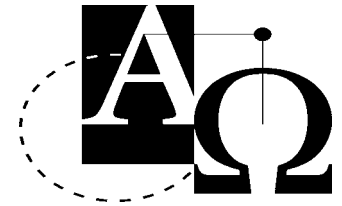


The SPIRIT of GRACE

AUGUST 2008

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: Every Week
unless otherwise noted...

Sunday

- Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:30
- Acolyte Practice 9
- Christian Education 9:15
- Spanish Eucharist 2 pm

Monday

- Morning Prayer 7
- Quilting Group 2 pm
- Narcotics Anonymous 7 pm

Tuesday

- Morning Prayer 7
- Men's Social, St Luke's 10

Wednesday

- Holy Eucharist 6 pm
- Adult Ed, Youth Group & Dinner

Thursday

- Holy Eucharist, St Luke's 2 pm
- Friends Anonymous 4 pm

Friday

- Holy Eucharist 10

COFFEE HOST

for AUGUST

Greg & Charlyn Kester

SAVE THESE DATES...

Wed, Sept 3 p.m. Choir Practice
Adult Ed, Youth Groups & Dinner
begins

Sun, Sept 7: Youth Sunday
School begins 9:15 a.m.

Sept 21: Bishop Howe's Visitation,
8 & 10:30 a.m.; Fr. Pedro farewell
party noon

Oct 26: Emmaus Celebration (KC)

Nov 20-22: Annual Dinner Theater

Dec 10: Ted Estes' priestly Ordination
(Grace Church), God willing

From the Rectory: The Rev. Steven C. Wilson

The Lambeth Conference in England is, by the time you read this, over. As I write, however, it is only just being convened. Every ten years, the world's Anglican bishops come to Canterbury at the invitation of the Archbishop to meet and make recommendations—*not* regulations—about how the Church should address issues of global importance. Issues like women's ministry, mission in Islamic areas, ministry to the poor in a global economy, whether the Church can tolerate "bending the rules" on marriage (*ironically, this was first proposed by African bishops in 1988, who asked that the long-standing prohibition against polygamy be relaxed in order to baptize men who already had more than one wife*).

This time around, as you know, controversy has stalked Lambeth. Approximately 200 bishops, mainly from Africa, have refused to attend unless all American bishops who voted to validate Gene Robinson's election in New Hampshire in 2003 were turned away. A handful of American bishops have refused to attend unless Gene Robinson was invited. The Archbishop of Canterbury refused to invite Bishop Robinson, but did not disinvite his former supporters. He also did not invite a controversial bishop from Zimbabwe, who is accused of multiple crimes in that troubled country—and who promptly declared that it was a plot to keep him from preaching the Gospel, and

"seceded" from the Anglican Church of Central Africa to form a new, "pure" denomination in which neither gay *nor* white members are allowed.

The Lambeth Conferences were founded to address threatened schism in the 1870s—threats from the American Civil War and the fight between "liberals" and "conservatives" in South Africa. Until recently, their history has been one of trying to keep a world-wide body connected. But in recent years, there has been growing restiveness with the sometimes frustratingly polite "vagueness" of Anglicanism. Many voices call for clear rules and absolute guidelines, and often those voices are in direct competition with one another.

Such fights are nothing new. The New Testament is riddled with them. Peter chastised Jesus for not living up to his, Peter's, expectations. Peter and Paul, Mark and Paul, Barnabas and Paul feuded dramatically. Conferences were called to address the feuds, including one in which Jesus' brother James sorted out the mess by decreeing that all Christians needed to be able to sit down at table together, and enforcing basic kosher regulations—but do any Christians today worry about how their meat has been slaughtered, or refrain from consuming blood? (Acts 15:29) Unity is important—but the rules we use to enforce unity change with the times. What is more important than unity is

