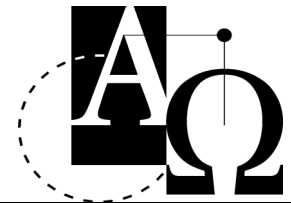


The SPIRIT of GRACE

May 2011

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

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



Regular Events...

Sunday

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

Monday

- Book Club, 9:30
- Quilting, 1
- Narcotics Anonymous 7

Tuesday

- Men @ St Luke's 10
- Coro en Espanol 5

Wednesday

- Choir Practice 5:30
- Holy Eucharist 6
- Dinner, Youth Groups & Bible Study, 6:30

Thursday

- Move Exercise Class 9:30
- Holy Eucharist @ St Luke's 2
- Friends Anonymous 4

Friday

- Holy Eucharist 10

Saturday

- Altar Guild 9
- Worship Service 5 pm
- Estudio Biblico 7

COFFEE HOSTS

Mel & Julie Anderson
Dennis & Kathy Conrow

From the Rectory: The Rev. Steven C. Wilson

April showers bring May flowers, right? So why don't we look at pain and loss in our own lives with the same relentless optimism we accord the weather?

"Life," says the hero in *The Princess Bride*, "is pain. Anyone who says differently is selling something." Christians do not subscribe to quite so pessimistic a view of this world as that, but we do recognize that tragedy, death, sin, limitations, pain, sorrow, brokenness, death are part of this fallen order of creation. Things may not have been intended to be exactly like this, but for whatever reason, this is how they really are. And all the philosophizing about why things have worked out this way doesn't fix it or make it any different. Theologians wrestle with this in high-powered classes devoted to "theodicy," the understanding of how a good and all powerful God could allow things to be so obviously not good. But at the end of the day, it all boils down to a mystery. It is, as they say, what it is.

It's what we do with things that matters, in the final analysis. We have no power to change

this world, to take away the sting of living this side of the Fall. But we do have the power to take the cards dealt us and play beautifully.

The Easter message is in large part about the mystery of tragedy redeemed. Not obliterated, but redeemed. Christ could have come down from the Cross, or called ten legions of angels to overturn the corrupt powers of His time before they even arrested Him. But He didn't. What He did was to take pain and death and suffering and transform it, to turn death into life, ugliness into beauty, tears of sorrow into tears of joy. And He promises us that, if we follow His example, we too can live that new and more abundant life of grace.

The sorrows that are handed us are not, for the most part, in our control. They will not go away, they will not be ignored, they will not be mastered. But they can be offered to God with the prayer that we can find it in our power to transform them into beauty. My great sorrows—deaths, divorce, hasty words spoken without thought—can be

Continued page 14

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dustin Chapman
- 2 Kelsey Baucom, Matthew Goolsby
- 3 Robert Harwell, Bill Haughawout
- 8 Elisabeth (Biffie) Creighton, Spencer Orr,
William Schesser
- 10 Chris Rogers
- 11 Raelene Nickols
- 13 Wesley Campbell
- 14 Marcella Christy, Leonard Luehring, Byron
Ovalle, Josh Slates
- 15 Alex White
- 19 Kevin Charleston
- 20 Robert Duvall, Frank Lane
- 21 Dr. Denise Hamar
- 22 James Lee, Owen Taylor
- 23 Twila Ferguson
- 24 William Labhart
- 25 Jeanne Fanning
- 26 Mark Baucom
- 27 Tiffany Lindsay
- 30 Sarah Evans, Diann Ferguson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Jason & Lindsey Hettinger
- 13 Bill & Lora Phelps
- 15 Mark & Stephanie Williams
- 18 Troy & Liz Salchow
- 19 Gabriel & Elizabeth Speck
- 21 Mike & Pam Robertson
- 22 Dustin & Stacey Chapman, Jamie &
Michelle Hensley
- 26 Fr. Fred & Elaine Taylor, Jeff & Nancy
Dymott
- 28 Forrest & Catherine Marsden
- 29 Andy & Sabrina Lynch, Jerry & Doris
Sample
- 31 Harry & Cindy Rogers, Bryan & Katy
Bewick

VESTRY UPDATE

*At the April 12 Vestry Meeting,
the following was discussed:*

The Rector reviewed the Holy Week schedule, discussed how certain policy clarifications from our new bishop will impact worship (specifically, that there will be Saturday night worship throughout the summer, but no guarantee that any given Saturday will be communion), and reminded the Vestry that we are continuing to prioritize expansion of our clergy staff in the coming years.

Deacon Galen discussed the Bricks for Haiti campaign which ERD and our diocese are beginning. A motion was made and accepted to designate the Haiti portion of our Easter offering for this campaign, which aims to reconstruct the cathedral complex in Port-au-Prince in the coming years.

