gordon family, Patricia White, Bert Pagan; Justin, Tina and Tim, David Koonce, Kim Coleman, Mary-Lee Banek, Janice Shine, Larry Ferguson, Mark Smith, Joan Dixon, Timothy, CC Wall and Teresa Joan White.*



Happy Birthday to you!  
Patricia Longworth 01/13

The monthly Healing Service will be held during the 10:15 service this Sunday, January 7.

Bath Area Food Bank donations will be accepted at both services this Sunday as well.

**Happy New Year!**

Pledge envelopes will be available in the Narthex  
this Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup>.

## A Reflection on “Blue Christmas”

Until this year I had never heard of “Blue Christmas” other than the song. On December 21<sup>st</sup>, I attended an Ecumenical Service at the United Methodist Church with Father Ted. It was so nice to be with others who had experienced a loss and to share hugs, tears and smiles. I made some new friends, saw some old friends and realized again that even though we may worship in different ways our basic liturgies are similar. If this service happens again next year, I encourage you to attend, it changed my “Blue Christmas” to one filled with love and hope.

*Glenis Elliott*



## BOOK CLUB FELLOWSHIP

The next book discussion will take place on **January 18th at 11:00** in the library or Tubbs Hall. The book is ***Just Merry: A Story of Justice and Redemption*** by Bryan Stephenson. It available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). All Grace parishioners and friends are welcome. For more information, contact Paula Conley - 389-1158.



## FAITH IN ACTION 2018

On **Saturday, January 27, 2018, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**, Grace Episcopal Church invites you to join us for an interactive workshop designed to put our faith into action with John Hennessy, Director of the Maine Episcopal Network for Justice.

In this workshop we will explore the concepts of Faith Rooted Organizing and Called to Transformation – An Asset-Based Approach to Engaging Church and Community. These are two complementary concepts that will spark your curiosity and attempt to answer your questions about the need and ability to bring your voice of faith to the public square.

We will spend time focusing on the questions, not necessarily the answers, as we discover together what our unique gifts are and how do we organize people to bring all their gifts to the table. We will discuss how to follow the Jesus who transforms the world instead of saving our souls.

In our time together, we will talk about creatively and realistically developing a strategy to incite local change and development based on the theological perspective that God has gifted us with all things necessary to realize shalom – the state of living in peace and prosperity as the people of God.

Saturday January 27, 2018

Grace Episcopal Church  
1100 Washington Street, Bath

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Bring a bag lunch; beverages will be provided

SNOW DATE: Saturday February 10, 2018

Worship Leaders

January 7, 2018

Celebrant – The Rev Cn Dr Ted Gaiser

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:15</u>
Lector:	Nancy Kinner	George Cudworth
Single Server:	Will Neilson	
Chalice Bearer:		Carrie Strasburger
First Server:		Sharon Steele
Crucifer:		Cindy Young
Greeters:		Joan Ingersoll & Frieda Gaudette
Ushers:	Glenis Elliott & Colleen Stevens	Robyn & Tom Butler
Altar Guild:	Jackie Berry	Jackie Berry
Camera:		Dean Batterman
Coffee Hour:		Liz Prest & Lois Welsh

Altar Guild – Wednesday, January 10 – Pat Longworth

Readings\*

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

\*Each scripture citation has a link to the [LectionaryPage.net](http://LectionaryPage.net) reading.



**THE LITTLE FLOCK PROGRAM**

Reminder: Grace Church continues to collect non-food items for the Little Flock Program. There is a basket in the Narthex where items can be placed; they will be taken to the Seventh Day Adventist Church for clients to pick up. Below is a list of the items that they distribute on

the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, 889 High Street, Bath. (The next dates are **THIS Wednesday 10 January and Wednesday 24 January.**) This program is open to the area communities including Georgetown. The items listed are not able to be purchased with Food Stamps, so this is a much appreciated and needed program. Thank you, as always, for your support and generosity.

**LITTLE FLOCK NON-FOOD ITEMS**

- Paper products such as toilet paper and paper towels
- Laundry and dish soap
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Shaving essentials
- Dog and cat food
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Diapers
- Hats & gloves in the winter months



**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

If you have any questions or suggestions for this calendar, please call or email Glenis Elliott at 837-0014 or [GlenisWayne93@comcast.net](mailto:GlenisWayne93@comcast.net).

**Weekly Happenings**

- Wednesdays Bible Study – 8:30 am – Chapel
- Wednesdays Holy Eucharist – 10:00 am – Chapel/Sanctuary
- Thursdays Telecast of Grace Church Sunday Service – 4:00 pm – Local Cable Channel 14
- Thursdays Choir Rehearsal – 7:00 pm – Choir Room

**Committee Meetings & Groups**

- January 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday Book Club – Library 10:00 am – 11:30 am
- January 4<sup>th</sup> Feast @ 5:30 – The Moorings
- January 11<sup>th</sup> Feast @ 5:30 – The Anchorage
- January 18<sup>th</sup> Women’s Fellowship Book Club – *Just Merry: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stephenson — 11:00 am – Library (FMI, contact Paula Conley at 389-1158)
- January 27<sup>th</sup> Faith in Action—11:00 am-2:00 pm—Tubbs Hall (See article above)