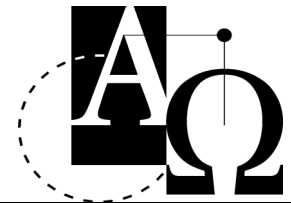


The SPIRIT of GRACE

Jan 2012

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, Yong Adults 7

Thursday

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

Friday

- Holy Eucharist 10

Saturday

- Altar Guild 9
- Evening Worship 5

From the Rectory: The Rev. Steven C. Wilson

With the beginning of the year, it is customary in our culture to have some "new year's resolutions." The notion of taking stock of what went wrong last year (*how did these pants get so tight?*) and making a plan for improvements (*that grapefruit diet I keep hearing about is worth looking into...*) has a satisfying ring of self-improvement to it. In theological terms, it is a close cousin to repentance and amendment of life, although of course those are reliant on supernatural graces, gifts of God, rather than on our own effort and intent.

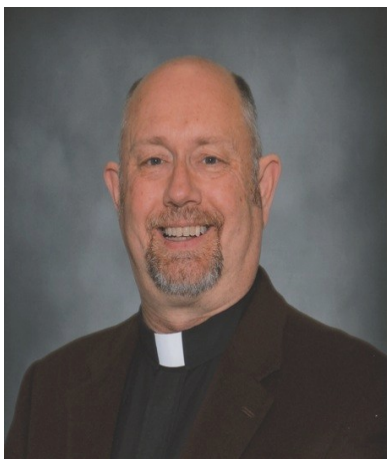
So let's talk about some resolutions for our parish in the coming year. What things are we doing really well that need

more celebration, explanation and general attention? What are we falling down on the job, neglecting, or doing half-baked work at? If money and talent and time were no object, what would you love to see going on in this parish in the future?

In this envelope is a flyer asking you to outline three answers to each of these questions. I ask that you take a moment to fill this out and return it to the office or the offering bason. (*Yes, that is the correct spelling of that word for Church purposes.*)

We will use those responses in our vestry planning this year, and take opportunities along the way to hear your feedback and monitor how things are going.

Continued page 8



WELCOME HOME, FATHER TED!

Effective June 1, Father Ted Estes, rector of All Saints' Nevada, will also serve as associate priest here. This half-time position will focus on pastoral and educational work. Ted is a Carthaginian and was married and ordained in this parish. He has a distinguished career in family and childhood therapy and brings many skills from that area to his ministry. He is also, as many of us are aware, a talented actor and secretary of the Diocese. Ted and Mindy, along with youngest son Andrew and older boys Theo and Estes, have been part of our parish life for many years, and we look forward to this exciting opportunity to allow his gifts to be used for God in two parishes simultaneously!

JAN BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Bill Phelps
- 3 William Dunaway, Lanceton Pettie, Santos Lopez, Eugenia Pivaral
- 4 Harry O. Rogers II
- 5 Susan Bewick, Miao Miao Nelson
- 6 Claude Newport, Michael Robertson, Rollin Frink, Sydney Harlin, Trenton Lynch
- 7 Barbara McPheeters, Amy Taylor
- 8 Micah Grigsby, Tom Simmons
- 9 Nancy Adams
- 10 Charlie Rogers, Suzanne Baucom
- 11 Rich Williams, Greg Kester, Dagan Nelson, Sheila Tryk
- 12 Mercedes Palma, Mason Anderson
- 13 Bill Wilson
- 14 Sharon Burwick, Idell Looney, Emily Campbell
- 15 Nicholas Wilkowski
- 17 Hans Ytell, Alexis Christy, Tracy Wilkowski
- 18 Clay Hensley, Marley Hensley
- 19 Isabella Christy
- 20 Jennifer Hamilton
- 21 Jack Slates, Taylor Grimes
- 22 Cynthia Ulmer
- 23 Jay Lanham
- 24 Carolyn Phelps, Wyatt Hettinger
- 25 Joseph Beatty
- 26 Kevin Beatty
- 27 Jerry Sample, Marilyn Kelley, John Conrace
- 31 Samantha Ovalle, Wendy Watson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Robert & Susan Young
- 3 Eric & Yolly Ferrell
- 4 Loren & Glenda Erwin, Ron & Diann Ferguson
- 8 Austin & Jennifer Rhymer, Jerry & Kathy Gilpin

VESTRY UPDATE

At the Dec 20 meeting, the following was discussed:

A budget for 2012 was passed by the Vestry. With \$295,477 of pledges returned, anticipated income will be approximately \$400,000 (unpledged income, unreturned pledges and some investment income remains unclear, as is typical until after New Year). The items differing from the 2011 budget are:

Diocesan pledge goes up \$1500, worship expense goes up \$1500 (altar guild is no longer able to fund some items, as its income from Nearly New is lower), nursery salaries are down \$1500 (we are now using a volunteer for the second position weekly—have you signed up?). Other minor variances include lower postage, higher office supplies, lower kitchen costs. All staff health insurance was down slightly overall!