Father Palma thanked the congregation for the support shown to the Hispanic retreat, which had over 50 participants. Thanks especially to Glenda & Loren Erwin, Jinny & Dale Hopp, and Bonnie Jones, who cooked for the meals, and to Father Sierra who took confessions.

Junior Warden Carolyn Phelps reported that the windows are nearly complete, the carpet installed and the organ pipe replaced. Gas main work in the street in front of the Church is ongoing and may impact our kitchen for a day or two. There is a bid for security/lock needs, but we will discuss that at next month's meeting.

Due to the changed schedule, not all financial reports were available.

The Stewardship Committee gave a presentation, focusing on their planned listening session on May 25 in which they will ask how we can strengthen our parish life and witness, and on events already held, such as the March planned giving seminar with Don Gass.

Next Vestry meeting: May 17, 5:30 pm

The PARISH PRAYER LIST

Parish Prayer List

(Nursing Home & Shut Ins) Patricia Rouse, Helen Rogers, Jean Berry, Amanda McClanahan, Mary Helen Dunaway, Dorothy Taylor, Dorothy Solomonson, Carolene Kelly, Gerri Green, Juanita Pence, Evelyn Jackson, Michelle Short, Lois Raschke, Tom Adams, Jim Brown, Jerry Chrisman, Bill Hansford, Jean Page, Robert Duvall

(Immediate Needs) Fr. Roger Stinnett, Sherrie Stinnett, K.L. Roske, Steve Friede, Roy Mayes, Mike McDonald, Robert Harwell, Wayne Campbell, Cindy Putnam, Gabriel Wilson, Robert Young Jr., Dell Flanigan, Hopp Flanigan, Frank Lane, Diann Ferguson, Lon Orr, Dana Cameron, Raelene Nickols, Eugenia Pivaral, Opal Faye Campbell, Sydni Harlan, Jim Ellis, Melissa Erdman, Stephen Jespersen, Rafael Belland, Brett Mountjoy, Joan Archer, Amalia Gonzalez, Grace Schesser, Ericka Taylor, Carolyn Ford, Fr. Dennis Smart, Keith (Pistol) Baugh, Fr. Chuck Weise, Cathy Spencer, Stan Knoderer, Tristan Goodwin, Gene Anderson, Nic Smith, Jeff Smith, Jeana Bartosh, Joyce Wilkerson, Mary Lee, Adeline Jones, Sina Manzer, Jim Lynch, Keith Shaw, Cindy Emerson, Carolene Kelly, Fred Smith, Ardyn Anderson, Neil Foreman, Don Yankie, Phyllis Shields, Keiko & Tim Nakayama, Evelyn Henderson, Michelle Boyd

(Military service) Adam Hertzberg, Doug Snodgrass, Dane Bell, Brandon Collins, Michael Craig, Jake Douglas, Michael Franco, Cameron Graham, Danny Hughes, Rich Jones, Joey Olson, Garrick Palermo, Grant Short, Allan Vaughan, Devon Walker, Toby Walters, Gary Welch, Josh Wilson, Jeffrey, Monty McBroom, Cody Graham, Dawn Spiller, Steven Sample, Savas Kyriakidis

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

St. Paul's Church, & St. Peter's Church Kansas City, St. Anne's Church, & St. Paul's Church Lee's Summit, Christ Church, Lexington

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Newark, N & S Carolina, N & S Dakota, N'ern California, N'ern Indiana, N'ern Michigan *(USA)* New Westminster *(Canada)* Newcastle *(England)* Newcastle, N Queensland, Queensland NW, The N'ern Territory *(Australia)* Nicaragua *(Central America)* N'ern Malawi *(Central Africa)* Ngbo, N'ern Izon, Niger Delta N, Nike, Niger West, Nnewi *(Nigeria)* Nord Kivu *(Congo)* N Central Philippines, N'ern & S'ern Philippines, N'ern Luzon *(Philippines)* NE Caribbean-Aruba *(West Indies)* N Kerala *(South India)* N'ern Argentina *(South America)* N'ern Mexico *(Mexico)*

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Paul & Deborah Patrick
Jason & Lindsey Hettinger, Kathy Williams
Mike & Jacque McDonald
Drew Longan,

Congratulations to Nate Dowell and Samantha Vaughn, wed at Grace Church on Sat, April 30

The Journey of Faith

Faith is a response to the person of Jesus, a personal and individual response to His presence within us and in our world. To respond with faith and love means that we have to give attention on a regular basis to this relationship. It means taking time for personal as well as community prayer. It means investing time in studying and reflecting upon the Word of God so that we can learn more about Him, about ourselves, and about how we are called to live this life.

