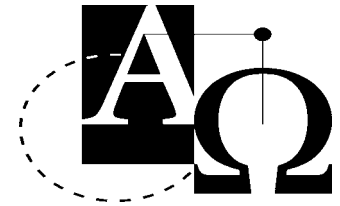


The SPIRIT of GRACE

SEPTEMBER 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 9:15
- 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

SEPTEMBER COFFEE

HOSTS

Kelly Heidlage
& Sylvia Sprengle

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

September's major festival is the Feast of the Holy Cross on the 14th (*apologies to Michael and All Angels and to the Apostle Matthew for demoting them from the first spot, but there it is*). This year, that's a Sunday, which means we will "transfer" its observance to Monday the 15th.

The story of the day is that the first Roman Emperor to legalize the practice of Christianity, Constantine, had a British Christian mother, Helena. After making his mother's religion legal, he sent her on a lavish vacation to the Holy Land, where she sought all the "right spots" using her Bible and the local Christians as guides. Some of those spots are absolutely the right ones—no major scholar these days disputes, for instance, that the Holy Sepulcher is really where Jesus was buried, no matter what the claims of the (Anglican-owned) "Garden Tomb" might be on television.

But Helena didn't find just places—she also found things. Like wing feathers of the Angel Gabriel, and the ax Noah used to build the Ark, and above all, buried beneath a "green hill far away outside a city wall," three crosses. The hill was covered with the herb basil, which gets its name (from the Greek "royal bush") from that event—it covered the bloody throne of the King of Kings!

One doesn't want to look too closely at the claims that this was The Cross which Helena found. Maybe it was, and maybe not—science will never prove it one way or the other. But it is clear, as a recent Ivy League study showed, that all the splinters of the "True Cross" revered in European cathedrals would very neatly fit into one simple wooden execution method, and would not build the barn Marx claimed...

The Cross is the central fact of Christian life. It changes everything about our perspective. It shows us that, unless our faith is misfounded, it MUST include sacrifice. It shows us also that God is in final and triumphant control of events, even tragic and awful events.

Neither sacrifice nor tragedy are popular ideas. We prefer ease and success. But the truth is that our preferences are not, in the end, what runs the universe. Without a sense of sacrifice, without willingness to lay down our lives in the service of something and Someone bigger and holier than ourselves, we can only barely be said to experience new and more abundant life. And without a sense of commitment through hard times, we are dilettantes at life.

Where do you need to stand up and commit yourself to something truly painful? Where are the petty self-indulgences that must be done to death in order that greater good might be fed? In a time of economic tightness, where do we need to make sacrifices of our "wants," maybe even skimping on our "needs," in order that the world might be given hope?

Where do you need to recommit to the failed experiment of holiness in your life, the broken relationships, empty prayers, shattering loneliness? Without looking deeply into tragedy, we cannot begin to follow in the Way of the Cross. In a time of culturally-pervasive cynicism and fear, where are you willing to step boldly forward and say, "This may hurt and fail, but it is right."

Where, in other words, is the Cross in your life? Around your neck, or in your heart? Because a Christianity with no Cross has no roots—like basil, it wilts when the sun gets high or the wind blows too cold.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Dorene Woods
- 3 Betsy Taylor, Norma Fuentes
Adam Crowder, Marie Estes
- 4 Brad White
Michael Goolsby
- 5 Betty Hoover
Marsha Delaney, Ruth Smith
- 6 Caleb Stiles
- 7 Dario Aguilar
Mitch Christy, Zina Lewis
- 8 Sam Cebula
Jeff Dymott
- 9 Amanda McClanahan
- 10 Samantha Snodgrass
Brandy Kissel
- 11 Stacey Chapman
Dorothy Wilson
- 12 Ida Ruth Locarni,
Meghan Grimes Adams
- 13 Bryan Bewick, Mike Thompson
Betsy Pauly, Earlene Evans
Stephen Beimdiek, Beth McDaniel
- 14 Michelle Hensley, Claire Hamilton
- 15 Ted Evans, Sr., Kevin Garcia
Lisa Snodgrass, Tyler Harwell
Sydni Cornman, Eric Leek
- 16 April Jones
- 17 Anita Flanigan
- 18 Frank Dunaway IV
- 19 Amy Heese, Paige Rhymer
- 20 Terry Chilton, Chase Pitner
- 21+

- Debbie Putnam, Kim Snodgrass
Paul Matteo
- 22 Ellie Flanigan, Colby Wakefield,
Austin Daniel
 - 23 Melissa Erdman, Patrick Pettie
Cecilia Aguilar, Alexis Antillion
 - 25 Sean Garza, Angela Perez
 - 26 Kirsten Robertson
 - 27 Philip Patrick, Chuck Edds,
KC Hagensieker
 - 28 Glenda Erwin, Jim Spradling
Chalaine Bell, Kathy Conrow
 - 29 Andrea Hertzberg, Van Ellis
 - 30 Kelly Roske

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Galen & Kim Snodgrass | 9-1 |
| Mel & Julie Anderson | 9-2 |
| Larry & Marcia McGuire | 9-2 |
| Jim & Pat Brown | 9-4 |
| John & Pam White Schaffer | 9-8 |
| Paul & Cathy Hauser | 9-13 |
| Shawn & Whitney Hussey | 9-25 |
| Steve & Melinda Wilson | 9-29 |
| David & Laren Cruse | 9-30 |

OUTREACH

QUARTER TUBE

During the month of September our Quarter Tube will reach a goal of \$2,500 or the 10,000th quarter. Thank you for your generosity towards this ministry.

