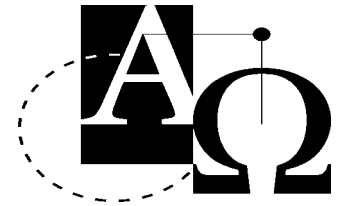


The SPIRIT of GRACE

JULY 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

Thursday

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

Friday

- Holy Eucharist 10

Saturday:

- Eucharist 5 p.m.

From the Rectory: The Rev. Steven C. Wilson

I received word from the US Department of Agriculture last week that I'm now licensed to import seeds from Britain, which excited me immensely. I've already sent off my importation license to a fellow in Lancashire (home of hot-pot and long-legged pigs) who has a small garden in which, even as we speak, the seeds of *ranunculus asiaticus*, the scarlet red "Turk's cap buttercup," are ripening. He collected the seed on a trip to the Holy Land a few years ago, from the top of Mt. Hermon, and is willing to share his bounty with us for the garden of biblical plants which should be well underway this summer. I have visions of walking that beautiful labyrinth patio which the Boylan Foundation is funding in memory of Helen Boylan while watching the wind blow the large petals of these "flowers of the field" for many springs to come...

The flower itself is gorgeous, but it's been like pulling teeth to find it. It's nearly a weed in its native Palestine, growing in poor, rocky, hot desert soil and on top of cold, wind-blasted, snow-covered mountains, staining the landscape red in March and April. But for some reason, humans haven't felt comfortable leaving God's creation alone when it comes to the Turk's cap buttercup. We've refused to let it be, but instead have insisted that this lovely flower be "improved." Now, instead of a single row of bright red petals and a prominent black center adorning a hardy plant, we can purchase the "garden variety," a three-rows of petals, a finicky, delicate thing which requires special drainage, winter protection, and shelter from the rigors of full sun. We've taken a beautiful, nearly indestructible plant,

ad transformed it into a delicate, dependent thing, all in the name of "improving" it.

Which leads me to thinking about human nature. Christ died and rose again, as it says in Romans, "for our justification," that is to say, in order that we might become fully human, as He is fully human. But too often, I think the Church has dealt with that transformation in the wrong way. We've assumed that the human nature we now have is the "wild strain" that needs improving (you know the human nature I refer to—spiteful, selfish, short-sighted, prone to anger and resentment, driven by hungers and thirsts we think are ridiculous in others but sublime in ourselves). But I think that maybe we've got that upside down. The human nature we now see is actually the delicate "hot house flower" *improved* by pride and sin—after all, pride and sin always argue to us that things will be *better* if we only let them change us just a little...

Maybe our task as Christians is to let Christ strip out some of the "improvements in the species," to get us back to where we started rather than making us into a hybridized improved variety of human. The only thing that stands in our way is fear—which is the greatest crippling "improvement" of all. Fear of what our neighbors might think if we stopped caring about our reputation and starting living the Gospel. Fear of what tomorrow holds, instead of gratitude for today's blessings. Fear of death instead of recognition that the grave is a gate, not a guillotine. Fear that we're not all we like to think we are. Fear that we aren't able to stand up to the heat and cold of the world without

Continued

JULY COFFEE HOST

Jason & Lindsay Hettinger

SAVE THESE DATES...

Wed, Sept 3 p.m. Adult Ed,
Youth Groups & Dinner begins
Sun, Sept 7: Youth Sunday
School 9:15 a.m.
Sept 21: Bishop Howe's Visitation
Oct 26: Emmaus Celebration
(KC)
Nov 20-22: Annual Dinner
Theater
Dec 10: Ted Estes' priestly Ordination
(Grace Church), God willing

JULY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|----|---|
| 2 | Fr. Steven Wilson Willy Medrano Sam Roger |
| 3 | Doug Snodgrass Jana Sawyer Angus Sprengle |
| 4 | Barbara Mountjoy Audrey White Joe Barfield |
| 7 | Richard Barlet Charles Dunaway Jenny Mansfield |
| 8 | Joe Conrace David Sexton |
| 9 | Madeline Marsden David Evans |
| 10 | Heather Castleberry Gary Cole Debby Orr Marty Griffin Brooks Gubser |
| 11 | Layla Pettie |
| 13 | Phoebe Watson |
| 14 | Rayella Lindsay |
| 15 | Bill Putnam, Jr |
| 17 | Ian Kyger |
| 18 | Margie Tucker |
| 20 | Nancy Harwell |
| 21 | Andrew White |
| 22 | Alex Ferrell |
| 23 | Jay Simmons Jacquee Wyczynski J. J. Hight |
| 24 | Jane Potter Robert R. Young Nancy Williams |
| 25 | Yolanda Ferrell |
| 26 | Addie Longan |
| 27 | Deandra Sexton Sydney Henderson |
| 28 | Sarah Goolsby |
| 30 | Edith Walters Tierra Welch |
| 31 | Jim Creighton Garvin Dunaway |

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 9 | Jimmy & Amy Grimes |
| 11 | Marty & Rosalie Griffin |
| 20 | Scott & Susan Campbell |
| 30 | Craig & Teri Diggs |
| 31 | Scott & Jana Sawyer |

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, Carolyn Cole or Shirley Stigall 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.

