

# The SPIRIT of GRACE

DECEMBER 2011

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
820 Howard Street PO Box 596  
417-358-4631  
gracechcar@sbcglobal.net

Carthage MO 64836  
fax 417-358-6775  
gracecarthage.org



## Regular Events...

### Sunday

- Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:30
- Acolyte Practice 9
- Choir Practice 9:45
- Sunday School 9:15
- La Santa Misa 12
- Estudio Biblico 1:30

### Monday

- Narcotics Anonymous 7

### Tuesday

- Men's Social @ St Luke's 9:30
- Coro en Espanol 5

### Wednesday

- Choir Practice 5:30
- Holy Eucharist 6
- Youth groups, Bible study, Young Adults 7

### Thursday

- Move Exercise Class 9:30
- Holy Eucharist @ St Luke's 2
- Friends Anonymous 3

### Friday

- Holy Eucharist 10

### Saturday

- Altar Guild 9
- Evening Worship 5

## December Coffee Host

Ron & Diann Ferguson

**PLEASE RETURN  
YOUR PLEDGE  
CARD if you haven't.**

**THANK YOU  
if you have!**

## From the Rectory: The Very Rev. Steven C. Wilson

Blue is the color of sadness—but also of the sea, the sky, my daughter's eyes, and so many other things I love. And most especially, this grey time of year, it is the color of Advent.

While I usually talk about Advent as a season of waiting, of expectancy, of delayed gratification, I'm pondering today the meaning of the Church's use of blue for the color of the season. (*Full disclosure: Of course, for many parishes, Advent is a purple season, a mini-Lent. That's not been Grace Church's custom for decades now. Instead, we chose at some point in the past to buy blue hangings and vestments.*) The obvious reasons are, frankly, not all that obvious.

First, and poetically, deep dark blue is the color of the night sky hanging over Bethlehem, waiting to be illuminated by the Star. And secondly, it is the color reserved by artists for painting the Virgin Mary's cloak. Why? Because there's an old legend that she hung her robes to dry on a bush of rosemary, which has a sweet smell and those beautiful blue flowers.

We'll recount that legend in a hymn sung at the Posadas. Also because medieval artists used gold leaf for Jesus' robes and the slightly expensive powdered lapis lazuli for His mother's robes. Normal work-a-day saints got paint made from plants and clay...

So blue because of the sky, and blue because of the Mother. Both of them hover—like the Spirit in Genesis, brooding in the darkness on what is to come. Every mother who has ever stayed up a bit at night, in the darkness, worrying about her unborn child, what the future holds, if there will be enough of her to care for this wonderful and demanding new life. And the sky looks down impassively on all such mothers, all such cares and concerns, above it all.

It's that combination of anxiety and exaltation, the mix of being intimately entwined with daily care and yet utterly beyond such mundane matters, which I think Advent calls us to. As Christians, we are to care very much for the daily grind of the world about us—the hurt and the dirt of little lives and petty woes. And yet we are also

*Continued page 7*

## DEC BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jimmy Grimes, Sabrina Lynch,  
Andy Ubaldo Oxlaj, Jacqui Johnson
- 2 Grace Schesser
- 4 Patty Byrd
- 6 Blake Ferguston
- 7 Sierra Russow, Johnna Wilson
- 8 Katie Mansfield, Taylor Mansfield,  
Pam Robertson
- 9 Jairo Puerto, Ryan Robertson,  
Aidan Rogers, Pam Williams
- 10 Jennifer Cartright, Dick Fanning
- 12 Elaine Wurst
- 13 Hadlee Castleberry, Rev. Ted Estes
- 14 Fred Campbell, Barbara Putnam
- 16 Mary Ann Andrews
- 17 Phillip Byrd
- 18 Charles Erwin, Evelyn Jackson,  
Kevin Johnson
- 19 Jonathan Palma, Ana Wilkowski
- 20 Fallan Ferguson, Larry McGuire
- 21 Pam Borland, Samantha Mountjoy  
Sam Weidemann, Alexandra  
Wilkowski
- 23 Delores Beiswanger
- 24 Jamie Hensley, Chris Wilkowski
- 25 Dr. Robert Carter
- 26 Priscilla Pettie, Joshua Waggoner
- 27 Joe Ferguson, Abbie Rogers
- 28 Gloria Gubser
- 29 Shrop Dunaway, Steve Friede,  
Kaylee Washbur, Ellen Stiles Salchow

### ANNIVERSARY

- 6 Kevin & Tori Beatty
- 9 John & Elizabeth Butrick
- 15 Ron & Simone Dowell
- 23 Mike & Cathy Thompson
- 29 Don & Sandy Kittrell
- 30 Dane & Katie Bell

### ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

- 5 Fr. Dan Erdman (Priest)
- 7 Rev. Roger Stinnett (Deacon)
- 10 Fr. Ted Estes (Priest)
- 14 Fr. Steve Wilson (Priest)

## VESTRY UPDATE

*At the November 15 meeting, the following was discussed:*

The Rector led some discussion of the Diocesan Convention, and especially of the work of the Futuring Task Group. This group will be looking at the diocese as a whole, what we need and want from our joint ministry, and a budget for 2013 will be based on those findings. Additional conversation followed on the possibility of delaying the 2013 implementation of a “denominational health plan,” which would have a very serious negative impact on our budget as currently proposed. The Diocesan Gathering sessions were very well received by those who attended.