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

Contact Deacon Jeff immediately if you are interested in attending the diocesan workshop on campus ministry on Sept 5!

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, Sept 7. 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.

MOVIE NIGHT

Join us on Fri, Sept 12, at 6:30 p.m. for the screening of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, most of which takes place in the local Church of England parish. Bring along your favorite appetizer and a friend!

CLERGY DAYS OFF

A reminder that the clergy will be at Clergy Conference in Conception, near Iowa, on Mon, Sept 8– Wed, Sept 10. Fr. Wilson will be at Provincial Synod in Oklahoma City Sept 25 & 26, as will Nurse Barbara. And a reminder—the Rector is never in the office on Monday.

CONFUSED ABOUT THE PHONE?

We **do not** answer the phone before 9:30 in the mornings. This is to attempt to set aside some time for a brief staff meeting so that everyone knows what is going on in the coming hours and days. Please remember that your call will be returned if you leave a message.

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 Madsen, Evelyn Jackson, Glynn Evans, Richard Ferguson, Kay McNew, Michelle Short, Patty Fasken, Jerry Chrisman, Lon Orr

Parishioners, Family and Friends

Jim Spradling, Charles Yarbrough, Olivia Pierce, Raelene Nickols, Frank Lane, Bob Young, Sharon Croley, Zach, Stephanie, Pistol, Melissa, Sherry Vaughn, Hailey, Sherry Dean, Avery Watts, Marilyn Moore, Eric Smith, Howie Dixon, Rick Carrol, Hershel Jones, Virgil Burwick, Avery, Meridian Rush, Scott Hettinger, Dareus Adams family, Stephanie, Ron Nuse, Jesse Baugh, Don Turner, Evelyn Henderson, Sheila, Tim Thomas, Connie Mieur, J.D. Sample, Sylvia Garvie, Jamie Faucet, Sue Lassiter

Military) Webb Feurborn, Ethan Feurborn, Gary Welch, Eric Leek (*Iraq*) Ben Killman, Josh Geno, Gary Pieschel, Darrel Cude, Avery Barnett, Brent Archer, Joe LaTendresse, Trevor Shields, Jason Kuykendall, Grant Stevens (*Afghanistan*) Joe Francis, Jason Reynolds

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Bishop Spencer Place, Kansas City: The Revs William Crain & Linda Yeager, Chaplains
Christ Church, Springfield: The Rev Kenneth Chumbley,
The Very Rev Jonathan Frazier, Asst Rector
Church of the Ascension, Springfield: The Rev Larry Lewis, Priest in Charge
Academy for Lay Education and Ministry
St James' Church, Springfield: The Rev Ross Stuckey, Rector (whose retirement has been announced), The Revs Constance Tyndall and Susie Lynch, Deacons
Department of Liturgical & Spiritual Life
St Matthew's Church, Ozark: The Rev Anne Cheffey, Deacon

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer

The Episcopal Church of the Sudan, The Anglican Church of Tanzania, The Church of Uganda, The Episcopal Church (also known as the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA), and the dioceses of Hanuato'o (Melanesia), Harare (Zimbabwe, Central Africa—a "vacant" diocese in the middle of a major legal and political battle—please pray for this diocese with the intention of peace), Hawaii, Honduras, Idaho (USA), Hereford (England), Highveld (South Africa), Ho (Ghana, West Africa), Hpa-an (Myanmar), Huron (Canada), Hyderabad (Pakistan), Ibadan North, Idah, Ideato, Ife, Ijebu, Igbomina, Ikka (Nigeria), Ibba (Sudan)

Transitions, July 2008

New Addresses, Etc.

Edith Eck, 3981 CR 5, Sarcoxie 64862
Fr. Dan & Susan Erdman, 929 E. Hawthorne Loop, Webb City 64870 673-7282
Larry Hartman, 1829 Bluebird Way
Blake Ferguson, 1410 N. Main St, Apt D, Webb City 64870
James Dymott, 1155 Pennsylvania, Springfield 65807
Rachael Kenney, 8515 South I-35, Apt 5233, Austin TX 78744
Katy Snodgrass, 8515 South I-35, Apt 5233, Austin TX 78744
Steve & Susan Skaggs, 1254 Wendy Lane
Evelyn Jackson, St. Luke's, 1220 E. Fairview
Gary & Kelli Welch, Kamden & Kamiean, 209 Wonja, Oceanside CA 92058
Eric & Summer Leek, 2091 B, Elrod Dr, Kailua Hawaii 96734

College Addresses

Ethan Fast, 244 Blaine Hall, MSSU, 2950 E. Newman Rd., Joplin 64801
Addison Daniel, Nation's Dorm, 1808 S. Elm-RM 304, Pittsburg KS 66762 620-240-7215
Madison Kyger, Kornstrasse 76, 28201 Bremen Germany/Deutschland
Doug Snodgrass, 1425 E. Cherry, Springfield 65807
Lisa Snodgrass, Blair-Shannon Hall #804C, 1001 Madison, Springfield 65807
Austen Heidlage, 3435 Gabriel, Parsons KS 67357

The Faithful Departed

Ann Madsen departed this life Thurs, Aug 7, buried from the Church Mon, Aug 11

Congratulations

...to **Tom Flanigan**, who will serve as our new State Representative
... to **Jenny Mansfield**, the new United Way director.
...to **Nelson & Ruth Smith** on the birth of twin grandsons, Tyler & Trevin, on Aug 8.
...on the baptism of Jane Scott Campbell on Sat, Aug 16. She is the daughter of Scott & Sue Campbell and granddaughter of **Frank & Donna Lane**.
...on the marriage of **Micah Grigsby & Susan Brand** on Sat, Aug 16
...on the birth of a son, Cooper, to **Jake & Savannah Charleston** on Aug 18

Our thanks to those who helped pack care packages for our military prayer list on Sat, Aug 23: Julie Anderson, Fred & Opal Faye Campbell, Jinny Hopp, Connie Moss, the Revs. Galen Snodgrass & Steven Wilson.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS IN SEPTEMBER 2008

Pentecost 17: Sept 7, 8:00 a.m.