PLANNING FOR HABITAT

Would you be interested in working on a Habitat for Humanity house in Carthage? See the Rector to get on an "informational" list.

PARISH GENEROSITY

To the UTO: \$61132

To the Emmaus fund: \$909.05

To the Joplin Habitat for Humanity: \$770

To the Anglican Clinic in Tecpan, Guatemala: \$820

To the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, Salt, Jordan: \$1270

In honor of Helen Boylan, from the Boylan Foundation: funding for a labyrinth patio to the south of the Church

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 INFORMATION

Contact Anita Flanigan 358-2729 or Bonnie Jones 359-9885.

MOTORCYCLE MINISTRY

The next meeting for "Anglican Angels" will be on Sunday, July 6 and then again on 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...

The Parish Prayer List

The Home Bound

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

Parishioners, Family and Friends

Addie Daniel, Bob Young, Walter Moore, Cliff Hayes, Stephanie Theis, Art Dunaway, Rick Kean, Vicky Wright, Howard Smith, Judith Byrd, Janet, Gail, MK, Dixie, Kay, Buddy, Samantha, Andrew, Pistol Baugh

(Iraq) Josh Geno, Jake Douglas, Gary Pieschel, Darrel Cude, Jake Evans Berger, Avery Barnett, Brent Archer, Patrick Batchelder, Tyler, Joe LaTendresse, (Afghanistan) Joe Francis, Trey Schesser, Seth Williams

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Church of the Transfiguration, Mountain Grove: The Rev. Bradford Ellsworth, Vicar

St John's, Neosho: The Rev. Daniel Erdman, Priest in Charge

All Saints', Nevada, the Rev. Ted Estes, Deacon

St Nicholas', Noel: The Rev Pedro Valdez, Priest in Charge

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer

The Church of Pakistan, the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, L'Eglise Episcopal au Rwanda and the dioceses of Durham (England), Dutse, Egba, Egbu, Ekiti, Ekiti Oke, (Nigeria), East Ankole (Uganda), East Carolina, East Tennessee, Eastern Michigan, Eastern Oregon, Easton, Eau Claire, El Camino Real (USA), East Kerala (South India), Eastern Himalayas (North India), Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador, Edmonton (Canada), Eastern Zambia (Central Africa), Egypt (Middle East), Eldoret (Kenya), El-Obeid (Sudan), Ely (England), Embu (Kenya)

PRAY for the LAMBETH CONFERENCE

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Transitions, June 2008

New Addresses, Etc.

Eric Adams, Care Home, 1111 Care Ave, Nixa 65870
Katy Snodgrass, 8515 South I-35, Apt 1217, Austin TX 78744

Regine Anderson, 8409 Del Mar Court N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87111 505-293-1757

Steve, Michelle, Ian & Sydney Henderson, 2371 Main St. Apt 103, Ferndale WA 98248

Esmeralda Martinez, 2601 Woodland Park Dr, Apt 5202, Houston TX 77077

The Faithful Departed

Doris Philips, mother of **Sue Anderson**, departed this life Saturday, April 26

Alice Pyle, sister-in-law of **Ruth Platt**, departed this life Friday, May 16

John Ross, brother of **Larry Ross**, departed this life Fri, May 23

Donald Tryk departed this life Wed, May 28, buried from the Church Sat, May 31

Jeannie Jolly, grandmother of **Savannah Charleston**, departed this life on Mon, June 10

Verlene Smith, mother of **Kathy Gilpin**, departed this life Mon, June 23

Congratulations

...to the birth of **Riley Oliver Hogg**, son of Tighe & Abbie, grandson of Dr. Richard & Pam Barlet, born on Wed, May 28

...announcing **Owen Jeong-Hoon** born September 19, 2007, son of Scott & Jana Sawyer arrived home on June 24, 2008. Big Brother is Benjamin and grandparents Frank & Donna Lane

...to our graduates from High School: Alex Wiedemann (Pittsburg State), Audrey White (MU), Amanda Erwin (MSSU), Spencer Orr (MSU), Austen Heidlage (Labette Community College), Greg Spencer (MSU), Lisa Snodgrass (MSU), Kevin Boydston (MSSU), Adam Givens (MSSU), Asia Kittrell (Pitt State), Addison Daniel, Will Flanigan (MSSU), Shinya Ikiryama (Lindenwood University, St Louis) Andrea Hertzberg (undecided)

...to our graduates from college: (Assumption College, Worcester, MA), Charlie Hauser (VA Common Wealth University), Taylor Grimes, Rachael Kenney (MU, Columbia)

...to Katy Platt-Rendel, who received Masters degree from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology

Banns

The Rector publishes the banns of marriage between **Micah Grigsby** of this parish and Susan Brand of Jasper. Nuptials to be solemnized in August 2008. This is the third and final time of asking.