Such a response results in news that may at times be an overwhelming experience. We may become awestruck at the infinite power of God and may at other times simply feel grateful for his gentleness. He is the Shepherd who cares for His flock with love and generosity, the Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep! He is Jesus who embraces small children with great tenderness and who has compassion on the poor, the sick, and the needy.

Our response in faith also involves self discovery; an on-going journey that implies that God is not yet finished with us. We are called to continue to grow closer to God and to one another. The Word of God, the teaching of Jesus, challenges each of us to continue to become more aware of the kind of person that God wants us to be, and to take the necessary steps to become that person.

The discoveries associated with our response of faith and love are not limited to discoveries of God or ourselves. They also involve discovery of one another and the realization that we are all children of God. For most of us, this discovery involves the greatest challenge of all and may call changes in the way we live our lives, or at least changes in the manner in which we perceive others. Many people today are suffering, have empty lives, search for meaning, and the reason for their existence. They are all around us, and may include members of our own family, our closest friends, and the people with whom we work. We see this emptiness and despair, in a person whose zest for life has been eroded by serious illness or loneliness, in those who have lost control because of dependency issues, or those on the verge of despair because they have sought to be made complete by the material things of this world.

The Gospels depict Jesus' great sensitivity to the poor and the oppressed. He was criticized by some for openly associating with them and acting on their behalf. This criticism did not prompt Him to avoid this important aspect of His ministry, nor should it deter us his followers. As Christians we are called to represent Christ in the world. In order to do this we must be willing to pour ourselves out to the world that may not always agree or understand. But, Jesus never said it was going to be easy.

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 II EASTER Acolyte Appreciation Sunday	2 ST MARK <i>(transferred)</i>	3 SS PHILIP & JAMES <i>(transferred)</i> 6:30 pm St Catherine's Girls' Night Out at Dos Arcos 8:30 pm Softball	4 <i>Monnica, Mother of Augustine</i>	5	6	7 9 am Ferns for Literacy Center 10-2 pm Quiet Day
8 III EASTER Mothers' Day	9 <i>Gregory Nazianzene</i>	10 6:30 pm Softball	11	12 KAIROS Prison Ministry in Cameroon now through Sunday	13 Noon Encore	14
15 IV EASTER 2 pm Madsen funeral 3 pm Music Devotees	16 <i>The Martyrs of the Sudan</i>	17 5:30 pm Vestry 8:30 pm Softball	18	19 <i>Dunstan of Canterbury</i> 5 pm Relay for Life	20 <i>Alcuin of Tours</i> 6 pm Movie Night "Leap of Faith"	21
22 V EASTER	23	24 <i>Jackson Kemper</i>	25 <i>Venerable Bede</i> 3 pm Folding Party 7 pm Stewardship Listening Session	26 <i>Augustine of Canterbury</i>	27	28
29 VI EASTER 4:30 pm Platt/Mack wedding	30 <i>Memorial Day/Rogation Day:</i> Office closed	31 VISITATION of the BLESSED VIRGIN 7:30 pm Softball		Season: Easter Color: White (except May 2, St Mark, red, & May 3, Sts Philip & James, red)		

SPEAKING OF HEALTH: NURSE BARBARA MOUNTJOY

Healthy eating is about feeling great, having more energy, and keeping yourself as healthy as possible all of which can be achieved by learning some basic facts and using them in a way that works for you. Here are a number of “Best Tips Ever” regarding Healthy Eating.

Drink plenty of water or other calorie-free beverages. People sometimes confuse thirst with hunger. So you can end up eating extra calories when an ice-cold glass of water is really what you need. A splash of citrus or a flavored tea if you don't care for plain water.

Think about what you can add to your diet, not take away. Start by focusing on getting the 5 to 9 servings of vegetables & fruits each day. You're less likely to overeat because they displace fat in your diet and contain phytochemicals that have documented disease prevention properties.

Consider whether you're really hungry. Hunger is your body's way of telling you that you need fuel. Reasonable portions will help you get more in touch with your feelings of hunger and fullness. When you have finished eating you should feel better – not stuffed, bloated or tired.

Be choosy about nighttime snacks. Mindless eating, sometimes referred to as eating amnesia, most often occurs after dinner. Allow yourself a low-calorie snack, like a 100 calorie pack of cookies or a scoop of low-fat ice-cream. You will be surprised how that will satisfy you.

Eat several mini-meals during the day. Studies show people who eat 4-5 snacks per day are better able to control their appetite and weight. You can divide your daily calories throughout the day into smaller meals or snacks – dinner should be the last time you eat.

Eat protein at every meal. Getting enough protein helps preserve muscle mass and encourages fat burning while keeping you feeling full. Healthy protein sources include yogurt, cheese, nuts or beans. Spice it up. Food that is loaded with flavor will stimulate your taste buds and be more satisfying. When you need sweet, suck on a red-hot fireball candy for a long-lasting burst of wetness with just a few calories.