Chalice: Wayne Ytell
Subdeacon: Larry Ross
Lector: Wayne Ytell
Server: Richard Roske
Sacristan: Jinny Hopp
Home Communion: Ytell/Ross-L Orr

10:30 a.m.

Chalice: George Platt
Subdeacon: Margie Tucker
Lectors: Debbie Jones
Mark Sponaugle
Acolyte Mentor: Brad Cameron
Servers: 1 Ian Kyger (Capt)
2 Jackie Spencer
Crosses: 1 Sam Wiedemann
2 Jimmy Slates
Torches: 1 Jay Simmons
2 Tom Simmons
3 Quincy Charleston
4 Emma Charleston
Ushers: Jimmy Grimes
Frank Lane
Sacristan: Lynette Gass
AV Team: Mike & Ryan Robertson
Greeters: Kevin Curtis

Pentecost 18: Sept 14, 8:00 a.m.

Chalice: Larry Ross
Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell
Lector: Glenda Erwin
Server: Michele Sexton
Sacristan: Dana Cameron

10:30 a.m.

Chalice: Charlyn Kester
Subdeacon: Chuck Edds
Lectors: Julie Anderson
Kelly Roske
Acolyte Mentor: Michele Sexton
Servers: 1 Ashley Heidlage (Capt)
2 Deandra Sexton
Cross: 1 Carlie Wakefield
Torches: 1 Ashleigh Wilson
2 Sarah Wilson
3 Lanceton Pettie
4 Matt Goolsby
Ushers: Claude Newport
Larry Hartman
Sacristan: Connie Leek
AV Team: Jim & Colby Wakefield
Greeters: Michael & Jennifer Cartright
Home Communion: Revs Snodgrass &
Bell-R Wilson

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST

6:00 p.m.

Sept 3

Chalice: Ron Ferguson
Reader: Julie Anderson

Sept 10: Holy Cross Day

Chalice:
Reader: Mark Sponaugle

Sept 17: St Matthew

Chalice/Reader: Bonnie Jones

Sept 24: St Michael & All Angels

Chalice: Scott Stone
Reader: Glenda Erwin

SATURDAY EURCHARIST

5:00 p.m.

Sept 6:

Chalice:
Reader: Margie Tucker
Sacristan: Elisa White

Sept 13

Chalice:
Reader: Kelly Roske
Sacristan: Lynette Gass

Sept 20

Chalice:
Reader: Glenda Erwin
Sacristans: Cindy Putnam

Sept 27

Chalice:
Reader: Scott Stone
Sacristan: Connie Leek

Pentecost 19: Sept 21, 8:00 a.m.

Chalice: Wayne Ytell
Subdeacon: Larry Ross
Lector: Wayne Ytell
Server: Brad Cameron
Sacristan: Donna Lane

10:30 a.m.

Chalice: Brad Cameron
Subdeacon: Don Gass
Lector: Jerry Sample
Bonnie Jones
Acolyte Mentor: Alex Wiedemann
Servers: 1 Mariah Marsden (Capt)
2 Madeline Marsden
Crosses: 1 Ellen Salchow Stiles
2 Julio Ovalle
Torches: 1 Chase Taylor
2 Will Mansfield
3 Katie Mansfield
4 Taylor Mansfield
Ushers: Chuck Erwin
Loren Erwin
Sacristan: Lynette Gass
AV Team: Elisa & Audrey White
Greeters: Joel & Melissa Erdman

Pentecost 20: Sept 28, 8:00 a.m.

Chalice: Larry Ross
Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell
Lector: Kelly Roske
Server: Nancy Dymott
Sacristan: Jinny Hopp

10:30 a.m.

Chalice: Jack Slates
Subdeacon: Tom Flanigan
Lectors: George Platt
Dana Cameron
Acolyte Mentor: Elaine Wurst
Server: 1 Cecilie Washburn (Capt)
2 Haley Kester
Crosses: 1 Drew Schesser
2 Oliver Sprengle
Torches: 1 Elle Lanham
2 Sydney Harlin
3 Evan Sexton
4 David Sexton
Ushers: Greg Kester
Chris Wilkowski
Sacristan: Elisa White
AV Team: Frank Lane
Greeters: Troy & Liz Salchow