A new position was added—for the last seven months of the year, starting June 1, a half-time associate priest will be on staff.

The vestry passed this budget unanimously.

The vestry unanimously authorized the rector to call the new associate priest at his discretion. The Rev. Ted Estes was called the next morning for this ministry and has accepted the call.

Other Business

The vestry approved a complete re-key proposal for the building including electronic swipe key fobs on the four “major” entrances, new doors for the entire building to limit access from outside to only those four entrances, and installation of exterior cameras for security. This will be paid for from a gift made by Shirley Locarni.

Vestry nominations for 2012 were discussed. At this time, there were not a full slate of nominees.

The annual meeting format was discussed.

The rector thanked outgoing Vestry members Gary Cole, Carolyn Phelps, Sandy Swingle & Mike Thompson for their service to the parish. The vestry dismissed to host posadas for the parish.

The next vestry meeting will be after the annual meeting

PARISH PRAYER LIST

(Nursing Home & Shut Ins) Patricia Rouse, 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, Dick Rush

(Immediate Needs) Jeanne Slates, Emily Pence, Edith Pemberton, Michelle Short, Bill Hansford, Jim & Lynn Armfield, Fr. Roger & Sherrie Stinnett, Dorothy-mae Edds, Ann Geisert, Grace Schesser, Susan Erdman, Chris Wilkowski & family, Brad Cameron, Raelene Nickols, Carolyn Ford, Carolene Kelly, Donald Littlefield, Richard Deckard, Nevin Yankie, Callie Nuse, Jean Whitney, Barbara Musgrave, Ella Aulik, Bob Ferguson, Thelma & Clay Stone, Hazel Heubler, Marilyn Colegrove, Virginia Morris, George Hosp, Tib Lanham, Peter Frame, Darrell George, Raelene Noreen, Pete Schultz, Dorothy Solomonson, Carol Olson, Amber Kenaghey, Brett Biggs

(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, Aaron Rush, December Johnson-Goggin, John Martin, Dane Bell

Diocesan Prayer Cycle

Grace Church, Chillicothe; St Paul's Church, Clinton; St Luke's Church, Excelsior Springs; St Mary's Church, Fayette; St Peter's Church, Harrisonville

Anglican Cycle of Prayers

Aba, Aba Ngwa North, Abakaliki, Afikpo, Aguata, Ahoada, Ajayi Crowther, Akoko, Akoko Edo, Akure, Amichi (*Nigeria*) Aberdeen & Orkney (Scotland) Adelaide (*Australia*) Agra, Amritsar, Andaman & Car Nicobar Islands (*North India*) Aipo Rongo (*Papua New Guinea*) Akot (*Sudan*) Alabama, Alaska, Albany (*USA*) Algoma (*Canada*) Amazon (*Brazil*) Antananarivo, Tulear (*Indian Ocean*)

TRANSITIONS, Jan 2013

NEWCOMERS

Clayton, Karen

NEW ADDRESS/TELEPHONE

Brown, Pat,
Fauvergue, Jacob & Abby (Peterson)
Patchin, Kaleb,
Pitner, Chase,
Platt, George & Ruth,
Smith, Nick,
Warden, Richard,

BANNS of MARRIAGE

The rector publishes the banns of marriage between Abby Peterson & **Jacob Fauvergue** of this parish, nuptials to be solemnized in March. This is the second time of asking.

CONGRATULATIONS to...

The Rev Dr Andy Fritsch and Sandy Spradling on their wedding, solemnized Dec 30

Sarah Goolsby of this parish and Graham Chambers on their engagement

Jesse Newport of this parish and Jessica Mayfield on their engagement

Jay Martin, son of Bonnie Pugh, whose tour of duty in the Middle East ended Dec 23

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Jean Berry, mother of **Susie Bewick**, departed this life Dec 21, burial from the Church Jan 3

COFFEE HOSTS

Bill & Libby Wilson

From the DEACONS' DESK: The Experiences of Giving
The Rev. Galen Snodgrass

In the last few days we have been given much. A baby wrapped in loose clothing, lying in a manger, who will be given the name Jesus and visited by numerous wise men from the east. The new year that is regularly depicted as a baby in diaper with a banner draped across the body announcing 2012. Fr. Ted Estes, our part-time associate priest. Outreach monies from our Christmas Services that will be given to the Family Literacy Council, Hispanic Ministry in McDonald and Jasper County, and ERD for Nets for Life to combat malaria around the globe. Joyous members of Grace that carry out the ministry of love, peace, and reconciliation to those they meet in our daily lives. Grace Church has much to celebrate this season of Christmas and Epiphany.

