

The SPIRIT of GRACE

SEPTEMBER 2011

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Regular Events...

Sunday

- Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:30
- Acolyte Practice 9:15
- Choir Practice 9:30
- 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

September Coffee

Hosts

Kelly Heidlage
Sylvia Sprenkle

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

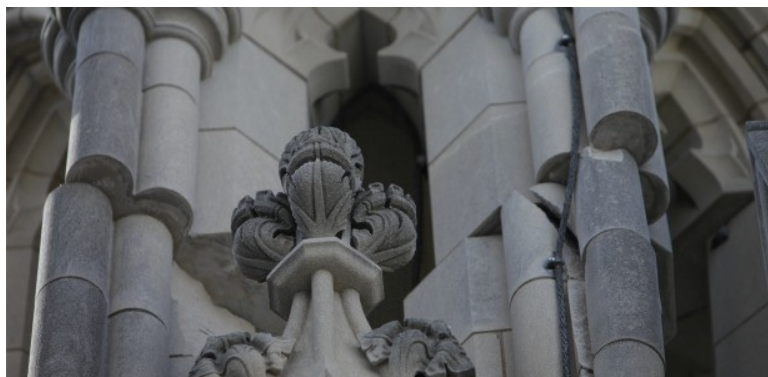
On August 24, St. Bartholomew's day, a serious earthquake rattled the East Coast. The Washington Monument, Mt Vernon and the National Cathedral are still closed as I write this due to earthquake damage—the Cathedral suffering the most, apparently, with cracks in the flying buttresses which support the immense weight of the stone vaulting, as well as carved limestone details and window frames throughout the building cracked.

The National Cathedral, where I was ordained a priest in 1994, is a monument to a more self-assured moment in American, and Episcopal, history. While the permanent staff are Episcopalian, it is a temple for national purposes, not for Anglican ones.

In our less optimistic present day, such a vision would have us all running in hysterics. Who will pay for it? Who will control it? Can we do it more cheaply? Do we have the sheer optimism to attempt such a feat today?

We built the Cathedral for the nation during a time of optimism, of *hope*. We live now in a time of hopelessness. The bad news is all we hear, and it is mostly lies, but it can drown out the Good News! Examples: Our country out-manufactures China's billion workers by 50%. America's suburban and rural schools have the highest test scores on the planet except for ethnically homogenous Finland (our *urban* schools are broken, not our whole system), more than half of all college grads attend a Christian worship service monthly or more often, teen pregnancy is down, divorce rates are down. So why are we so pessimistic about the future?

Jesus is a Messiah of hope, not despair. Are there cracks in the buttresses of our society and our Church? Sure. But there is no time to bewail the future—right now, there is masonry to repair. Because the future needs a temple for the praise of the Living God—and it is our job to raise that temple today for those who are yet to come.



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jerry Chrisman
- 2 Doreen Woods
- 3 Marie Estes
- 4 Michael Goolsby, Brad White
- 5 Marsha Delaney, Betty Hoover, Richard Roske, Ruth (Smith) Felton, Brayden Waggoner
- 6 Caleb Stiles
- 7 Mitch Christy, Zina Lewis
- 8 Sam Cebula, Jeff Dymott
- 9 Amanda McClanahan
- 10 Samantha Snodgrass
- 11 Stacey Chapman
- 12 Ida Ruth Locarni, Wanda Spencer
- 13 Stephan Beimdiek, Earleen Evans Sr, Beth McDaniel, Betsy Pauly, Michael Thompson
- 14 Claire Hamilton, Michelle Hensley
- 15 Ted Evans Sr., Tyler Harwell, Eric Leek, Lisa Snodgrass
- 16 April Jones
- 17 Anita Flanigan
- 18 Isabella Bowman, Larry Hartman
- 19 Amy Heese, Paige Rhymer, Owen Sawyer
- 20 Terry Chilton, Chase Pitner, Liz Foster
- 21 Paul Matteo, Debbie Putnam, Kim Snodgrass
- 22 Ellie Flanigan, Colby Wakefield
- 23 Melissa Erdman, Patrick Pettie
- 24 John Higginbotham
- 26 Kristen Robertson
- 27 Chuck Edds
- 28 Chalaine Bell, Kathryn Conrow, Glenda Erwin, David Foster
- 29 Van Ellis, Andrea Hertzberg, Allen Stinebrook, Dr. Paul Toma, Joni Nelson
- 30 Kelley Roske, Steven Nelson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Galen & Kim Snodgrass
- 2 Mel & Julie Anderson, Larry & Marcia McGuire
- 4 Jim & Pat Brown
- 8 John & Pam White Schaffer
- 13 Paul & Cathy Hauser
- 20 Steven & Betty Goodman
- 29 Steve & Melinda Wilson
- 30 Michael & Heather Anderson

VESTRY UPDATE

At the August 16 meeting, the following was discussed:

Fr. Wilson's report: A review of our Bishop's pastoral letter (see page 8 for full text) and discussion of costs associated with expanding and improving our website.

Deacon Snodgrass' report: The Bishop has announced an essay contest on mission. Communication problems with our Haiti sister parishes was the subject of a recent telephone conference with NYC.

Deacon Bell's report: ERD is engaged in dealing with the humanitarian crisis from the famine in Somalia. There will be an acolyte trip to White Water August 20.

Father Palma's report: The bazaar in Noel raised about \$500 for Hispanic ministry.

Senior Warden Cole's report: Thank you notes from Noel and the Ministerial Alliance were read. The salary and insurance committee was named: Chuck Edds (chair), Cindy Chilton, Jeff Dymott & Peggy Ralston. The committee will review our staff coverages and benefits in the coming months.

Treasurer McGuire's report: Our income is about as budgeted, with a \$5800 surplus year to date, but when we remove special offerings and reduced costs, we are actually about break even. Altar Guild costs are higher due to Nearly New's difficult financial year (the Nearly New has funded our guilds in the past, but is at break-even this year despite wonderful work by our volunteers and Cindy Chilton, a cycle we have experienced before).