WED NIGHT DINNER

Sept 3

Nachos

Sept 10

Hot Dogs

Sept 17

Pizza Casserole

Sept 24

BBQ Chicken

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 St David Oakerhater 6:30-8 pm Bi- ble/Prayer Group	2 6:30 pm St Catherine	3 Dinner, Adult Christian Ed & Youth Groups begin	4	5	6 9am St Marga- ret's
7 17 Pentecost 3:30 pm Motor- cycle Ministry	8 HOLY CROSS ——Clergy 6:30-8 pm Bi- ble/Prayer Group	9 Conference——	10 ——	11	12 6:30 pm Movie	13 St Cyp- rian of Car- thage
14 18 Pentecost St Catherine's breakfast 3 pm Music Club	15 6:30-8 pm Bi- ble/Prayer Group	16 6 pm play audi- tions 7 pm Vestry	17	18 6 pm play audi- tions	19	20
21 19 Pentecost Bishop's Visit & Confirmation	22 ST MATTHEW 6:30-8 pm Bi- ble/Prayer Group	23	24	25	26 ——Youth	27 ——
28 20 Pentecost ——Happening	29 ST MICHAEL AND ALL AN- GELS 6:30-8 pm Bi- ble/Prayer Group	30				

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
8, 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 2 pm Spanish Eucharist 9 am Youth SS, Christian Ed 9:15 am Acolyte practice	7 am Morning Prayer 6pm Quilting Group 6:30-8 pm Women's Bi- ble/Prayer Group 7 pm NA & Bell Choir Practice	7 am Morning Prayer 10 am Men's Social Hour, St Luke's	6 pm Holy Eucharist, 5:30 pm Choir prac- tice 7 pm Din- ner, Youth Group & 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.

In our ongoing Confirmation Class series—

Sept 7: Episcopal manners and customs—the stuff that makes us feel different

Sept 14: Episcopal doctrine—What is it that this Church teaches?

Sept 21: Bishop Howe joins us for discussion of the state of the Church

Sept 28: Episcopal Ethics—Making difficult decisions in a complex world

WED BIBLE STUDY

7 p.m. Christ and the Environment: What does the Bible say about caring for the planet?

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Ages 3-K, Grades 1-4, 5-7, & 8-12

WED YOUTH GROUPS: Grades 1-3, 4-6, 7 & 8, 9-12

We have different groups of both kids and teachers with different needs and concerns at these times, hence the different classes!

SPIRITUALITY

NEW WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY/ PRAYER GROUP

Beginning Sept 8, we are starting the 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 from Sept 8—Nov 24 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...

The labyrinth is curing by the time you read this! Just as you cannot get lost if you are searching for God, so you cannot turn wrong in a labyrinth—all paths lead forward, to the center.

Come walk it and pray

with your body as well as your mind! Dates for planting of the garden are Saturday, Sept 6 & 13, and Oct 4 at 10 a.m.

VESTRY UPDATE

At the August 19 meeting, the following was discussed:

Brent Baker from Utopian Systems discussed our smoke and heat detectors. Currently, there are only functioning heat detectors in the Parish Hall. Smoke detectors in most parts of the building are no longer fully functional, and none are tied to the notification system. It was agreed to have a report with bids on installing smoke and heat detectors in the office hall and Spencer Hall, heat detectors only in the parking lot entrance, kitchen and Church (due to smoke from incense). We will also be soliciting bids from Utopian for a yearly cleaning contract and notification system.

Rector's Report: The pledge drive will be coming up and we have already started working on pledge cards and mailing labels. The search for a Hispanic priest continues with at least one interview in early Sept. Sunday School is beginning in Sept, but we remain short a few teachers, especially in the younger years. The ELCA Lutheran parish in Joplin contacted the Rector about the possibility of "job sharing" with their part time pastor—we will look into the financial aspects of this. While this would not be exactly the same as a full-time assistant, it would be a step in that direction if financially prudent. An item for the Vestry to consider are the long-range need to replace roofing on the Church (a parishioner has already begun investigating options there). A proposal has been made to have a candle rack in the chapel.

Deacon Galen's Report: Galen will be in Haiti with Pam White-Schaffer and Bonnie Jones from Sept 25-Oct 4. He is enrolled in a CPE program in Joplin on Mondays this fall.

Deacon Jeff's Report: There is a Campus Ministry workshop Sept 6 that Jeff will attend.

Senior Warden's Report: The purse letter for Fr. Pedro has been sent. The Wardens and Rector had lunch to strategize ministry needs, and Kevin will look into something similar for the whole Vestry. Our recycling efforts will be handed over to a separate committee.

Junior Warden's Report: Do we need to budget capital improvements? A bid to sheetrock the ceiling of the library and do some electrical work, for \$1000, was approved.

Treasurer: August has been excellent, but the year to date has seen the impact of economic tightness. We are \$40,000 behind commitment from pledges and have lost \$50,000 in the perpetual trust. Scholarships have been paid. All indications are that the 2009 budget will be very tight, and a Vestry budget committee was discussed to help prioritize our ministry needs.

Old Business: The garden hardscape should be installed the last week of Aug or first week of Sept. Up to \$2000 from memorials was approved for this project. Our damaged trees have been removed: a parishioner has offered to replace them with smaller flowering trees.

New Business: The small search fund in the budget was moved to unrestricted. Susana Gonzalez meets with the Bishop on Sept 5 regarding ordination. The next Vestry meeting is Sept 16.

FROM the PARISH NURSE:

Barbara Mountjoy RN

Your body, His Temple--that's the name of the Grace Church health and wellness program. *"Do you no know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body," 1 Cor:6:19-20*

We are bombarded on a daily basis with the marketing of healthy living. Everyone who reads this newsletter knows we should eat right, exercise, keep moving, think happy thoughts, monitor our cholesterol, reduce salt, limit sugar, etc. etc. etc. But as Christians we should find tending to "the Temple" even more compelling. It is the home of our Lord! Jesus made this clear in *John 14: 15-26*. *"If you love me, you will obey what I command And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."* That puts a whole different spin on things for us as Christians. I and you and that argumentative lady in the 4th pew back are housing the Holy Spirit. I need to be more respectful of you and her and I should begin caring very especially for my "temple". I am fascinated by the careful instructions God gave regarding the building of the temple in the Old Testament. Immense wealth was placed into its construction. The people knew that this was to be God's dwelling place. That is why it was furnished with such greatness.