Stock your kitchen with healthy convenience foods. Having ready-to-eat snacks and meals-in-minutes staples on hand. You'll be less likely to hit the drive-through or call in a pizza order if you can make a healthy meal in 5 or 10 minutes...frozen chicken tenders, bags of washed greens, canned diced tomatoes & canned beans, pre-cooked brown rice, chicken & beef broth, fresh veggies or frozen stir-fry veggies – toss some of these together and presto – a healthy meal.

Order children's portions at restaurants. At home use smaller plates. This helps the portions look like more, and if your mind is satisfied your stomach likely will be also.

Eat foods in season. Fruits and vegetables are more flavorful and rich in vitamins and minerals when you eat them in season.

Swap a cup of starch for a cup of vegetables. Simply by eating less pasta and/or bread and increasing your veggies you could lose a pant or dress size in a year.

Be physically active. Don't use exercise either to punish yourself for eating or to “earn” the right to eat more. That sets up a negative thought pattern, which is why many people hate to exercise. Focus on how great you feel. Physical activity is good for you whether you are trying to lose weight or not, so keep it positive and build a lifelong habit.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: MAY 2011

Sunday, May 1 8 am

O.T. Reader/Epistle: Ruth Smith
Prayers of People: Jackie Johnson
Chalice: Deacon Galen Snodgrass
Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell
Server: Richard Roske
Sacristan: Carolyn Phelps

10:30 am

OT: Michael Goolsby
NT: George Platt
Chalice: Margie Tucker
Subdeacon: Brad Cameron
Acolyte Mentor: Brad Cameron
Servers: Quincy Charleston, *Capt*
Jay Simmons
Cross: Tom Simmons
Torches: Emma Charleston
Layla Pettie
Sacristan: Donna Lane
Ushers: Jim Creighton
Mike Robertson
AV: Elisa White
Flower Delivery: Clif Kester

Sunday, May 8 8 am

O.T. Reader/Epistle: Glenda Erwin
Prayers of People: Gary Cole
Chalice: Deacon Jeff Bell
Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell
Server: Kirby Newport
Sacristan: Jeannie Slates

10:30 am

OT: Debbie Jones
NT: Mark Sponaugle
Chalice: Rayella Lindsay
Subdeacon: Tom Flanigan
Acolyte Mentor: Michele Sexton
Servers: Carlie Wakefield *Capt*
Julio Ovalle
Crosses: Matt Goolsby
Torches: Ashleigh Wilson
Sarah Wilson
Sacristan: Beth McDaniel
Ushers: Larry McGuire, Claude Newport
AV: Jim & Colby Wakefield
Home Comm: Bell/Ytell-Lon Orr

Sunday, May 15 8 am

O.T. Reader/Epistle: Kelly Roske
Prayers of People: Wayne Ytell
Chalice: Wayne Ytell
Subdeacon: Kirby Newport
Server: Brad Cameron
Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

10:30 am

OT: Julie Anderson
NT: Bonnie Jones
Chalice: George Platt
Subdeacon: Bonnie Jones
Acolyte Mentor: Elisa White
Servers: Madeline Marsden *Capt*
Ellen Stiles Salchow
Crosses: Will Mansfield
Torches: Katie & Taylor Mansfield
Sacristan: Debbie Orr
Ushers: Jim Grimes/ Dale Hopp
AV: Mike Robertson
Home Comm: Galen/Bonnie-G.Cordell
Flower Delivery: Barbara McPheeters

Sunday, May 22 8 am

O.T. Reader/Epistle: Marty Griffin
Prayers of People: Wayne Ytell
Chalice: Marty Griffin
Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell
Server: Nancy Dymott
Sacristan: Jinny Hopp

10:30 am

OT: Michael Goolsby
NT: Jerry Sample
Chalice: Tom Flanigan
Subdeacon: Michael Goolsby
Acolyte Mentor: Elaine Wurst
Servers: Cecilie Washburn *Capt*
Drew Schesser
Cross: Oliver Sprinkle, Sydni Harlan
Torches: Alex & Ana Wilkowski
Sacristan: Beth McDaniel
Ushers: Larry Hartman/Steve Erwin
AV: Scott Mansfield
Flower Delivery: Kevin Curtis

Sunday, May 29 8 am

O.T. Reader/Epistle: Wayne Ytell
Reader NT: Peggy Ralston
Chalice: Kirby Newport
Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell
Server: Nancy Dymott
Sacristan: Jinny Hopp

10:30 am

OT: Chuck Edds
NT: Donna Lane
Chalice: Brad Cameron
Subdeacon: Scott Stone
Acolyte Mentor: Elaine Wurst
Servers: Nancy Dymott
Michele Sexton
Cross: Richard Roske/Scott Stone
Torches: Kirby Newport/Elaine Wurst
Sacristan: Debbie Orr
Ushers: Chuck Erwin/Mike Goolsby
Flower Delivery: Mitch Christy

Wednesdays, 6 pm

Sacristan: Barbara Mountjoy

May 4: Reader: Julie Anderson
Chalice: Ron Ferguson

May 11: Reader/Chalice: Scott Stone

May 18: Reader/Chalice: Bonnie Jones

May 25: Reader/Chalice: Margie Tucker

Saturdays, 5 pm

April 30: Reader/Chalice: Scott Stone
Sacristan: Marcia McGuire

May 7: Reader: Jimmy Grimes
Chalice: Galen Snodgrass
Sacristan: Donna Lane

May 14: Reader: Jack Slates
Chalice: Scott Stone
Sacristan: Donna Lane

May 21: Reader: Glenda Erwin
Chalice: Bonnie Jones
Sacristan: Carolyn Phelps

May 28: Reader: George Plat
Chalice: Jeff Bell
Sacristan: Carolyn Phelps



**Blooming in
Your Bible
G a r d e n
Right Now**

Asphodelus ramosus, the branched asphodel, is extremely rare in cultivation in this country. We have, in fact, some of the only

flowering specimens in the Midwest! This relative of the red hot poker and aloe vera is a fixture of ancient Greek myth, in which those who died heroically went to the Elysian Fields (a very nice suburb of Mt. Olympus) after death, the villainous to Tartarus (a rather grim eternal slum) and most “ordinary” folks went to the Asphodel Fields, a boring place where the nicest thing to eat was the watery bulb of this plant. Christianity changed all that—ordinary folks are eligible for eternal joy and not just for eternal boredom in our faith! As Greece was breaking with paganism in the 5th century, the custom grew of planting asphodel bulbs plant atop your departed’s tomb, to signal that even if they weren’t particularly special, they were now destined for more than paganism had thought. “Daffodil,” by the way, is a mispronunciation of as-fodil. We borrowed the name of this famous, finicky plant and gave it to another species which is easier to grow in our area.

**ST CATE’S GIRLS NIGHT OUT:
May 2**

Join the ladies of St. Catherine’s for Girls Night Out at Dos Arcos on Tues, May 2 at 6:30. No meeting, ’cause we’re eating! All women, regardless of whether they’ve been to a St. Catherine’s meeting, are welcomed.

ENCORE CLUB: May 13

Friday, Noon: RSVP \$5 per person
 Chef: Barbara Mountjoy
 Presenter: Bill Schmitt,
 Director of Physical Therapy
 at McCune Brooks Regional Hospital

DEVOTEES CONCERT: May 15

Carthage Musical Devotees Members’
 Talent Show 3:00 pm

MOVIE NIGHT: MAY 20

Come at 6 with your snack and friend to have a social hour. *Leap of Faith*, starring Steve Martin, Debra Winger, Philip Seymour Hoffman & Meat Loaf, is the 1992 comedy retelling of *Elmer Gantry*—the story of a con-artist evangelist who finds faith and God are harder to control than he thinks...

ROGATION DAYS: May 30 & 31

The Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday before Ascension Day, set aside to pray for farmers, harvests, and seasonable weather. Take the opportunity to plant a tree under which your great-grandchildren will sit someday, or go for a walk and be amazed at the good earth God has given us to both “till and keep”—that is, to use and to preserve.

Interested in Italy? Join our parish trip to Sicily, leaving June 4, 2012. See the Rector for details, which are as yet being firmed up.



EDUCATION

ADULT FORUMS

May 1 & 8: Paul, Ephesus and How the Epistles Reflect and Challenge the Modern World: The Rev. John Christianson

May 15: Barbara Mountjoy walks us through some issues in health

May 22: Jerusalem, Jerusalem—a look at the Holy City and how its architecture has shaped our worship and our conception of matters from the mundane (why the priest puts on a sacred rain coat mid-service) to the sublime (the “Way of the Cross”)

May 29: “The glorious company of the saints in light:” Memorial Day and how the Church remembers heroic Christians

WED NIGHTS

Final Wed Night for Bible Study & Youth Groups is June 1. There will be a VBS later this summer, the first week of August, built around the mini-musical “It’s Cool in the Furnace” about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego’s adventures in Babylon.

QUIET DAY: May 7

There will be a Quiet Day, with Holy Communion, prayer time in the Centering Prayer tradition, and Labyrinth walk (weather permitting) on Saturday May 7. 10-12, lunch included. RSVP to the office.