Continued page 3

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Elisa White, Mark Jones
- 3 Charles Yarbrough
- 5 Linda Duvall, Ashley Heidlage
Carlie Wakefield
Opal Faye Campbell
- 6 Andrew Putnam, Mike Ulmer
Joan Archer
- 7 Don Gass
- 8 Drew Longan
- 10 Dorothy Taylor
- 11 Lindsey Hettinger
- 12 Will Flanigan, Kris Erwin
Joshua Lindsay
- 15 Blake Mansfield
Josh Geno
- 16 Dana Cameron
Flynn Mountjoy
Sylvia Sprenkle
Jason Hettinger
LaToya Robertson
- 17 Gary Welch, Lindsey Kester
- 18 Stephanie Geno
- 19 Nancy Platt
- 20 Dan Stokes, Rhonda Ralston
Cindy Chilton
Allysabeth Grigsby
- 21 Doris Sample
Kathy Gilpin
- 22 Mary Helen Dunaway
Marcia McGuire
- 23 Eric Adams
- 26 Gene Kelley
Renee Cebula
Lee Roy Rice
Ian Henderson
Virginia Morris
- 27 Tom Flanigan
Lynette Gass
Olivia Pierce
- 28 Brett Mountjoy, Susana Gonzalez
Kelly McKinney
- 29 Ben Hauser
Lynn Armfield
Roy Douglas
- 30 Brenda Grigsby
- 31 Knox Dunaway
Joel Erdman

ANNIVERSARIES

- Aug 8: Brad & Elisa White
Aug 20: Tighe & Abby Hogg
Aug 26: Tom & Ann Geisert
Aug 30: Gabriel & Heather Castleberry

OUTREACH

ST LUKE'S NEEDS

Join us for men's fellowship each Tuesday morning at St. Luke's Nursing Center at 10 a.m. See Chuck Erwin or Dale Hopp for details. **Each Sat morning, we need volunteer bingo callers** to help with the social highlight of the weekend at St. Luke's. See Richard Roske for details.

NEARLY NEW

Many of our outreach projects are funded by the sale of gently used clothing at the Nearly New Shop. We encourage you to 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. This shop provides many in our community with clothing that would otherwise be unaffordable.

FELLOWSHIP & PARISH LIFE

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Anyone under the age of 30 and interested in getting together with other young adults for Bible and Beverage, Pizza and Prayers, Verse and Vine, please contact Deacon Jeff Bell 358-7881 or Joel Erdman 649-8832.

BELL CHOIR

Contact Anita Flanigan 358-2729 or Bonnie Jones 359-9885. We practice each Monday evening, and are open to adults, teens and older elementary students.

MOTORCYCLE MINISTRY

The next meeting for "Anglican Angels" will be on Sunday, Aug 3. Please contact Deacon Jeff Bell, at 358-7881 or e-mail him at deaconjeff@gracecarthage.org. No need to wear a leather vest with quotations from Micah on the back, or to tattoo "Rite I" and "Rite II" on your knuckles.

6X2 DINNER CLUBS

Having enjoyed great fellowship and delicious food, the first 6x2 dinner groups are finishing up! The second group will begin in August and finish in November. Please sign up on the Parish Bulletin Boards (near the restrooms in the garden entrance area, between offices and Parish House) if you're interested! **EVEN IF YOU HAVE BEEN IN A GROUP!** Questions? Contact Julie Anderson 388-0709 or Fr. Steve at the office. Some groups will want to have a "final going away" dinner out—but with the hectic summer schedules we all "enjoy," it seems impossible to do all eight of our groups on one night...

DINNER AND A MOVIE

Join us on Fri, Aug 8, at 6:30 p.m. for the screening of *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, set in beautiful Venice, Antioch "where the disciples were first called Christians," and stunning Petra, Jordan. Bring along your favorite appetizer and sink into the mystery and intrigue of one of the all-time great summer movies. Perfect for kids as well as adults, there is only a bit of risqué innuendo, a few fairly tame oaths, and repeated views of Harrison Ford's pectoral muscles heaving in the desert sun.