Jesus likened our physical bodies to that temple and promised that the Holy Spirit would be in us. So of course we should take care of our bodies, not so we can live forever, but that we can live strong and be productive through out our lifetime. But maybe even more importantly we should care for our bodies just as zealously because our Lord lives within us.

With these truths in mind, we will begin an opportunity for better health and wellness in this "season" of new beginnings. As our community goes "back to school", and our church is returning to our full service routine, we are introducing a support and validation program. We will help each other repair out "temples", improve living conditions, and maybe even make them a more attractive residence.

We are beginning with a faith based exercise program, two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 AM. This will begin in the parish house. You will need to bring a towel or a mat to protect you from the carpet and vice-versa. The date for our first exercise will be September 4th. Our first support and fellowship meeting will be September 27th, Saturday at 7:00PM. At that time we will seal our goals in a "time capsule" and discuss avenues of success to reach those goals. I will begin collecting data such as how many miles those that choose to walk have walked, and how many 30+ minute exercise sessions you had for the month, and how many pounds you have lost in the month, and if your lab values have changed positively in the past month. We will be validating all our successes.

I am open to suggestions as to how to improve our program. Perhaps we should add a time for evening exercise sessions. We will have guest speakers from time to time at our monthly support meetings. We will pray for one another. I hope we can feel free to phone one another if we find we need encouragement.

Get involved in renovating your temple and in the process you might experience more vitality and strength for years to come.

PLATICANDO EN ESPANOL:

Padre Pedro Valdez

Nuestra realidad hispana continua de mal en peor. Nuestra convivencia en la sociedad donde nos toca interactuar cada vez es mas complicada. Escuche en un Canal de Televisión de que algunos jueces de migración actuaron en contra de los Indocumentados y sus fallos fueron erroneos. Esto viene a complicar, aun mas, nuestro diaria actuar en favor de nuestras familias.

El indice de personas detenidas por los Agentes de Migración sobre pasa los porcentajes de otros anos. El Incremento de los deportados, especialemte Hispanos, sobrepasa lo esperado por propios y extranos. Todo esto trae mucho sufrimiento y dolor en las familias hispanas, dentro y fuera del Pais.

Las ciudades y sus habitantes estan experimentando un fenómeno negativo que puede traer mas y mas problemas a la población. Por todas partes se pueden leer anuncios que indican Venta de Casas, tambien vemos, mas que nunca, anuncios de Alquiler de Casas o Apartamentos. Este hecho tiene una doble dimensión; por un lado los Americanos de estan moviendo hacia otras ciudades que les proporcionen mejores opciones; por otro lado, los Hispanos dejan las casas porque no pueden pagar los altos costos que esto representa. Ahora vemos muchas casas en mal estado. Unas de ellas estan abandonadas y otras es porque los propietarios no cuentan con el dinero suficiente para invertir en los arreglos.

La poblacion hispana ha traído dinamismo y prosperidad economica a estas ciudades; les ha dado un gran impulso en su crecimiento y desarrollo; pero ahora vemos como los Agentes de Migración estan haciendo hasta lo imposible porque todo esto se acabe, traen llanto y dolor a las familias hispanas, estan dividiendo los hogares y hacen tambalear la economia del Pais.

Es cierto que algunos hispanos estan creado problemas sociales o delincuenciales pero es verdad que la mayoría de hispanos venimos a trabajar y a buscar un mejor bienestar economico para nuestras familias, y aquí la Iglesia juega un papel fundamental. Los cristianos debemos de tener un comportamiento ejemplar. No debe importar nuestra descendencia, nuestra posición social o nuestras creencias. Todos debemos buscar el bienestar comun; las distintas religiones, (nombres de Iglesia), deben vivir un verdadero Ecumenismo. Hermanados en un mismo sentimiento cristiano. Jesús profetizo que por los frutos nos dariamos a conocer. En esta oportunidad no hablo del problema del divisionismo sino de la manera como interactuamos con los hermanos de diferente creencia.

Estamos llamados a preocuparnos por el que sufre, por el menospreciado, y que estamos haciendo como Iglesia por ellos. No podemos quedarnos al margen de sus problemas. No podemos quedarnos callados ante la injustia; debemos ser voz de los sin voz. Debemos llevar un poco de esperanza a este pueblo desprotegido y sufriente. Tenemos una labor que realizar y creo que es Recristianizar nuestra sociedad. Actuar positivamente para que en alguna estapa de nuestra historia se diga, otra vez, Vean como se Aman. Todas las cosas las tienen en comun.