We know from experience the joy that comes from being able to do something for others. You have done much for me, and I will always be grateful to you for what you have given me. Part of our gratitude, however, is the result of seeing others so happy in being given so much. It's easier to be grateful for a gift given in joy than for a gift given with hesitation, reluctance, or requirements. During the holidays did you notice the smiles that come when a baby smiles at a mother, father, or other family members? Baby's smiles are a gift to the family who is grateful to see their baby so happy! Or the exchange of smiles and hugs at the airport as family and friends fall in one another's outstretched arms? Some in military dress back safely after months overseas, others with heavy luggage filled with presents?

What a wonderful mystery this is! Our greatest fulfillment lies in giving ourselves to others. Although it often seems that people give only to receive, I believe that, beyond all our desires to be appreciated, rewarded, and acknowledged, there lies a simple and pure desire to give. Our humanity comes to its fullest bloom in giving. We become beautiful people when we give whatever we can give: a smile, a handshake, a listening ear, an embrace, a word of love, a reassuring presence, and a part of our life all of our life. In the last two years Kim and I have witnessed the marriages of Katy and Dan then Doug and Linsey. The addition of son-in-law and daughter-in-law through the service of Holy Matrimony happened on one day, but the joy and smiles we see on their faces continue through their marriages. We were blessed to have all six at home on Christmas Day and to be a part of life. We became aware of how much we need family and friends to surround us with love.

But soon the tree will come down, the cold and snowy days of January will set in, and the daily drone of 24-hour news will try to push aside what we've experienced and the Season of Epiphany will begin. It is sad to see that, in our highly competitive and greedy world, we have lost touch with the joy of giving. Others in the world will try to convince us that our happiness depends on having. But I don't know anyone who is really happy because of what he or she has. True joy, happiness, and inner peace comes from the giving of ourselves to others. A happy life is a life for others. As we begin a new year at Grace, let us reflect a little more on the way our friendships have grown through this holiday season. Let us store those treasures in our hearts, while sharing the joys and insights we've gained to those we meet in the days ahead. As we settle back into our daily routine allow us to share the 2011 Christmas stories of joy and giving as we take our family back to the airport or wave goodbye from our driveways.

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Season: Christmas Color: White Through Jan 6	Season: Epiphany Color: Green (except white, Jan 8, 18 & 25)				<i>Fridays are days of abstinence and special devotion in honor of Our Lord's crucifixion.....</i>	
1 New Year's Day Holy Name of Jesus 10:30 only Noon Spanish	2 V S Azariah Office closed 7 pm play mtg	3 <i>Wm Passavant</i> 6:30 pm St Catherine's 7 pm play mtg	4 <i>E A Seton</i> 6 pm Eucharist 7 pm Youth Groups/Bible Study	5 2 pm Eucharist 3 pm Friends Anon. 7 pm play mtg	6 The Epiphany 10 am Eucharist 6 pm Epiphany Party	7 8 am Men of Grace 5 pm Eucharist
8 Baptism of Our Lord 8, 10:30, Noon 9:15 Christian Ed	9 <i>Julia Emery</i> 7 pm Play practice	10 <i>Wm Laud</i> 7 pm Play practice	11	12 <i>Aelred of Rievaulx</i> 5 pm ECW mtg 7 pm Play practice	13 <i>Hilary of Poitiers</i> Noon: Encore lunch	14 5 pm no Eucharist 5 pm Longan wedding
15 II Epiphany Noon Annual Mtg	16 <i>Benson & Gore</i> MLK Day 7 Play practice	17 <i>Antony of Egypt</i> 5:30 pm Vestry 7 pm Play Practice	18 Confession of St Peter <i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins</i>	19 <i>Wulfstan of Worcester</i> 7 pm Play practice	20 <i>Fabian of Rome</i> 6 pm movie night: <i>Water for Elephants</i>	21 <i>Agnes of Rome</i> 8 am Men of Grace
22 III Epiphany 6 pm Christ & Culture	23 7 pm Play practice	24 <i>Ordination of Florence Tim Oi-Li</i> 7 pm Play practice	25 Conversion of St Paul <i>Last day of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i>	26 <i>Timothy, Titus & Silas</i> 7 pm Play practice	27 <i>Lydia, Dorcas & Phoebe</i>	28 <i>Thomas Aquinas</i> 4:30 pm Clericus 6 pm Bishop's Ball begins!
29 IV Epiphany 6 pm Christ & Culture	30 7 pm Play practice	31 <i>Sam Shoemaker</i> 7 pm Play practice				

SPEAKING OF HEALTH: NURSE BARBARA MOUNTJOY

Christmas is over, the new year is here. This time of the year I am usually thinking about paying Christmas bills and dreading taxes. So in other words I'm in a financial state of mind. I find myself checking my current bank balance more than is my customary habit. My current balance increases appreciably at the first of the month with a couple of dependable deposits, but as the month goes on it steadily decreases with multiple withdrawals and no further deposits. By the end of the month my current balance is very near zero! So I began thinking about the current balance of our lives.