ECW MEEETING: May 21

Ladies of the parish are invited to the ECW breakfast on Sat, May 21, at 10 at St. James’ Church in Springfield. There will be music, a presentation on the progress of the construction at the day care center in Palapye, Botswana, and lots of fun fellowship. Reservations are required to jannet@cableone.net or pattieanne@hotmail.com. There will be a carpool leaving from our parking lot at 8:30 am that morning—see Jinny Hopp!

STEWARDSHIP

DID YOU KNOW?

Sometimes the only thing that keeps someone from attending Church is that no one has “noticed” their absence. A nice note or “we’ve missed you, hope you’re not feeling poorly” call might be just the thing to spark a revived interest.

Sometimes the best thing you can do for a parishioner who’s out of the habit of attendance is just to call and say “We’ve missed you. Is everything okay?” No guilt, no shame, just a heartfelt message that they matter to you.

Our parish nurse program is funded by a single pledge specifically to that program, enabling you and the entire community to benefit from Nurse Barbara’s pastoral and medical expertise at no cost to the parish budget?

Our youth group trips are entirely funded by fund-raisers done by the youth and adult volunteers—not a dime comes out of the parish budget? What an amazing statement—most churches with large, active youth programs have paid professionals running the program—we are all volunteer—and subsidize ski trips and other “fun times,” while our kids raise their own funds for major educational-spiritual or “hammers and nails” ministry trips.

LISTENING SESSION: May 25

Join us May 25th, as the Stewardship Committee hosts “Listening Session.” A time to gather around and ponder questions such as “*What connects you to Grace Church?*” or “*What do you find yourself committing your time to or willing to commit your time to?*” Consider these and other questions about stewardship then join us Wednesday, May 25th, 2011 for an evening of constructive conversation and listening. Program begins in the Parish House approx 7:00 pm, after the regular Wednesday night service and meal.

OUTREACH & SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

Would you like to sign up to be a part of the Prayer Vigil for the May 11-15 KAIROS prison ministry? Check out 3dayol.org/Vigil/GetVigil, or see the Rector! Agape, or letters of support and prayer to those taking part, can also be something one can commit to—see the rules on the website.

COMMUNITY HOUSING

The ministerial alliance is sponsoring a “rebuild” of a house owned by an elderly woman here in town. Tentatively, construction should be completed by early May, with plumbing, concrete, framing, roofing, siding, electrical, sheetrock, painting, trimwork, landscaping and meals all needed. Contact Jim Barnes, the project manager, at betty019@centurytel.net, or through the Nazarene Church at 358-4265, to learn more.

JAPANESE BLOSSOMS

Our Wednesday night PBJ class (grades 4-6) is selling the results of its horticultural experiment at the 1st Annual Plant Sale, May 1! Tomatoes, peppers, hostas, echinacea, day lilies and more are on sale to raise funds for ERD's earthquake relief in Japan.

FERNS for LITERACY CENTER

In our parking lot, Sat, May 7, all morning, \$10 a piece. What a lovely gift for your mom...

NA

Do you know someone with a drug problem? Narcotics Anonymous meets at Grace Church in the basement of Spencer Hall each Monday at 7 pm. Al-Anon is a meeting for those whose lives have been affected by a problem drinker.

NEARLY NEW

Many of our outreach projects are funded by the sale of gently used clothing at the Nearly New Shop. Speak to Cindy Chilton or Carolyn Cole about donations (you can receive money back on consignment or make a tax-deductible contribution) or to volunteer for a 3-hour shift once a month.

DERBY DAY @ ST LUKE'S

Join our Episcopal nursing home staff and residents for an art show 10-4, Monday, May 9, and to watch the taped race with juleps at 3 pm. Ladies' floppy hats needed for residents...see the Rector. And don't forget our weekly ministries, Tuesday and Saturday mornings, and Thursday afternoons.

ST. CATHERINE'S GUILD

Will be selling “Cinnamon Rolls for Little Souls” on Father's Day, June 19th, at 9:15 & noon. All money will go to the Children's Haven. Put this date on your calendar so we may help these special little souls. You may pre-order by calling Marsha Delaney at 359-5728 and leave a message. We will have frozen cinnamon rolls available for use at a later time.

PLATICANDO en ESPANOL: PADRE JOSE PALMA

The Hispanic Ministry of the Diocese of West Missouri thanks everyone for their support of our Lenten Retreat, held for the third consecutive year. We are grateful to Grace Church for hosting the retreat; to our presenter, Cuco Escalera, and his Oklahoma parishioners, Jose, Iris, Daniel, and Adela; and Ginny, Dale, Bonnie, Glenda, and Loren for food services and to Fr. Frank Sierra for hearing confessions.