Rev. P. Pedro Valdez.-

From last month's edition: "In daily life, we have so frequently heard about the problem of undocumented Hispanics, that we have come to a point where many Anglos assume "undocumented" is a synonym for "undesirable." This affects all Hispanics living in this great nation. Although we may take up residence and even citizenship, although we may participate actively in strengthening the economy, yet whatever we do, many still see us with displeasure and would prefer to see us all on the other side of the River...The Church must be the voice of the voiceless, with clear and practical solutions to the problems facing us. It's good to preach from pulpits, in fact necessary, but we must walk miles to be with the disadvantaged. Jesus spoke with authority and truth so people understood. How does the Church speak today?...God speaks to us, as well as to the undocumented, calling us not to deviate from the path, but to seek solutions, real solutions, for the problems of our time. Not to do so will bring about a series of major problems and difficulties in the future. We need to understand that we have gained luxury and prosperity to our situation, seeking to maintain a standard of living, but at the cost of the pain and suffering of people without official papers, ...In my various conversations, I hear the expression over and over again—this is not new, we have suffered a long time and we know what to do. The task is to stay silent and do nothing." For more, or to translate THIS month's passage, highlight it and copy into "translate.google.com" Read carefully—literal translations can be dicey, but you'll get the main points loud and clear.

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEACON:

The Rev. Galen Snodgrass

Last month I found myself sitting in my optometrist office stumbling through the letters on the eye chart. It had been three years since my last visit, so I knew a new prescription was imminent; not to mention the need for new frames. After several minutes it was announced that an increase of one step in my left eye was in order, while the right needed a half. Then it was out to the lobby to choose new frames. After all, this deacon of yours must remain stylish and up to date.

A week later I was once again in the office ready for the fitting. The moment I put them on colors seemed to jump out, the edges of objects were sharp, and I could actually read 8-font print from the proper distance. The doctor announced, "He can see again!" He was correct, I could see clearly again. After a few minor frame adjustments I was headed out the door; looking very stylish by the way.

Outside I get to the curb, which seemed to leap into face; for a moment I walked like a dizzy child dismounting a merry-go-round. Driving down the street objects moved a little, my focus was slightly off, and when I turned my head things seemed to move oddly. My brain was adjusting to what my eyes were asking of them. By early evening I had a bid of a headache, plus eyestrain from this increased prescription. Getting new glasses requires a day or two of correction.

This got me thinking about how Jesus' disciples had to adjust to the things they saw during their ministry together. They were with him when water was changed to wine. They watch him walk on water with the intent of passing them. The sick were healed, the dead rose, and they watched bewildered Pharisees and Sadducees leave either perplexed or angry. To be a follower of Christ took lots of adjustments; involving times when things were made clear, while other times a bit fuzzy and confusing. Occasionally, they had to feel like a dizzy child spun in circles. But that was life with Christ.

It's still that way today. Why? Because we are growing, changing, and being transformed with Christ due to our encounters with him. He is the one constant that asked us to be aware of what we're missing in the now. It's up to us to look for, see, and talk about changes happening around us whether they are clear and sharp, or fuzzy and confusing.

As I look upon the disciples of Grace Church I can't help but notice such changes. There are many new opportunities for people to fellowship and spent time getting to know each other through movie nights, dinner for 6 + 2, and packing items for soldiers overseas. A new group of disciples are serving the altar as acolytes, readers, and Altar Guild. New Sunday school and Youth Group Leaders are serving-- **yes, we need more**. These are just the physical modifications I see in our parish.

I also see a spiritual impact on the disciples of Grace. Lives are being effected by Christian Education, Bible Study, and Eucharist. The desire to build a labyrinth by a large number of parishioners is a health sign that Grace Church wants to share the need for prayerful connection with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Not just for us, but for the Community of Carthage. There is a yearning for a meaning to the events of life and what the Holy Trinity is calling us **to do and be**.

In my ministry as deacon I've also seen many of our older parishioner's transition from life to light. I know this is and will impact Grace Church, to the extent is not yet known. What I do know is that the number of Home Communions in our parochial report will be less, which is good in one sense.

And finally, Kim and I are empty nesters, and we're contemplating all of its effects. I do want to spend some time living without children, just to get the feel. All these changes don't mean the past no longer is a part of our life. But it does require a prayerfully time of reflection.

In closing let me return to my opening story with an insight. The increase of my new eyeglass prescription does not eliminate my old ones; it adds to it. A continuation of what I've had in the past; just strengthening a little due to my new awareness of a life change. So if I seem a little dizzy at times, just mark it up to change. My brain will process all the adjustments.

The same may be true for Grace in the coming days. What we know is the God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and The Holy Spirit will guide us if we just look, listen, and act. It will require all of us to do all three in our faith response to the Holy Trinity.

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. Have to church by the end of Sept.

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

BOOKSTORE SALE

The Grace Church Bookstore has Bible/Prayer Book combos, award-winning Hawaiian mustard (the only source in the Midwest), hand-made stained glass and fabulous new pop-cards! In addition, we are running sales cross jewelry, bracelets, charms (James Avery charm bracelets \$12.50 off regular!), and Jan Karon novels (1/2 off!) Pop by and visit Edith any morning of the week or between services Sundays!

PLAY AUDITIONS

The director, Jennifer Cartright, reminds us that our annual Dinner Theater will be on Nov. 20—22. Auditions for parts will be held in the Parish House on Tues, Sept 16 & Thurs, Sept 18, at 6 p.m. Contact Jennifer at 793-6659 for details.

MADI KYGER FAREWELL PARTY

All are invited to a come and go Bon Voyage Party for Madison, who will be studying in Germany, on Sun, Sept 7, 3:30—5:30 p.m.

THROW OUT THE DIET

St. Catherine's will be hosting a biscuits and gravy breakfast fundraiser for the Haiti trip on Sun, Sept 14, between services. Cost is \$3 per person. And on Sun, Oct 5, there will be a cookie walk!