Maintaining a sense of balance in our lives is becoming more of a challenge in our world today. I do think, however, that people are more aware of the consequences of living chronically out of balance and are becoming more intentional about making the necessary choices that will bring greater balance and wellness to their lives.

We can use this analogy in thinking about our physical and wellness balance. If I have been making more withdrawals than deposits in regards to my physical wellness, such as not getting enough rest, or continuing to eat as I did during Christmas, or drinking too much, or not taking medications regularly, then I will soon become overdrawn and will most likely become ill. At that point I will have to make some "deposits," such as seeing my doctor, getting more rest, eating and drinking more responsibly until my physical health is restored, creating a more acceptable balance.

The current balance in terms of my emotional and spiritual balance works much the same way.

The ratio of deposits and withdrawals I have been making will determine whether I am experiencing health or "dis-ease" in these areas of my life. A chronic feeling of tiredness or exhaustion, a negative attitude regarding day to day activities, many days of feeling sad - these are warning signs that I have become out of balance in the areas of my spiritual and/or emotional wellness.

Take a few minutes right now and reflect on these areas of your life - your physical health, your emotional health and your spiritual health in relation to wellness. Listen to what your body, heart, soul, and relationships are telling you. Where do you find yourself—in or out of balance right now?

Well if you feel "out of balance," here are just a few "deposits" you might make: Physical health—improve your diet and exercise. You know that weight gain or weight loss is predicated by the intake of calories. Activity/exercise (burning calories) = weight loss. Get at least 7 hours of sleep each night; more than 8 is not so good. Keep moving. Do not smoke. Drink lots of water, but limit alcohol intake. Research vitamins and minerals; maybe you'll find one or more that will work for you. Regarding emotional health, just a few basic suggestions: keep your physical account in balance, surround yourself with positive people, if you can't avoid a negative person, (because you are related to them or because you work with one or more) prepare yourself before you see them, knowing they will be negative and you will not let it affect you. Treat yourself kindly. Slow down. Do something kind each day for someone else, even if they don't deserve it. Regarding spiritual health, thank our Lord each day, probably multiple times each day, for his love and unending grace; read the scriptures; attend church; love your neighbor as yourself, and love the Lord with all your heart and with all your mind and with all your soul. Let me share one more thing with you that I read this week - "We are in God's thoughts in the continuous present, never forgotten and never abandoned." Anonymous 6

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: JAN 2012

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, Jan 1 NO 8 am service this morning</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>10:30 am</u></p> <p>OT: Bonnie Jones NT: George Platt Chalice: Brad Camerson Subdeacon: Margie Tucker Acolyte Mentor: Brad Cameron Servers: Quincy Charleston <i>Capt</i> Jay Simmons Crosses: Tom Simmons Emma Charleston Torches: Ana & Alex Wilkowski Sacristan: Marcia McGuire Ushers: Larry McGuire/Jim Wakefield AV: Elisa White Flower Delivery: Kelly Heidlage Nursery Asst: Julie Anderson Home Comm: Bell/Ytell-Lon Orr</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, Jan 8 <u>8 am</u></p> <p>Reader: Glenda Erwin Prayers: Peggy Ralston Chalice: Jeff Bell Sub Deacon: Wayne Ytell Server: Kirby Newport Sacristan: Ann Carter</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>10:30 am</u></p> <p>OT: Debbie Jones NT: Mark Sponaugle Chalice: Rayella Lindsay Subdeacon: Tom Flanigan Acolyte Mentor: Michelle Sexton Servers: Carlie Wakefield <i>Capt</i> Sydney Harlan Cross: Matt Goolsby Torches: Ashleigh Wilson Sarah Wilson Sacristan: Beth Simmons Ushers: Jimmy Grimes/Mike Goolsby AV: Jim & Colby Wakefield Flower Delivery: Mike Thompson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, Jan 15 <u>8 am</u></p> <p>Reader: Kirby Newport Prayers: Kirby Newport Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell Server: Kirby Newport Sacristan: Jacqui Johnson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>10:30 am</u></p> <p>OT: Rosalie Griffin NT: Marty Griffin Chalice: George Platt Subdeacon: Bonnie Jones Acolyte Mentor: Elisa White Servers: Will Mansfield <i>Capt</i> Katie Mansfield Crosses: Taylor Mansfield Matthew Beatty Torches: Joseph & Christopher Beatty Sacristan: Pam White Ushers: Chuck Erwin Loren Erwin AV: Mike Robertson Flower Delivery: Kevin Curtis Nursery Asst: Ann Curtis</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, Jan 22 <u>8 am</u></p> <p>Reader: Dana Cameron Prayers: Gary Cole Chalice: Marty Griffin Sub Deacon: Wayne Ytell Server: Nancy Dymott Sacristan: Marcia McGuire</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>10:30 am</u></p> <p>OT: Michael Goolsby NT: Jerry Sample Chalice: Tom Flanigan Subdeacon: Michael Goolsby Acolyte Mentor: Elaine Wurst Servers: Cecilie Washburn <i>Capt</i> Drew Schesser Cross: Oliver Sprinkle, Sydney Harlan Torches: Jay Lanham, Gabriel Wilson Sacristan: Beth Simmons Ushers: Larry Hartman Steve Erwin AV: Scott Mansfield Flower Delivery:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, Jan 29 <u>8 am</u></p> <p>Reader OT: Kelly Roske Reader NT: Jacqui Johnson Chalice/Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell Server: Nancy Dymott Sacristan: Jacqui Johnson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>10:30 am</u></p> <p>OT: Bill Lee NT: Tom Flanigan Chalice: Bonnie Jones Subdeacon: Kirby Newport Acolyte Mentor: Brad Cameron Servers: Nancy Dymott Michele Sexton Crosses: Brad Cameron Scott Stone Torches: Kirby Newport Richard Roske Sacristan: Pam White Ushers: Frank Lane/Jim Creighton Flower Delivery: Cliff Kester</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Wednesdays, 6 pm</u></p> <p>Sacristan: Barbara Mountjoy <i>Jan 4:</i> Reader: Julie Anderson Chalice: Ron Ferguston <i>Jan 11:</i> Reader/Chalice: Scott Stone <i>Jan 18:</i> Reader/Chalice: Bonnie Jones <i>Jan 25:</i> Reader/Chalice: Margie Tucker</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Saturday, 9 am Sacristan:</u></p> <p><i>Jan 7:</i> Ann Carter <i>Jan 14:</i> Marcia McGuire <i>Jan 21:</i> Marcia McGuire <i>Jan 28:</i> ALL CLEAN</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Saturday, 5 pm</u></p> <p><i>Jan 7:</i> Reader/Chalice: Scott Stone Sacristan: Ann Carter <i>Jan 14:</i> NO 5 pm service—Wedding <i>Jan 21:</i> Reader: Jack Slates Chalice: Scott Stone Sacristan: Pam White <i>Jan 28:</i> Reader: Glenda Erwin Chalice: Bonnie Jones Sacristan: Jacqui Johnson</p>