Other Business: Sabbatical issues were discussed, specifically the congregation's apparent confusion over what a sabbatical is (**NOT** a six month vacation, **NOT** a year long—but a specified set of time away for study). The sabbatical committee has recommended some items for Fr. Wilson, some of which may be completed next year, while others (Islamic studies) may need to wait another year due to world security conditions. There was discussion about how to fund and utilize an assistant. Proposals to restore the altar rail and put down a parking area on the alley will be made in Sept. Our deacons will need letters of agreement, as the Bishop has asked for these. The October pledge drive was discussed and the Stewardship Committee, together with Carolyn Amparan, will work on the brochure.

The next Vestry meeting is Sept 13 at 5:30 pm

The PARISH PRAYER LIST

(*Nursing Home & Shut Ins*) Patricia Rouse, Jean Berry, Amanda McClanahan, Mary Helen Dunaway, Dorothy Taylor, Dorothy Solomonson, Carolene Kelly, Gerri Green, Juanita Pence, Evelyn Jackson, Michelle Short, Tom Adams, Jerry Chrisman, Bill Hansford, Jean Page, Robert Duvall, Ruth Rogers, Dan Stokes, Del Flanigan, Edith Pemberton

(*Immediate Needs*) Nancy Platt, Jim Armfield, Del Flanigan, Roger Stinnett, Earlene Fauvergue, Beth Simmons, Ann Geisert, Grace Schesser, Marcia Kirk, George Platt, Marie Estes, Lage Grigsby, Carolyn Ford, Chally Armstrong, Carolene Kelly, Don & Nevin Yankie, Cody Schuler, Teddy Stark, Gypsy Stark, Edward & Jean Whitney, Royce Nelson, Larry Ford, Bonnie Foshay

(*Militaryservice*) 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 R. Martin

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Saskatchewan, Saskatoon (*Rupert's Land, Canada*) Sebel, Soroti, South Rwenzori (*Uganda*) Sekondi (*West Africa*) Seychelles (*Indian Ocean*) Sheffield, Sodor & Man, Southwell & Nottingham, Southwark, St. Albans, Hertford (*England*) Shinyanga, Western Tanganyika, Southern Highlands (*Tanzania*) Shyira, Shyogwe (*Rwanda*) Sialkot (*Pakistan*) Sittwe (*Myanmar*) Sokoto (*Nigeria*) SW Brazil, S'ern Brazil (*Brazil*) SE Florida, SW Florida, S'ern Ohio, S'ern Virginia, SW'ern Virginia, Spokane, Springfield, (*USA*) SE'ern Mexico (*Mexico*) S'ern Malawi, Upper Shire (*Central Africa*) S'ern Nyanza (*Kenya*)

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Bishop Spencer Place, Kansas City
Christ Church, Church of the Ascension, & St. James' Church, Springfield
St. Matthew's Church, Ozark

TRANSITIONS, August 2011

CHANGE of ADDRESS/TELEPHONE

BROOKS, Brian,
EASTER, The Revs. James & Kathleen,
EVANS, DAVID
FELTON, Ruth (Smith)
HAFFNER, Dr. Jon
FLANIGAN, Elizabeth,
NICKOLS, Raelene,
OTERO, Jason & Ceri,
ROGERS, Ruth,
SNIDER, Jeff
SPIARES, Don & Marsha,
STARK, Tammy,
STINEBROOK, Allen
STOKES, Dan,
TAYLOR, The Rev. Fred & Elaine,
WHITE, Alex,
WHITE, Audrey & Andrew

LETTERS OF TRANSFER

Austin, Jennifer, AJ, Paige & Allison Rhymer to St Stephen's Church (Monett)

CONGRATULATIONS to...

Christopher Beatty, who won the prize for Best Katahdin Ram at the State Fair
Emma Charleston, who won a saddle in rodeo competition—again!
Our softball team, who have been better with each passing week and roundly destroyed Forest Park on Aug 23
Ruth Smith Felton on the birth of her grandson, Kason Matthew, son of Denny & Lori Smith, born Aug 20

SPEAKING OF HEALTH: NURSE BARBARA MOUNTJOY

One of the quotes I associate with our Christian lives is “Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”; I know this is a quote from the Declaration of Independence, but it can apply to our spiritual life also. Because of God’s love for us we are delivered from death and granted life. We also are guaranteed the liberty of free will, but happiness is not a guarantee. It is available but we may have to pursue it. I read an article by Gretchen Rubin, author of the book “*The Happiness Project*” regarding the subject of happiness. She maintains, and I heartily agree, that “One of the best ways to make yourself happy is to make other people happy; the best ways to make other people happy is to be happy yourself.” “The days are long, but the years are short,” a quote from Robert Louis Stevenson, is encouraging us to begin a pursuit of happiness. Being more caring and loving of others almost always means they will be caring and loving of you. Here are a few suggestions that may begin your pursuit.