BISHOP'S RECEPTION

After the 10:30 service on Sun, Sept 21, we will host our Bishop in a farewell reception for Fr. Pedro (who departs in Nov) and a welcome reception for our new confirmands. Please contact the office to volunteer for items that you will bring—this would be a "heavy hors d'oeuvres" event.

PET BLESSING

Don't forget to schedule your pet for its appearance at the annual Blessing of the Pets on Sun, Oct 5, at 5 p.m. in the Barking Lot. This is a WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR EVANGELISM—bring your friends and neighbors who think Church is too "stuffy" so they can experience God's love in a different setting entirely—with their companion animals!



WEST MO YOUTH NEWS

Volume 4 Issue 9

September 2008

#214

(one of 365+ reasons to be an Episcopalian)

The Episcopal Church keeps me grounded in real life, real relationships, real encounters. Ours is a very incarnational church -- insisting on the importance of the Spirit's embodiment in the ordinary events of each day, and reminding us over and over that God can be found in the most difficult and improbable places.

Check out more Bestiaries and Upcoming Events on the back !

There's nothing like the first weeks of school to cause a little stress - new classes, teachers, friends, etc... Here's a solution to all that pressure - and it comes straight from the Bible - Proverbs 17:22 "A joyful heart is the health of the body." Sometimes, joy is obvious - like in a wholehearted laugh. And, that can be compared to "internal jogging" - an inside workout for the heart, lungs and diaphragm. In fact, some research has found that a good belly laugh worked just as well or better than pain medication. Apparently, laughter produces a physiological state similar to vigorous exercise...a release of endorphins, which is our bodies own powerful pain relievers while also strengthening our immune system. One explanation of why laughter is so effective is that it reduces feelings of anger, hostility, aggression, anxiety and depression. And socially, laughter can break down barriers, making it easier to meet and connect with people.



But, we should also keep in mind that laughter is not joy in the Bible, and joy isn't always seen in laughter. We can laugh when filled with joy, but being joyful is something that can be part of our daily lives. If we think of joy as the good feeling we get when things go well, but something that disappears when things go badly, we're missing out on a wonderful gift from God because joy is a matter of the heart - not the mouth. Our (cont.)



emotions can take us in a cycle from laughter to crying and back again, but joy can remain constant. Enduring joy come from the spirit dwelling within and is not turned off and on depending on our circumstances. In fact, joy is possible in the most depressing conditions, because joy depends on God being part of our lives and not on the conditions. Think about Paul, he was exhausted and his insides were churning with fear--yet he had joy because joy does not depend on how we feel but on our relationship with God.

So, if you find yourself in the middle of a stressed, unhappy, crummy feeling time; full of difficulties and temptations... then be happy. James 1:2-4... *when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.* And, it's always good to remember there is a time to laugh- in fact, there's a time for everything - "a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance".

Upcoming Events

September 26-28
Happening #58
Trinity Episcopal, Independence
October 24-26
D.Y.E. (Diocese Youth Event)
St. Paul's, Kansas City
January 30, 2009
4th Annual Bishop's Ball
Christ Church, Springfield



The Beasteries animal facts and fables continue with the... SQUIRREL - 1. A squirrel is

symbolic of a Christian's busy forethought of eternity. **2.** Heavenly meditation. There you go! Next time you pass one on the street - or see them playing in a yard - pause for a moment of appreciation!

WEMO

Kim Snodgrass
Youth Ministry Coordinator
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Email: kimwestmo@swbell.com

We're on the web!
diowestmo.org

Need event registration information? Call or email today!

STEWARDSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Would you like to help with efforts to "green up" our parish? Join the Recycling and Conservation Group. A sign sheet will be posted on the bulletin board. Contact Kevin Johnson for more information.

kcjohnson0207@sbcglobal.net

TREES

Pinewood Nursery and the Convention & Visitors' Bureau are making trees available to "re-leaf" Carthage. Several species, \$40 each. See Jeanne Goolsby for details, or pick up the brochure at CVB, 402 S. Garrison. These trees are not suitable for the theme of our biblical garden, but are wonderful plants for enhancing the environment of your lawn and garden at home!

PLEDGE DRIVE

Pledge letters are coming out soon. Please pray and think about your pledge and return the card as soon as possible—by the end of September. Many of us are new to The Episcopal Church, and the pledge process may seem a bit alien. Briefly, here is how it works:

A **tithe** is ten percent of one's income. Repeatedly in Scripture, God asks that we tithe our income to Him. It is a challenge with a promise—if we tithe, He will return more abundant blessings to us "shaken down, pressed down and overflowing." One's tithe goes to God—not just to the Church. Other agencies and charities which fulfill God's purposes are part of one's tithe as well.

A **pledge** is the portion of the tithe which we promise to commit to the parish church's budget. It can be all of the tithe, or a portion, depending on your priorities. By making such a written commitment, we enable the parish to run a balanced budget and to prioritize ministries wisely. One's pledge is unknown to the clergy. It can be adjusted up and down throughout the year as circumstances change. But our budget at Grace Church is balanced and based on anticipated, promised income. Low pledges mean cuts in program.

An **offering** is something else, a special gift, like flowers for the altar, special offerings for particular ministries or occasions, or a gift to a special project. Offerings are additions to our pledge—they are not a part of the pledged amount used to budget.

This Church does not devote a lot of time and energy asking for money. Sermons rarely harangue about giving. That is a good thing, but it doesn't mean that we don't require funds. Like all institutions, operations require income. Without your pledged support, ministries such as our parish nurse program, youth groups and generous support of local mission are not possible. "Where your treasure is, there your heart is also." Even in tight years, our Church ought to be in our hearts.