The Parish Prayer List

The Home Bound

Betty Carpenter, Jean Berry, Amanda McClanahan, Mary H. Dunaway, Muriel Hallam, Lois Raschke, Dorothy Taylor, Dorothy Solomonson, Carolene Kelly, Juanita Pence, Eunice Yates, Harley & Ann Madsen, Kay McNew, Michelle Short, Patty Fasken, Jerry Chrisman, Lon Orr, Glynn Evans, Richard Ferguson

Parishioners, Family and Friends

Chris Hunter, Crystal Stiles, Josh & Jennifer Waggoner, Wendy Watson, Eliza S., Ray Fasken, Kirk Pierce, Zach & Stephanie, Pistol, Art Dunaway, Buddy Dunafon, Samantha, Andrew, Janet, Gail, Peter, MK, Dixie, Kay, Jim, Mike Resa, Jean Stutzman, Lorna, Linda, Kathy Jensen, Fred George, Stuart Higginbotham, John Black, Joyce Spencer-Sherry, Avery Watts, Sherry Dean, Marilyn Moore
(*Military*) Gary Welch, Eric Leek (*Iraq*) Ben Killman, Josh Geno, Gary Pieschel, Darrel Cude, Avery Barnett, Brent Archer, Joe LaTendresse, (*Afghanistan*) Joe Francis

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

St. Matthew's, Raytown: The Rev. Laurie McKim, Deacon
St. Mary's Church, Savannah
Calvary Church, Sedalia: The Rev. William McVey: Rector
Department of Christian Social Ministries & Department of Communications
St Mary Magdalene, Kansas City, The Rev. Jason Lewis, Vicar, The Rev. Peisha Roumas, Deacon
Skidmore, St. Oswald's-in-the Fields

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer

The Scottish Episcopal Church, The Church of South East Asia, the Church of South India, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa, The Anglican Church of the Southern Cone of the Americas, and the dioceses of Enugu, Esan, Gombe (Nigeria), Convocation of American Churches in Europe, Georgia, Florida, Fond du Lac, Fort Worth (USA), Exeter, Gloucester, Guildford (England), Ezo (Sudan), Faisalabad (Pakistan), Fianarantsoa (Madagascar, Indian Ocean), Fredericton (Canada), Freetown, Gambia (West Africa), Gahini (Rwanda) False Bay, George, Grahamstown (South Africa), Gippsland, Grafton (Australia), Gitega (Burundi), Glasgow & Galloway (Scotland), Guatemala (Central America)

Transitions, July 2008

New Addresses, Etc.

Sherry & Sierra Russow, 1100 Olive St.
Victor & Tammy Stark, 530 N. Francis 793-2537
Eric Kendall, 52 Robin Lane, Apt D
Mike & Brenda Grigsby, 815 3rd St, Webb City 64870

Freshmen College Addresses

Austen Heidlage, Labette Community College
200 S. 14th Street, Parsons KS 67357
Greg Spencer, Missouri State University
901 S. National Ave, Freudenberg 151, Springfield 65897
Alex Weidemann, 1503 S. Joplin #49, Pittsburg KS 67357
Audrey White, 831 Hatch, University of Missouri, 1306 E. Rollins St, Columbia 65201-5112
E-mail ASWGD8@MIZZOU.EDU

Visitors

Sarah Stone, 1020 Forest
Josh & Genevieve Moore, PO Box 873
Anne Gwin, 3522 E Laurel, Joplin 64804

The Faithful Departed

Tom Klinginsmith departed this life Sun, June 29
Tommy Dean, father of **Pam Williams**, departed this life Sun, June 29
Judith Byrd, sister-in-law of **Phillip Byrd**, departed this life Mon, July 1
John Holiday, cousin of **Jenny Mansfield**, departed this life Sat, July 5
Walter Moore, uncle of **Karen Newport**, departed this life Sun, July 27

Congratulations

...on the birth of **Miles MacKensy Putnam**, son of Tim & Julie, grandson of Debbie Putnam and Bob & Sue Anderson, born on Mon, June 30
...on the birth of **Sawyer Lee Kittrell** son of Don & Sandy (Lee) Kittrell, our Wed. night nursery worker.
...on the birth of **Jane Scott Campbell**, daughter of Scott & Susan & granddaughter of Frank & Donna Lane, born Fri, July 25
...for the baptism of **Jairo David Puerto**, son of Jairo & Monica Puerto on July 6. Susana Gonzalez is Jairo's grandmother.
...to **Quincy Charleston** on winning USSSA fast pitch State All Star award.
...to **Alex White's** Eagle Court of Honor on Sun, Aug 31, at 2 pm at the First United Methodist Church

From the Rectory—continued from page one...

the Church's witness. Whom is it that we proclaim—Christ, Whose message is one of redeeming, unconquerable love, love willing to be crucified, or ourselves? Archbishop Williams has argued that the test of communion is whether or not we proclaim a Christ Who is recognizably the same as our neighbor's Christ—not whether we agree on what we ought to look like, but that we agree on who He is.