- 1.) Be friendly. Someone said there are five degrees of social interactions with strangers (and I would include friends and family): hostile, rude, neutral, polite and friendly. It may be difficult to be downright friendly to strangers, but I always find myself energized and cheered by a friendly interaction. It only takes an extra minute to exchange a few pleasant words, actually not any longer than it takes to be rude, and it makes such a difference.
- 2.) Say “yes,” If you can, and if you should, say “yes.” If someone asks, “Would you do me a favor?” Answer, “yes.” Don’t hesitate – you could add the caveat, “If I am able.” The important thing is to be willing. Of course, if you say you will - then you must. I know you will feel good when the task is completed. Recently I lost “my keys” and my son searched and searched to help me find them, which by the way he did, in a place I had looked at least twice! And he did that with out lecturing me on how careless I am/was. (I’m going to do better.)
- 3.) Say “no.” Now wait a minute till I explain. Often it is hard to say “no” – partly because it will hurt someone’s feelings, partly because it closes a possibility. But waiting to hear “no” saps people’s energy by keeping them hoping for an answer they aren’t going to get. If someone is waiting for your “No,” put them out of their misery.
- 4.) Tell someone you will pray for them and do it! Often you can pray with them then and continue praying for whatever time the request requires.
- 5.) Lead them not into temptation. It can feel generous and friendly, maybe even fun-loving to urge people to take another piece of cake, to drink another glass of wine, or to splurge on an item way over their budget or encouraging someone to skip exercise or a trip to the gym. But when you encounter people really trying to stick to their resolutions or plans, encourage them to keep to their “program.”
- 6.) Do someone else’s chores. This could be in a family or even our church family. Doesn’t it seem the same people always do “clean up” and “lock up” after church activities? Maybe you can jump in there every now and again. Also doing someone else’s chore without announcing it first, as my other son did after family dinner this week – cleaned up the kitchen perfectly while I visited with his sister on the porch swing! I hope it made him happy; it certainly did me. Make a happiness resolution. Show your love to others. They will demonstrate their love for you, and it will feel so nice that you will begin seeking more and more opportunities to show love to others. Soooooooo – in conclusion as a great philosopher once said, “Don’t worry – Be happy.”

From the DEACON'S DESK
The Rev. Galen Snodgrass

The Christian Way is Different: Harder and Easier

Christ says that you should “Give me All. I don’t want you just on Sunday mornings for a period of time. I don’t want you just at bedtime as you say your prayers. I don’t want you to be nice to your neighbors when you feel like it. **I want you.** I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. No half-measures are good. I don’t want to cut off a branch here and a branch there, I want to have the whole tree down. Hand over the whole natural self, all desires from innocent to wicked—the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. I will give you Myself: my own will shall become yours.”

Christ ask us to “Take up your Cross,” which is equivalent to asking for a beating in a prison camp. In the next minute he says, “My yoke is easy and my burden light.” He means both. And one can just see why both are true. (These words come from *The Joyful Christian* by C. S. Lewis.)

Fact: Teachers know lazy students always work the hardest in the end. **Proof:** When I was a GED Teacher for Carthage R-9 working with high risk dropouts many students struggled with algebra. Say the word “algebra” and a response of show me a “trick” to make it easy quickly followed. “There is no trick.” I would say, “There are only five things to do. Exponents, multiply, divide, add, subtract, or a combination.” A student prepared to take on the problem and a challenge would try to understand what was being asked. They examined the process at length - dug into it. The lazy student would spend time trying to memorize or learn by heart what was asked because it took less effort at the time. The lazy one stayed on the surface of the problem. Four months later, a week before the test, the lazy student was doing hours and hours of miserable drudgery over things the other students understood and positively enjoyed. Laziness means more work in the long run. Hard work early brings peace and confidence.

The terrible thing, the almost impossible thing, is to hand over our whole self to Christ. He wants all our wishes to our greatest fears. In the end this is the easier way. But it is far easier than what we are all trying to do instead. For what we are trying to do is to remain what we call “ourselves,” to keep personal happiness as our great aim in life, and yet at the same time be “good.” We also want to make sure our children are happy most all the time, so we push ourselves as parents to get them to every activity possible, so they will have a happy and fulfilling life. We are all trying to let our mind and heart go their own way, centered on money or pleasure or ambition, and hoping, in spite of this, to behave honestly and humbly. This is what Christ warned us not to do. He said, “A thistle cannot produce a fig.” If I am a field that contains nothing but grass seed, I cannot produce wheat. Cutting the grass may keep it short and pretty, but I’ll always produce grass, never wheat. To produce wheat, the Christian change must go deeper than the surface. I must be ploughed up and re-sown.

Grace Church offers Christian Education for all ages, especially on Sunday morning. I invite all to adopt a new attitude and habits of Sunday morning. Get up and dressed, dress your kids, and come to Christian Education ready to be ploughed and resown. Then when the noise of the world comes in life, you’ll know to shove it aside. Listen to that other voice, taking the other point of view, letting that other larger, stronger, long lasting, quieter life come flowing in. That’s the life we really want, but it takes a student’s willing to go to the trouble to learn. Or we can be the lazy student who pays lip service to the importance of education while cramming for the test.

Deacon Galen

September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Season: Pentecost Color: Green (except Sept 14 & 21, red; Sept 29, white)				1 <i>David Pendleton Oakerhater</i>	2 <i>The Martyrs of New Guinea</i>	3
4 XII PENTECOST Proper 18	5 <i>Labor Day</i> Office Closed	6 6 St Andrew's 7:30 Softball	7 6:45 Senior High clean up 7 pm Youth Groups & Bible Study begin	8	9 <i>Constance, & the Martyrs of Memphis</i> Noon Encore lunches begin	10 <i>Alexander Crummell</i> 10-3 Stewardship Workshop 5 pm Baptism
11 XIII PENTECOST Proper 19 9:15 Sunday School begins 3-5 Futuring Workshop, Lee's Summit	12 <i>John Henry Hobart</i>	13 <i>Cyprian of Carthage</i> 5:30 pm Vestry 6 St Catherine's 6:30 Softball	14 HOLY CROSS 6:45 Junior High clean up	15	16 <i>Ninian of Gallway</i> 6 pm Movie Night "Miss Pettigrew"	17 <i>Hildegard of Bingen</i>
18 XIV PENTECOST Proper 20 2-4 Organ Crawl	19 <i>Theodore of Tarsus</i>	20 <i>John Coleridge Patteson</i> 7:30 Softball	21 MATTHEW 6:45 PBJ clean up	22 <i>Philander Chase</i>	23	24 10 WSHS/WBHS Corporate Communion Mums for sale in parking lot today!
25 XV PENTECOST Proper 21 3-5 Futuring Workshop Christ Church, Springfield	26 <i>Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop</i>	27 6:30 Softball	28 3 Folding Party 6:45 Adult clean up	29 MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS	30 <i>Jerome, Priest</i>	