Stewardship Update: As of Nov 15, we had 95 pledge cards totally \$227,048. A further 45 pledgers from last year had not yet returned their cards.

Deacon Galen showed photos of the construction work ongoing in Marcabee, Haiti.

Carolyn reported that the overhead projector in the Parish House is broken and will need to be repaired or replaced.

Larry reported that year to date we are ahead of budget by about \$8700, plus another \$10,000 for tornado relief.

Discussion continued on the security needs of the building. It was broadly agreed that we need new doors and keys, preferably card swipes which can easily and cheaply be replaced or rendered invalid, and also security cameras. Some discussion about precisely where, and how those were to work, ensued. Further and final discussion to take place in December.

The Rector and executive committee will meet with a prospective candidate for a half-time priest assistant, to focus on pastoral needs and family-strengthening education. Further details should be available by year’s end.

The Haiti dinner was a huge success, and raised over \$2500 for that ministry and the upcoming trip.

A member of our extended parish family, Kathleen Doody, is in discussion to serve next year as a volunteer at the Deaf School in Jordan.

*The next meeting is Tuesday, Dec 20, at 5:30 pm*

## The PARISH PRAYER LIST

*((Nursing Home & Shut Ins))* Patricia Rouse, Jean Berry, Mary Helen Dunaway, Dorothy Taylor, Dorothy Solomonson, Carolene Kelly, Gerri Green, Evelyn Jackson, Michelle Short, Tom Adams, Jerry Chrisman, Bill Hansford, Jean Page, Robert Duvall, Dan Stokes, Edith Pemberton, Twila Ferguson, Marie Wilson

*(Immediate Needs)* Roger Stinnett, Ann Geisert, Grace Schesser, Susan Erdman, Brian Jones, Carolyn Ford, Carolene Kelly, Donald Littlefield, Walter & Gertrude Wurst, Anna Jacobs, Jane Ballard, Jim Hodges, Corrie Williams, Kyle Patterson, David Snodgrass, Dorothy White, Jim & Linda White, Geneva Spoungle, Joyce Berliaw, Sarah Ross, Alex, Nicole Ruddick, Rev. Bill Christman & Family, Alex Hill, Mary Beth & Bruce Smith, Steve Ward, Jennifer Rhymer, Melinda Campbell, Jessica Parker

*(Military service)* Adam Hertzberg, Gary Welch, Brandon Collins, Michael Craig, Jake Douglas, Michael Franco, Cameron Graham, Danny Hughes, Rich Jones, Joey Olson, Grant Short, Allan Vaughan, Devon Walker, Toby Waters, Josh Wilson, Jeffrey, Monty McBroom, Cody Graham, Dawn Spiller, Steven Sample, Savas Kyriakidis, Collin Cortez, Taylor Burks, Jay Martin, December Johnson-Goggin, John Martin

### ANGLICAN CYCLE of PRAYER

W. Tennessee, W. Texas, W'ern Kansas, W'ern Louisiana, W'ern Massachusetts, W'ern Michigan, W'ern New York, W'ern North Carolina, Wyoming (USA), W'ern Ison, Wusasa, Zaria, Yewa, Zaki-Biam, Zonkwa, Yola (Nigeria) W'ern Mexico (Mexico), W'ern Newfoundland (Canada) Yukon (Canada) Wiawso (West Africa) Zululand (S'ern Africa) Willochra (Australia) Winchester, Worcester, Canterbury, York (England) Windward Islands (West Indies) Yambio, Yei, Yirol (Sudan) Yokohama (Japan) Ysabel (Melanesia) Zanzibar (Tanzania)

## TRANSITIONS, NOV 2011

### NEWCOMERS

**Shirley King,**  
**Jacob Fauvergue,**  
Dave Armstrong,

### CHANGE of ADDRESS/TELEPHONE

**Castleberry, Gabriel & Heather,**  
**Dymott, Dr. Jean Ann,**  
**Hartzell, Kelly,**  
**Kelly Lounsbury (Roske),**  
**Merritt, Sydney,**  
**Mitchell, Aaron, Georgia, Frannie & Annabelle Grace,**