Christ is love—and true love changes those who experience it. To encounter God through Jesus is to find that we do not have all the answers, and that we do not need them. Not as long as we have Him, at any rate...Uniformity is not the same as being in comm-UNION with one another. The person who kneels beside me does not need to be identical as long as the Christ we both worship is identifiably the same. Do we both proclaim a Christ of love, sacrificial love, of second-chances and new life, of arms stretched wide in love to embrace those who reject Him? Or do we proclaim a Christ Who insists that one group win and one lose, and that the only way to the Father is through conformity with my agenda? At Grace Church, Christians are free to disagree on every single item except one—Who is Jesus? Answer that right, and the rest don't matter...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Joseph of Arimathea	2
3 Pentecost XII 2 pm Anglican Angels	4	5 <i>Oswald of Northumbria</i> 6:30 pm St Catherine's	6 The Transfiguration of Our Lord	7 <u>JM Neale</u> Marian Days begin	8 <i>Dominic</i> 6:30 pm Movie night "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade"	9
10 Pentecost XIII	11 <i>Clare of Assisi</i>	12 <i>Hippolytus of Rome</i> 6 pm Stewardship meeting	13 <i>Jeremy Taylor</i>	14 <i>Jonathan Daniels</i> 1st Day of School (Carthage, College Heights)	15 St Mary the Virgin	16 <i>Stephen of Hungary</i>
17 Pentecost XIV 9:15 am Confirmation classes 10:30 Instructed HE	18 <i>William P DuBose</i> 1st day of School (Joplin, Webb City, Diamond)	19 7 pm Vestry	20 <i>Bernard of Clarivoux</i> 1st day of School (Carl Junction, Sarcoxie)	21 <i>Abraham of Smolensk</i>	22	23 <i>Rose of Lima</i>
24 Pentecost XV	25 Bartholomew the Apostle 1st day of School (Thomas Jefferson)	26	27 <i>Thom. Galaudet & Henry Syle</i>	28 <i>Augustine of Hippo</i>	29 <i>The Beheading of John the Baptist</i>	30 <i>Chas Grafton</i>
31 Pentecost XVI						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8, 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 2 pm Spanish Eucharist 9 am Christian Ed 9:45 am Acolyte practice	7 am Morning Prayer 6pm Quilting Group 7 pm NA & Bell Choir practice	7 am Morning Prayer 10 am Men's Social Hour, St Luke's	6 pm Holy Eucharist 7 pm Bible Study	2 pm St Luke's Eucharist	10 am Holy Eucharist	5 pm Holy Eucharist

EDUCATION

ADULT FORUMS: SUN at 9:15 a.m.

Aug 3: EFM presents the Joseph story

Aug 10: EFM presents the Ark and the Covenant—looking beyond Indiana Jones

Aug 17, 24 & 31: The beginning of our classes for Confirmation (Sept 21)—Anglicanism 101. Join us to learn the “basics” of our Christian heritage as Episcopalians.

FAQ

Aug 17: **INSTRUCTED EUCHARIST** at 10:30 service. Come with your “why do we do this” questions—there will be no sermon to provide time for commentary on the meaning behind the rituals of Anglican worship. **THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME TO BRING YOUR FRIENDS** who are intrigued but confused by the rich heritage of The Episcopal Church.

SPIRITUALITY

NEW WOMEN’S BOOK STUDY/ PRAYER GROUP

Beginning after Labor Day (Sept 8) we are planning a women’s book study/prayer group using the text *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver. The book can be ordered through Edith at the book store and will cost approximately \$13. This will be about 12 weeks in length (Sept-Nov) and will meet on Monday evenings at the Church from 6:30—8 p.m. in the Parish House. Speak to Julie Anderson, our coordinator, for details, or place your advance order with Edith now to get your copy early!

COME WALK THE LABYRINTH...