OUTREACH

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

UPDATE

If you are interested in supporting Kairos you may now sign up directly on their website:

kairosmocrossroads.org/DOCgallery.htm
The fall men's weekend will be held Nov 3-6 in Cameron at the Crossroads Correctional Center. A spring date will also be planned at this center. A spring date is also being planned for the women's correctional center in Chillicothe. There are many ways you can participate—contributions of letters, cards or cash; helping with meals; praying for the weekend at designated times; signing up to be part of the “in house” team. Brian Jones or Rev. Jeff Bell will be happy to help you discern where God might be calling you into prison ministry. Draw a placemat, make a poster, make a donation, pray....

FREE GRIEF COUNSELING

Suffered a loss or sorrow? The Missouri Hospice & Palliative Care Association offers counseling every Friday from 11 to 3 at St Philip's in Joplin.

ST LUKE'S POKER RUN: Sept 17

Sat, Sept 17, sign-in 9 am, bikes go out from 10 to 2. Live music 10:30-2:30. (Entry fee \$20 includes one hand and meal ticket, extra hands extra, of course.) Cash prizes awarded! For more information and to register, contact Rita or Stacy at 358-9084. All proceeds benefit the Special Care/Dementia Unit.

MUMS for LITERACY CENTER

The Family Literacy Center will be selling 8" Fall Garden Mums on September 24 in Grace Church parking lot from 8:00-12:00. The Mums will be in various colors. Preorders will not be necessary. Mums will be \$6 each.

PLATICANDO en ESPANOL: PADRE JOSE PALMA

La Iglesia y los apóstoles

La Iglesia, como comunidad de salvación, nace en la Pascua de Cristo, cuando él “pasa” de este mundo al Padre (Juan 13:1). Cristo, surgiendo triunfante del sepulcro, crea “la nueva humanidad” (Efesios 2:15) con esperanza de salvación. Pero el toque de consagración eclesial lo recibirán los apóstoles el día de Pentecostés con la efusión carismática, “se llenaron del Espíritu Santo” (Hechos 2: 4). Los apóstoles se lanzaron a todas las partes del mundo, con el mensaje de una nueva comunidad de amor. En poco tiempo se formaron grupos compactos con un mismo sentir y vivir (Hechos 4: 32).

La comprensión del mensaje de Jesús resultó difícil desde el principio. Un problema que empezó a preocupar a los apóstoles fue el de las conversiones. El mensaje de Cristo, ¿era universal o particular? ¿Había que bautizar a todos o sólo a los del pueblo judío? Por otra parte, ¿era necesario que los gentiles se convirtieran al judaísmo para hacerse cristianos, o no? Para resolver la cuestión se convocó el **concilio de Jerusalén** (49d.C.). Pedro, Pablo, Santiago y Juan se reunieron para resolver el problema.

El concilio de Jerusalén abrió las puertas a los apóstoles para lanzarse, en afán misionero, a todas las partes del mundo conocido. Pablo recorrió toda Asia Menor, Grecia, y Roma. Pedro llegó a Roma. Juan se estableció en Asia Menor, Tomás en la India, Bartolomé en Persia, Felipe en Frigia, Mateo en Etiopía, Marcos en Alejandría. Sin embargo, esto no hay que aceptarlo a ciencia cierta; las comunidades cristianas más pujantes, en los centros más importantes, tenían a honor demostrar su origen apostólico, pudiendo ser el motivo para atribuir su presencia.

Ya desde los mismos orígenes se formó una jerarquía eclesiástica que quedaba delineada de esta manera: apóstoles, obispos, sacerdotes o presbíteros, y diáconos.

A PASTORAL LETTER from OUR BISHOP

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Perhaps you have heard about the West Missouri Futuring Task Group at a deanery meeting or read about it in the “e-Spirit” or “Spirit” magazine. I sincerely hope you have as it is one of the most important initiatives undertaken in our diocese for some time. For those who do not know about this Task Group, let me explain how it came to be, its purpose and scope, and the timeline for its work.

The 2010 Diocesan Convention passed two resolutions (#s 2 & 5) which mandated the creation of committees to look into the feasibility and reasonableness of merging our diocese with one or more other dioceses (Resolution #2) and to examine our diocese’s congregational assessment system (Resolution #5). I resolved — instead of forming two committees — to call a single group into being to deal with the mandates of both resolutions. When they convened for the first time, under my leadership, I asked them to become a visioning body for the diocese: to take a more global approach to the tasks laid out by the resolutions, to articulate a holistic vision for the life and ministry of the diocese, and to provide me input and recommendations for advancing into the future. Members of the group agreed to this approach and now identify themselves as the Diocese of West Missouri Futuring Task Group.

We are embarked first on a process of clarification, even redefinition, of the mission of our diocese. Thus, we are seeking to ask and answer the questions: What characteristics and values form the unique identity of the Diocese of West Missouri? What should be the central focus of diocesan work? What should the long-range goals be for our diocese? When members of the group adopted their expanded scope of work, they expressed their commitment to honoring the intention of the 2010 Convention. To that end, sub-committees are gathering data about assessment systems in other, comparable dioceses and are exploring how other dioceses are structured to carry out their mission and achieve their vision. In this way, we are completing the tasks mandated by the Convention and completing the necessary groundwork on which to lay a firm foundation for our diocese’s future. In the end, the Task Group will have in hand a clearly articulated statement of our diocese’s mission and vision and will be able to recommend:

- how the diocesan staff and leadership should be structured for the years ahead,
- financial ministries practices, including assessment and budgeting, that will maximize the impact of ministry in the most cost-effective manner possible,
- constitutional or canonical changes needed to support our mission and vision,
- ways to ensure that every person in a West Missouri congregation knows that the money assessed from congregations for diocesan-level work is worth it and is truly being used for missional purposes,
- the form of organizational alignment, diocesan and provincial, that offers the best opportunity to realize our mission and achieve vision.