### FAITHFUL DEPARTED

**Amanda McClanahan,** departed this life Nov 7, buried from the Church Nov 12

The Rector publishes the **BANNES of MARRIAGE...**

### The third and final time of asking

**The Rev. Dr. Andy Fritsch & Sandy Spradling.** Nuptials Dec 2011.

**Drew Longan & Tori Reeder.** Nuptials Jan 2012.

**Melissa Robertson Erdman & William Stremke.** Nuptials March 2012.

**Amy Heese & Dwan Young** Nuptials May 2012

**Alexis Christy & Justin Slates.** Nuptials Sept 2012

**Kathleen Flanigan & William Rhoads,** date not set

**Elizabeth Flanigan & Jeb Cook,** date not set

### BAPTIZED

**Dax & Colbie Stiles,** parents Caleb & Stacy Stiles, on Oct 30r

**Henry & Robinson Skaggs,** parents Sam & Meghan Skaggs, great-grandchildren of Dick & Jeannie Fanning, on Nov 20

**Garrett & Carson Jespersen, Hope Raulston, Addysyn, Reagan & Stephanie Cates,** grandchildren of Steve Jespersen, on Nov 26

### VESTRY

Vestry elections are in early January. If you would like to nominate someone who is eligible (a confirmed communicant 16 or older, and a giver of record- either by check or pledge) please see Gary Cole, Carolyn Phelps, Sandy Swingle or Mike Thompson, our nominating committee.

## SPEAKING OF HEALTH: NURSE BARBARA MOUNTJOY

Many of you have told me you enjoy these rather random bits of info that I glean from a number of periodicals, having said that these are my offerings for this month. **Chilling Out:** This winter, don't hibernate. Getting outside during a cold snap can do your body good: There is evidence that the temporary physical stress of being cold - whether it's the result of being outside on a freezing day or taking a cold shower - may strengthen the immune system. In fact, athletes use a form of cold treatment known as cryotherapy to recover from hard training. Best of all, the cold bite on a winter day may even help burn body fat, according to a study from the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

**Water Down Your Migraine:** Sideline with migraines or chronic headaches? Drink up! According to a study published in the *European Journal of Neurology* participants who drank just over 4 cups more of H<sub>2</sub>O than their usual daily intake experienced 21 fewer hours of pain throughout 12 weeks than those in a placebo group. They also had less-intense headaches overall. Why? The area of the brain that triggers thirst also prompts migraines, explains Peter Goadsby, MD, PhD, Director of the Headache Center at the University of California, San Francisco. The less thirsty you are, the less likely the cells that cause headaches will be activated. **Two More Reasons Smoking Hurts Women:** Female smokers- even weekend-puffers - report having more chronic pain than non-smokers. Lighting up after 55 elevates levels of the sex hormones estrogen and androgen in women, increasing the risks of breast cancer and type 2 diabetes.

**The Only Cold and Flu Meds You Need:** (I really liked this article from *Prevention*. I agree we often are over medicated, even with OTC drugs. Several accidents are reported annually from persons driving while under the influence of OTCs.) Cold meds that say they fight multiple symptoms may have more ingredients than you need. These OTC cold treatments are generally mixes of these five basic ingredients, says *Prevention* advisor Jennifer Reinhold, PharmD. You can save cash and prevent over medication by burying one or two single-ingredient drugs to treat only the symptoms you have.

**Cough suppressant** (dextromethorphan or DM) is best for a dry, hacking cough. It reduces desire to cough by blocking the brain's cough reflex. **Expectorant** (guaifenesin) is best for mucus in the lungs: a wet cough. It thins mucus, making it easier to cough up. **Antihistamine** (diphenhydramine, chlorpheniramine) are best for runny nose, postnasal drip, sneezing. It works by blocking histamines that trigger your nose to drip, quickly drying excess mucus. **Decongestant** (pseudoephedrine: phenylephrine, or PE) works best for nasal or sinus congestion. It opens breathing passages by constricting blood vessels, moving fluid out of sinuses. **Acetaminophen, ibuprofen:** Both work best for fever, sore throat & body aches. They turn down the body's thermostat and block pain-causing enzymes. An additional caveat regarding prescription drugs: one thing most warning labels won't tell you is exactly when it's safe to get behind the wheel of a car. A good rule of thumb is to avoid driving for the first week after starting a new medication or changing the dose. It takes time to know how your body will respond. Pharmacies often flag drugs that might be problematic but because many drugs say "don't operate heavy machinery, etc," a warning that is often ignored.

### The Best Christmas Gift Ever

I would like to share a story that was shared with me as a boy.

There once was a little boy by the name of David. It was during World War II, and David's father was a soldier fighting in Germany. It was September, and the father wrote to his little son, David. He asked, "What would you like more than anything in the whole wide world?" David wrote back: "Daddy, I would love to have a puppy. I would love to have a puppy more than anything else in the world." Well, on evening of December 24th, there was a knock on the door. David answered, and there was Santa Claus who questioned: "Is your name David?" "Yes, my name is David." "What would you like more than anything in the whole wide world?" "I would like a puppy." Santa reached down into his big bag, opened it up, and there was the cutest puppy David had ever seen. David was so happy.