As progress continues in our Bible garden to the south, the labyrinth given in memory of Helen



Boylan will be available for your meditative walking this month. Pamphlets on using this devotional tool will be available as soon as the labyrinth is finished! A wish list for plants and other items is posted in the

Par-

ish House.

VESTRY UPDATE

At the July 15 meeting, the following was discussed:

Rector’s Report: A brief discussion of the upcoming Lambeth Conference and Diocesan Convention issues was held.

Deacons’ Reports: Deacon Galen is relicensing LEMs and the grants for WMD have been received from the Diocese. Deacon Jeff is working on adding acolytes and acolyte mentors for the autumn. We will award four acolyte scholarships—to Austen Heidlage, Lisa Snodgrass, Greg Spencer and Alex Wiedemann—on July 20.

Parish Nurse Report: Nurse Barbara reminded us of several projects in the coming months. She will be representing the National Church’s health ministries at the provincial meeting in Oklahoma City in September.

Senior Warden’s Report: Kevin updated the Vestry on the the stewardship committee’s projects. The committee has added a mailing of care packages to servicemen in Sept and to college students in Oct to their list of projects.

Junior Warden’s Report: Debbie made a written report. The major item of business was the removal of the two storm-damaged trees in front of Church and rectory; a bid from Baugh Tree service was approved to remove these trees and to trim up damage to the trees on the Chestnut side of the lot.

Treasurer’s Report: The last month was good, although year-to-date we remain about \$4500 behind projections. The diocese made an unexpected grant of \$500 to the parish recognizing our continued growth in membership. A motion was made and approved to allocate those funds to our parish nurse program.

Old Business: A motion approved solicitation of new memorials and gifts to fund the garden project. The Emmaus celebration in October will include bus service for those who wish to attend from our area.

New Business: The search for a Hispanic missionary is ongoing—an interview is being scheduled for August. Fr. Pedro will be with us at the Sept 21 bishop’s visitation services so that we may have a formal farewell celebration for him. Extensive discussion of security issues was held—offices continue to be open and computers used by people other than those who we know have keys. To resolve this, Fr. Steve’s computers were re-passworded immediately after the meeting. The vestry will look into rekeying the major offices in the near future. Ways to enhance our electronic communication were discussed at length.

Nearly New Report: Jeanne Goolsby spoke about the Nearly New board meeting. Nearly New has experienced some business slow-downs of late, and will be closing on Mondays due to staff health issues. Cindy Chilton is volunteering her Tuesdays to the management of the business. The new drainage system has been excellent in reducing water damage.

Next Vestry meeting Tues, August 19, at 7 p.m.

FROM the PARISH NURSE:

Barbara Mountjoy RN

I pray everyday, almost all day. You know, prayers like...”Jesus please help me find my car keys”, and “Help Tony to feel better” and “Please let Matilda not be mad at me”. Those kind of prayers. Sort of a running dialogue with our Lord, with my brain doing all the running. But I am trying to be more deliberate about my prayers. I am trying to set aside a particular time to devote to daily prayer. In this desire to be more structured with my prayer life I began to really study the prayer our Lord gave us when asked by his disciples to teach them to pray. This prayer is the basis of our relationship to God.

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

Jesus calling God his **Father** probably use the Aramaic word “abba”, which I am told doesn’t mean father, but instead means daddy, a very sweet, familiar name. And **hallowed**, God’s name is holy in itself, but we ask in this prayer to keep it holy. Although we live in a democracy, we can relate to a **kingdom**, and we pray that the kingdom of Heaven will be real to us someday. At this point in the prayer the petitions begin. We begin asking for things. I believe that when we ask God for things He gives them to us. Sometimes in ways we don’t understand, and often at a different time from when we expect them. His **will be done on earth as in heaven**. The good and gracious will of God is surely done without our prayer but we ask in this prayer that it may be done also among us. **Give us today our daily bread**, this should remind us to be thankful to God for the food we eat, and all the other things we enjoy in our daily lives...church, homes, work, family, property, peace, health, friends and neighbors. **Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us...** we pray that our Father in heaven would not hold our sins against us and because of them refuse to hear our prayer. And we pray that we could receive everything by grace, because we know we don’t deserve it as we sin every day. So our part that we must do is forgive others that sin against us. **Lead us not into temptation...** God tempts no one to sin, but we ask that God watch over us and keep us mindful of the world, and our own sinful natures so that we may not be drawn into false belief, despair and other sins. **And deliver us from evil...**we ask our heavenly Father to save us from every evil to body and soul and in the end, when we leave this world behind, take us to Himself in his heavenly kingdom. And after we say **the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever...** we say **Amen**. Amen means “it shall be so”. Because Christ himself taught us to pray we know it is pleasing to God and there is the glorious promise that he will always hear us.

