

Dec 2023
From the Desk of The Rev. Joe Pierjok

SPiRiT of GRACE

GRACE CHURCH, 820 Howard St, PO Box 596,
Carthage MO 64836

**COFFEE
HOSTS
DEC**

Sandy, Mar-
sha, Tracy,
Sharon
McClellan,
Kesters

Advent is a busy time for all of us. There's shopping, cooking, decorating, and getting prepared to spend time with friends and family. There is simply more to be done this time of year than our calendars often allow. As we begin our journey through Advent, I want to ask you to reflect on a question with me...

What are your best hopes for this Advent and Christmas season?

Imagine that it's Epiphany, and you are reflecting on all that has happened up to that point...what would you have expected to happen? What is it going to take on your end for all of that to happen? Where did God come to meet you in your daily life? Where did you expect to meet Jesus?

At the very heart of Christmas is the profound truth that God comes to meet us in Jesus Christ, and in coming into our lives, saves us from sin and death by reconciling us all to God. At the heart of Advent is the expectation that the savior of the world is coming. The world is pregnant with the hopeful anticipation of his coming. So, as you consider your unrealized future I want you to consider how God is preparing you NOW to meet Jesus in the days that lie ahead. Really expect to meet Jesus. Stay alert for the signs of God's kingdom. Keep faith in God's presence in all situations. At the same time expect to be surprised by the unexpectedness of the meeting.

We may discover by Epiphany that our best hopes for the season failed to come about. We will fail to do all the things we wished to have done, and yet, we will find ourselves doing things we never dreamed of doing. We may discover that everything that could go wrong did go wrong. However, if we enter this season open to God's will and movement in our lives, like Mary and Joseph, we may discover that by Epiphany God did come into our lives in the most unimaginable, unexpected, life changing ways.

After all, maybe our best hopes for this season have nothing to do with decorations or presents or even family gatherings, but instead our prayers are answered when by God's grace, love and mercy we find that God's kingdom has come among us, and God's will has been done for us, as well as in and through us.

I wish you all a very blessed season of Advent and a Happy Christmas!

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jimmy Grimes, Sabrina Lynch
- 2 Henry Newport
- 4 Lynn Harrington
- 6 Blake Ferguson
- 7 Sierra Russow Bradley
- 8 Pam Robertson, Katie Mansfield
- 9 Pam Williams, Ryan Robertson, Aidan Rogers, Jairo Puerto
- 12 Elaine Wurst, Silas Laytham
- 13 Elizabeth Speck, Hadlee Castleberry, Henry Laytham
- 15 Argo Weber
- 16 Andy Lynch
- 17 Janet Rogers, Alex Chesney
- 18 Ron Ross
- 19 Jason Otero
- 20 Larry McGuire, Fallon Ferguson
- 21 Pam Borland
- 23 Delores Beiswanger
- 25 Anna Laytham
- 26 Joshua Waggoner
- 27 Jeb Cook, Abby Rogers
- 28 Gloria Gubser
- 31 Elle Stiles Salchow

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Michael & Jennifer Cartright
- 15 Jeff & Chalaine Bell, Alex & Whitley Chesney
- 21 Ron & Susan Ross
- 22 William & Kathleen Rhoads
- 23 Mike & Cathy Thompson
- 30 Rev Dr Andy & Sandy Fritsch
- 31 Doug & Beth Simmons

VESTRY

Grace Church Annual Meeting, at church
Jan 27, 10 am

The PARISH PRAYER LIST

St Luke's: Louise Barton, Tom Huntley,
Mary Lambert

Oak Pointe: Nancy Frerer, Richard Goolsby,
Lida McCulloch

Wildwood: Helen Moss

Moberly: Eric Adams *OKC:* Kay Graham

Lockwood: Edith Walters

College View: Roger & Sherrie Stinnett

Parishioners: Ann Carter, Terry Chilton,
Gaye Dally, Sue Friede, Marilyn Kelley,
Frank Lane, Karen Rouse, Steve Wampler,
Andrew White, Vincent Wilkowski, Hans
Ytell