PARISH LIFE

EPIPHANY PARTY Jan 6 at 6 pm

Kids of all ages are invited.

The Three Kings will pay a visit and bring gifts. Special Epiphany pastry to share which foretells the future! RSVP please!

ANNUAL MEETING

At noon on Sun, Jan 15

St Catherine's Guild provides lunch. Join us to discuss our hopes, dreams and concerns for ministry at Grace Church, to brainstorm about the future, and to approve a budget and vestry for the coming year.

ENCORE LUNCH, Fri Jan 13

RSVP \$5 per person

Guest Chef: Larry Hartman

Presenter: Claudi Mundell will share her thoughts on Madeleine L'Engle, well-known Episcopalian children's author

MOVIE NIGHT: Fri, Jan 20

6 pm snack time/6:30 pm screening

Water for Elephants

PG-13

Reese Witherspoon,
Robert Pattinson

In the Depression, a veterinary student finds love, mystery and a sense of purpose caring for the animals in a circus run by a charismatic but explosive entertainer and his wife, the horse acrobat.



BISHOP'S BALL Sat Jan 28

Our diocese hosts the annual teen event in Carthage this year. Lots of kids in the parish house this night!

PLAY TICKETS

Tickets for the Feb 16-18 dinner theater will be available by the annual meeting. Come prepared to book your table early!

FROM the RECTORY, *cont from page one*

The first input, from stewardship listening sessions, will be the format of the Annual Meeting on Jan 15, which will be more than budget and vestry. **PLEASE COME.** Will your dream be realized, your favorite success be strengthened, your pet peeve fixed? Maybe—if you, and your fellow parishioners, believe that it is important, that it's God's will for our ministry. Such efforts involve **commitment.** "*More small groups for fellowship*" means clearing room in your calendar to attend, inviting, maybe even organizing, such events. "*Stronger youth work*" means bringing your kids to youth group and Sunday school **every week** they don't have a school activity—even when they don't want to come!—and having more volunteers to build on our strong foundations. Nothing happens without you—if you want it, find a group that agrees and talk with the Rector and Vestry about how to do it without tramping on other ministries.

If you love what is going on—attend and support. Invite others to come and see what God is doing here. And don't assume that inviting means newcomers—you might be surprised how many members of our own parish aren't aware of favorite ministry and haven't considered it for themselves. If you want it fixed, spend some time talking over plans with people who may not see things the same as you do, and then get down to the business of fixing it - without breaking other things in the process which aren't broken, please....If you have a dream, share it. Not all our individual dreams are God's dream for our corporate life (*I would love to see a day school for elementary students here*), but all our dreams together give us the shape of God's dream for our life together (*maybe we can figure out how to strengthen our Christian education for all ages by borrowing some tips from parochial schools and then integrating that into our Sunday and Wednesday night programs*). Together, we can begin to make a strong parish and build an even brighter future for the witness of the Gospel of Grace!

EDUCATION

KIDS' MINISTRIES

Youth groups for preschool, K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12 every Wed at 7 pm

Sunday school for the same ages every Sun (except Jan 1) at 9:15 am

Acolyte practice Sun at 9 am

Three Kings' Party Fri Jan 6 at 6 pm

FOR ADULTS

Sunday mornings:

Jan 1: No Sunday school this morning

Jan 8-29: Paul's cities: A look at the Roman cities of the ancient Mediterranean and how they shaped both what Paul wrote and how he was understood by the readers

Sunday evenings:

Starting Jan 22 at 6 pm: Christ and Culture: A basic background on American Episcopal history

Wednesday evenings:

The Letter to the Ephesians—a “pseudo-Pauline” epistle to the not-quite-so-early Church, and what it can teach us about how to approach cultural realities and evangelism

Coming in February:

Episcopalian 101

Every Sunday morning from 9:15-10:15 in February and March, the basics of our particular way of being Christian “in layman's terms” leading up to our bishop's visitation and confirmation of new members on Easter, April 8

Classes de Ingles empiezan

3 Enero 2012

los martes y jueves

9:00am a 11:00am o 7:00pm a 9:00pm

Inscription: \$20.00 per semester

No hay guarderia

Family Neighborhood Center

706 Orchard

OUTREACH

MEALS ON WHEELS

Grace Church is the “Postal System” of Jasper County Christianity. We keep on going, no matter whether it's wind, sleet or snow that threatens our appointed rounds! And in February, our rounds include two weeks of delivering Meals on Wheels. A sign up sheet will be in the Parish House early in the month with details. Generally speaking, it's a couple of hours late in the morning.

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. This ministry helps our community in hard times by providing quality clothing at low cost, while supporting our guilds and spreading the good news that the Episcopal Church cares. And it's great fun!

ST LUKE'S NEEDS

A reminder that we always need help with the important ministry of St Luke's Nursing Center—Tuesday morning men's coffee hour, Thursday afternoon holy Eucharist, Sat morning bingo. These events are among the highlights of the week for many residents, and we are one of the few area churches that is consistent in ministering with the elderly in this way. It's easy to carol once a year at a nursing home—but taking the time to make friendships with those we say we should honor, but actually all too often choose to ignore, takes effort. See the rector, or Chuck Erwin (Tues), Ann Ulmer (Thurs) or Richard Roske (Sat) to volunteer.

La Epifanía. (2012)

La Epifanía es una de las fiestas litúrgicas más antiguas, más aún que la misma Navidad. Comenzó a celebrarse en Oriente en el siglo III y en Occidente se la adoptó en el curso del IV. Epifanía, voz griega que a veces se ha usado como nombre de persona, significa "manifestación", pues el Señor se reveló a los paganos en la persona de los magos.

Tres misterios se han solido celebrar en esta sola fiesta, por ser tradición antiquísima que sucedieron en una misma fecha aunque no en un mismo año; estos acontecimientos salvíficos son la adoración de los magos, el bautismo de Cristo por Juan y el primer milagro que Jesucristo, por intercesión de su madre, realizó en las bodas de Caná y que, como lo señala el evangelista Juan, fue motivo de que los discípulos creyeran en su Maestro como Dios.

Los occidentales, aceptaron la fiesta alrededor del año 400, la Epifanía es popularmente el día de los reyes magos. El verdadero rey que debemos contemplar en esta festividad es el pequeño Jesús. Las oraciones litúrgicas se refieren a la estrella que condujo a los magos junto al Niño Divino, al que buscaban para adorarlo.

El sagrado misterio de la Epifanía está referido en el evangelio de san Mateo. Al llegar los magos a Jerusalén, éstos preguntaron dónde está el "Rey de los judíos". Los maestros de la ley supieron informarles que el Mesías del Señor debía nacer en Belén, la pequeña ciudad natal de David; sin embargo fueron incapaces de ir a adorarlo junto con los extranjeros. Los magos, llegaron al lugar donde estaba el niño con María su madre, ofrecieron oro, incienso y mirra, sustancias preciosas en las que la tradición ha querido ver el reconocimiento implícito de la realeza mesiánica de Cristo.

La Epifanía, como lo expresa la liturgia, anticipa nuestra participación en la gloria de la inmortalidad de Cristo manifestada en una naturaleza mortal como la nuestra. Es, pues, una fiesta de esperanza que prolonga la luz de la Navidad.

Con conciencia siempre creciente de la misericordia del Señor, construyamos desde hoy nuestra espiritualidad personal y comunitaria en la tolerancia y la comprensión de los que son distintos en su conducta religiosa, o proceden de pueblos y culturas diferentes a los nuestros.