PLATICANDO EN ESPANOL:

Padre Pedro Valdez

Hablando en Espanol; Trato de Aclarar Ideas En Mi Mente:

En nuestro diario vivir se esta haciendo frecuente el hablar del problema de los Hispanos Indocumentados; esta llegando al punto de que los Anglosajones se refieren como "Indocumentados", sinonimo de Indeseables, a todos los Hispanos que vivimos en esta gran nacion. Tengamos residencia y hasta ciudadanía, participemos activamente en el bienestar de la economia, hagamos lo que hagamos siempre nos ven con desagrado y les gustaria vernos del otro lado del Rio.

La Iglesia, como institución esta haciendo muy poco o no se ha preocupado abiertamente por este flagelo social. En mis diferentes participaciones, en reuniones con hispanos, escucho la expresión: Este no es un problema nuevo, ya lo hemos sufrido desde hace mucho tiempo y ya sabemos que hacer. Eso quehacer es quedarse callados sin hacer nada.

Los que se preocupan un poco de este problema tratan a los Hispanos como pordioseros y para acallar sus conciencias tratan de hacerles regalos con las cosas viejas, que ya no necesitan y los hay que hasta se aprovechan de la situación vendiendoles cosas inservibles o defectuosas, a los ingenuos de habla hispana.

La Biblia se vuelve actualidad cuando vemos que Dios por medio de los profetas ataco este problema para erradicarlo y que no se convirtiera, en lo que es, pecado. Los Profetas de Jehová haciendo una opción preferencial por los pobres y los necesitados, vivieron como tales para realizar con toda propiedad su funcion. Se hicieron pobres entre los pobres. De esta manera podian tener una vision mas clara del problema que atacaba a la mayoría de los hijos de Dios en la sociedad de su tiempo.

La Iglesia debe ser la voz de los sin voz. Debe buscar soluciones claras y practicas para los problemas que nos aquejan en la actualidad. Es bueno predicar desde los pulpitos, cuantas veces sea necesario, pero debemos caminar la otra milla con los necesitados. Jesús hablo con autoridad y con la verdad, la gente asi lo comprendio, ¿Como habla la Iglesia de nuestros dias? Es necesario que aparezca Miqueas, Oseas o Amos para recriminarnos y hacernos entender nuestra verdadera ubicación en la sociedad.

Dios nos habla atravez de los mismos Indocumentados para que no nos desviemos del camino y busquemos soluciones, reales, a los problemas de nuestra epoca; de no hacerlo asi, tendremos que experimentar una serie de dificultades y problemas mayores. Un problema trae otros problemas y un pecado trae consigo muchos pecados mas. Es necesario entender que nos hemos acomodado a nuestra situación de lujo y prosperidad; buscamos mantener un nivel de vida mejor y mejor. En todo ello ¿Como esta nuestra relacion para con Dios y los Indocumentados?

No es nuestro problema, no lo buscamos nosotros mismos, pero la realidad es que el dolor y sufrimiento de las personas sin documentos oficiales para vivir en este país es toda una realidad. Esta aquí, es nuestro problema Social, propio de la Iglesia de Cristo. Estan desintegrando a las familias, los ninos se quedan sin el apoyo de su padre o de su madre. Hay dolor y sufrimiento por doquier. ¿Cómo vamos a actuar en el nombre de Dios?

Rev. Pedro Valdez

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEACON:

The Rev. Jeffrey Bell

One would think that since I belong to a church that has the name grace, that grace would be ever present in my thoughts and in my actions. That is unfortunately not the case, but I am working on that. That being the case, what exactly is grace? According to Wikipedia, (just kidding Fr. Steve), according to the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, grace is the supernatural assistance of God bestowed upon a rational being with a view to his sanctification. Still don't know? Me either, so let's keep reading. Grace denotes divine favor shown toward the ungrateful and undeserving according to their needs. It is further divided into sanctifying, actual and prevenient grace, but I think we all get the point.