It is my hope and my prayer that the Diocese of West Missouri Futuring Task Group will be the pivot point on which we will turn to a bright future of congregational growth, of generous faithfulness, and of deep community one with another in this corner of God’s vineyard. Please remember that while the Futuring Task Group is wholeheartedly committed to achieving useful and practical results, this work will take time. Please be patient as the group undertakes the tasks of: data collection, examining best practices, trial testing potential solutions, drafting changes to constitution and/or canons, and working through the myriad details involved in a work of this magnitude. And speaking of data collection. I call on every Episcopalian in West Missouri, youth (especially) and adults, to attend one of the three “Shaping Our Future” forums coming to our diocese in September and October (Lee’s Summit Sept 11, Springfield Sept 25, Cathedral Oct 9). In these forums, every member of the diocese will be heard. ***Every member.*** You will truly be part of shaping our future.

Blessings,

The Rt. Rev. Martin S. Field, Bishop of West Missouri VJJJ

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Bishop Marty and Donna Field will present

GOD'S VISION FOR YOUR LIFE

at **Grace Church, Carthage**
on **Saturday, September 10, 2011**
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered, "What is God's vision for my life?" Our faith tells us that God has a vision for our lives, but how do we know that vision? Answering that question is one of the challenges of being a good steward.

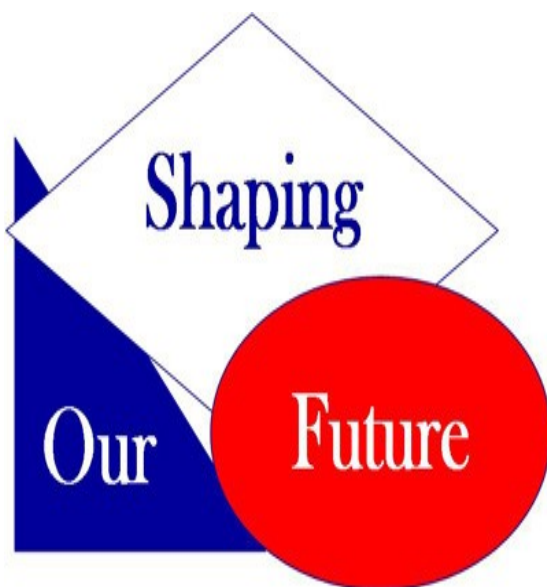
Stewardship is not just about \$\$\$\$. It's also about time and talent, and "gifts" are the key to knowing God's will and fulfilling God's vision.

When we gather, we'll examine the ways that the evidence of our lives provides clues to God's vision for our lives, for how God wants us to use our time and talents to serve God and God's children.



Register online with the Diocese:

diowestmo.org, go to ESpirit tab, and there is registration information there



The West Missouri Futuring Task Group invites you to join a conversation about the future shape of ministry in our diocese. Groups held 3-5 pm on Sunday afternoons at

- St Ann's Lee's Summit (Sept 11)
- Christ Church Springfield (Sept 25)
- The Cathedral, KC (Oct 9)

Everyone is invited to join in this important effort to discern God's call to us as ministers.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: SEPTEMBER 2011

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sunday, Sept 4</u> <u>8 am</u></p> <p>O.T. Reader/Epistle: Ruth Felton Prayers of the People: Gary Cole Chalice: Galen Snodgrass Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell Server: Richard Roske Sacristan: Kathy Thompson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>10:30 am</u></p> <p>O.T: Bonnie Jones N.T: Mark Sponaugle Chalice: Brad Cameron Subdeacon: Margie Tucker Acolyte Mentor: Brad Cameron Servers: Quincy Charleston <i>Capt</i> Jay Simmons Cross: Tom Simmons Torches: Emma Charleston Layla Pettie Sacristan: Dana Cameron Ushers: Jim Grimes Loren Erwin AV: Elisa White Flower Delivery: Kelly Heidlage Nursery Asst: Debbie Orr</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sunday, Sept 11</u> <u>8 am</u></p> <p>O.T. Reader/Epistle: Glenda Erwin Prayers of the People: Peggy Ralston Chalice: Jeff Bell Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell Server: Kirby Newport Sacristan: Chalaine Bell</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>10:30 am</u></p> <p>OT: Marty Griffin NT: Rosalie Griffin Chalice: Marty Griffin Subdeacon: Tom Flanigan Acolyte Mentor: Michelle Sexton Servers: Carlie Wakefield <i>Capt</i> Matt Goolsby</p> <p style="color: red;">Crosses:</p> <p>Torches: Ashleigh Wilson Sarah Wilson Sacristan: Connie Leek Ushers: Larry Hartman/Dale Hopp AV: Jim & Colby Wakefield Flower Delivery: Mike Thompson Home Comm: Bell/Ytell-L Orr Nursery Asst: Donna Bowman</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sunday, Sept 18</u> <u>8 am</u></p> <p>O.T. Reader/Epistle: Kirby Newport Prayers of the People: Jacqui Johnson Chalice: Wayne Ytell Subdeacon: Kirby Newport Server: Brad Cameron Sacristan: Dana Cameron</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>10:30 am</u></p> <p>OT: Julie Anderson NT: Chuck Edds Chalice: George Platt Subdeacon: Bonnie Jones Acolyte Mentor: Elisa White Servers: Will Mansfield Katie Mansfield Crosses: Taylor Mansfield Torches: Matthew Beatty Christopher Beatty Sacristan: Elisa White Ushers: Mike Robertson/Frank Lane AV: Mike Robertson Flower Delivery: Kevin Curtis Home Comm: Galen/Bonnie-Del F. Nursery Asst: Sabrina Lynch</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sunday, Sept 25</u> <u>8 am</u></p> <p>O.T. Reader/Epistle: Dana Cameron Prayers of the People: Wayne Ytell Chalice: Kirby Newport Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell Server: Nancy Dymott Sacristan: Cathy Thompson</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>10:30 am</u></p> <p>OT: Bill Lee NT: Jerry Sample Chalice: Scott Stone Subdeacon: Michael Goolsby Acolyte Mentor: Elaine Wurst Servers: Drew Schesser Oliver Sprenkle Cross: Sydney Harlen Alex Wilkowski Torches: Anna Wilkowski Jay Wurst Sacristan: Connie Leek Ushers: Claude Newport/Jim Wakefield AV: Scott Mansfield Flower Delivery: Cliff Kester Nursery Asst: Elle Lanham</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Wednesdays, 6 pm</u> Sacristan: Barbara Mountjoy</p> <p><u>Sept 7:</u> Reader: Julie Anderson Chalice: Ron Ferguson</p> <p><u>Sept 14:</u> Reader/Chalice: Scott Stone</p> <p><u>Sept 21:</u> Reader/Chalice: Bonnie Jones</p> <p><u>Sept 28:</u> Reader/Chalice: Margie Tucker</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Saturdays, 5 pm</u></p> <p><u>Sept 3:</u> Reader/Chalice: Scott Stone Sacristan: Elisa White</p> <p><u>Sept 10:</u> Reader: James Grimes Chalice: Margie Tucker Sacristan: Cathy Thompson</p> <p><u>Sept 17:</u> Reader: Jack Slates Chalice: Scott Stone Sacristan: Chalaine Bell</p> <p><u>Sept 24:</u> Reader: Glenda Erwin Chalice: Bonnie Jones Sacristan: Chalaine Bell</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NURSERY VOLUNTEERS</u></p> <p>Thanks to all those who are volunteering as Nursery Assistants beginning Sept 4. 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?</p> <p>Hours on Sunday morning will be 9:15-11:45, and Communion will be brought to you!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The schedule for September is:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sept. 4, Debby Orr Sept. 11, Donna Bowman Sept. 18, Sabrina Lynch Sept 25, Ellie Lanham</p>

