



SPIRIT of GRACE

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

COFFEE HOSTS



February 2025 From the Desk of The Rev. Joe Pierjok

In our Anglican tradition, we hold dear the mystery and beauty of God's love—a love that reaches beyond understanding and embraces each of us just as we are. This love is the foundation of our faith, inviting us into a relationship with God that is transformative, unconditional, and freely given through grace. As we reflect on God's love, we come to see it as both a gift to be received and a calling to be shared with others. Our understanding of God's love is rooted in the Incarnation: the Word became flesh and lived among us in Jesus Christ. God entered our world, our struggles, and our joys, not as a distant observer, but as one of us. Through Jesus, we see God's love in action—in his compassion, his healing touch, his forgiveness, and his sacrifice. This self-giving love invites us to experience God in deeply personal ways and to see that nothing separates us from this love. As Paul reminds us in Romans, “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39). This assurance is a powerful comfort, reminding us that God's love is constant and unshakeable, even in life's most difficult times. In Anglicanism, we also learn to see the world as sacramental, infused with God's presence. This means we are invited to recognize God's love not only in the extraordinary but in the everyday—in the beauty of creation, in our relationships, and in the acts of kindness we give and receive. Just as we encounter God in the Eucharist, we can also encounter Him in the simple moments of our lives, if we open our hearts to see Him. This sacramental vision calls us to approach life with gratitude and reverence, trusting that God's love is all around us, even in unexpected places. God's love is also profoundly marked by grace. We do not need to earn it or prove ourselves worthy; God loves us unconditionally. The Anglican tradition, through the words of the Book of Common Prayer, beautifully reminds us that God's “property is always to have mercy.” This truth can be life-changing: it frees us from striving to earn God's favor and opens us to receive His love with humility and joy. We are then invited to reflect that love in our own lives, embodying the mercy, kindness, and compassion of Christ in how we treat one another. So, how do we live as people grounded in the love of God? First, we receive it. In our prayers, in Scripture, and in worship, we open ourselves to experience the depth of God's love. Then, we let it transform us. Perhaps this means extending forgiveness, reaching out to someone in need, or simply living with greater patience and understanding. Whatever shape it takes, our lives become a response to God's love, a way of reflecting His light in the world. As we continue in our journey of faith together, may we grow ever deeper in the knowledge of God's love, letting it guide us, strengthen us, and bring us peace. And may our community shine as a beacon of that love, sharing God's grace with all who come through our doors and all whom we meet.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Cara Borland, Alice Lynn Greenwood, Chris Kang, Jeanie Slates, Kevin Aguilar
- 2 Sherrie Stinnett, Grant Lasley
- 3 Marty Bennett
- 4 Tracy Rogers
- 5 Sandy Swingle, Cambry Erdman
- 6 Jennifer Rhymer
- 8 Glenna Broadway
- 9 Peyton Lynch
- 12 Sheridan Phelps
- 13 Dorothy Bay
- 16 John Wampler, Karen Newport, Ben Sawyer, AJ Rhymer
- 17 Susan Ross, Diann Hays, Emma Slates
- 18 Dennis Martin, Elizabeth Cook
- 19 Ann Ulmer, Sharon Hopper
- 20 Piper Pierce, Savannah Weber, Maeva Palma
- 21 Rick Stuart, Sue Neely, Ace Simmons, Quinn Simmons
- 22 Quentin Sprengle, Veronica Sprengle, Jim Wakefield, Jeff Lasley, Faith Escobar
- 24 Doug Pugh
- 25 Max Hill
- 26 Chip Marsden, Scott Sawyer, Austin Rhymer

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Tom & Anita Flanigan
- 3 John & Margaret Wampler
- 8 Tim & Julie Putnam
- 11 Tony & Pat Leiker
- 21 Dale & Idell Looney

VESTRY

The Vestry and the Rector would like to thank all of you for attending the 156th Parish Annual meeting on January 18th. If you have not received a copy of the reports from the annual meeting and would like one please contact Fr. Joe, and he will be happy to provide a packet to you. Also at the annual meeting we elected 9 new delegates for convention they are Julie Anderson, Gloria Gubser, Mark Jones, Andy Lynch, Debby Orr, Spencer JT Orr, Jennifer Rhymer, Zelma Watts and Elisa White. The alternates are Leo Baird, Leigh Salyer, and Sally Stuart.