I have heard people say that they don't feel comfortable in church, and that they don't want to go somewhere that will make them feel worse than they already do about their lives. If that is the case, then what has happened to the church? Even prostitutes would flock to Jesus and seek refuge, and we all know that the church is supposed to represent Christ on earth. Too many times we are unable to find grace with in the confines of the church, that at times may be filled with those who think themselves holier-than-thou. I rejected the church for a time because I could find little grace, but I returned because I could find it nowhere else. My grandfather always used to remind me that the church is full of saints and sinners, and that we all have different distances on our journey with the Lord.

According to Gordon McDonald, "The world can do almost anything as well or better than the church. You need not be a Christian to build houses, feed the hungry or heal the sick. There is only one thing the world cannot do. It cannot offer Grace!"

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus. (1 Cor. 1:3-4)

Deacon Jeff

GRACEBOOK STORE

Don't forget to check out the Bookstore next time you are in Church.

Edith has chains, charms, earrings, bracelets and necklaces.

If you need a card take a look at the new pop-up cards or the other rack of cards.

Bibles, books new and used and lots of other items.

ST CATHERINE' S NEWS

GIVE ME FIVE CAMPAIGN

St. Catherine's is collecting for a "Give Me Five" campaign to help both the Children's Haven, in Joplin and Camp Coast Care, in Mississippi.

Children's Haven is open 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week, a temporary home to children ages birth through 17 yrs whose families are experiencing a crisis. They provide a safe, secure, home-like environment for children while their families seek the help they need.

Camp Coast Care is a joint Lutheran/Episcopal Service in Mississippi provides a wide range of services and Ministry for at risk persons. Their efforts, at present, are still largely focused on aiding victims of Hurricane Katrina.

YOU CAN HELP BY "GIVING FIVE" of any of the following items:

Clothing such as diapers, underwear (sizes birth-XL adult), socks and pajamas

Gift Cards for "fun" stuff such as movie rental, theater passes, laser tag, etc.

Office Products such as paper, tape, stamps.

School Supplies such as lined paper, pencils, pens, eraser, glue, crayons, etc.

Medicines such as Tylenol, aspirin, lice shampoo, children's Motrin, chewable cough medicine, Benadryl, Neosporin, cortisone cream, band aids, Vaseline.

Pick up five of one thing or a combination of any items you'd like to provide and drop in the Children's Haven/Camp Coast Care donation box outside the Library door. Thank you for your help!!!

REGULAR ACTIVITIES BEGIN

Wed, Sept 3: 5:30 p.m. First Choir Practice.

Wed, Sept 3: 6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, 6:30 p.m. Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Youth Groups & Adult Bible Study

Sun, Sept 7: 9:15 a.m. Acolyte Practice, Sunday School for all ages

COMMUNITY NEWS

CARVER SITE

The George Washington Carver Birthplace Association and Stone's Throw Dinner Theatre host "Listening to the Still Small Voice" on Sat, Aug 9th at 7 p.m. and Sun, Aug 10th at 3 p.m. The benefit performances are at the theater at 796 S. Stone Lane. Following each performance is a dessert reception and live auction including art, casino pkg., theater tickets, etc.

Tickets are \$12.50, with proceeds evenly divided between Stone's Throw and the Birthplace Assoc. They must be ordered before Fri, Aug 1, by calling Betty Bell 358-7268 or email at bbell23@ecarthage.com. "Listening to the Still Small Voice: The Story of George Washington Carver" is a one person play by Hoke Coleburn concerning the life of the famed Scientist, Educator and Humanitarian.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

The state primary is on August 5. Civic participation is a moral duty of all who are entitled to vote!

MARIAN DAYS

Join us after the Wed, Aug 6, Holy Eucharist for our annual pilgrimage to the Port Arthur dining tent at Marian Days. Departing from the Church at 6:35 p.m. Average dinner runs between \$7 and \$12, depending on how much shrimp you feel morally compelled to eat... And don't forget that Wed-Sat of that week, driving on Grand and Fairview is re-routed....