Months passed, the war was still on, and soon it was September. The father again wrote to his son and asked: "And what would you like for Christmas this year?" The son wrote back: "Daddy, I wish you would come home but mom says that you can't, so I would like an aquarium with angel fish." Soon it was Christmas Eve and there was a knock at the door and sure enough, it was Santa Claus who asked: "Is your name David?" "Yes." "And what do you want more than anything else in the world?" Santa soon brought out an aquarium and a bag full of angelfish and David was happy.

Months passed, and David's father was still in Germany. He wrote to his son in September, "Son, I am in the war and can't come just now but what would you like more than anything else in the world?" David wrote back: "I want you, Daddy. I want you to come home and be with me. That is what I want." The father replied in his letter, "I can't come home, but what thing do you want for Christmas more than anything in the whole wide world?" David wrote back reluctantly, with an inner sadness, "cowboy boots." Time passed; it was soon Christmas Eve and there was the traditional knock on the door, and the Santa knelt down to the little boy and asked, "And what can I give you for Christmas this year?" David finally broke down and cried on Santa's shoulders, "I want my Dad. That's what I want. I want my Dad to come and be with me." Santa said, "Is there anything else? Like cowboy boots?" "OK." As David was tugging at his cowboy boots, trying to pull them onto his feet, he glanced up and Santa was taking off his white beard and his red hat and his white hair, and...and...it was his Dad!!! David ran over and threw his arms around his Dad, hugged him, squeezed him saying over and over again, "You're home. It's you. You're home." His Dad said: "It was a very long trip, but I had to come to be with you this Christmas Eve."

Love is more valuable than puppies, more valuable than aquariums, more valuable than cowboy boots. More valuable than gold, diamonds and rubies, more valuable than all of this, is the gift of love.

That is what Christmas is all about. Christmas is about that night when God came from the heavens and gave himself to you in the baby Jesus. God comes down from the heavens and knocks at the door of your heart to give himself to you and me once again, to give us his Spirit, his Self, his love, his peace. Now, I ask you, what is the best gift that you can give this Christmas?

*Deacon Jeff*

## December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Season: Advent (through Dec 24) Christmas (Dec 25- Jan 6)	Color: Blue (Advent) White (Christmas) Red (Dec 21, 26, 27)			1 <i>Nicholas Ferrar</i> 4-5 pm Deliver Gin- gerbread houses to Sassy Spoon	2 <i>Channing Moore</i> <i>Williams</i>	3 8 Men of Grace
4 <b>2nd Advent</b> 9:15 am Listening Session	5 <i>Clement of</i> <i>Alexandria</i>	6 <i>Nicholas of Myra</i> 6:30 St. Catherine	7 <i>Ambrose of Milan</i> <b>NO CLASSES</b> 6 pm St. Nicholas Eucharist & Party	8 5:30 Gingerbread House Contest at Sassy Spoon	9 Noon Encore	10
11 <b>3rd Advent</b> Gourmet Goodies Sale 3 pm Devotees MSSU Chorale	12	13 <i>Lucy of Syracuse</i>	14 <i>Ember Wednesday</i>	15	16 <i>Ember Friday</i> 6 Movie: <i>The Last</i> <i>Samurai</i> 6 Posadas	17 <i>Ember Day</i> 8 Men of Grace 10:30 Acolyte Practice 6 Posadas
18 <b>4th Advent</b> 6 Posadas  <i>Last call to memo- rialize altar poinset- tias on Christmas— see insert</i>	19 6 Posadas	20 5:30 Vestry 6 Posadas	21 <b>St. Thomas the Apostle</b> 6 Posadas 6 Greening of the Church	22 6 Posadas	23 6 Posadas	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 5 pm Pageant 8:30 pm Spanish 10/10:30 Prel- ude/Midnight Mass <b>(INCENSE)</b>
25 <b>Christmas</b> <b>NO CLASSES</b> 10:30 Service ONLY	26 <b>St. Stephen</b>	27 <b>St John the Apostle</b>	28 <b>The Holy Innocents</b> 3 Folding Party	29 <i>Thomas Becket</i> 6-8 Private Party, Parish House	30 <i>Francis Joseph</i> <i>Gaudet</i>	31

**ADVENT is a time of preparation. While there's nothing wrong with enjoying your holi-  
days before Dec 25, try not to get so burned out on singing carols that you're sick of them  
before we sing them on Christmas, so stuffed with hors d'oeuvres that you don't want to  
enjoy the feast when the Savior's birth is finally announced!**

## OUTREACH

### CHRISTMAS OFFERING

For many years, our custom has been to give away the offerings from our largest services (Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, Good Friday) to needs beyond our parish. This year, the Vestry has designated the Christmas offering in the following proportions: 1/3 each to the Literacy Center, to ERD for Nets for Life, and to our regional Hispanic ministry. All proceeds not otherwise stipulated from the offering on Dec 24 & 25.

### NEARLY NEW NEEDS VOLUNTEER'S

- 1st Friday 10-1 pm
- 3rd Friday 1-4
- 4th Tuesday 1-4
- 5th Tuesday 1-4
- 5th Wednesday 10-1 & 1-4
- 5th Friday 1-4

If anyone would be interested please call Cindy 417-529-6459

### *NetsforLife®* Inspiration Fund

*From Episcopal Relief & Development*

The Episcopal Church initially dedicated itself to supporting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the 2003 General Convention and put its commitment into action in 2006 by endorsing the MDG Inspiration Fund, which raised over \$3.2 million in three years. In 2009, the Church renewed its support of the MDGs by endorsing the *NetsforLife®* Inspiration Fund and contributing 0.7% of its annual budget to this sweeping national effort. Since 2008, nearly 4.8 million nets across 17 countries have been delivered to sub-Saharan Africa resulting in less sickness, fewer deaths and stronger communities. By partnering with churches and faith-based groups in remote communities, *NetsforLife®* combats malaria by training community agents to deliver life-saving nets, educating community members about proper net use and maintenance, and providing on-going monitoring and evaluation of net use.

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supposed to keep our eyes focused on higher, on eternal, things.

That's not an easy task, balancing the daily with the divine. We struggle with it throughout the holidays, falling into anxiety over parties and decorations while trying to focus on the Incarnation of the Eternal. We struggle with it as parents and spouses, as citizens and employees. Not a hair of our head is unnumbered, says Jesus—and yet, who has time to see God's hand at work in their coiffure when there's so much to *do*? Can I see holiness in my work when I'm so tired, in my family life when I'm so frustrated?

That's the reminder of those blue hangings. The Virgin struggles with Her daily life that last month, with bumpy donkey rides and rocks in her sandals and the likely possibility of a chilly welcome, unmarried mother she, in her future in-laws' ancestral home. And the sky looks down, luminous and serene, confidently waiting for the glory of the Star. That's Advent in a nutshell, and our lives at their best. Both earthbound and exalted.



*The lineup of costumes was amazing at our All Hallows' Eve festivity on Wed, Oct 26!*

*Princesses, Transformers, army guys, mariachi players, ninjas, vampires and Cleopatra Queen of Egypt all celebrated Jesus' triumph over the powers of darkness, death and the grave.*

## **La Navidad**

Hace dos mil años que nació el Salvador del mundo. Su venida fue un evento histórico de tal magnitud que el mundo moderno inició su calendario el año de su nacimiento.

No solo fue este evento importante porque ningún hombre como el había existido, lleno de Poder, Sabiduría y Amor, sino porque El era el Hijo de Dios, el Mesías esperado, el Redentor, el Ungido de Dios.

Su venida al mundo atrajo seguidores destinados a ser salvados. Gentes de todos los caminos de la vida son invitados a seguir a Jesús en su camino a nuestra casa celestial.

Cuando recordamos la venida de Nuestro Señor en la estación de Adviento o Navidad, estamos celebrando nuestra liberación de la esclavitud del pecado, puesto que Jesús es Nuestro Salvador. También celebramos su futura venida en Gloria como El lo ha prometido.

El día de Navidad es el día del cumpleaños de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, un día para alabar a Dios por haber amado tanto al mundo que le dio su Único Hijo engendrado para que todo el que crea en El sea salvado.

El día de Navidad es realmente un "día santo, un festival religioso" [holiday].

Mucha gente por todo el mundo se ha olvidado del verdadero significado de la Navidad por causa de nuevas tradiciones. El Nacimiento de Cristo ha sido reemplazado por la Nueva Navidad, celebraciones que no tienen que ver nada con el Señor.

Incluyamos a Jesús en nuestras vidas en esta Navidad y descubramos para que hemos sido creados. Démosle gracias a Dios por haber enviado a su Hijo a salvarnos, celebremos no solamente su Nacimiento sino también su muerte la cual nos salva verdaderamente de la muerte del pecado.

Hagamos cada día de nuestras vidas una verdadera Navidad donde Jesús nace no en una cueva fría de Belén sino en nuestro corazón.



## PARISH LIFE

### **MEN of GRACE: Sat, Dec 3 & 17**

Meetings this month will be on Dec 3 and Dec 17, starting at 8 a.m. with coffee and fellowship; meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. and are over at 10:00 a.m. Be there or be square.

### **LISTENING SESSION: Dec 4**

Between services on Sun, Dec 4, join us in the parish house to discuss how we can make the things we prize (as you identified them in our last listening session) into reality. What do you love, and what will you commit to helping thrive?

### **ST CATHERINE'S: Tues, Dec 6**

Monthly Meeting for our Women's Ministry  
Dec 6th at 6:30 pm



### **ST. NICHOLAS PARTY: Wed, Dec 7**

The Saint joins youngsters of all ages after the 6 p.m. service for his annual visit! Bring an item of canned or dried food to share with the hungry in our communities!

### **GINGERBREAD HOUSES: Thurs, Dec 8**

St. Luke's Nursing Center hosts a fabulous gingerbread house contest each year. You are invited to enter your house by bringing them to the Sassy Spoon on the Carthage Square between 4-5 pm on Dec 1, 2011. The judging and auction will be held Dec 8, 2011 at 5:30 pm. Refreshments will be served and prizes to be awarded in Jr. and Sr. Divisions. All entries will be auctioned off to benefit the resident's garden.

### **ENCORE LUNCH: Fri, Dec 9**

RSVP \$5 per person At Noon  
Guest Chefs: Barbara Mountjoy & Bonnie Jones  
Guest Presenter: Getting ready for winter driving and hazardous roads!

### **GOURMET GOODIES: Sun, Dec 11**

St Catherine's traditional sale of goodies and baked items to enliven the holidays, after both services!

### **DEVOTEES: Sun, Dec 11**

Join us at 3 pm at church to hear the musical MSSU Choral.

### **POINSETTIAS: Sun, Dec 11**

\$10 each for plants to decorate the altar at Christmas. Please bring your check and the printed names of those being memorialized or celebrated to the office no later than Sunday, Dec 11th.

### **MOVIE NIGHT: Fri, Dec 16**

*The Last Samurai*

Tom Cruise, Timothy Spall, and Billy Connolly. Captain Nathan Algren is a man adrift. The battles he once fought now seem distant and futile. Once he risked his life for honor and country, but in the years since the Civil War, the world has changed. Pragmatism has replaced courage, self-interest has taken the place of sacrifice and honor is nowhere to be found—especially out West where his role in the Indian Campaigns ended in disillusionment...Rated R: Strong language and battle sequences.

### **POSADAS: Dec 17-23**

Every night from Dec 17 to 23, a different family in our parish hosts Las Posadas Navidenas. This "moveable pageant" features a number of visits to individual homes in which hospitality and music is offered to the Holy Family, seeking a room in Bethlehem. While the service is overwhelmingly in Spanish, you'll enjoy and understand the "gist" of the evening! 6 pm, except on Dec 24 (8:30 pm)

### **GREENING OF THE CHURCH: Dec 21**

We will decorate the Church and parish house with greens and crèche on Wed, Dec 21, part of our 6 pm Eucharist & Posadas.