Sólo Dios salva: las actitudes y los valores humanos, la raza, la lengua, las costumbres, participan de este don redentor si se adecuan a la voluntad redentora de Dios, "nunca" por méritos propios. Las diversas culturas están llamadas a encarnar el evangelio de Cristo, según su genio propio, no a sustituirlo, pues es único, original y eterno.

VESTRY CANDIDATES

Election Jan 15, 2012



Jim Creighton Ted Evans Jr Jinny Hopp Ann Ulmer

Below: Fun and fellowship in December. Our Boy Bishop Christopher I (Beatty) was installed on St. Nicholas Day, after which the Saint himself attended a party overflowing with children.



Thank you for all your generosity this Christmas season. For the many gifts you have given us, both in time and love, and in packages wrapped up in bows or enclosed in envelopes, our gratitude. Your love and your friendship are the signs of Christ's love in our midst.

Your clergy



ECW (Episcopal Church Women/ Mujeres de la Iglesia Episcopal) Meeting Jan 14/Reunion el 14 de Enero

Who We Are - We are Episcopal Church Women of all ages, ethnic origins and socioeconomic backgrounds who hold a variety of views. However, the common denominator of our members is love of God and the wish to do His work. All women of Grace Church are members of Episcopal Church Women.

Mission – Centered in congregations, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) empowers women to do Christ’s ministry in the world.

Vision—Our vision for all women of The Episcopal Church is that we become a vibrant blend of all ages, coming together as a peacemaking, healing part of the Church. We aspire to be a Godspark—shining and sharing the love of Christ. From the website ecwnational.org.

A few women from Grace Church attended the Diocese of West Missouri ECW 2011 fall retreat in Bolivar at St. Alban’s Church. We came home with a desire to bring all the women of Grace Church together for fellowship and encouragement for the work women do. Every woman at Grace Church shares her love for Christ through her own talents. Many women volunteer in the work of the Church, some share their gifts in community projects, others with their family. The focus for ECW at Grace Church is to support the women of the congregation as they do their work. We do not intend for ECW to be another guild with more projects to accomplish!

Our first event is a dinner prepared by our clergy for the women of the parish. The theme is “Getting to Know You.” All women of the parish are invited to this dinner on January 12 in the parish house. Child care and transportation will be available. The cost will be offset by voluntary donations. Please use the pink RSVP included in this newsletter or call Nurse Barbara at 358-4631 to let us know you can attend.

Quienes Somos - Somos Mujeres de la Iglesia Episcopal de todas las edades, orígenes étnicos y niveles socioeconómicos que tienen una variedad de puntos de vista. Sin embargo, el denominador común de nuestros miembros es el amor de Dios y el deseo de hacer su trabajo. Todas las mujeres de la Iglesia de la Gracia son miembros de la Iglesia Episcopal.

La Misión – Esta Centrada en las Mujeres de las Congregaciones Episcopales y están llamadas a hacer el ministerio de Cristo en el mundo.

La Visión - Nuestra visión para todas las mujeres de la Iglesia Episcopal es que nos convirtamos en una vibrante mezcla de todas las edades, se unen como un proceso de paz, la curación es parte de la Iglesia. Aspiramos a ser la luz de Dios y compartir el amor de Cristo.

Pocas mujeres de la Iglesia de la Gracia asistieron al Retiro de la Diócesis de West Missouri en el otoño del 2011 en Bolívar en San Alban. Nos volvimos a casa con el deseo de traer a todas las Mujeres Episcopales de la Iglesia de la Gracia y ofrecerles becas y estimularlas para el trabajo de las mujeres. Todas las mujeres que trabajan en la Iglesia de la Gracia por amor a Cristo a través de sus propios talentos. Muchas mujeres voluntarias en el trabajo de la Iglesia, la participación de algunos de sus regalos en proyectos comunitarios, a otros con su familia. El enfoque de las Mujeres Episcopales en la Iglesia de la Gracia es apoyar a las mujeres de la congregación, ya que hacen su trabajo. No tenemos la intención de que las Mujeres Episcopales tengan mas proyectos de los que ya tienen.

Nuestro primer evento es una cena preparada para nuestro clero por las mujeres de la parroquia. El tema es "Para Conocerlo a Usted". Todas las mujeres de la Iglesia de la Gracia están invitadas a esta cena el 12 de enero en la Casa Parroquial. Habrá cuidado de niños y el transporte estará disponible. El costo será compensado por donaciones voluntarias. Por favor confirme su asistencia llamando a la enfermera Barbara o al padre José al telefono 358-4631 para hacernos saber si usted puede asistir.