July 7, 2008

The People of the Diocese of West Missouri

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This comes as my personal gratitude for each of you as you seek to use the gifts you have been given in ministry as you serve Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is also my personal invitation to you to join in our **EMMAUS CELEBRATION** which will be held on **Sunday, October 26**.

This year concludes a five-year Diocesan program—the Emmaus Era-- begun in 2003 with measurable goals and objectives. These five years have carried significant challenges that have been very evident throughout our Church. But the majority of our goals and objectives have been met with excellent support and leadership from many of you throughout the Diocese—both clergy and laity. Furthermore, we have maintained a unity and a common support and encouragement for one another and among our congregations that is a true blessing. We therefore have a great deal to celebrate together in gratitude and thanksgiving to Our Lord!

Our **EMMAUS CELEBRATION** will be at **11:00am at the Community of Christ Auditorium in Independence**. Joining with us will be our **Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts-Schori**. She will be both **Celebrant and Preacher** at the Eucharist. She and her husband will also be present with those who are the delegates to our Diocesan Convention, which meets on Friday and Saturday, October 24-25.

Comfortable coach buses have been chartered to come from the southern and eastern regions of the Diocese. And certainly car pooling is encouraged. Parking at the Auditorium is very ample. Registration forms for the busses and many other details will be forthcoming in announcements and electronic media and in the *West Missouri Spirit*. A talented group of people are making all the preparations for this celebration.

I sincerely hope that all persons in the Diocese will desire to be a part of this special time in the life of our Diocese, and will make every effort to be present in person. We are indeed very blessed as a Diocesan family! We shall rejoice and give thanks to the Lord for His presence with us and for one another as members of His Body the Church.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry R. Howe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning of the first name.

Barry R. Howe

Bishop of West Missouri

**Child Care Reservation Form
Emmaus Celebration Eucharist
October 26, 2008**

Name of Parent:

Daytime Phone:

Email:

Child(ren) requiring care:

Name:

Age/Grade:

Name:

Age/Grade:

Name:

Age/Grade:

Children of age birth through five years will be cared for at Community of Christ Auditorium. Children first through fifth grade will be cared for at Trinity Episcopal Church, 409 N. Liberty St., Independence, MO (five minutes drive from Auditorium). All child care workers will have required background checks.

**RETURN RESERVATION FORM BY OCTOBER 15 TO: Diocese of West Missouri
Attention: Laura Waggoner
PO Box 413227
Kansas City, MO 64141**

Emmaus Celebration

Walking Together in the Spirit of Christ

**Community of Christ Auditorium
Independence, MO
Sunday, October 26, 2008, 11:00 a.m.**

**Emmaus Era Celebration with the Presiding Bishop
Bus Trip Information**

Bus Routes

Route 1: Neosho, Joplin, Carthage, Nevada, *Harrisonville**

Route 2: Branson, Ozark, Springfield, Bolivar, *Clinton**

Route 3: Mountain Grove, Lebanon, Osage Beach, Sedalia, *Warrensburg**

** Passengers departing from Harrisonville, Clinton & Warrensburg receive price reduction*

Buses will travel to Trinity Church - Independence after the Eucharist for lunch. Buses will depart the Cathedral for their return trips at approximately 3:30 pm.

Bus & Lunch: \$45 per person

\$30 for Clinton, Harrisonville and Warrensburg passengers only

DAILY BIBLE READINGS IN SEPTEMBER

Tues, Sept 2-Sat, Sept 6: Job 12:1-25, 13:3-27, 14:1-22, 16:16-22, 17:1-16, 19:1-27; Acts 11:19-30, 12:1-25, 13:1-41; John 8:21-59, 9:1-41, 10:1-18

Sun, Sept 7: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Mon, Sept 8-Sat, Sept 13: Job 32:1-10, 29:1-20, 30:1-31, 31:1-40, 38:1-17; Acts 13:44-52, 14:1-28, 15:1-35; John 10:19-42, 11:1-54

Sun, Sept 14: Exodus 14:19-31; Psalm 114; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Mon, Sept 15, Holy Cross Day: Isaiah 45:21-25; Psalm 98; Philippians 2:5-11; John 12:31-36a

Tues, Sept 16-Sat, Sept 20: Job 41:1-11, 42:1-17, 28:1-28; Acts 16:6-40, 17:1-34; John 12:9-50

Sun, Sept 21: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Mon, Sept 22, St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist: Proverbs 3:1-6; Psalm 119:33-40; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Matthew 9:9-13

Tues, Sept 23-Sat, Sept 27: Esther 5:1-14, 6:1-14, 7:1-10, 8:1-17; Acts 18:12-28, 19:1-41, 20:1-16; Luke 3:15-22, 4:1-44

Sun, Sept 28: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Mon, Sept 29, St Michael and All Angels: Genesis 28:10-17; Psalm 103; Revelation 12:7-12; John 1:47-51
Tues, Sept 30

PATRONAL FEASTS

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

St. David Oakerhater, Mon, Sept 1: Pray for the chapel and chaplain of St. Luke's Home, Fr. Dan Erdman.

St. Cyprian of Carthage, Sat, Sept 13: The most appropriate feast for our congregation is that of the primary martyr of ancient Carthage, now in Tunisia

St. Matthew's, Raytown, Benton, Ark, Mon, Sept 22

St. Michael's, Independence, Mon, Sept 29

The daily readings are also given in each Sunday's bulletin under the calendar date

Grace Episcopal Church

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