The Rector publishes the banns of marriage between **Lindsey Kester** of this parish and Jason Hodges of Webb City. Nuptials to be solemnized October 2008. This is the third and final time of asking.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS IN JULY 2008

Pentecost 8: July 6, 8:00 am

Chalice: Wayne Ytell
 Subdeacon: Larry Ross
 Lector: Wayne Ytell
 Server: Richard Roske
 Sacristan: Jacqui Johnson
 Home Communion: Ytell/Ross-L. Orr

10:30 a.m.

Chalice: Margie Tucker
 Subdeacon: George Platt
 Lectors: Julie Anderson
 Bonnie Jones
 Acolyte Mentor: Brad Cameron
 Servers: 1 Lisa Snodgrass (Capt)
 2 Jackie Spencer
 Crosses: 1 Ellen Salchow Stiles
 2 Jimmy Slates
 Torches: 1 Jay Simmons
 2 Tom Simmons
 3 Quincy Charleston
 4 Emma Charleston
 Ushers: Jim Creighton
 Frank Lane
 Sacristan: Jeannie Slates
 AV Team: Mike & Ryan Robertson
 Greeters: Kevin Curtis

Pentecost 9: July 13, 8:00 am

Chalice: Wayne Ytell
 Subdeacon: Larry Ross
 Lector: Glenda Erwin
 Server: Michele Sexton
 Sacristan: Cindy Putnam

10:30 a.m.

Chalice/Subdeacon: Bonnie Jones
 Lectors: Margie Tucker
 Wade Hamilton
 Acolyte Mentor: Michele Sexton
 Servers: 1 Ashley Heidlage (Capt)
 2 Deandra Sexton
 Crosses: 1 Carlie Wakefield
 2 Will Mansfield
 Torches: 1 Ashleigh Wilson
 2 Sarah Wilson
 3 Lanceton Pettie
 4 Matt Goolsby
 Ushers: Claude Newport
 Chuck Erwin
 Sacristan: Marcia McGuire
 AV Team: Jim & Colby Wakefield
 Greeters: Michael & Jennifer Cartright
 Home Communion: Snodgrass/Bell
 R. Wilson

SAT, 5:00 p.m.

July 5

Chalice: Scott Stone
 Reader: Glenda Erwin
 Sacristan: Jeannie Slates

July 12

Chalice/Reader:
 Bonnie Jones
 Sacristan: Ann Carter

July 19

Chalice/Reader:
 George Platt
 Sacristans: Cindy Putnam

July 26

Chalice: Marty Griffin
 Reader: Rosalie Griffin
 Sacristan: Jacqui Johnson

Pentecost 10: July 20, 8:00 am

Chalice: Larry Ross
 Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell
 Lector: Kelly Roske
 Server: Brad Cameron
 Sacristan: Ann Carter

10:30 a.m.

Chalice: Brad Cameron
 Subdeacon: Scott Stone
 Lectors: Mark Sponaugle
 Jerry Sample
 Acolyte Mentor: Scott Stone
 Servers: 1 Austen Heidlage (Capt)
 2 Mariah Marsden
 Crosses: 1 Madeline Marsden
 2 Sam Wiedemann
 Torches: 1 Chase Taylor
 2 Julio Ovalle
 Ushers: Loren Erwin
 Greg Kester
 Sacristan: Cindy Putnam
 AV Team: Elisa & Audrey White
 Greeters: Joel & Melissa Erdman

Pentecost 11: July 27, 8:00 am

Chalice: Wayne Ytell
 Subdeacon: Larry Ross
 Lector: Bill Lee
 Server: Nancy Dymott
 Sacristan: Ann Carter

10:30 a.m.

Chalice: Dana Cameron
 Subdeacon: Don Gass
 Lectors: Glenda Erwin
 Chuck Edds
 Acolyte Mentor: Karen Washburn
 Server: 1 Greg Spencer (Capt)
 2 Alex Wiedemann
 Crosses: 1 Haley Kester
 2 Cecilie Washburn
 Torches: 1 Oliver Sprenkle
 2 Drew Schesser
 3 Elle Lanham
 4 Sydney Harlin
 Ushers: Chris Wilkowski
 Jimmy Grimes
 Sacristan: Jacqui Johnson
 AV Team: Frank Lane
 Greeters: Troy & Liz Salchow

WEDS 6:00 p.m.