The Vestry met briefly after the Annual Meeting Saturday. The meeting welcomed new Vestry members Clifton Kester, Jennifer Rhymer, Amanda Smith and Michelle Theerman. The Vestry recognized and accepted several different positions: Jeanie Slates will continue as Sr. Warden, Ben Blair will be the new Jr. Warden with Austin Rhymer as a non-voting, unofficial assistant; Elaine Wurst moved from the Secretary position to Clerk and welcomed Elisa White as Secretary in a non-voting, non-signing position. The vestry also approved changes in the allocation of housing allowance for Fr. Joe and Fr. Collin. This is simply a change for taxes purposes. The Vestry will meet in February on the 18th. The Vestry will be in retreat on March 7th and 8th. The focus of the retreat will be on identity and vision of Grace Episcopal Church. They will be welcoming Mr. Walker Adams as a speaker and presenter..

The PARISH PRAYER LIST

St Luke's: Ann Carter, Tom Huntley

Oak Pointe: Lida McCulloch

Moberly: Eric Adams *OKC:* Kay Graham

Lockwood: Edith Walters

College View: Roger & Sherrie Stinnett

Foxberry Terrace: Connie Moss

Parishioners: Leo Baird, Jim Creighton, Tom Flanigan, Cheryl Hill, Marilyn Kelley, Georgia Kinslow, Frank Lane, Barbara Mountjoy, Gregg Vinson, Steve Wampler, Tracy Wilkowski, Vincent Wilkowski, Bill Wilson

Current: George Bates, Jim Bracht, Jan & Grant Burnett, Tom Colvin, Steven Crough, David & Amanda Evans, Audrey Goolsby, Cecil Howard, Jana & Elliott Hunter, Jim Hunter, Emily Jenkins, Dennis Lane, Donald Manka, Maynard Mitchell, Gene Mitchell, Jane Mitchell, Gina Oehlschlager, Kristi Ogle, Mannie Orr, Connie Orr, Celia Osier, Lauren Petticrew, Renee Scrivano Suzy Seim, Michael Sparks, Doug Studyvin, Tom Swarens, Sarah Wurst

Seminarian, Jory Mertens

THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to St Martha's Guild
for the new artificial Christmas Tree that
was used this Christmas!

SAVE the DATE

**TEA & THEE LADIES
FELLOWSHIP**
Every Wed, 10 am

BIBLE STUDY
Every Thurs, 11 am
In-person or via Zoom

QUILTERS
Every Thurs, 10 am

FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP
Every Thurs, 3 pm

Pull up a chair and make new friends!

MEN of GRACE FELLOWSHIP
1st & 3rd Sat, Feb 7 & 21, 9 am
Men of the parish are invited to join in
the fellowship and activities.

KNITTERS
Second & Fourth Tues,
Feb 11 & 25,
6 pm

CAREGIVERS
Third Tues, Feb 18, 2 pm

VESTRY
Third Tues, Feb 18, 5:30 pm

Come fomentar relaciones saludables de amor y amistad

Promover el diálogo: las mejores relaciones son aquellas en las que se puede hablar de cualquier cosa. Por ello es importantísimo saber qué es lo que le preocupa al otro, ayudar y escuchar. Aceptar las diferencias: la relación se enriquece cuando se respetan las individualidades de cada uno. También hay que entender las frustraciones del otro y dejarle el espacio necesario. Cómo conseguir estos objetivos: 1. Escuchar. 2. Mostrarnos interesados. 3. No forzar los lazos. Las relaciones de amor y de amistad, aunque poseen ciertos aspectos comunes, tienen también algunos diferentes. Según el análisis por temas para el amor de Neufeld y Stephenson (1959), por ejemplo, las relaciones de amor son notablemente superiores a las de amistad en los ámbitos de las actitudes emocionales (relaciones emocionales) e interdependencia miedo de separación. Las relaciones de amistad, por el contrario, son superiores en materias tales como apoyo mutuo (relaciones constructivas), actividades compartidas y similitudes en intereses (relaciones sociales). Las relaciones de amor generan un clima afectivo que influye sobre la resolución de los problemas cotidianos, facilitando la adaptación de la persona a su contexto. Las personas apegadas tienen un estilo de cognición, emoción y conducta, junto con un estilo de interacción y de afrontamiento, que mantiene la estabilidad del apego y les permite funcionar con eficacia. Por otra parte, mucha confianza, sopesar, resolver los problemas, el cambio, la lucha contra las enfermedades y la inversión en los propios retos. El amor y la amistad son dos realidades profundamente distintas, pero cuyo estudio puede ayudar a reflexionar acerca de la esencia de las mismas. Añadiremos después las Leyes de Amor y sus características.

¿Cómo se interrelacionan amor y amistad? Según Erich Fromm, en su libro 'El arte de amar', "nadie puede ser amigo del otro si primero no es amigo de sí mismo; el amor y la amistad no son dos cosas distintas, sino que uno es más intenso que otro". Para explicar su parecer, Fromm plantea afirmaciones como "si no soy capaz de amar mi 'ser humano', es decir, si no soy capaz de experimentar una actitud de respeto, cuidado, responsabilidad hacia mí, el amor del otro no será más que proyección y egoísmo". "El amor es el único medio para eliminar nuestra soledad, el único". Sólo a través de él podemos conocer y ser conocidos, sólo a través del amor podemos vernos tal como somos. El amor y las relaciones de amistad sanas y que nos ayudan a crecer tienen, para la psicología, un importante papel en el aumento de la calidad de vida y del bienestar emocional de las personas. Un ser amado (amigo o pareja) puede en los momentos difíciles ser la oreja que nos escucha, el hombro donde reposar y la perspectiva desprejuiciada que necesitamos. La amistad y el amor están presentes en todas las culturas.

During the month of February, we will be having another book study. This book study will focus on John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim Progress*. You can participate in this series at any point, even if you did not sign up for it. This book study will be every Wednesday night in February, beginning at 7pm here at the church. You may read whichever version of the book you would like, however we have selected Alan Vermilye's updated version of the book. The following is a description of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, "The story chronicles the epic adventure of a man named Christian who leaves his home in the City of Destruction and begins a life-long quest to the Celestial City. Set against the backdrop of a hazardous journey, this powerful drama unfolds as Christian's adventures lead him into fascinating lands and encounters with interesting people who either help or hinder his progress along a narrow way. With a gallery of memorable characters and visits to colorful places, Bunyan's allegorical narrative describes one man's extraordinary adventure on his journey to faith." (Amazon description)

In Lent, there will be another exciting opportunity for the parish to participate in with our siblings at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Joplin. The clergy of St. Philip's and Grace church have been working with one another to offer a joint Lenten study that will allow us to grow in relationship with our friends over in Joplin, and create space for us to worship and learn with one another. There will be a formal flyer produced and shared with both parishes when the final details are ironed out. You can expect to hear more about this opportunity in the month of February. We believe this will be a fun and exciting new opportunity for us all to participate in together. We hope you will join us for both offerings!

MINISTERS of WORSHIP: FEBRUARY

Sat, Feb 1: 9 am

Sacristan: Cathy Thompson

5 pm

Reader: Michael Goolsby

Chalice: Michael Goolsby

Sacristan: Beth Simmons

PRESENTATION of our LORD

Sun, Feb 2: 8 am

Reader: Ashley Rouse

Prayers: Mark Sponaugle

Chalice/ Server:

Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

PRESENTATION of our LORD

Sun, Feb 2: 10:30 am

OT: Ruth Hartman

NT/ Chalice: Elaine Wurst

Prayers/ Chalice: Austin Rhymer

Mentor: Jennifer Rhymer

Server: Connor Wilkowski

Cross: Owen Hess

Torches: Elizabeth Frink &

Allie Rhymer

Sacristan: Beth Simmons

AV: Jennifer Rhymer

Ushers: Jack & Jeanie Slates

Flower Delivery: Gloria Gubser &

Peggy Ralston

Wed, Feb 5: 6 pm

Reader: AJ Rhymer

Chalice: Austin Rhymer

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri, Feb 7: 10 am

Reader: Zelma Watts

Server: Mark Jones

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Sat, Feb 8: 9 am

Sacristan: Cathy Thompson

5 pm

Reader: Leigh Salyer

Chalice: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Beth Simmons

V EPIPHANY

Sun, Feb 9: 8 am

Reader: Shirley Gollhofer

Chalice/ Server:

Prayers: Ashley Rouse

Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

V EPIPHANY

Feb 9: 10:30 am

OT: Michelle Theerman

NT/ Chalice: Elaine Wurst

Prayers/ Chalice: Chuck Edds

Mentor: Jennifer Rhymer

Cross: Sam Hess

Server: Alana Harris

Torches: Peyton Lynch &

Carson Stremke

Sacristan: Beth Simmons

AV: Elisa White

Ushers: Max Hill & Steve Erwin

Flower Delivery: Zelma Watts &

Julie Anderson

Wed, Feb 12: 6 pm

Reader/ Chalice: Jory Mertens

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri, Feb 14: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Reader: Carole Pryor