Current: Tiffany Bennett, Jake Berger, Jim
Bracht, Alyson Brown, David Crough, Ad-
dison Daniel, Neil Foreman, Dolly Gaddy,
Julie Giblin, Dave Johnson, Janice Johnson,
Robert Johnson, Bob Karraker, Tammy
Larimore, Patrick McCarthy, Don Meadows,
David Mize, Mary Moss, James Ray Nail,
Ginia Oehlschlager, Randy Orscheln, Nick
Platt, Jeff Sawyer, Morgan Schott, Murphy
Seim, Alycia Smith, Dan Summerlin, Krys-
tal Transeau, Brenda Weir

Our Seminarians,

Katie Mansfield & Jory Mertens

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Larry Larimore, father of Rev Collin,
Nov 11

SAINT'S MASS

28 The HOLY INNOCENTS 6 pm

CONGRATULATIONS

Clara Jo Mertens, Baptized Nov 8

LETTER of TRANSFER

Leigh Salyer from Monett,
St Stephens Episcopal

OFFICES CLOSED

Dec 26 & 27

ENCORE LUNCH

Dec 15, NOON

Music by Peter Frost
\$5 at the Door/Sign up sheet

SAVE the DATE

TEA & THEE LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Every Wed, 10 am

BIBLE STUDY

Every Thurs, 11 am

In-person or via Zoom (link sent weekly
to email list)

FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP

Every Thurs, 3 pm

Pull up a chair and make new friends!

MEN of GRACE FELLOWSHIP

1st & 3rd Sat, 9 am

Men of the parish are invited to join in
the fellowship and activities.

VESTRY

Tuesday, Dec 19, 5:30 pm

KNITTERS

Tues, Dec 12, 6 pm

Historia del Nacimiento de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo.

Hace más de dos mil años una mujer de la ciudad de Nazaret llamada María fue visitada por un ángel llamado Gabriel quien le dijo a esta mujer judía que daría a luz a un hijo y que le pondría de nombre Jesús pues sería el hijo de Dios. María era virgen y estaba por contraer matrimonio con un hombre llamado José. Al ver que María estaba embarazada José confundido y algo dolido quiso dejarla en secreto para que nadie fuera a lastimarla, pero el ángel Gabriel vino a José y le contó exactamente lo que María ya le había dicho a José, que este bebé es hijo de Dios que será llamado Jesús y que salvara a su gente de todo pecado.

Por causa de un edicto del rey para hacer un censo, María y José viajaron a la tierra de Belén para cumplir con el edicto. María ya tenía muy avanzado su embarazo y aun así viajaron por varios días en un burro hasta llegar a su destino, pero no pudieron encontrar ni un solo lugar para poder pasar la noche, pues todo estaba ya ocupado. Viendo que María estaba por dar a luz en cualquier momento el dueño de una posada les ofreció quedarse en el establo.

Durante este tiempo un ángel se apareció a un grupo de pastores que apacentaban sus ovejas en los campos cerca de Belén y les dijo que traía buenas nuevas pues el Mesías, el salvador del mundo había nacido. Los pastores lo dejaron todo para ir en busca del bebé ya que el ángel les dijo que lo encontrarían durmiendo en un pesebre.

Poco tiempo después los tres hombres sabios (también conocidos como los reyes magos) vieron la brillante estrella en el cielo que se postraba justo arriba del establo en donde se encontraba el recién nacido Jesús. Estos hombres venían del lejano oriente y durante su travesía el rey Herodes de Judea les dijo que después de encontrar al bebé le dieran noticias en donde estaba. Al arribar al establo los hombres sabios adoraron al Dios viviente y le dieron regalos de incienso, oro y mirra. Después regresaron a su tierra por otro camino pues sabían que el rey Herodes quería asesinar al bebé que sería el futuro rey.

En los tiempos de hoy, celebramos el nacimiento de Jesús y su venida en la época de la navidad. Puedes leer mas a detalle este hermoso y gran acontecimiento en los libros de Lucas y Mateo en el Nuevo Testamento.

Grace Parish Connection Fair
Parish Hall
Saturday January 27, 2024

Come and learn about connecting, deepening your faith, giving back and finding support in our ever-changing and uncertain world.

Ever wonder about being a Reader? Joining the Men of Grace? Knitting? Just what does an acolyte do? Who do I contact to...? I don't have a lot of time with my jammed schedule, but I'd like Every to be involved some way.

January 27th is the day to find out!
Times to Be Announced.
Lunch provided.

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The Leads for each Parish Ministry will be hosting a table with all the details you need, answer your questions and find out about connecting and getting involved in the ministries of our congregation.