In this retreat, as in other ministries, we have seen how God works in the lives of participants. We started from 9:00 am to 8:30 pm. The retreat theme was: The Christian Commitment.

Ephesians 4:6-7 There is one God and Father of all, that is above all, works through all and in all. But each of us has received the gifts that Christ wanted to give. Ephesians 4:22-24 As for his old way of life, put away your old nature which is corrupt, deceived by evil desires. You must be renewed in your mind and spirit, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

From 6 to 8:30 pm We had the Rite of Healing and Confessions. On Sunday at 12:00 pm We celebrated the Holy Eucharist. From 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm Testimonies.

The attendance was 50 to 60 people.

Testimonies of participants: “God is love because I found the happiness in God I was looking for.” “Thanks be to God. I am happy because God gave me the breath of life through his Holy Spirit, and through His Son Jesus Christ, He delivered me.”

“My experience at the retreat was so beautiful and so great. I thank God for everything you have done in my life and my family.” “Last year God delivered me, and this year, He delivered my wife. We are now free and we live in the love of God.”

Many thanks and blessings to all.



The Rev. Canon Jose Palma

Thank you...

To our fabulous Seder Meal crew, ably chaired by Kathy “What am I, chopped liver?” Gilpin: *cooks* Biffie Creighton, Liz Foster, Beth McDaniel, Ruth Platt, Grace Schesser, Margie Tucker, Pam White; *set up crew* Julie Anderson & Robert Denning; *clean up crew*: Kevin, Toni, Matthew, Christopher & Joseph Beatty, Jeannie & Mike Goolsby, Cary Lee, Stephanie Lynch, Debby Orr, Richard Roske, John Schaffer & Wanda Spencer, and of course, our sexton, source of all last minute shopping runs for “one more item,” Rita Burken

To our equally fabulous Agape Feast crew, ably chaired by Beth “Too much butter? Can you use those words in that order?” McDaniel: *cooks & clean up* Chalaine Bell, Biffie Creighton, Liz Foster, Robin Frink, Jeanne Goolsby, Brian Hunter, Cathy Moomaw, Ceri & Jason Otero, Jane Platt, Ruth Platt, Monica Puerto, Margie Tucker, Bonnie Jones, Jane Platt, Barbara Putnam, Ann Ulmer, Steve Wilson; *“pit crew”* Chris Orr, Larry Albright, Mitch Christy, Eric Ferrell, Mike Goolsby, Wade Hamilton, Cary Lee, Sam Rogers, Allen Stinebrook; *décor team* Pat Cowan, Cindy Chilton, Gloria LaFerla; *pistachio pickers* Julie Anderson, Susie Bewick, Kathy Conrow, Claudia Mundell — *of course, many of these folks did double or even triple duty between these committees*

To our choir which sang their hearts out and set the stage for powerful worship at no fewer than 500% their normal number of services this week

To our acolytes, lay readers and altar guild, for whom this is the “Ministry Marathon,” with every service different, and every service rather labor intensive, and especially to those altar guild members who had to launder linens nightly since so many of our purificators (*altar napkins*) have mysteriously vanished or fallen apart through use in recent months

To Kevin and Toni Beatty, our lamb suppliers (both for eating and for petting), and to Kelly Heidlage and Bob Locarni, our packing plant delivery system

To our Easter Egg hunt gang, overseen by Trish Charleston, with able help from many others

To Biffie Creighton, who baked the cool-cross muffins for Easter morning

To Larry Hartman and Claude Newport, who made sure we had lilies galore, tulips on the steps, and ample flora for the most beautiful flowered cross ever

To our Vestry, which had the vision to once again dedicate the loose offering to those in need throughout the neighborhood and the world

There is no more amazing place in the Four States to worship, to fast and feast, during Holy Week than Grace Church, thanks to the dedication of the lengthy list of your family above who gave so generously of themselves.



Left: Lambs and kids (both kinds!) enjoying Easter morning at Grace Church

Right: The spectacular flowered cross awaits procession into the Church



SOFTBALL

Your softball team had a wonderful first showing, narrowly losing to the Nazarene team on Tuesday night of Holy Week (*the Nazarenes, for the record, were not fasting, so that explains that, right?*). Join them at Municipal Park, behind the golf course, for the upcoming season!

April 26 6:30

May 3 8:30

May 10 6:30

May 17 8:30

May 31 7:30

June 7 7:30

June 14 6:30

June 21 8:30

June 28 6:30

BRICKS for HAITI

Our vestry voted to send part of the undesignated Easter Offering to The Episcopal Church Foundation for bricks to rebuild Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Deacon Galen learned that monies sent to this bricks & mortar project will be matched by Trinity Wall Street in New York or Christ Church in Indianapolis. This allows for a doubling of assets for the good of others. Thank you for your generous donations.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Our current quarter tube project has collected \$150.00 towards the goal of \$315 for animals in Estonia.