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE: The Rev. JOHN CHRISTIANSON

Most people I know don't spend much time reading the lists of names in the Bible. We glance at the lists, and skim down through all the unfamiliar and hard to pronounce names, picking out one or two that sound familiar. In Luke 3:21-37, for instance, our eyes glaze over and tongues get tied over Shealtiel, Arphaxad, or Mahalalel; on the other hand, we feel good about Joseph, David, Noah, and Adam – and we may even know something about them! (For the record, each of these individuals is a part of Jesus' family tree.) Genealogical lists may not be of interest to us, but they were important to certain Biblical writers (especially the historical books and gospels). And, if we can flesh them out, they make the Biblical story live in a whole new way.

Now, the same thing is true when we're reading New Testament Letters. We try to wrap our minds around Paul's big ideas like salvation, atonement, and grace. But we hardly ever stop to wonder why all those names appear at the beginning and end of his letters. I agree that Stephanas, Fortunatas, Achaicus and Apollos aren't names we hear every day. And it's true that we haven't thought of Priscilla since Elvis Presley got married (and divorced). But here's the thing: these people are a part of our family. They were members and leaders of the church. They heard Paul preach, helped him write, supported him, prayed with him, and continued to be the church together long after he left town. It's true that Paul tends to get the limelight...but have you ever wondered who rigged the curtains and followed him with the flame?*

One of my ongoing projects here, as your Scholar in Residence, is to ask these kinds of questions. I am curious and fascinated by the people who are part of our Christian family years ago. I wonder what we can learn and know about them. So far, we've looked at some aspects of culture and history in the New Testament period during my Sunday and Wednesday evening classes. By now, we've touched on houses, birth stories of famous people (and Greek gods), teachings of Jesus (the parables), and experiences of suffering. In the Sunday morning Adult Forum in January, we'll take a new perspective, and turn our attention to the cities where Paul and his associates lived. This box seat view will allow us to see what was going on in first century Ephesus, Corinth, Philippi, and Thessalonica. We'll have maps and pictures for visual learners. And we'll see how Paul's writings respond to and reflect the situation on the ground in these important places.

See you there!

Rev. John



**For theater buffs: Limelight was invented in the 1820s by Goldsworth Gurney and Robert Hare. It is the result of a quicklime (calcium oxide) rod being burned by an oxygen + hydrogen flame. It was first used in London at the Theater Royal at Covent Garden in 1837, and was popular around the world until the early 1900s, when it was replaced by electric arc lights that are much safer.*

**THANK YOU to the
CHILDREN of
GRACE CHURCH for a
GREAT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!**



READINGS in JAN 2012

Sun, Jan 1, THE HOLY NAME of JESUS: Numbers 6:22-27, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 2:15-21

Mon, Jan 2 – Thurs, Jan 5: I Kings 19:1-18, Joshua 3:14-4:7, Jonah 2:2-9, Ephesians 4:1-5:20, 6:10-20, John 6:1-27, John 9:1-38, 11:17-44

Fri, Jan 6: The EPIPHANY of OUR LORD: Isaiah 1-6, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

Sat, Jan 7: Deuteronomy 8:1-3, Colossians 1:1-14, John 6:30-33, 48-51

Sun, Jan 8, The BAPTISM of OUR LORD: Genesis 1:1-5, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

Mon, Jan 9-Sat Jan 14: Genesis 2:4-4:26, Genesis 6:1-22, Hebrews 1:1-4:13, John 1:1-John 2:22

Sun, Jan 15: II EPIPHANY: I Samuel 3:1-30, I Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51

Mon, Jan 16-Tues Jan 17: Genesis 8:6-9:17, Hebrews 4:14-5:14, John 2:23-3:21

Wed, Jan 18 The CONFESSION of ST. PETER: Acts 4:8-13, I Peter 5:-14, Matthew 16:13-19

Thurs, Jan 19-Sat Jan 21: Genesis 11:1-9, 11:27-13:1, Hebrews 6:13-7:28, John 4:1-4:42

Sun, Jan 22, III EPIPHANY: Jonah 3:1-5, 10, I Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

Mon, Jan 23-Tues, Jan 24: Genesis 14:1-1:21, Hebrews 8:1-9:14, John 4:43-5:18

Wed, Jan 25: The CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL: Acts 26:9-21, Galatians 1:11-25, Matthew 10:16-22

Thurs, Jan 26-Sat, Jan 28: Genesis 16:15-18:16, Hebrews 10:1-10:39, John 5:30-6:27

Sun, Jan 29, IV EPIPHANY: Deuteronomy 18:15-20, I Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

Mon, Jan 30-Tues Jan 31: Genesis 19:1-29, 21:1-21, Hebrews 11:1-22, John 6:27-51

MEN of GRACE

Our next meeting will be on Jan 7. Begin at 8:00 a.m. (for donuts, coffee and fellowship) and end at 9:00 or so.

Thanks to Steve Friede for providing ham and scrambled eggs at our last meeting. For those of you who were not able to attend, you missed a great breakfast.

Thanks, also, to Steve Jespersen for talking with us about diabetes and sending each of us additional information by e-mail. His presentation was well received. Would appreciate suggestions for topics and presenters for future meetings.