“Connections and Expressions of Faith”

Women's Retreat

Location: Grace Church Parish Hall

Saturday February 24th in 2024 9 am – 4:00 pm

Light Breakfast and Lunch provided.

Mark your calendars for the 24th of February and spend the day with the women of the parish.

We will be joined again this year by the Right Reverend Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce (lovingly known to all of us as Bishop Diane!). *If you have a friend, you would like to invite please do!*

More Details to follow. *For Additional Information or To Sign Up* ~ contact Beth Kang at kang.beth@gmail.com or on her cell phone at 916.494.8359.

Suggested donation to offset retreat costs: \$10. If your budget is tight, no worries.

VESTRY CANDIDATES, 2024

Please note that this is not all the candidates running, next issue will include the rest

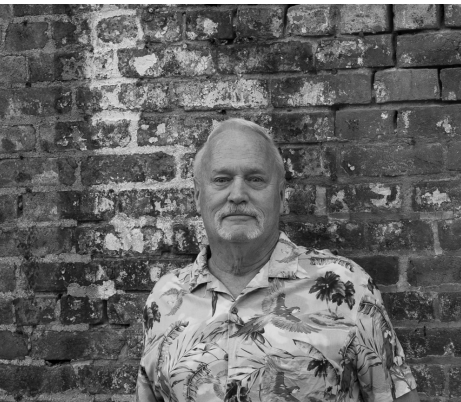


Gloria Gobser

I am a lifelong resident of the Carthage area, having grown up in Carthage where I graduated high school in 1969.

The first time I visited Grace Episcopal Church in 1998, I knew I had found my church home. I became a member in 2002. I continue to enjoy the many activities and learning opportunities Grace Episcopal Church provides.

I am blessed with two children, Travis (Wisper) and Elizabeth (Brendon) along with 6 grandchildren and one great grandchild.



Patrick Batchelder

A Man of Faith, Hope and Love. I've lived and worked and prayed in Anglican churches in London, Paris, Yerevan, Nairobi, Kuwait City. and Tunis,Tunisia. University of Colorado, summer jobs in Yellowstone Park, thirty years at IBM, Boulder, CO as an Information Developer, Single Dad from 1984 until now. Volunteered at St. Mary Magdalene, Boulder Vacation Bible School. I attend the 10:30 service and the class with Fr. Joe at 9:30, and Morning prayer on Tuesdays. Why am I running for vestry? Lots and lots of "Life experience" that can be used for the good of Grace. Grace has always been my Faith-home.



Chuck Edds

My name is Chuck Edds and I am married to Becky Edds. I have been a member of Grace Church my entire life. I have served on the vestry twice and was Senior Warden in 2003 and 2012. I am currently on the Board of Directors at St. Luke's, having been president in 2020 and 2021. I am active in lay ministry, helping with the Eucharist and the readings. I would be honored to serve on the vestry once again. Thank you.



Sandy Swingle

My name is Sandy Swingle, I have been a member of Grace Church since 2001. I attend 10:30 services on Sunday, Adult Education and youth group and adult bible study on Wednesday evenings. I love my church and my life with Christ in it. I am a quilter and a member of St. Luke's board.

GRACE GIFT SHOP

Hours: Tues. 9 am—1 pm

Thurs. 1—5 pm

Sunday Morning

Many NEW Items

PECANS are here!

Plain Pecans, \$12 & Sweets are \$10

Get them at Olde World Market

RUTH HARTMAN 471-388-3955

DECEMBER

Wed, 6 St Nick Party & Pizza to follow Mass, 6 pm;

Sat, 9 Confirmation, Reaffirmation & Baptism, 5 pm;

Sun, 10 Lady of Guadalupe, 3 pm;

Fri, 15 Encore Lunch, music provided by Peter Frost, noon;

Sat, 16 Posada, bring dessert, 6 pm;

Sun, 17 Lessons & Carols with reception, 6 pm;

Wed, 20 Greening of Church to follow Mass & Dinner;

Sun, 24 Combined Service 10 am only, Hispanic noon, 4 pm Service, 10 pm Carols, 10:30 Mass;

Mon, 26, 10 am Mass;

26 & 27 Offices Closed;

NO Mass Wed;

Thurs, 28 Holy Innocents 6 pm

Dec 27, NO MASS

Fri, Dec 29, 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Dec 30: 9 am

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

Sat, Dec 30: 5 pm

Reader:

Chalice:

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

I CHRISTMAS: Dec 31

8 am

Reader: Ashley Rouse

Prayers: Peggy Ralston

Chalice/Server: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

I CHRISTMAS: Dec 31

10:30 am

OT Reader: Barbara Mountjoy

NT Reader: Ruth Hartman

Chalice: Jory Mertens

Prayers/Chalice: Mark Sponaugle

Server: AJ Rhymer

Cross: Larry Hartman

Torches: Ruth Hartman

Elaine Wurst

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

AV: Jim Wakefield &

Allie Rhymer

Ushers: Jack & Jeanie Slates

Olde World Market

Dec 1 & 2

Fri Gala, 5:30—7:30 \$10 at the door

Sat, Free Admission 9 am—3 pm

Numerous Vendors

Get your Christmas shopping finished at the Market

MINISTERS of WORSHIP: DECEMBER

Fri, Dec 1, 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Dec 2: 9 am

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

5 pm

Reader/ Chalice : Michael Goolsby

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

I ADVENT Sun, Dec 3: 8 am

Reader: Ashley Rouse

Prayers/ Chalice/ Server: Chuck Edds

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

I ADVENT 10:30 am

OT: Barbara Mountjoy

NT/ Chalice: Elaine Wurst

Prayers/ Chalice: Mark Sponaule

Mentor: Tracy Wilkowski

Server: AJ Rhymer

Cross: Connor Wilkowski

Torches: Sam Hess &

Brooklyn Rhymer

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

AV: Elisa White

Ushers: Larry & Ruth Hartman

Flower Delivery: Gloria Gubser

Peggy Ralston

Wed, Dec 6: 6 pm

Reader: A J Rhymer

Chalice: Austin Rhymer

Sacristan: Debby Orr

Fri, Dec 8: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Dec 9: 9 am

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

CONFIRMATION 5 pm

Reader: Chuck Edds

Chalice: Mark Sponaule

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

II ADVENT

Sun, Dec 10: 8 am

Reader/ Chalice/ Server: Bill Putnam

Prayers: Peggy Ralston

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

II ADVENT Dec 10

10:30 am

OT: Paige Rhymer

NT/ Chalice: Michael Goolsby

Prayers/ Chalice: Austin Rhymer

Mentor: Kirby Newport

Cross: Allie Rhymer

Server: Paige Rhymer

Torches: Alana Harris &

Brooklyn Rhymer

Sacristan: Debby Orr

AV: Jennifer Rhymer

Ushers: Max Hill &

Steve Erwin

Flower Delivery: Zelma & Julie

Wed, Dec 13: 6 pm

Reader/ Chalice: Jon Haffner

Sacristan: Cindy Chilton

Fri, Dec 15: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Dec 16: 9 am

Sacristan: Debby Orr

5 pm

Reader/ Chalice: Michael Goolsby

Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

III ADVENT

Sun, Dec 17: 8 am

Reader: Shirley Gollhofer

Chalice/ Server/ Prayers: Chuck Edds

Sacristan: Margaret Wampler

III ADVENT Dec 17

10:30 am

OT/Chalice: Ruth Hartman
NT: Regina Newport
Prayers/Chalice: Larry Hartman
Mentor: Elisa White
Servers: A J Rhymer
Cross: Connor Wilkowski
Torches: Barrett & Lincoln Cook
Ushers: Chris Orr & Tom Flanigan
Sacristan: Debby Orr
AV: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer
Flower Delivery: Diann Ferguson
Cathy Thompson

Wed, Dec 20: 6 pm ST NICK

Reader/Chalice: Jory Mertens
Sacristan: Debby Orr

Fri, Dec 22, 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Dec 23: 9 am

Sacristan: ALL CLEAN

5 pm

Reader/Chalice:
Sacristan: Jeanie Slates

IV ADVENT

Sun, Dec 24: 10 am

OT: Ashley Rouse
NT/Chalice: Bill Putnam
Prayers/Chalice: Michael Goolsby
Mentor: Elaine Wurst
Server: Bill Putnam
Cross: Trenton Lynch
Torches: Peyton Lynch &
Carson Stremke
Ushers: Jim Wakefield &
Allie Rhymer
Sacristan: Cindy Chilton
AV: Mike Robertson &
Brooklyn Rhymer