ST ANDREW'S: Sept 6

Our men's ministry, the Brotherhood of St Andrew, will meet in the parish house next Tuesday, Sept 6, a 6pm to schedule our coming year's events!

ENCORE LUNCH: Sept 9

Sept 9, at Noon, please RSVP

Chefs: Julie Anderson & Jinny Hopp

Presenter: Mark Sponaugle speaks about the Vo-Tech center at the Carthage High School and how our area schools are preparing young people for the marketplace of the future.

Menu: A surprise appropriate for the school year's fresh start.

MUSIC DEVOTEES: Sept 11

The new season begins on Sept 11, 3:00 p.m. here at Grace Church in the Parish House and will feature "Suite Sounds," the Carthage High School all-female choral group who will perform their competition works. Join us and bring a friend.

ST. CATHERINE'S GUILD: Sept 13

St Catherine's Women's Guild invites you to join us for a potluck supper at our first meeting of the year on Tue Sept 13. We encourage all women to join us as we begin a new chapter in the life of our Guild. Bring a covered dish along with your ideas & suggestions to the Parish House at 6:30. Babysitting will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

ST. MARTHA'S GUILD: Sept 14

Meeting starts at 12:30 at the Sassy Spoon. We welcome all women of the Parish able to attend. Roll call will be: wear something you bought at Nearly New.

MOVIE NIGHT: Sept 16

Fri, Sept 16, 6 pm snacks, 6:30 pm screening

Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day, a 2008 English comedy PG-13. In pre-WWII London, a desperate, out-of-work governess lies to get a job with an actress who is sleeping with the producer to get the role she wants. Gangsters, jazz musicians and general hijinks ensue in a charming little piece of adorable fluff.

BASEBALL GAME SCHEDULE

Sept. 6, 7:30 pm vs Fairview Christian

Sept. 13, vs Good Shepherd Lutheran

Sept. 20, 7:30 pm vs First Nazarene

Sept 27 6:30 pm vs Forest Park Baptist

Oct 4 8:30 pm vs Fairview Christian

PET BLESSING: Oct 2

The annual blessing of pets will be held on the first Sunday of October, Oct 2, at 5 pm in the Barking Lot. Bring your friends, human and otherwise, to celebrate our stewardship of all creation and God's care for all life.

ECW: Oct 7 & 8

The Episcopal Church Women fall conference retreat will be led by Susie Uhlik, wife of the new rector of St. James in Springfield. Barbara Mountjoy has information about registration for "The Spices of Our Life."

ST. OCTET'S

St. Octet's Dinner Groups (formerly known as 6+2) will be starting in September. You have been assigned! Three couples and two singles make up a dinner group—it's fun—always great food and fellowship! What day? What food? What format? What time? That's up to your group! Questions, call Julie Anderson, 358-5526.

LITURGICAL NOTES

Starting September 11, there will be some changes in our weekly liturgy to reflect the change from summer to autumn:

1. At 10:30 services we will begin singing "Glory to God in the Highest" rather than saying the "Lord have mercy," and we will also begin chanting the psalms again.
2. On Wed nights we will start having a simple, *a cappella* song each week, something like is sung at Taize Monastery in France (where our youth group had such a wonderful spiritual retreat in 2000), or simpler hymns from the hymnal.
3. We will stop praying for every soldier in our list, since we are rapidly moving to the end of the decade of war in Afghanistan and Iraq. We will still pray for the men and women of our armed forces as a group and use one name each week.

TORNADO RELIEF EFFORTS

TORNADO SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUP #1: Joplin

1st & 3rd Thursdays at St Philip's Church in Joplin: Headed by Catherine Platt. This group is FREE and intended for any adult who needs help coping with tornado or post-storm recovery activities. Where: St. Philip's Church, 7th Street & Byers, Joplin, 1st and 3rd Thursdays 6-7 p.m. Enter thru single door off parking lot.

TORNADO SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUP #2: Carthage

Tuesday, Sept 13, 20 & 27 at McCune Brooks Regional Hospital, room 1942: Headed by the Rev. Galen Snodgrass. This group is FREE and intended for approximately 20 persons. After the May 22nd tornado many area residents face important decisions affecting their future. Where do I want to live? What size home do I build, if I do? Do I move in with family members? My job is gone, where do I find work and what do I want to do? Should I go back to school? The choices often seem endless and overwhelming, yet interconnected. These sessions examine how we make choices at critical times in life. Provided reading materials allows participants to examine the thinking and feeling processes at turning points in life. Please call 359-2636 to register. Leave your name and contact information.

UPDATE on LAFAYETTE HOUSE PROJECT

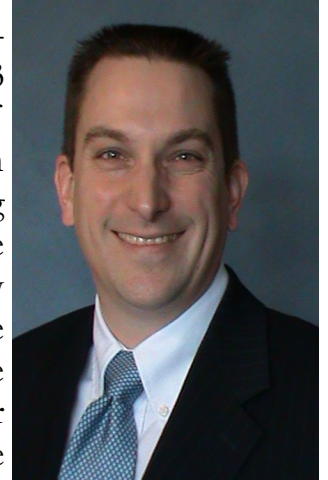
The diocesan project to construct a transitional housing unit for the Lafayette House, Joplin's center for women and families in domestic abuse situations, continues apace. WE OWN THE PROPERTY! A final plan for construction of a one-story, modest three bedroom house will be filed soon and construction will begin, with a professional contractor, as soon as the building permit is issued. Be prepared to help with items such as painting, landscaping and siding as the autumn progresses. Our hope as a diocese is to be able to offer qualified families, who will be in competition for limited rental property with thousands of other displaced persons, the breathing space to get "back on their feet" economically while looking for more permanent housing. If you have friends coming for Maple Leaf, take them by and let them see where this is happening, at 18th & Connor in Joplin!

AUTUMN GARAGE SALE

A reminder that the diocesan "free garage sale" in Joplin will be Saturday, October 22. Items needed will include winter clothing, furniture, household items, small appliances, linens, electric space heaters, and holiday supplies. Help needed all that week! We have a rental storage unit here in Carthage which can hold some items until then. PLEASE call ahead to make sure we can be there to put it in the unit rather than simply showing up with items. There will be signup sheets for work and hopefully a youth lock-in that Friday night in Joplin to assist with the ministry!

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE: The Rev. JOHN CHRISTIANSON

In the Hebrew Bible (our Old Testament), the word *mashal* is used to describe a comparison, metaphor, or similitude. The *mashal* is used (23 times) throughout the Bible, especially by the prophets, as a means of teaching, warning, and expressing God's word to the people of Israel. In 2 Samuel 12:1-4, for instance, the prophet Samuel is sent by God to King David with a message. "There were two men in a certain city," the prophet begins, "the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe...that was like a daughter to him." As David hears the story, he clearly understands the message. When the rich man takes the poor man's sheep to feed a guest from out of town, the king exclaims, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die!" In the next moment, however, David is caught by the application. For Samuel's *mashal* is not an abstract philosophical idea, but a means of communicating the will of God. "You, O King, are that man!" the prophet declares, "You have struck down Uriah...and have taken his wife [Bathsheba] to be your wife." To his credit, David is ashamed and begins to pray for God's forgiveness.



Taking the idea of *mashal* one step further, it's important to note that when the later rabbis translated their Hebrew Bible into Greek, they used a word that was important to teachers and students of all kinds: the *parabole* (English: parable). Nestled into a discussion of effective types of teaching, Aristotle classifies the parable as different from fables, proverbs, and historical illustrations (*Rhetoric* 2). The parable is a "possible or realistic fiction" filled with real life characters in everyday situations. The parable is not factual, because it's made up by the teacher. But it is true. A parable illustrates the human condition and points the way to deeper things – the mind and the will of God.

Most Christian people know that Jesus was a teacher who spoke in parables. The Gospels are filled with the images from Jesus' parables: planting seeds, fathers and sons, growing plants, housewives, construction projects, the women of a bridal party, and more. But what are the parables really about? Like King David, we may simply hear the parables and react with pure emotion. (This is what the crowds often do when listening to Jesus.) But perhaps there is something more. Like Samuel, Jesus has a purpose to his parables. He wants to invite his disciples to find the word and purposes of God. And that's good news for us.

This month, I'll be taking the parables of Jesus to the Junior and Senior High Youth Groups on Wednesday nights. In addition to the time for food, fun, and friends organized by the youth leaders, we'll also squeeze in about 30 minutes each night to dive into the parables. I'll spend September 14 and 21 with the Junior High, and September 28 and October 5 with the Senior High. I'm looking forward to spending some time with the students, and will plan to see them there!

EDUCATION

CHRIST & CULTURE

Four to six week courses on a series of topics—Scripture, reason, tradition. We're starting new groups in September—and you only have to commit one session at a time. No homework, but possibly some reading with each session, which will tentatively meet on Sunday evenings. Our Sunday morning adult study on Sept 11 will be dedicated to learning about this educational opportunity.

PROGRAM YEAR BEGINS...