July 2: Independence

Chalice/Reader:
 Julie Anderson

July 9: Proper 9

Chalice: Ron Ferguson
 Reader: Mark Sponaugle

July 16: Proper 10

Chalice/Reader:
 Bonnie Jones

July 23: Mary Magdalene

Chalice/Reader:
 Dana Cameron

July 30: St. James

Chalice/Reader:
 Margie Tucker



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|--|--|------------------------------|---|---|
| Season: Pentecost Color: Green, except as noted | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 INDEPENDENCE (white) OFFICE CLOSED 10 am Eucharist | 5 |
| 6 VIII PENTECOST | 7 | 8 6 pm Stewardship meeting | 9 2 pm St Luke's monthly memorial service | 10 | 11 <i>Benedict</i> 6:30 pm Movie Night " <i>The Bishop's Wife</i> " | 12 10 am Garden Guild, Parish House |
| 13 IX PENTECOST | 14 | 15 7 pm Vestry | 16 | 17 <i>Wm. White</i> | 18 | 19 <i>Macrina</i> |
| 20 X PENTECOST | 21 | 22 MARY MAGDALENE (white) Missionpalooza | 23 | 24 <i>Thom. A Kempis</i> | 25 ST JAMES the APOSTLE (red) | 26 <i>Parents of BVM</i> ("Anna & Joachim") |
| 27 XI PENTECOST | 28 | 29 <i>Mary & Martha</i> | 30 <i>Wm. Wilberforce</i> | 31 <i>Ignatius Loyola</i> | | |

| <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 Christian Ed 9:45 am Acolyte practice | 7 am Morning Prayer 2 pm Quilting Group 7 pm NA | 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.

July 6: The role of the Episcopal Church in the founding our nation

July 13 & July 20: The story of Samuel

July 27: EFM (Education for Ministry) presents the story of Jacob—explore how this national program helps illuminate beloved biblical stories!

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.

VBS, ANYONE

We are considering having VBS, with a Narnia theme, in August on Wed nights. Contact Fr. Steve for details of how you can help. Anyone have a beaver suit or a dwarf in the closet?

FELLOWSHIP & PARISH LIFE

MOVIE & HORS D' OEUVRES

6:30 p.m. Friday, July 11: *The Bishop's Wife*, starring Cary Grant—a classic look at the problems of clergy life and ambition in a small Midwestern diocese of the Episcopal Church. Bring your favorite Hors D' Oeuvres.

6:30 p.m. Friday, Aug 8: *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, a classic summer film with some religious pretensions, great chase scenes, and beautiful scenery from Jordan. Bring your favorite Hors D' Oeuvres.

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!

VESTRY UPDATE

At the May 13 meeting, the following was discussed:

Rector's Report: Ted Estes' ordination to the diaconate on June 7 will be in KC. Tentatively, his ordination to the priesthood will be in Carthage on Dec 10. He will continue to work with St. Luke's for a while but is interviewing for a parish position, and so we will need to consider options for St. Luke's chaplaincy. Fr. Pedro's lawyer has concluded that there is no possibility of fixing his wife's visa problems by October, so we will need to act on the presumption that he will not be with us after his birthday. The Bishop and Rector have had a discussion about options for this ministry.

Deacons' Reports: Deacon Galen updated the Vestry on mission trip plans this fall to Haiti. Grace Church was the first parish to turn in its completed MDG grant request. Deacon Jeff reminded the vestry of the motorcycle ministry's upcoming first ride, and of the upcoming graduation of four acolytes who are eligible for the traditional scholarship. Both deacons discussed the meeting they had with the Bishop and community of deacons.

Junior Warden's Report: A list of projects completed was circulated. Three outstanding building issues remain to be addressed: the windows near the choir have wood damage to the sills, the freezer appears to be malfunctioning, and the black fence was damaged by the ice storm. A lengthy visit to the library included discussion of the purpose of the room (is it a library or a meeting room?) and of what sorts of books the collection ought to focus on.

Treasurer's Report: April was very typical overall. The parish house project appears to be completed, except for the stained glass inserts in doors.

Old Business: Pending donor approval, the Vestry approved the construction of a labyrinth patio to the south of the Church. The Vestry also approved the necessary paperwork for a new nursery worker.

Portion of the June 17 meeting, the following was discussed:

Deacons' Report: On Sun, June 22, our LEM's met for relicensing and schedule planning. Deacon Jeff reports that Acolyte practice will move to 7:45 a.m. on Sunday until school resumes in the fall. Anglican Rites Riders will ride again in July. The new young adults focus group is resting until fall.

Senior Warden Report: Keri Kirby & Joel Erdman are working on a parish photo directory. Recycling & Conservation are popular parish topics these days. Youth fun raisers are potential goals of recycling profits. The Birthday card program continues to be well received. The Boylen foundation grant was approved for the concrete portion only.

Junior Warden Report: A bid was received to repair and paint all the iron fence and stair rails around the church for \$1,795.00 total. The organ people checked out the speakers at the back of the church above the rose window. A push lawn mower was purchased for Rita at the cost of \$299. A leak in the furnace room from recent rains will be patched when area dries.

Treasure Report: Income was down for May with Year to date totals down \$10,000 from last year.

Next Vestry meeting Tues, July 15, at 7 p.m.

FROM the PARISH NURSE:

Barbara Mountjoy RN

I'm a "Yankee Doodle Dandy", you know, born on the 4th of July. This years birth date has me thinking a lot about Freedom. What is it? I think there are a lot of ideas out there about freedom.