**CHRISTMAS DAY &  
NEW YEAR'S DAY  
BOTH ARE ON SUNDAY  
SERVICE BOTH DAYS  
AT 10:30 ONLY**

# EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: DECEMBER 2011

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: DECEMBER 2011		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Sunday, Dec 4</i></b> <b><i>8 am</i></b></p> <p>O.T. Reader/Epistle: Ruth Felton Prayers of the People: Gary Cole Chalice: Kirby Newport Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell Server: Richard Roske Sacristan: Connie Leek</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>10:30 am</i></b></p> <p>O.T: Mark Sponaugle N.T: George Platt Chalice: Margie Tucker Subdeacon: Michael Goolsby Acolyte Mentor: Brad Cameron Servers: Quincy Charleston <i>Capt</i> Jay Simmons Crosses: Tom Simmons Emma Charleston Torches: Ana &amp; Alex Wilkowski Sacristan: Dana Cameron Ushers: Jimmy Grimes Mike Goolsby AV: Elisa White Flower Delivery: Kelly Heidlage Nursery Asst: Debby Orr</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Sunday, Dec 11</i></b> <b><i>8 am</i></b></p> <p>O.T. Reader/Epistle: Glenda Erwin Prayers of the People: Peggy Ralston Chalice: Wayne Ytell Subdeacon: Jeff Bell Server: Kirby Newport Sacristan: Elisa White</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>10:30 am</i></b></p> <p>OT: Rosalie Griffin NT: Marty Griffin Chalice: Marty Griffin Subdeacon: George Platt Acolyte Mentor: Michelle Sexton Servers: Carlie Wakefield <i>Capt</i> Sydney Harlan Cross: Matt Goolsby Torches: Ashleigh Wilson Sarah Wilson Sacristan: Chalaine Bell Ushers: Chuck Erwin Loren Erwin AV: Jim &amp; Colby Wakefield Flower Delivery: Mike Thompson Home Comm: Bell/Ytell-L Orr Nursery Asst: Donna Bowman</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Sunday, Dec 18</i></b> <b><i>8 am</i></b></p> <p>O.T. Reader/Epistle: Kirby Newport Prayers of the People: Jacqui Johnson Chalice: Galen Snodgrass Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell Server: Brad Cameron Sacristan: Connie Leek</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>10:30 am</i></b></p> <p>OT: Julie Anderson NT: Bonnie Jones Chalice: Tom Flanigan Subdeacon: Bonnie Jones Acolyte Mentor: Elisa White Servers: Will Mansfield <i>Capt</i> Katie Mansfield Crosses: Taylor Mansfield Matthew Beatty Torches: Joseph &amp; Christopher Beatty Sacristan: Cathy Thompson Ushers: Larry Hartman Steve Erwin AV: Mike Robertson Flower Delivery: Kevin Curtis Home Comm: Galen/Bonnie-N.Kuhns Nursery Asst: Sabrina Lynch</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Christmas Eve, Dec 24</i></b> <b><i>5 pm: next column to the right...</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>10:30 pm</i></b></p> <p>Acolytes: Special Appointment O.T: Debbie Jones N.T: Julie Anderson Chalice: Bonnie Jones Sub Deacon: Michael Goolsby Sacristan: Elisa White</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Christmas, Dec 25</i></b> <b><i>10:30 am</i></b></p> <p>Reader/Chalice: Tom Flanigan Sacristan: Chalaine Bell Acolyte Mentor: Elaine Wurst Servers: Drew Schesser <i>Capt</i> Oliver Sprenkle Cross: Sydney Harlan Torches: Gabriel Wilson/Jay Wurst Sacristan: Chalaine Bell AV: Scott Mansfield Flower Delivery: Cliff Kester Nursery Asst: Tracy Wilkowski</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Wednesdays, 6 pm</i></b> Sacristan: Barbara Mountjoy</p> <p><b><u>Dec 7:</u></b> Reader: Bonnie Jones Chalice: Ron Ferguson</p> <p><b><u>Dec 14:</u></b> Reader: Glenda Erwin Chalice: Scott Stone</p> <p><b><u>Dec 21:</u></b> Reader: Julie Anderson Chalice: Bonnie Jones</p> <p><b><u>Dec 28:</u></b> Reader/Chalice: Margie Tucker</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Saturdays, 5 pm</i></b></p> <p><b><u>Dec 3:</u></b> Reader/Chalice: Scott Stone Sacristan: Elisa White</p> <p><b><u>Dec 10:</u></b> Reader: James Grimes Sacristan: Connie Leek</p> <p><b><u>Dec 17:</u></b> Reader: Jack Slates Chalice: Scott Stone Sacristan: Chalaine Bell</p> <p><b><u>Dec 24:</u></b> O.T./Epistle: Wayne Ytell Chalice: Wayne Ytell Sacristan: Dana Cameron</p> <p><b><u>Dec 31:</u></b> Reader/Chalice Bonnie Jones Sacristan: Cathy Thompson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>UPDATE on HAITI</u></b></p> <p>Our mission trip to Haiti is on schedule for Feb 25 to March 3, 2012! Missioners Deacon Galen Snodgrass, Pam White-Schaffer and Bonnie Jones are ready to escape snow and ice to work in scrubs and sweatbands with our Haitian friends who will graciously receive our educational and medical assistance. Our dinner on Nov 12 was a HUGE success—delectable Haitian food, brightly colored decorations, live entertainment and wonderful fellowship. Thanks to all who helped or attended the event—we so appreciate your support. If you were unable to attend, you can still support this mission by making a donation. Make your checks to Grace Church with “Haiti Trip” noted. To those who live here, we still have red “Helping Hands” totes for \$5 each—great for all your holiday gift-giving or shopping needs! And just think, you’re saving trees! Again, our thanks.</p>

**SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE:**  
**The Rev. JOHN CHRISTIANSON**

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman”  
- The Apostle Paul (Galatians 4:4)

Before one of my recent classes at Missouri State, the students were talking and chatting about the weather, food, sports and clothes – the usual things. But then someone shook his head and said to his neighbor, “I went to Wal-Mart last night and heard ‘Jingle Bell Rock.’ It’s only November First! And they’re already playing ‘Jingle Bell Rock’!! I can’t believe it.” I smiled and shook my head in agreement, thinking to myself that this so right. It seems that the tables have turned these days – away from a focus on Church and the birth of Christ, and toward spending, buying, months of interest-free credit and layaway. Has Christmas been commercialized? We all know that it has been, and that this trend will likely continue into the foreseeable future.

Now I’m not opposed to buying gifts, and I certainly believe that retailers and business owners should be able to sell to their customers to make a living. Neither am I all that inclined to put a sign in my yard reading “Keep Christ in Christmas,” as if political campaign signs for Jesus will somehow make any difference to my neighbors’ peace of mind and heart. Instead, I intend to have a very nice Christmas with my family, not too big and not too small, but filled with love and harmony. Our plan is to eat a meal, exchange our gifts, and attend Church together, while keeping the Bumpus dogs at bay.\*

I imagine that many families at Grace Church have their own plans and traditions. There are things we do, things we look for and see, things we listen to and hear that make Christmas seem “just right” for us. For many, this includes the “Christmas Story” from Luke, chapter 2. The words are so familiar, many of us can recite them by heart. But it wasn’t always this way.

It is true that New Testament writers, from Matthew to Revelation, declare that Jesus is “the Son of God.” Mark, our earliest gospel writer starts like this: “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” The Apostle Paul, the sermon-writer of the book of Hebrews, the writer of First John and Revelation – all use the term “the Son of God” – a total of 63 times altogether. Now, as a person who is curious about the people who wrote the Bible, I am wondering how people in the First Century might have heard these same words. Would they have thought of mangers and magi, lights and trees? Or would another set of images have leapt to mind?