SCHOOL START DATES

MILITARY CARE PACKAGES



For the Labor Day weekend, we would like to send care packages to our servicemen. All on our prayer list, and all active duty military from our congregation (whether abroad or not), will receive a package with a card, newsletter, and treats such as items listed below. Please bring them to the collection boxes in the Parish House. Join us to help pack boxes at a “care package party” held on Sat morning, Aug 23, from 10 to 11 a.m.

Bible, Tracts, Devotionals

Cards & Notes to soldiers

Odds & Ins

Tube Socks (*white & black*)

Sweat bands or dew rags

Magazines & Fun stuff

Sports magazine

Outdoor magazine

National Geographic

Crossword puzzles

Word search books

Sudoku books

Hand held games & batteries

Deck of Cards

Toiletries

Body wash soaps

Lotions

Deodorant

Wet wipes

Jock itch powder

Foot powder/gel insoles

Mouthwash

Tooth brushes/Tooth paste

Brush-ups (*for teeth*)

Tubes of shaving cream

Razors

Lens cloths (*for eye glasses*)

Drinks (powdered)

Kool-Aid

Lemonade

Tea

Coffee/Hot chocolate (*if they have hot water*)

Phone cards: international (*500 minutes gives them 30-40 minutes talking time*)

Comfort Items

Eye drops

Sun block

Pain relievers

Throat lozenges

Tissues

Bug repellent wipes

Snacks

Beef Jerky/Slim jims

Potted meat/Vienna Sausage

Miniature sausage/cheese packets

Tuna lunch packs

Ramen noodles

E-Z Mac & Cheese

Oatmeal

Breakfast Bars

Pop Tarts

Peanut butter

Food seasoning

Canned fruit (*Anything with pop-top lids*)

Canned goods (*Anything with pop-top lids*)

Pudding or applesauce cups

Trail mix/crackers/nuts

Chewy Chip Ahoy Cookies

Cheez-Its/Wheat Thins/Town House Crackers

Pringles/Lay's in cans

Funyuns

Hard candy (*no chocolate*)

Skittles/Star Burst

Fruit Roll Ups/Fruit by the Foot

DAILY BIBLE READINGS IN AUGUST

Fri, Aug 1-Sat, Aug 2: Judges 5:1-31, Acts 2:1-36, Matthew 28:1-20

Sun, Aug 3 Pentecost 12: Genesis 32:22-31, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21

Mon, Aug 4-Tues, Aug 5: Judges 6:25-40; 7:1-18, Acts 2:37-47; 3:1-11, John 1:1-28

Wed, Aug 6, The Transfiguration of Our Lord: Exodus 34:29-35, 2 Peter 1:13-21, Luke 9:28-36

Thurs, Aug 7-Sat, Aug 9: Judges 8:22-35, 9:1-57; Acts 4:1-32; 5:11

Sun, Aug 10, Pentecost 13: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Mon, Aug 11-Thurs, Aug 14: Judges 12:1-7; 13:1-24;

Fri, Aug 15, St Mary the Virgin: Isaiah 61:10-11; Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 1:46-55

Sat, Aug 16:

Sun, Aug 17, Pentecost 14: Genesis 45:1-15; Romans 11:1-32; Matthew 15:10-21

Mon, Aug 18-Sat, Aug 23: Judges 17:1-13; 18:1-31, Job 1-22; 2:1-13; 3:1-26, Acts 7:44; 8:1-40; 9:1-19, John 5:19-47; 6:1-51

Sun, Aug 24, Pentecost 15: Exodus 1:8, 2:10; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Mon, Aug 25, St. Bartholomew: Deuteronomy 18:15-18; 1 Corinthians 4:9-15; Luke 22:24-30
Tues, Aug 26-Sat, Aug 30:

Sun, Aug 31, Pentecost 16: Exodus 3:1-15; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-27

PATRONAL FEASTS

Please pray for our sister churches on their "name days"

Aug 5: St Oswald's—Skidmore

Aug 6: Transfiguration—Mountain Grove

Aug 15: St. Mary's—KC, Fayette, Savannah

Aug 28: St Augustine's—KC

The daily readings are also given in each Sunday's bulletin

Grace Episcopal Church

820 Howard

P.O. Box 596

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID