



From our Music Director, Ryan Patten

Things couldn't have been more different for me before my move to New England last August. Life in small-town-Midwest-America has its perks and charms so it was difficult to pick up and move to start a new life as a grad student in Boston, but the decision to do so wasn't difficult to make. I didn't really make it, actually. I never decided to go to graduate school; it was always just the next step on my journey.

Growth is a tremendous thing. Seeing the first sprouts of a planted seed can bring a sense of pride. Watching a son or daughter or cousin take their first steps and speak their first words can be awe-inspiring. And it doesn't stop there. Growth is a constant phenomenon: first car, first boyfriend/girlfriend, marriage, children, sometimes divorce, dealing with the passing of a loved one, these are all important moments in life that signify growth. In short, we never stop growing, and thankfully, growth has a way of making us into better people than we were before.

I suppose instead of saying that things have changed for me in the past several months, you could say that I've grown. I made my first move away from home and took on more responsibilities, I've furthered my knowledge of music and theology at BU, and I became an Episcopalian, each of which were necessary and important steps for me to grow to become the person I would eventually like to be.

How have things changed in your own life recently? How have you grown? Perhaps you have decided to take on a new project, or to take a step in furthering a relationship. Maybe you have grown in your spiritual life through the wonderful community at Grace Church (I know I have, especially in the wonderfully meditative Wednesday evening Eucharist celebrations). Or maybe you are dealing with a change that comes with more difficulty. Embrace it. It may be more like the blooming of a flower than it seems on the surface.