Wednesday night activities begin again on Sept 7

Choir practice at 5:30 pm

Eucharist at 6 pm

Dinner at 6:40 pm (\$1 requested)

Youth groups (pre-K, grades 1-3, grades 4-6, junior high & senior high) at 7:15 pm

Young adults (20s & 30s) and adult Bible study at 7:15 pm

Sunday morning activities begin on Sept 11

9:15 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

Sept 4: Since 9/11—how the last ten years have changed our lives

Sept 11: Our planned new evening education series, "Christ and Culture"

Sept 18: TBA

Sept 25: Changes in our health care system

Wednesday night Bible Study:

The Eucharist in the Gospels & Paul

Wednesday night Young Adults: A practical course focused on daily life skills

NEW TO US?

Nursery care is provided during Sunday morning education & the 10:30 & noon (Spanish) services. Also from 7 to 8:15 on Wed nights. The nursery is near the kitchen, "behind" the altar as far as you can go without running into the alley.

Restrooms are located near the nursery, at the bottom of the stairs coming in from the parking lot (in "Spencer Hall") and between the Parish House and the office wing (off the "garden door").



BLOOMING TODAY in YOUR BIBLICAL GARDEN

Calamintha nepeta is an herb prized throughout the Mediterranean, but strangely lacking a common name in English. This plant (*right hand side of the walk, above the stairs, behind the sage and in front of the large rock*) has blue flowers very attractive to bees and wiry stems. The oddly minty, vaguely camphorish leaves are prized in Tuscany to flavor sautéed mushrooms, and throughout the Hispanic world as "yerba buena," a valuable tea used for throat problems. In the Bible, it may well be the herb mentioned in Proverbs 15:17 (*better a dinner of YARAQ with love than a fattened calf with hatred*).

Jim Brown Memorial
Grace Episcopal Church
2011 GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sunday, October 9th

CARTHAGE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

Format: 4 Person Scramble

If you can't make a team, we will assign

Time: 1:00 p.m. Tee Time Start

Entry Fee: \$40.00 per player

Dinner: \$5.00 for non-golfers

Two mulligans per person included

Dinner and awards will follow tournament.

CLOSEST TO THE PIN ON ALL PAR THREES

Hole Sponsors \$100

Contact the Office or Chuck Erwin with your teams...



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL August 8-10

"Its Cool in the Furnace," the Musical

Above left: Daniel (Chris Palma) explains to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and their back-up chorus, what God has in mind for them while they are serving King Nebuchadnezzar (Drew Schesser) in Babylon.

Above right: The King decides that everyone must bow down to his golden idol, and loses his temper when S, M & A decline to obey.

HAITI 2012

Interested in visiting our sister parish and school in Marcabee, Haiti, next year? The Haiti Ministry Team will meet Thu, Sep 15, at 7:00 pm at John & Pam Schaffer's home, 1421 Douglas Place, Carthage, to discuss travel plans for next January, and fund raising for travel expenses. For details contact Pam after June 24th at 793-1014.

SICILY 2012

Yes, we will be taking a parish pilgrimage to Sicily, island of oranges and mosaics, leaving May 28, 2012. Price \$3899, *not including air taxes or most lunches*. (Our assumption is that most of us will prefer a slice of pizza at noon and a full formal meal, paid for by the package, in the evening). Nine nights, all inclusive with ruins, volcanoes, beaches, markets and vineyards. Picnic in the ruins at Segesta, stay in a baroque palazzo in Ragusa, see the flamingos at Trapani, taste the Marsala in...Marsala.

While St. Paul was in Syracuse (and so were Plato and Archimedes, who said "eureka" there), this is not a classic "pilgrimage," but rather a lovely, delicious, historically significant destination with some thematic Bible studies in the mornings. Gelato for breakfast, anyone?



READINGS in SEPT

Thurs, Sept 1 - Sat, Sept 3: I Kings 11:1-12:20, James 3:13-5:20, Mark 15:12-15:39

Sun, Sept 4, XII PENTECOST: Exodus 12:1-14, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

Mon, Sept 5: LABOR DAY—Sat, Sept 10: I Kings 13:1-10, I Kings 16:23-18:19:8, Philippians 1:1-4:7, Mark 15:40-16:20, Matthew 2:1-3:17

Sun, Sept 11, XIII PENTECOST: Exodus 14:19-31, Romans 14:1-14, Matthew 18:21-35

Mon, Sept 12 - Tues, Sept 13: I Kings 21:1-29, I Corinthians 1:1-31, Matthew 4:1-17

Wed, Sept 14, HOLY CROSS DAY: Isaiah 45:21-25, Galatians 6:14-18, John 12:31-36

Thurs, Sept 15— Sat, Sept 17: I Kings 22-45, II Kings 1:2-17, II Kings 2:1-18, I Corinthians 2:14-4:7, Matthew 5:1-5:17

Sun, Sept 18, XIV PENTECOST: Exodus 16:12-15, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

Mon, Sept 19-Tues, Sept 20: II Kings 5:1-5:27, I Corinthians 4:8-5:8, Matthew 5:21-37

Wed, Sept 21, ST. MATTHEW EVANGELIST (Ember Day): Proverbs 3:1-6:2, II Timothy 3:14-17, Matthew 9:9-13

Thurs, Sept 22: II Kings 9:1-16, I Corinthians 6:12-20, Matthew 6:1-18

Fri, Sept 23 - Sat, Sept 24: (Ember Days) II Kings 9:17-37, 11:1-20, I Corinthians 7:1-24, Matthew 6:7-24

Sun, Sept 25: XV PENTECOST: Exodus 17:1-7, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

Mon, Sept 26: II Kings 17:24-41, I Corinthians 7:25-31, Matthew 6:25-34

Tues, Sept 27: II Chronicles 29:1-30:27, I Corinthians 7:32-40, Matthew 7:1-12

Wed, Sept 28: II Kings 18:9-25, I Corinthians 8:1-13, Matthew 7:13-21

Thurs, Sept 29: ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS: Genesis 28:10-17, Revelation 12:7-12, John 1:47-51

Fri, Sept 30: II Kings 19:1-20, I Corinthians 9:16-27, Matthew 8:1-17