On Wednesday nights at 7pm in December I’ll be hosting a class on this very topic. We’ll look at a number of stories that describe “the Son of God” – including Jesus, Romulus and Remus, Hercules, and Augustus Caesar, whom we usually hear about in Luke 2 in a totally different way. I hope and trust that this class will open our eyes to a deeper understanding of the Christmas story, and allow us to celebrate the holiday in a whole new way. See you there!

Joy & Peace -John

*\*See the classic holiday movie “A Christmas Story” if you don’t understand this reference!*

## EDUCATION

### *Wednesday night activities*

Choir practice at 5:30 pm Eucharist at 6 pm  
Dinner at 6:45 pm (\$1 requested)  
Youth groups at 7:15 (pre-K, grades 1-3,  
grades 4-6, junior high & senior high), young adults  
(20s & 30s) and Bible study

### *Sunday morning activities*

9 am Acolyte practice 9:45 am Choir rehearsal  
9:15 am Sunday school, (pre-K, grades 1-3, grades 4-6,  
junior high, senior high, adults)

## ADULT EDUCATION

Wed nights: What does it mean when the Bible says  
“Son of God” and how would people in the Roman  
world have understood that phrase? A cross-cultural  
theology lesson...

### **Sun mornings**

DEC 4: Listening Session for Stewardship Committee,  
with breakfast!  
DEC 11: Advent: A season of preparation  
DEC 18: Advent: Anticipating the end of the matter  
DEC 25: No Sunday School  
JAN 1: No Sunday School

## NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all those who are volunteering as Nursery  
assistants! We need volunteers for November. Please  
see or call Julie Anderson 358-5526. It's wonderful to  
have so many children that one person can't keep up  
with them, isn't it? Sunday morning 9:15-11:45, and  
Communion will be brought to you!

Dec. 4 Debby Orr  
Dec. 11 Donna Bowman  
Dec. 18 Sabrina Lynch  
Dec. 25 Tracy Wilkowski

## PAGEANT NEEDS

Would you like to help with the Christmas pageant on  
Christmas Eve at 5 pm? Help with corralling wayward  
sheep, clothing errant shepherds, steering Kings to cra-  
dles greatly needed.

**Speaking roles sought: A narrator and several ani-  
mals.....**

## READINGS in DEC

**Thurs, Dec 1- Sat, Dec 3:** Amos 4:6-5:27, II  
Peter 3:11-18, Jude 1-25, Matthew 21:33-22:22  
**Sun, Dec 4, Second Advent:** Isaiah 40:1-11, II  
Peter 3:8-15, Mark 1:1-8  
**Mon, Dec 5 - Sat, Dec 10:** Amos 7:1-9:10,  
Haggai 1:1-2:9, Revelations 1:1-3:6, Matthew  
22:23-24:14  
**Sun, Dec 11, Third Advent:** Isaiah 61:1-11, I  
Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-28  
**Mon, Dec 12- Sat, Dec 17:** Zechariah 1:7-  
4:14, 7:8-8:17, Revelations 3:7-6:14, Matthew  
24:15-25:46  
**Sun, Dec 18, Fourth Advent:** II Samuel 7:1-11,  
16, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38  
**Mon, Dec 19:** Zephaniah 3:14-20, Titus 1:1-16,  
Luke 1:1-25  
**Tues, Dec 20:** I Samuel 2:1-10, Titus 2:1-10,  
Luke 1:26-38  
**Wed, Dec 21, ST. THOMAS the APOSTLE:**  
Habakkuk 2:1-4, Hebrews 10:35-11:1, John  
20:24-29  
**Thurs, Dec 22:** II Samuel 7:18-29, Galatians  
3:1-4, Luke 11:57-66  
**Fri, Dec 23:** Baruch 4:21-29, Galatians 3:23-4:7,  
Matthew 1:1-17  
**Sat, Dec 24, CHRISTMAS EVE:** Baruch 4:36-  
5:9, Galatians 3:23-4:7, Matthew 1:18-25  
**Sunday, Dec 25, THE NATIVITY OF OUR  
LORD:** Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20  
**Mon, Dec 26, ST. STEPHEN:** Jeremiah 26:1-  
15, Acts 6:8-7:2, 51-60, Matthew 23:34-39  
**Tue, Dec 27, ST. JOHN the APOSTLE:**  
Exodus 33:18-23, John 21:19-24, I John 1:1-9  
**Wed, Dec 28, HOLY INNOCENTS of  
BETHLEHEM:** Jeremiah 31:15-17, Revelation  
21:1-7, Matthew 2:13-18  
**Thurs, Dec 29,** II Samuel 23:13-17, II John 1-  
13, John 2:1-11  
**Fri, Dec 30,** I Kings 17:17-24, III John 1-15,  
John 4:46-54  
**Sat, Dec 31,** I Kings 3:5-14, James 4:13-17, 5:7-  
11, John 5:1-15