Server: Mark Jones

Sat, Feb 15: 9 am

Sacristan: Cathy Thompson

5 pm

Reader/Chalice: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Cathy Thompson

VI EPIPHANY

Sun, Feb 16: 8 am

Reader: Shirley Gollhofer

Chalice:

Prayers: Mark Sponaugle

Server:

Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

VI EPIPHANY

Feb 16: 10:30 am

OT/Chalice: Ruth Hartman

NT: Regina Newport

Prayers/Chalice: Larry Hartman

Mentor: Elisa White

Servers: Alana Harris

Cross: Sam Hess

Torches: Barrett & Lincoln Cook

Ushers: Chris Orr & Spencer Orr

Sacristan: Cathy Thompson

AV: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

Flower Delivery: Diann Ferguson &

Cathy Thompson

Wed, Feb 19: 6 pm

Reader/Chalice: Jon Haffner

Sacristan: Pam White

Fri, Feb 21: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Reader: Zelma Watts

Server: Mark Jones

Sat, Feb 22: 9 am

Sacristan: Beth Simmons

5 pm

Reader/Chalice: Bill Putnam

Sacristan: Pam White

VII EPIPHANY

Feb 23: 8 am

Reader: Ashley Rouse

Prayers: Shirley Gollhofer

Chalice/Server:

Sacristan: Shirley Gollhofer

VII EPIPHANY

Feb 23: 10:30am

OT: Michelle Theerman

NT: Leigh Salyer

Chalice: Jennifer Rhymer

Prayers/Chalice: Andy Lynch

Mentor: Elaine Wurst

Server: Trenton Lynch

Cross:

Torches: Peyton Lynch &

Carson Stremke

Ushers: Jim Wakefield & Allie Rhymer

Sacristan: Pam White

AV: Mike Robertson &

Brooklyn Rhymer

Flower Delivery: Jeanne Goolsby

Wed, Feb 26: 6 pm

Reader: Regina Newport

Chalice: AJ Rhymer

Sacristan: Zelma Watts

Fri, Feb 28: 10 am

Sacristan: Sue Neely

Reader: Carole Pryor

Server: Mark Jones

February

14th & 15th – Dinner Theatre: 6:00 pm seating, 6:30 pm dinner

21st & 22nd – Dinner Theatre: 6:00 pm seating, 6:30 pm dinner

March

4th – Fat Tuesday & Mardi Gras Party

5th – Ash Wednesday Services: 7:00 am, 12:00 pm, & 6:00 pm

7th – Vestry Retreat 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

8th – Vestry Retreat 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

9th – Daylight Saving Time Begins (Spring forward clocks by one hour Saturday night)

16th – Coffee With Vestry between 8:00 am and 10:30 am Services

17th – 21st Carthage R-IX Spring Break

25th – The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary: 6:00 pm Mass

April

13th – Palm Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am, & 12:00 pm

14th – Holy Monday 6:00 pm

15th – Holy Tuesday 6:00 pm

16th – Holy Wednesday with Tenebrae 6:00 pm

17th – Maundy Thursday with Foot Washing 6:00 pm

18th – Good Friday: 12:00 pm & 6:00 pm

19th – Holy Saturday 10:30 am; Great Vigil of Easter 6:00 pm

21st – Offices Closed

22nd – Offices Closed

23rd – Offices Closed

May

3rd – Consecration Service of the IX Bishop of West Missouri (Livestream details pending)

4th – Graduating High School Senior Recognition & Youth Sunday

11th – Last Sunday School before Summer Break

14th – Last Youth Group before Summer Break

26th – Memorial Day: Offices Closed

June

8th – Pentecost Picnic

15th – Trinity Sunday

19 – Juneteenth Holiday: Offices Closed; Mass still occurs at St. Luke's 2:00 pm

18th, 19th & 20th: Vacation Bible School

22nd – Coffee with Vestry between 8:00 am and 10:30 am Services

July

4th – Independence Day: Offices Closed

August

6th – The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ

15th – Saint Mary the Virgin, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ

17th – Backpack Blessing

September

1st – Labor Day: Offices Closed

3rd – First Youth Group of 2025-2026 Program Year; Episcopal 101 Class #1

7th – First Sunday School of 2025-2026 Program Year

10th – Episcopal 101 Class #2

17th – Episcopal 101 Class #3

19th – Tentative Date for Parking Lot Party

24th – Episcopal 101 Class #4

October

1st – Pet Blessing

5th – Stewardship Breakfast Campaign Kickoff

8th – Episcopal 101 Class #5

12th – Coffee with Vestry between 8:00 am and 10:30 am services

15th – Episcopal 101 Class #6

18th – Maple Leaf Parade

22nd – Episcopal 101 Class #7

29th – Costume Blessing, BooFet-of-Terror, Spook House, & Trunk-or-Treat

November

2nd – All Saints' Sunday; Stewardship Campaign Ingathering; Daylight Saving Time Ends (Fall back clocks by one hour Saturday night)

8th – 136th Annual Convention of the Diocese of West Missouri (no 5:00 pm Mass)

26th – No youth group

27th – Thanksgiving Mass 10:00 am with 1549 Book of Common Prayer & Luncheon to follow

28th – Offices Closed

December

3rd – St. Nicholas Party

5th & 6th – Olde World Market

7th – Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe

14th – Coffee with Vestry between 8:00 am and 10:30 am services

17th – Greening of the Church

24th – Christmas Eve Services: 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm Espanol, 10:30 pm

25th – Christmas Day Service 10:00 am; Offices Closed

26th – Offices Closed

DAILY READINGS in FEBRUARY 2025

Sat, Feb 1: *Isaiah 51:1-8, Galatians 3:23-29, Mark 7:1-23*

The PRESENTATION of the LORD, Sun, Feb 2: *Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2: 14-18, Luke 2:22-40*

Mon, Feb 3: *Isaiah 51:17-23, Galatians 4:1-11, Mark 7:24-37*

Tues, Feb 4: *Isaiah 52: 1-12, Galatians 4:12-20, Mark 8:1-10*

Wed, Feb 5: *Isaiah 54:1-17, Galatians 4: 21-31, Mark 8:11-26*

Thurs, Feb 6: *Isaiah 55:1-13, Galatians 5:1-15, Mark 8:27—9:1*

Fri, Feb 7: *Isaiah 56:1-8, Galatians 5:16-24, Mark 9:2-13*

Sat, Feb 8: *Isaiah 57:3-13, Galatians 5:25—6:10, Mark 9:14-29*

V EPIPHANY, Sun, Feb 9: *Isaiah 6:1-13, I Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11*

Mon, Feb 10: *Isaiah 58:1-12, Galatians 6:11-18, Mark 9:30-41*

Tues, Feb 11: *Isaiah 59:1-15a, II Timothy 1:1-14, Mark 9:42-50*

Wed, Feb 12: *Isaiah 59:15b-21, II Timothy 1:15—2:13, Mark 10:1-16*

Thurs, Feb 13: *Isaiah 60:1-17, II Timothy 2: 14-26, Mark 10:17-31*

Fri, Feb 14: *Isaiah 61:1-9, II Timothy 3:1-17, Mark 10:32-45*

Sat, Feb 15: *Isaiah 61:10—62:5, II Timothy 4: 1-8, Mark 10: 46-52*

VI EPIPHANY, Sun, Feb 16: *Jeremiah 17:5-10, I Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26*

Mon, Feb 17: *Isaiah 63:1-6, I Timothy 1:1-17, Mark 11:1-11*

Tues, Feb 18: *Isaiah 63:7-14, I Timothy 1:18—2:8, Mark 11:12-26*

Wed, Feb 19: *Isaiah 63:15—64:9, I Timothy 3:1-16, Mark 11:27—12:12*

Thurs, Feb 20: *Isaiah 65:1-12, I Timothy 4:1-16, Mark 12:13-27*

Fri, Feb 21: *Isaiah 65:17-25, I Timothy 5:17-25, Mark 12:28-34*

Sat, Feb 22: *Isaiah 66:1-6, I Timothy 6:6-21, Mark 12:35-44*

VII EPIPHANY, Sun, Feb 23: *Genesis 45:3-11, 15, I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50, Luke 6:27-38*

Mon, Feb 24: *Acts 1:15-26, Philippians 3:13b-21, John 15:1,6-16*

Tues, Feb 25: *Ruth 1:15-22, II Corinthians 1:12-22, Matthew 5:13-20*

Wed, Feb 26: *Ruth 2:1-13, II Corinthians 1:23—2:17, Matthew 5:21-26*

Thurs, Feb 27: *Ruth 2:14-23, II Corinthians 3:1-18, Matthew 5:27-37*

Fri, Feb 28: *Ruth 3:1-18, II Corinthians 4:1-12, Matthew 5:38-48*