CHRISTMAS EVE 4 pm

OT: Paige Rhymer
NT: A J Rhymer
Chalice: Jory Mertens
Prayers/Chalice: Austin Rhymer
Mentor: Kirby Newport
Server: A J Rhymer
Cross: Sam Hess
Torches: Allie Rhymer,
Brooklyn Rhymer
Ushers: Trenton & Tristan Lynch
Sacristan: Jeanie Slates
AV: Mike Robertson

10:30 pm: INCENSE

OT: Shirley Gollhofer
NT: Chuck Edds
Chalice: Elaine Wurst
Prayers/Chalice: Andy Lynch
Server: Tristen Lynch
Cross: Mark Sponaugle
Torches: Andy Lynch & Elaine Wurst
Thurifer: Kirby Newport
Boat: Alana Harris
Ushers: Jimmy Grimes &
Richard Ralston
Sacristan: Debby Orr
AV: Jim Wakefield &
Allie Rhymer

NATIVITY: Dec 25, 10 am

OT/Chalice: Ruth Hartman
NT: Mark Sponaugle
Prayers/Chalice: Larry Hartman
Server:
Cross: Larry Hartman
Torches: Ruth Hartman &
Mark Sponaugle
Sacristan: Margaret Wampler
AV: Jim Wakefield

DAILY READINGS in DEC 2023

Fri, Dec 1: *Isaiah 24:14-23, I Peter 3:13—4:6, Matthew 20:17-28*

Sat, Dec 2: *Micah 7:11-20, I Peter 4:7-19, Matthew 20:29-34*

I ADVENT, Sun, Dec 3: *Isaiah 64:1-9, I Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37*

Mon, Dec 4: *Amos 2:6-16, II Peter 1:1-11, Matthew 21:1-11*

Tues, Dec 5: *Amos 3:1-11, II Peter 1:12-21, Matthew 21:12-22*

Wed, Dec 6: *Amos 3:12—4:5, II Peter 3:1-10, Matthew 21:23-32*

Thurs, Dec 7: *Amos 4:6-13, II Peter 3:11-18, Matthew 21:33-46*

Fri, Dec 8: *Amos 5:1-17, Jude 1-16, Matthew 22:1-14*

Sat, Dec 9: *Amos 5:18-27, Jude 17-25, Matthew 22:15-22*

II ADVENT, Sun, Dec 10: *Isaiah 40:1-11, II Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8*

Mon, Dec 11: *Amos 7:1-9, Revelation 1:1-8, Matthew 22:23-33*

Tues, Dec 12: *Amos 7:10-17, Revelation 1:9-16, Matthew 22:34-46*

Wed, Dec 13: *Amos 8:1-14, Revelation 1:17—2:7, Matthew 23:1-12*

Thurs, Dec 14: *Amos 9:1-10, Revelation 2:8-17, Matthew 23:13-26*

Fri, Dec 15: *Haggai 1:1-15, Revelation 2:18-29, Matthew 23:27-39*

Sat, Dec 16: *Haggai 2:1-9, Revelation 3:1-6, Matthew 24:1-14*

III ADVENT, Sun, Dec 17: *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, I Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28*

Mon, Dec 18: *Zechariah 1:7-17, Rev 3:7-13, Mt 24:15-31*

Tues, Dec 19: *Zech 2:1-13, Rev 3:14-22, Mt 24:32-44*

Wed, Dec 20: *Zech 3:1-10, Rev 4:1-8, Mt 24:45-51*

Thurs, Dec 21: *Habakkuk 2:1-4, Hebrews 10:35—11:1, John 20:24-29*

Fri, Dec 22: *Zech 7:8—8:8, Rev 5:6-14, Mt 25:14-30*

Sat, Dec 23: *Zech 8:9-17, Rev 6:1-17, Mt 25:31-46*

IV ADVENT, Sun, Dec 24: *II Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38*

Mon, Dec 25: *Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20*

Tues, Dec 26: *Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15, Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51c-60, Mt 23:34-39*

Wed, Dec 27: *Exodus 33:18-23, I John 1:1-9, John 21:19b-24*

Thurs, Dec 28: *Jer 31:15-17, Rev 21:1-7, Mt 2:13-18*

Fri, Dec 29: *II Sam 23:13-17b, II John 1-13, John 2:1-11*

Sat, Dec 30: *I Kings 17:17-24, III John 1-15, John 4:46-54*

I CHRISTMAS, Sun, Dec 31: *Isaiah 61:10—62:3, Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7, John 1:1-18*