Freedom, of course is a very common theme in the USA. We Americans talk a great deal about freedom. The founding fathers established our country on the premise that all men should be free: free to speak, free to publish, free to bear arms and free to worship. Freedom is part of the American DNA and many brave souls have fought and died to maintain this national freedom. But freedom is not simply the ability to do whatever one wants whenever one wants to do it. Freedom has to be more than the capability of a human being, pursuing the next pleasure without restriction

I am thinking about the freedom we as God's people have in Christ. Paul wrote to the Galatians; "Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." Many of us do submit to that yoke though. It could be we are slaves to bad habits, fear, self-defeating attitudes and or sadness and depression. We don't seek the freedom God gives us through Christ. I heard a story recently set in the Middle Ages, the story is of a man held prisoner in a dark dungeon for 20 years. During all that time, the man saw no one except a jailer who came to his cell once a day with bread and water.

Finally, the prisoner become so distraught that he decided to attack the jailer, hoping that the jailer would kill him in self-defense and end his misery. As he prepared for the attack, the man examined his cell door and found that it was not locked. In amazement, he discovered that it had never been locked! The man opened the door and quickly escaped by passing some guards who completely ignored him. He made his way home and lived happily ever after/

He could have done this anytime through those long years if he had known enough, but he did not. He thought he was a captive with no way out. Of course this is only a legend, but it made me think about the beautiful freedom our Lord has provided for us. We are God's people set free in Christ. Like the prisoner in the story it is up to us to recognize this freedom.

You may feel you have obstacles in your way to claiming this freedom, but daily reading of scripture, prayer and meditation can make a difference in your life. Ask God for guidance in releasing whatever is in your way. Be open to proven paths of help. Join with me in making July,08 the month your going to claim your freedom. We are God's people set free in Christ to share the love He gives us with others. We can do this by living fully the freedom of Christ offered us by the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let freedom ring.

Barbara Mountjoy, Parish Nurse

PLATICANDO EN ESPANOL:

Padre Pedro Valdez

HABLANDO EN ESPANOL:

NUESTRA EXPERIENCIA LATINA :

Despues de tener una experiencia vivencial de lo que sucede en este pais relacionado con los Hispanos, podemos afirmar que estas primeras generaciones de Hispanos en los Estados Unidos estan pasando por un periodo muy dificil y hasta traumatico, en su experiencia personal y familiar.

La Iglesia juega un papel fundamental en la vida de estas personas que ahora ya representan al grupo minoritario de mayor crecimiento del pais.

Hace un par de anos esperabamos, con injenuidad, que el gobierno ofreciera una solucion positiva para los millones de Hispanos Indocumentados, que su unico y grave delito es buscar su "Superacion Personal" y con ello mejorar el estatus de sus familias, aqui dentro de los Estados Unidos o fuera de el.

Las graves consecuencias que conllevan las deportaciones ya las hemos enumerado anteriormente y son de todos conocidas: - Dejan desamparadas a las esposas e hijos. – No poder enviar el sustento economico a las familias en el extranjero. – Llevar fuera del pais a los ninos nacidos dentro de los Estados Unidos. – No tener acceso a los beneficios de salud y educacion.

- Llevarse la manos de obra calificada para la agricultura y la industria, etc.

Ahora y despues de escuchar los medios masivos de informacion tenemos que aceptar la realidad de que hay una situacion mayor y de gran peso en el hecho de que el Gobierno no accediera a legalizar a los millones de indocumentados y me refiero al problema de las guerras que este pais sostiene en diferentes partes del mundo. En este flagelo humano nuestros hermanos hispanos juegan un papel importante. Aqui si es necesaria su presencia y su aportacion fisica en defense del pais. No importa su condicion de indocumentados, todos ellos son bienvenidos a las fuerzas armadas dandoles el aliciente de que despues que regresen les proveeran documentos validos para quedarse. El problema es que es muy caro el precio que se paga por esos pocos que logran su residencia permanente, ya que la mayoria fallecen en la Guerra. No podemos dar estadisticas totales al respecto pero es bien sabido que de todos los grupos raciales, que viven en este pais, los hispanos tienen la mayor incidencia de muerte en la guerra.

Hay una serie de codiciones negativas que hacen que envien a los soldados hispanos al frente de batalla como el problema del Idioma, la poca educacion escolar y la falta de profesionalizacion en los diferentes campos del quehacer militar; la realidad es que han muerto muchos hispanos en la defense de este pais y hay que darles su reconocimiento y que mejor seria que nos esforsaramos al maximo, en todo el pais y con el concurso de todas las iglesias, para que nos encaminemos por la via de la Paz y procuremos el bien comun. Que potencialicemos la vida que es el mayor don que Dios nos ha otorgado. Luchemos hasta borrar de nuestros diccionarios la palabra "Guerra" y gocemos de paz, amor y reconciliacion en todo el mundo.

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEACON:

The Rev. Galen Snodgrass

Saying we've had copious amounts of moisture since last fall comes as no surprise to any of us. Yes, this is one of those years where we in the Midwest can get precipitation just by thinking it. Remember two years ago we couldn't get a drop. I tend to believe these are cyclical, but others don't. *{I do believe we, humans, are impacting our environment.}*

There seems to be a segment of the population that is concerned that this weather pattern is the sign of "The End Times". People ask me, "Pastor, don't you think this is the signs that the Bible warn us about. I've never seen it like this before. How about you; are you concerned?" I tend to respond that God is the only one that knows for sure. After all Jesus admitted he didn't know when "The End" would come. Could the world end tomorrow? Maybe-maybe not! Who knows; by the time you get this article I could be hospitalized, or my computer could get a virus; erasing my words or the copy machine at Grace could break down causing a delay in the deliver of this news letter. Maybe-maybe not!

Therefore I'd like to change the focus from fear of catastrophe to the reality of living out today, since today is the only time period I have to count on. (A reminder: during my ordination process it was always said that I'd be ordained on February 7, 2004; "God Willing".) So if today is all we have, please humor me while I refer to St. Benedict. A real person who lived as a monk and wrote a list of rules that applies to our lives today.

Benedict writes: God is never alone; he is always accompanied by his saints and by the angels who report our actions to him. One of the Instruments of Good Works is to know for certain that God sees everywhere. Therefore since the eyes of the Lord observe the good and the evil, and the Lord is always looking down from heaven on the children of men "to see if there be anyone who understands and seeks God," and since our deeds are daily, day and night, reported to the Lord by the angels assigned to us, we must constantly beware, brethren, as the prophet says in the psalm, lest at any time God see us falling into evil ways and becoming unprofitable. (Rules 4 and 7)

Instead of being concerned about the end of the world, Benedict is requiring us to think and act with our skills, abilities, and resources to consider ways to help others and ourselves. Praying is something anyone can do; from the youngest to the oldest. Pray with your children and the elderly. Read, mark, and inwardly digest the Good News from Genesis to Revelation; the youngest will need adult help-the oldest may need it if limitations exist. The rest of us need to 'Crack the Book'. Plan coming to Eucharist and Morning Prayer, Christian Education and Bible Study; *then sticking to it*. Donating time, talent, and treasure that give back in some way to others.

Grace Church is blessed to have so many parishioners who follow through with great regularity and generosity. I know that each of you hear God calling to you day and night. What I'm asking is for you to consider this first and share it with your neighbors. Refrain from getting caught up in, 'is this a sign of the end times' debate. A contemplative life outlined by St. Benedict keeps us from chasing our own tails or gazing into our bellybutton, which are genuinely unhealthy.

Therefore, let us stay healthy by studying St. Benedict or any saint; or as Dom Julian Stead of St. Gregory's Abbey, Portsmouth writes. "To study any saint's notion of God can be beneficial to any Christian, clarifying what we mean when we say "We believe in God," and purify our faith of any false or defective ideas.

Deacon Galen



Above, the Rev. Ted Estes & the Rt. Rev. Barry R. Howe surrounded by Ted's Family and Friends from Grace Episcopal Church, Carthage.

Below, Bishop Howe and Deacon Ted with the Rev. Virginia D. Brown, Director of the George Herbert Institute for Pastoral Studies.(GHIPS). Ted is the first graduate of GHIPS.



From the Rectory

Continued from page 1

protecting ourselves. Fear is what's driven humans to turn that buttercup into something dependent and fragile—fear that it won't be pretty enough as it is, that it needs improvement. And it's fear that keeps us dependent as well, as addicted to the “ways of the world” as an addict ever was to the drug of her choice.

Fear keeps us from rejoicing—what if my voice isn't good enough for my neighbor to approve when I sing? And it keeps us from reaching out—what if that person uses the money I give them foolishly, in ways I don't approve of? Fear, in short, keeps us from blooming to our full potential, as humans and as institutions.

There's a lot of fear in the world right now. The economy isn't what we want—although most of us can't imagine a world in which the electricity doesn't work and there's no running water to slake our thirst on a hot summer day. The direction of the nation seems to many folks to be, well, erratic, although we can't imagine armed rebel groups taking children from our houses at night to fight their wars or the government forcing women to give up their drivers licenses and jobs. The Church is going through a tough spot, with whole generations seeming to have voted with their feet not to join while leaders bicker over policies that have little to do with the Gospel and far more about personal agendas and power. Education and good manners are in decline—ask any commentator for evidence of that claim. None of that is very new—it sounds like the 4th, 14th and 18th centuries, at least to this historian, and isn't that different from the way Victorians saw their society, which commentators now idolize as the epitome of a stable and affluent society with a serious and demanding moral agenda. Wasn't the Victorian era the one which we now think of as the climax of the missionary movement?

Which brings us back to fear, buttercups and improvement. There is nothing “broken” about humanity which needs “improving”—the broken needs to be removed, not improved! We are made “in the image and likeness of God”! What is broken needs removing so that we can return to the glorious state for which we were created—reconciled to a relationship with the world, our neighbors, our selves and our God which we were created to enjoy. And fear of what might happen if keeps us from returning to what we know is our true calling. It makes us rigid, tender and unable to blossom. All we have is today, finally. Tomorrow is a dream, and yesterday a memory. Fear of how we're not adequate for tomorrow makes us unable to bloom today. Fear that someone might find out about, and judge, yesterday, keeps us from blooming today. And the world has quite enough hothouse blossoms which require pampering, frankly. You are beautiful—get rid of the “improvements” that keep that spiritual beauty from shining where you are.

THANK YOU'S RECEIVED

FROM the DIOCESE

Please convey to the members of the Vestry and others who may be especially responsible for the gifts from Grace Church for the MDG's and the Emmaus Celebration my very grateful thanks. You are always so generous in your outreach ministry. I do not think the community of Carthage would be what it is without the continuing support of Grace church in so many ways. And that is also true for our Diocesan life. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity and for your continuing support of the greater church. Faithfully,

+Barry R. Howe, Bishop of West Missouri.

FROM the RELAY for LIFE TEAM

Thank you so much for all your support for our Relay for Life Team, through your prayers, your generous contributions, and your participation. It was a really special night of both celebration and tears, and it wouldn't have been possible without your wonderful enthusiasm. We look forward to doing it again next year! Your team co-captains,

Jeanne Goolsby, Annie Curtis & Barbara Mountjoy

FROM HABITAT for HUMANITY

Thank you so much for the first donation to your Habitat house! I have set up a separate class in our accounting system to track revenue and expenses for the project. (*Note to congregation: We have not committed to a house project.*) We have an exciting partnership ahead of us. Sincerely,

Connie Mosbaugh, Executive Director

FROM AUSTEN HEIDLAGE

Thank you so much for all your support and prayers during my time at wrestling nationals in Virginia. I couldn't have done it without you. Sincerely,

Austen Heidlage

FROM THE TRYK FAMILY

We would like to thank you, and everyone at the Church, who helped make Donald Tryk's funeral so meaningful and moving. All the words and music were just right for a man who meant so much to all of us. Although I miss him desperately, I'm comforted by the thought that he can walk, run, talk, joke and make music again in another realm, without the restrictions of a failing earthly body. We'd particularly like to thank the women of the Church who provided the very welcome meal for our family. That was an unexpected blessing on a sad day. Sincerely,

Sheila Tryk, with Sandy, Lorn, & Dotti Tryk, and Dennis, Ashley & Stephen Connell

Dear Friends in Christ

Thank you for 14 years of love, support, laughter, and grace. It is hard for me to think of leaving Grace Church. Together, we have shared baptisms, confirmations, marriages, funerals, and an occasional play. You have trusted me to teach your youth, to care for your aged, to make you laugh, to pray with you, cry with you, and serve you in the name of Christ. You surrounded Kitty, Marshall, Theo, and me with love and support for several years. You held us up in prayer and caring action through our grief. When God blessed me by bringing Mindy and Andrew into my life, you also accepted and loved them. Truly, you have let the Grace of God flow through you to bless us all.

Recently, I have focused on St. Paul's letter to the Romans in which he says that, "suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope; a hope that cannot fail." Truly, the people of Grace have supported me through so many trials and suffering, that you have had an impact on my character for the better. As I mentioned on my last day as a member of Grace Parish, if God is the potter and I am the clay; then in molding and making me to suit his purpose, God has allowed you to put your hands on me. Your thumb prints in the clay of my character will remain with me forever. I will always be able to share some little part of the grace and hope that you have given me with the people I serve in the future. Thank you for touching my life.

Of course we live in Carthage, so let me set the rumor mill straight. My position at All Saints Episcopal Church in Nevada, MO began June 15, 2008. It is currently a half-time position. When I signed with All Saints, I was already under contract to work half-time for the Carthage R-9 School District for the 2008-09 school year. I reluctantly resigned my position with St. Luke's Nursing center, effective June 26, 2008. We are not moving to Nevada at this time, but remaining in our Carthage home. The people of All Saints and I are committed to building the congregation, so that a full time pastor is needed. However, they understand that Mindy has a career in Carthage and that we would like for Andrew to remain in Carthage and graduate from CHS. We think everyone needs a hometown. Mindy and Andrew will split their time between All Saints and Grace. I am confident that you will continue to support them as they balance their lives between the two congregations in order to support me. Marshall and Theo will graduate from university next year and be out on their own.

I would also like to take this time to thank my wife, Mindy. In order for me to answer the call of God and His Church, she has had to carry much of the burden of our family by herself. During the countless weekends I spent at the George Herbert Institute, Mindy took care of things at home. Every week, as I studied online at Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Mindy provided a loving and quiet home which was conducive to study. She has listened to my frustrations, encouraged me when discouraged, and always believed in me. Now, she is supporting me in the roles of pastor's wife, my love, and my friend. Thank you, sweetheart, for supporting me. I ask your continued prayers of support for Mindy as she balances family, her career, and her ministry as pastor's wife.