COMING IN JUNE

Block off the evening of Friday, June 24, for a wine tasting and Art-a-Fair to benefit our 2013 youth pilgrimage travel fund. This event will incorporate a silent auction of our youth and parishioners' creative arts and crafts, collectibles and antiques. We invite all our artists to consider donating an item—sculpture, watercolor, photographs, quilting, cross stitching, weaving, glass work—to this wonderful affair. This is an opportunity to raid your attic for items of vast intrinsic value which don't really fit your decorative scheme any more. Any Faberge eggs or out-of-date Picasso etchings just cluttering up the closets? Remember, if you haven't seen it or used it in a year, it's time to find a home where it will be loved. And, of course, all donations are tax-deductible (see your tax advisor for details). Contact Kelly Heidlage, Robert Denning or Cindy Chilton to arrange storage for your items!

Let's make this event a resounding success!



Left: The procession of palms and monstrance begins Holy Week

Right: Flowers, lights and brass deck the altar with splendor to end Holy Week



From the Rectory, page one

chains that tie me up in regret and rage and sorrow, or they can be the catalyst I need to move forward (here's the spiritual hint) *as if I really believe what I say I do*. I say I believe that God is in control and loves me and wants the best for me—so I have to live *as if* that were true.

This is not Robert Schuller-style “power of positive thinking,” it's theological humility. I can't see how God is working things out—I may *never* see how God is working things out. But if I say that I believe He is doing so, then I have to stop fixating on what's broken and start living as if it were beautifully restored. Not “letting go,” but *forgiving*. The Greek word for forgive is “aphieme.” That means “to let fall from one's grasp.” I have to turn lose of my grip on the thing that I'm hanging onto. It may not leave my side when I drop it—it may in fact follow me all the days of my life like a dog or a bad yearbook photo. But if I'm not grasping it tightly, not consciously focusing on it, then God can use my hands for higher purposes.

The pain of my life is real, and it won't be denied or wished away. But it also doesn't have to be the thing that shapes my daily actions, defines what I can and cannot do. If I acknowledge that God will use it, no matter how horrible it is, to His glory and to the reconciliation of the cosmos, then I can look at my pain and say “Thank you that you are using this horrible dreadful thing in ways that I cannot see, and help me to stop focusing on its horrible dreadfulness, but rather to trust that you see farther than I do.” Life is pain, and anyone who says differently is selling something—but pain can be the seed of splendor. Just look at the Garden Tomb to see how that works...

READINGS in MAY

Sun, May 1: SECOND EASTER: Acts 2:14, 22-32, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:18-31

Mon, May 2: ST MARK the EVANGELIST (transferred from April 25, Easter week) Isaiah 52:7-10, Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-16, Mark 1:1-15

Tues, May 3: ST PHILIP & ST JAMES, APOSTLES (transferred from May 1, Sunday) Isaiah 30:18-21, II Corinthians 4:1-6, John 14: 6-14

Wed, May 4-Sat, May 7: Daniel 2:17–3:30, 1John 2:12-3:18, John 17:20-26, Luke 3:1-4:13

Sun, May 8, THIRD EASTER (Mothers' Day) Acts 2:14, 36-41, 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35

Mon, May 9 –Sat, May 14: Daniel 4:19-6:28, 1 John 3:19-5:20, 2 John 1-13, 3 John 1-15, Luke4:14-5:39

Sun, May 15, FOURTH EASTER Acts 2:42-47, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

Mon, May 16-Sat, May 21 Wisdom 1:16-2:11, 21-24, 3:1-9, 4:16-5:9-23, 6:12-23, 7:1-14, Colossians 1:1-3:17, Luke 6:1-7:18-35

Sun, May 22, FIFTH EASTER Acts 7:55-60, 1Peter2:2-10, John 14:1-14

Mon, May 23-Sun, May 28, Wisdom 9:1, 7-18-10:1-21, 13:1-9, 14:27-15:3, 16:15-17:1, 19:1-8,18-22, Colossians 3: 18-4:1-18, Romans 12:1-15:13, Luke 7:36-9:17

Sun, May 29, SIXTH EASTER, Acts 7:55-60, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

Mon, May 30 Rogation Day, Deuteronomy 8:1-10, James 1:1-15, Luke 9:18-27

Tues, May 31, Rogation Day & VISITATION of the VIRGIN: 1Samuel 2:1-10, Romans 12:9-16, Luke 1:39-57

Patronal Feasts

Please pray for the following on their “name days”

Mon, May 2: St. Mark's Church, Kimberling City
Tues, May 3: St. Philip's Churches, Joplin & Trenton