It would take several pages to list all the people who are due thanks for supporting my discernment, formation, and call to the Priesthood. Please know that I am truly grateful and humbled by your support of my ministry. Finally, I thank Fr. Steve for his friendship, wise counsel, and for being my priest. May God bless us all and keep us close to Him and to each other.

Your servant in Christ

Deacon Ted Estes

General Information From Deacon Galen

Below are two articles I found from Heifer Internationals World Ark Magazine. They are on two different subjects that may open some good conversation among others. Or as my children say, "Dad you're always giving us lots of worthless general information." Funny, I thought that was one of my duties as a parent.

Fasting Crosses Religious Boundaries

Each year, members of Muslim Student Associations (MSAs) on college campuses across the country fast to raise funds for a charity of their choice. In 2007, the MSA at San Jose State University in California chose Heifer International as its charity.

Billai Ashgar, MSA treasurer, worked with a campus advisor at SJSU to organize the event.

As word of the event began to spread across campus something unexpected happened. Other religious organizations took notice of what the MSA was doing and decided to join forces. The Jewish Student Union, Mosaic Multicultural Center, Catholic Ministries, and the Comparative Religious Studies Program set aside doctrinal differences to take part in this groundbreaking event.

Seventy students from various religious backgrounds pledged "no food, no liquids, no negative thoughts," from sunup to sundown on December 4, 2007. At sundown, participants celebrated their accomplishment by feasting on Indian food while a series of speakers addressed world-hunger issues.

With support from local business, individuals and other students, the fast raised more than \$3,000 for Heifer International.

"I believe this collaboration sent a message that people are growing increasingly tired of the current conditions and are now willing to overlook their contrasting lifestyles to accomplish something meaningful," said Harold Bell, president of the Heifer International Club at SJSU. "I feel that their unity made this more than just your average fundraiser."

Send Old Electronics To the Boneyard

It's part of the modern dilemma: What do you do with that old cell phone or out of date computer? Instead of throwing them into the trash, send them to www.MyboneYard.com. They are licensed electronics recycler and guarantee to strip and permanently delete all personal information from your recycled product. It couldn't be easier. Just register each produce on their site and print a prepaid shipping label-they pay for the shipping-for each item, then pack it up and send it off. When they received your device, they inspect it and will even pay you for the device. The reward amount is added to a Visa debit card and sent to you.

Lambeth Conference

Begins July 16th with the bishops studying the Gospel of John on a daily basis that will include a study guide. Bishop Howe invites us to study the "I am" sayings in John along with those attending the conference. The study will focus on the signs carried out by Jesus in this well beloved gospel. You may download the formatted materials in two ways by logging on at

<http://www.lambethconference.org/lc2008/resources/indez.cfm>

DAILY BIBLE READINGS IN JULY

Tues, July 1-Thurs, July 3: Numbers 22:21-41, 23:12-26; Romans 7:1-25, 8:1-11; Matthew 21:23-46, 22:1-14;

Fri, July 4, Independence Day: Ecclesiasticus 10:1-18; James 5:7-10; Micah 4:1-5; Revelation 21:1-7

Sat, July 5: Numbers 24:12-25; Romans 8:18-25; Matthew 22:23-40

Sun, July 6: VIII Pentecost: Genesis 24:34-67, Romans 7:15-25, Matthew 11:16-30

Mon, July 7-Sat, July 12: Numbers 32:1-27; 35:1-34, Deuteronomy 1:1-18; 3:18-28; 31:7-24; 34:1-12, Romans 8:26-39; 9:1-33; 10:1-21, Matthew 23:1-39; 24:1-51

Sun, July 13, IX Pentecost: Genesis 25:19-34, Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-23

Mon, July 14-Sat July 19: Joshua 2:1-24; 3:1-14; 4:7-19; 5:1-16; 6:1-14; Romans 11:1-36; 12:1-21; 13:1-7, Matthew 25:1-46; 26:1-35

Sun, July 20: X Pentecost: Genesis 28:10-19, Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-43

Mon, July 21: Joshua 7:1-13, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 26:36-46

Tues, July 22, St. Mary Magdalene: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Mark 15:47; 16:7, Exodus 15:19-21, 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Wed, July 23-Thurs, July 24: Joshua 8:30-35; 9:3-21, Romans 14:13-23; 15:1-13, Matthew 26:57-75

Fri, July 25, St. James the Apostle: Jeremiah 16:14-21; 26:1-15, Mark 1:14-20, Matthew 10:16-32

Sat, July 26: Joshua 23:1-16, Romans 15:25-33, Matthew 27:11-23

Sun, July 27, XI Pentecost: Genesis 29:15-28, Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-52

Mon, July 28-Thurs, July 31: Joshua 24:16-33, Judges 2:1-23, 3:12-30, 4:4-23, 5:1-31; Romans 16:1-27, Acts 1:1-26, 2:1-36; Matthew 27:24-66; 28:1-20

PATRONAL FEASTS

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

St. Mary Magdalene, South KC, July 22

St. James', Springfield, July 25 (Rector: The Rev. Ross Stuckey, formerly assistant at Grace)

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

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